



**REGIONAL OFFICES**

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593  
DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996  
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

**BUREAU**

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,  
Telephone (615) 254-1631

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**Colorado Convention Resolves  
On War and Peace, Riots and Law**

DENVER, Col. (BP)--A resolution pleading for an "end to this tragic war (Vietnam) in accord with principles of honor, decency and righteousness" was adopted by the Colorado Baptist General Convention here.

The resolution urged Baptists and Christians to do all they could to bring about an end to the war in Vietnam, and to "take the gospel of peace to the peoples of Asia."

It acknowledged "that our country is involved in a military struggle in Vietnam with men for whom Christ died being killed by instruments of warfare," and that Christians are admonished to pray for all men, including their enemies.

The convention resolved to pray for President Lyndon B. Johnson, the leaders of all nations, and for the fighting men and their families.

Another resolution on race rioting pledged support for the system of law enforcement in the United States "as they seek to administer justice and maintain law and order."

The resolution, however, affirmed the right to political dissent and the necessity of open debate on matters of national policy, and acknowledged "that much of the social turmoil is due to gross inequities and indifference within our society."

"We should be slow to pronounce judgment," said the resolution, "where we have done little or nothing to rectify the underlying causes of the malcontent."

Nevertheless, the convention asserted its belief "in a society governed by law, our conviction that in any case the due process of law should be exhausted before laws are broken that the rights of the public at large should not be sacrificed for the rights of a minority, and that we support our courts and our law enforcement agencies as they seek to administer justice and maintain law and order."

In major business actions, the convention adopted a budget of \$442,928, a decrease of \$106,609 when compared to the budget of 1967.

The decrease was caused through the creation of the proposed Northern Plains Baptist Convention which will be composed of 76 churches formerly affiliated with the Colorado convention and located in Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota.

The proposed new convention meets Nov. 7-9 in Rapid City, S. D., to finalize its plans for beginning as a Baptist state convention, effective Jan. 1, 1968. A proposed budget of \$214,404 will be recommended for the new convention.

The new 1968 budget for Colorado Baptists will allocate 18 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention causes, an increase of one per cent over last year's allocation, but a slight monetary decrease because of the overall decrease of the total budget.

Newly elected president of the convention is C. A. Dabney, pastor of Applewood Baptist Church, Wheat Ridge, Col.

Next meeting of the convention will be held at First Baptist Church, Aurora, Col., Oct. 22-24, 1968.

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**Rites Held For Colorado  
Foundation Executive**

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COLORADO SPRINGS, Col. (BP)--Funeral services were held here (Oct. 25) for Chester Ramsey, executive director of the Colorado Baptist General Convention's Foundation.

Ramsey, 70, died at a Colorado Springs hospital after a short illness.

A former resident of Fort Worth, Ramsey moved to Colorado in 1952 and was an organizing founder of the Baptist Foundation of Colorado.

He was the first president of the Foundation's board, which was organized in 1956.

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Missouri Convention Avoids Stormy Sessions, Tornados

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ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention meeting here in annual session had one stormy session, but not from a convention controversy.

Tornado warning sirens wailed during the first convention sessions, and the convention messengers were forced to evacuate the church where it was meeting. Fortunately, the four tornados which hit St. Louis missed the area of the church.

Resounding applause followed an address by G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College (Baptist) in Pineville, La., who declared that "Baptist colleges cannot accept federal aid if we are to adhere to the concept of full religious liberty for all men."

Saying religious liberty goes far beyond the political device of separation of church and state, Guinn observed that Baptists have always insisted that it is the principle of voluntarism that makes religion moral.

"To compel or to coerce him (man) through taxation to support any religious system is morally wrong," Guinn declared. "Baptist colleges are Christian and this makes them religious in nature.

"To receive federal aid, means that men are coerced to support them (religious institutions). This is a violation of the principle of voluntarism."

He also observed that Baptist people must do more than oppose federal aid if they want quality Christian education. "While some Baptist colleges may have to modify their programs, others merge, and a few even die if federal aid is not utilized, I feel that if this is necessary and I can think of no better altar on which to make the sacrifice."

The great need is not tax support, he added, but a rebirth of conviction within Baptist churches that Baptist schools are indispensable to the entire Christian enterprise. He added that Baptists must have courage to reshuffle budgetary priorities in order to make the colleges secure.

In major business action, the convention adopted a 1968 budget of \$3.6 million, an increase of \$178,000 over last year's Cooperative Program gifts in the state. Of the total budget, 35 per cent would go to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

A recommendation was also adopted asking that Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to consider permitting the Cooperative Program to function 12 months a year "in the interest of all our agencies," rather than adopting a set goal and dividing all funds received over this goal between home and foreign missions in what it calls "the advance section" of the Cooperative Program.

For the first time, the Missouri convention adopted statewide goals for special offerings for home and foreign missions, setting them far higher than the amounts received last year.

Goals adopted were as follows: Lottie Moon Offering (foreign missions), \$750,000; Annie Armstrong Offering, \$500,000; and special state missions offering, \$500,000 (double the amount last year).

Elected new president of the convention was Thomas S. Field, pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

Next session of the Missouri convention will be held in St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 29-31, 1968.

Pitts Inauguration Scheduled Nov. 25

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DALLAS (BP)--Charles P. Pitts will be inaugurated officially as president of Dallas Baptist College on Saturday, Nov. 25.

Inaugural speaker will be Carey Croneis, chancellor of Rice University, Houston. Guy D. Newman, president of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., will be luncheon speaker.

E. N. Jones, secretary of the Christian Education Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will administer the official investiture.

Pitts became president of Dallas Baptist College on Feb. 1, 1967, after serving as chairman of the board of trustees for the youthful college for two years. He resigned the pastorate of Highland Baptist Church of Dallas, where he served for 13 years, to accept the presidency.

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Baptists, Others Testify  
On Maryland Constitution

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ANNAPOLIS, Md. (BP)--An inter-faith committee initiated by Southern Baptists has testified in favor of including a statement guaranteeing religious liberty in the proposed new constitution for the state of Maryland.

The testimony came during a hearing conducted by the Maryland Constitutional Convention, with a Negro Presbyterian minister, Furman L. Templeton, presenting the inter-faith committee's position.

The group advocated inclusion of the following statement in the Maryland Constitution:

The people shall have the right of the free exercise of religion. Every person shall have the right to worship or not to worship as he thinks most acceptable, and no person shall be disqualified from holding public office or be rendered incompetent as a witness or juror because of his opinion on matters of religious belief. No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion."

Secondly, as to Section 1.04, we recommend the deletion of the words "by law or other governmental action", and the addition of "sex" after the word color.

The inter-faith cooperation was achieved primarily through Baptist initiation, observed a report in The Maryland Baptist, official publication of the Maryland Baptist Convention.

"Credit for this accomplishment goes primarily to the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee of the Baptist Convention of Maryland and its chairman, Dr. W. Barry Garrett," said The Maryland Baptist editorial.

The committee earlier this year began studying the proposed constitutional draft and selected a group of advisors, including political scientists, judges and attorneys to help in the study.

With the help of Walfred Peterson, a political scientist on the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, a Baptist position paper was adopted.

Garrett requested the Maryland Council of Churches to arrange for a meeting of representatives from all religious groups: Catholic, Jewish and Protestant.

At this inter-faith meeting, the Baptist position paper was discussed and approved as the position of the Inter-Faith Council which would appear before the Constitutional Convention.

At least four proposals have been presented by Constitutional Convention delegates, two of them advocating use of tax funds for church schools, and two of them opposing (or not providing for) use of such tax funds.

The editorial in The Maryland Baptist predicted that a section prohibiting tax funds to church schools "is reasonably certain to be defeated, either in the Constitutional Convention or by the people of Maryland."

The editorial added, however, that "there is some cause for encouragement here" since both the Federal and Maryland Constitutions now have no specific prohibition against tax money used by sectarian institutions, yet the Maryland Court of Appeals has "ruled favorably for those who oppose tax money being given to church-related institutions."

"The Supreme Court has not changed this decision, even though it was brought to them," observed the editorial.

"Most Baptists will agree we must have religious liberty," the editorial concluded. "We are opposed to tax money used for the advancement of any church. We would not deliberately discriminate against any person or group but our tax money must aid people and not the religious institutions of which they are a part. In our complex and pluralistic society this becomes very difficult but the answer must be found."