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November 10, 1967

Two Mile Passes Result

In Touch Down, No Score

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MURFREESBORO, N. C. (BP)--Students at Chowan College, a Baptist school here, believe two of their athletes have scored a new world's record for the longest football passes in history.

The passes went an estimated two miles.

Not only that, but two touch downs resulted from the passes.

But the touch downs did not score any points for the Chowan team.

The record was broken by two Chowan skydivers who tossed the football to each other as they parachuted to earth from 7,000 feet above the Chowan College stadium during half-time entertainment at Chowan's homecoming game.

While the fans watched, trails of red, yellow and green smoke followed skydivers Jim Wells, 24, an ex-Marine; and Russ Barnes, 19, students at Chowan.

Both made perfect touch downs on the Chowan College football field.

Even though the touch downs did not score any points for the football team, the Chowan Braves, it wouldn't have made any difference.

The Braves lost the game to the Montgomery College Knights, 53-0..

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November 10, 1967 <sup>1039</sup>

California Convention  
 To Study Federal Aid

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RENO, Nevada (BP)--A two-year study of the operation of California Baptist College which includes a recommendation that they investigate the possibility of accepting some type of federal aid was adopted here by the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Meeting for the first time in Reno, the convention adopted the controversial two-year report after much debate, but made no substantial change in it.

The report gives detailed plans for strengthening both the instruction and administration of the college.

One recommendation calls for the convention "to make impartial investigation of each type of federal program for higher education to determine if it can be accepted without compromising legal and theological principles and the philosophy and purposes of the college."

The convention overwhelmingly defeated a motion to delete the section calling for the study of federal aid.

Convention observers noted that the willingness to examine the federal aid question is a considerable shift in attitude among California Southern Baptists. Two years ago a motion to accept federal aid could not even get a courtesy second from the convention floor.

At another point during the convention this year, the messengers adopted a brief resolution which voiced continued support of the idea of separation of church and state.

In still another major action, a special meeting of the convention was authorized for the purpose of launching a major financial campaign for California Baptist College in Riverside.

Date and place for the special convention in 1968 will be announced at a later time by convention officials. College officials will work with the convention's Executive Board and Foundation in formulating plans for the fund drive to secure both operating income and endowment.

A proposal to change the method of allocating funds from the convention budget to California Baptist College from the present monetary amount (\$200,000 this year) to a percentage amount of the budget (20 per cent) was discussed, but the motion was withdrawn after College President Loyed R. Simmons opposed it.

Simmons earlier in his report to the convention had made a strong plea for a sharp increase in support for the college.

Simmons also said that he could find no evidence that the college had received \$1,000 in federal aid as indicated in a report from the National Science Foundation, and added if the report were true, the funds would be repaid to the government.

Messengers adopted a resolution calling for the National Science Foundation to issue a public retraction of the report if it cannot show proof of the aid. The resolution said the "accusation" is "an affront to the name and character of California Baptist College...."

Another resolution, without referring to the war in Vietnam, called for Baptists to pray for "an immediate, honorable and lasting peace"

It also stated: "Our nation is engaged in an armed conflict that is taking the lives of people made in God's image; mangling bodies, leaving men maimed and crippled for life, and producing countless widows and orphans."

A resolution on civil rights stated: "We stand firmly on the equality of all men regardless of race, color or ethnic background; and we believe that all men should have equal social, educational and employment opportunity."

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Elected president of the convention was Glen Paden, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Ridgecrest, Calif.

A state-wide Cooperative Program budget goal of \$1.24 million was set for 1968, an increase of \$40,000, with 26 per cent of the total budget going to support Southern Baptist world mission causes.

Next year the convention will meet at Fresno, Calif., Nov. 12-14.

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Brooks Hays Leads Forming Political Ethics Committee

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ATLANTA (BP)--A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Brooks Hays of Washington, has led in establishing an organization which will seek to fight unethical political practices in the nation, and especially in the South.

The organization will be known as the Southern Committee On Political Ethics (SCOPE), and will be a non-partisan, inter-racial group composed of businessmen, civic leaders, newspaper publishers, attorneys, religious and civil rights leaders.

Eighteen persons, including two Southern Baptist editors, were listed as original members of the committee, headed by former Arkansas Congressman Brooks Hays who was president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1958-60.

Editors Erwin L. McDonald of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine in Little Rock, and J. Marse Grant of the Biblical Recorder in Raleigh, N.C., were also among the original 18 members.

In a press conference announcing the formation of the committee, Hays listed four specific things which the committee would seek to support.

They were: (1) full participation in political processes by racial minorities, particularly Negroes; (2) voter education, (3) dignifying the profession of politics, and (4) establishing a climate for free discussion of public issues.

"It follows that we oppose racism, voter apathy, improper electoral procedures such as inordinate use of money in campaigns," Hays said.

Hays said the group is interested in issues and people, not in candidates and political parties, except as they are incidental to the committee's broad objectives.

The committee apparently will put particular emphasis on seeking to make sure Negroes are permitted full exercise of political rights, wrote Atlanta Constitution Editor Ralph McGill, also a member of the committee.

Hays said the committee is a non-profit organization "seeking to elevate the standards of ethics and morality in political campaigns."

It will do this by collecting and disseminating information concerning campaign practices through the press, radio, television, and public speaking, he added.

The charter provides that it shall not carry on propaganda and attempt to influence legislation. Hays also emphasized that it would be non-partisan.

An office will be established in Washington for an executive secretary, Edward McLaughlin of Washington, and for Hays who will be chairman. Hays is now lecturing part time at the University of Massachusetts.

Members of the committee will represent each of the 11 states in the deep South, plus Maryland and Washington, D. C.

Hays said, however, that the committee would serve the nation, not the Southern region alone.

"We hope to draw upon the South's vast moral and intellectual resources to make our political society more ethical, more dynamic and more just," he said. "We urge our fellow Southerners to reflect the South's nobler side of its political life."

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New Convention Created;  
Baker Named Executive

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RAPID CITY, S. D. (BP)--The Northern Plains Baptist Convention met here for its first organizational session, electing an executive secretary and creating the 30th Baptist state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new convention is composed of 75 churches and 10,248 members in four states--- Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota.

Elected as the new executive secretary of the convention was John P. Baker, director of missions and stewardship for the Colorado Baptist General Convention for the past five years.

Previously, the 75 churches in the four states had been affiliated with the Colorado Baptist General Convention which had enthusiastically endorsed formation of the new convention.

The Colorado convention assisted the Baptists in the four states in setting up the convention. Two committees, a 13-member steering committee, and a nine-member constitutional committee have been working on the organizational details for more than a year.

Messengers to the first historic meeting of the Northern Plains Convention approved the committee's recommendations on the name of the convention, and the location of the convention headquarters offices in Rapid City.

The committees are still considering several specific sites in Rapid City for location of the offices.

A provisional constitution and bylaws for the new convention was approved by the messengers, along with a proposed \$214,087 budget for next year.

The budget will include a goal of \$87,597 to be contributed by the 75 churches in the state through the newly-created state Cooperative Program unified budget plan, with the remainder coming from Southern Baptist Convention agencies and other state conventions. Of the state-wide goal, 12 per cent will go to SBC world missions causes.

Bob Lawrence, associate in the Colorado convention religious education department who has been working with the churches in the four states of the Northern Plains Convention, was elected director of religious education for the new convention. His appointment was effective immediately.

Baker, the new executive secretary, will assume the position effective Jan. 1, the date the convention actually comes into formal existence.

Baker, 56, was born in Illinois and was a pastor in Texas and Colorado before joining the Colorado convention staff, serving as pastor of Skyway Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, Col., from 1955-62.

Previously he was pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., and smaller churches in Munday and Cisco, Tex.

He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

The convention voted to hold its 1968 meeting in Warland, Wy., Nov. 5-7.

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Baptist Gets Award  
From Jewish War Vets

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A Southern Baptist from New York City, Belden Menkus, has been honored by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America for helping the Jewish organization set up a computer operation.

Menkus, a former Jew and author of the book Meet the American Jew, was presented recently a certificate of merit "in recognition of outstanding and meritorious service as an exemplar of the spirit of ecumenism and brotherhood..."

An official of the Jewish War Veterans organization said that Menkus, a systems analyst for Railway Express in New York, made numerous trips to Washington to help them switch to a computer system.

William W. Carver, national director of program and membership for the Jewish War Veterans, called Menkus' work "a labor of love" because he was willing to give his time to an organization with which he is not identified.

Carver praised the Baptist's knowledge of Judaism, saying he knows more than many Jews about the Jewish religion. He also described Menkus as "a walking encyclopedia of Christian public relations."

In addition to his work for the Jewish War Veterans, Menkus several years ago assisted the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, in revising their filing system.

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Kentucky Convention Urges  
Dual Alignment With Negroes

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--The Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting here urged Negro Baptist churches to affiliate with their convention, and encouraged its own white churches to join the Negro Baptist state organization--the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

It was the first time in history that a Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated state body had voted to actively seek dual alignment of white and Negro churches in the two SBC and Negro state conventions.

The dual alignment recommendation came in the form of a progress report from a committee appointed last year "to explore, discuss and study. . . the possibilities of combining our convention into one convention of Kentucky Baptists."

Rather than recommending a merger of the two conventions, the committee suggested that Negro churches continue their affiliation with their own convention, but also join the Kentucky Baptist Convention; and that white churches seek membership in the Negro Baptist group.

The Negro Baptist General Association will consider the dual alignment recommendations when it meets in their annual session in August of 1968.

Also for the first time, the two Kentucky conventions held a joint session here, hearing messages by both white and Negro Baptist preachers.

In another major action, the convention voted to freeze its annual payments of \$77,010 to Kentucky Southern College here after the college merged one week earlier with the University of Louisville. Kentucky Southern College severed its ties with the convention last March to become a private, Christian college, but in November merged with University of Louisville.

Messengers to the convention, apparently miffed because of the school's merger, voted to appoint a special committee to determine the convention's legal and moral obligations to Kentucky Southern, and to freeze all payments until the committee reports next year.

In March the convention gave Kentucky Southern \$500,000 when the two parted ways, and an additional \$77,010 per year for five years was pledged to the school.

Former Kentucky Baptist Convention President Chester Badgett of Campbellsville, Ky., said that the convention's Executive Board felt no moral obligation to the five-year pledge since it was made to a private Christian college which now no longer exists.

An attempt to amend the budget of the convention to prevent any capital funds from going to any Kentucky Baptist school which borrows money from the federal government was defeated after an hour's debate.

The amendment, which would have affected only Georgetown Baptist College, Georgetown, Ky., was offered by Wendell H. Rone Sr., of Owensboro, Ky., who organized last year a Committee for the Preservation of Baptist Principles which protested the convention's action last November allowing the trustees of each school to determine if they want to accept federal loans.

Another amendment to the convention budget, however, passed without debate. It provided that all funds received after the budget goal is reached next year go to Southern Baptist world mission causes, instead of to further development of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly as recommended.

The amendment was interpreted as an expression of some displeasure with the budget recommendation to reduce the percentage of the Cooperative Program budget going to SBC world missions causes from 32 to 31 per cent.

The reduction of percentage to SBC causes, officials said, was necessary because of a \$300,000 additional item in the budget this year for capital needs of Baptist colleges.

The overall 1968 budget, totaling about \$4 million, was adopted by the convention. It is an increase of \$250,000 over the 1967 budget.

Elected president of the convention was Eldred M. Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky.

Next year the convention will meet in Florence, Ky., Nov. 11-14.

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Westerners Appointed  
Career Missionaries

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ATLANTA (BP)--Two natives of the Western United States have been appointed career missionaries by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here.

John E. Witte of Athens, Tex. will be superintendent of missions for Cuyahoga and Northern Ohio Baptist Associations; and Robert L. Tremaine Jr. of Trinidad, Colo., will serve as pastor-director of Worchester Baptist Chapel in Worchester, Mass.

The former pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Barberton, Ohio, Witte is a graduate of Baylor University (Baptist) in Waco, Tex. and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He has been pastor of Oak Lawn Baptist Church in Waco and the First Baptist churches in both Milford and Rogers, Tex.

Tremaine, former pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Hobbs, N.M., is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist) in Abilene, Tex., and attended Southwestern Seminary.

He also has been pastor of Red Springs (Tex.) Baptist Church.

Both men were appointed by the board of directors of the Home Mission Board.

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C O R R E C T I O N

On BP Story mailed Nov. 8, headlined: "Fall Enrollments At 54 Baptist Schools Decline;" please make the following corrections in graph one and in headline: change figure 54 Baptist schools to read 64. At end of line 2, graph one, change period to comma and add following: "because two schools which were included in the 1966 report were not reported in 1967." This gets the reason for the decline in the lead.

Also change figures in graph nine to read: Of the 64 schools included in the report this year, 37 schools reported increases in enrollments, 25 reported enrollment decreases, and two reported the same enrollments as last year.

--Baptist Press

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SKYDIVERS BREAK FOOTBALL PASS RECORD: Two students at Chowan College (Baptist) in Murfreesboro, N.C., believe they've broken the world's record for the longest football pass in history. The pass went for nearly two miles. It all happened as part of the homecoming football game half-time entertainment when Jim Wells (left) and Russ Barnes (right) parachuted from 7,000 feet above the stadium, passing a football between them for nearly two miles. Both scored touch downs on the Chowan football stadium, but the score didn't count. It wouldn't have mattered anyway, for Montgomery College beat Chowan 53-0. (BP) Photo

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HELPING FATHER THROUGH SEMINARY: J.S. Bell of Hindman, Ky., and his two daughters, Mary (left) and Dorothy feel going to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is a family affair. All three are enrolled as first-year students in the seminary's school of religious education. (BP) Photo

(photo accompanies story mailed 11-7-67)

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