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November 21, 1967 1097

**Baptist Leaders Explore
Cooperative Witness Means**

By C. E. Bryant

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Thirty-eight representatives from nine different North American Baptist bodies met for three days (Nov. 18-20) here "to explore the role of Baptists in our rapidly changing world."

V. Carney Hargroves, chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship, a committee of the Baptist World Alliance, said that the discussions were informal and unofficial.

A statement of findings will be studied further by a group of leaders of the North American Baptist Fellowship, but the findings were not made public.

Invitations to participate in the consultation were issued last May to the presidents or executive secretaries of all North American Baptist conventions, conferences and associations affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance. The leaders were asked to designate five representatives from each of their groups.

Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance and secretary of the NABF, termed the three days of meetings as "an upper room experience in which we all came together, prayerfully faced the needs of the current world and sought ways to work cooperatively to meet those needs."

Hargroves, an American Baptist, said that "those of us in the meeting discovered that we have much in common.

"Questionnaires which were distributed by mail ahead of time and returned without names signed showed a surprisingly large degree of agreement. Differences are usually in the areas of the cultural, geographical or historical. Theological differences seemed to be in large measure a matter of semantics."

He said that the representatives spent their first two sessions speaking frankly about differences in their approaches to evangelism and their outreach to the world.

Considerable discussion developed in the area of social action--whether or not the term evangelism ends with just the conversion experience of individuals or continues in an application of Christian principles to the whole of life.

Such words as competition and duplication were sometimes used, Hargroves said, but these factors were faced in the search for ways and means for a cooperative Christian witness.

"We did recognize that the North American continent needs a concerted Baptist witness and we sought ways to work together and give common expression to the gospel we all seek to proclaim," Hargroves said.

The participants expressed a desire for increased communication between their groups. Publications of the various bodies will be exchanged between denominational leaders, news of the various groups will be channeled to the news services of other groups, and leaders will be invited to attend each other's meetings in order to become better acquainted and share plans for the future.

Southern Baptist participants in the meeting were Clifton J. Allen of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Mrs. Robert Fling, president of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, Cleburne, Tex.; H. Franklin Paschall, convention president and pastor in Nashville; Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee; and Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board.

The meetings ended with a luncheon in the Senate dining room at the Capitol, with Sen. Jennings Randolph as host. Sen. Randolph, a Seventh Day Baptist, is vice-chairman of the fellowship committee.

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Baptist Exhibit Slated
For 1968 "HemisFair"

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SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (BP)--Contracts have been signed which will provide a Baptist exhibit at HemisFair '68 and assure restoration of an historic dwelling here.

Participating in the exhibit will be the San Antonio Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Home and Foreign Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention.

George E. Stewart, superintendent of missions for the San Antonio Baptist Association, signed the contract for the exhibit space on behalf of the association and the state convention and SBC agencies.

The Baptist exhibit will be housed in the historic Eager house built in 1866 which will be retained as a permanent landmark after the close of the HemisFair, the 1968 Worlds Fair scheduled here from April through October of 1968.

The Eager house was constructed as a wedding gift for the first Anglo-American girl born in San Antonio, Sarah Riddle (later Eager), by her father, William Riddle. When she died in 1947 at the age of 105, Mrs. Eager still lived in the house. Her daughter, Mrs. Florence Eager Roberts, recently moved from the house after living there for 100 years.

The historic home will be restored and air conditioned to house the Baptist exhibit which is to depict the history and message of Southern Baptists, "with particular emphasis on our concern for people and their spiritual and physical needs," Stewart said.

The executive secretary of the Texas convention, T. A. Patterson, added that a major contribution can be made to the Crusade of the Americas, a 1968-69 evangelistic effort, through the HemisFair.

Patterson said that the exhibit affords "a fine opportunity to make people better acquainted with our Baptist message and the Baptist contribution to the new world."

Theme of the HemisFair, scheduled April 6-Oct. 6, 1968, is "The Confluence of Civilization in the Americas."

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Kansas Convention Refers
Proposal To Change Name

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KANSAS CITY, Kan. (BP)--The Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists meeting here referred to its Executive Committee for further study a proposal to change its name, dropping the word "Southern" and adding the word "Nebraska" to include churches from that state.

The proposal to change the name was introduced last year as a constitutional amendment without debate, but the proposal drew lengthy discussion when it came up for a vote on second reading.

Proposed new name for the convention was Kansas-Nebraska Baptist Convention. The convention's Executive Committee will give the new name further study, but will not take final action on it.

In another major action, the convention approved a 1968 budget of \$497,267, with a state-wide Cooperative Program goal of \$254,000 to be contributed by Southern Baptist churches in Kansas and Nebraska.

Although the total budget is a slight increase, due primarily because of more financial support from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; the state-wide Cooperative Program goal is a decrease of \$17,505.

The executive secretary of the convention, N. J. Westmoreland, said that the decreased goal of \$254,000 was more realistic than last year's goal, and that the convention could avoid going in the hole next year as they did this year with a lower goal.

Of the \$254,000 goal, 17 per cent will go to Southern Baptist causes, the same 17 per cent allocated last year, but a monetary decrease of about \$3,000.

An effort was defeated to delete a "conflict of interest" clause in the constitution which prevents any person who receives salary or funds from the state convention from serving on the convention's Executive Board.

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Reports were given indicating that the convention passed the 50,000 mark in total membership. Total membership was reported at 50,052 in 199 churches. The churches reported 2,915 baptisms this year, an increase of 400 over any previous year, and a baptism ratio of one to every 16 church members.

Re-elected president of the convention was Tommy Grozier, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Bellevue, Neb.

Next year the convention will meet at Topeka, Kan., Nov. 12-14, 1968.

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Illinois Votes To Move *1100*
State Convention Offices

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VANDALIA, Ill. (BP)--The Baptist State Association of Illinois voted here to move its state-wide offices from Carbondale, Ill., but did not select a new site for relocation or time for the move.

A committee which has been studying the possibility of such a move was authorized to give the matter further study and recommend a place and date, but the move was definitely approved.

Defeated was an amendment which would have requested the committee to study the matter without making a decision to move.

In other major actions, the convention adopted a record \$1 million budget; voted to send its weekly paper to every Baptist home with the cost underwritten by the state budget; observed its 60th anniversary; and decided to establish a second encampment in Northern Illinois.

For the first time in history, the budget topped the \$1 million mark. The 1968 Cooperative Program goal of \$1,100,000 is an increase of \$150,000 over the 1967 goal. The budget will provide 36 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Action to send The Illinois Baptist, weekly paper of the convention, to every Baptist home is believed to be the first time a state convention has assumed the entire cost of the denominational paper. Many states partially subsidize their papers, but most provide the paper on a church-wide or individual subscription plan.

In Illinois, however, the churches which pay for the paper through their budget were encouraged after Jan. 1, 1968, to send the budgeted amount through the state Cooperative Program budget.

In other actions, the convention elected W. T. "Jack" Branon of DuQuoin as president; authorized chartering of the Baptist Foundation of Illinois as a religious corporation; honored H. C. Croslin as the convention's interim executive secretary; set a state missions offering goal at \$150,000; and voted to invite the Southern Baptist Convention to Chicago in 1973.

Next year the convention meets in Zion, Ill., Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1968.

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Lee To Lecture *1101*
At New Orleans

11/21/67 *98*

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--R.G. Lee of Memphis, well-known Baptist leader and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will deliver the 1967 Gurney Evangelism Lectures at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Dec. 12-15.

The Evangelism Lectures will be presented in conjunction with the Seminary's third annual Evangelists Workshop. Program personnel for the workshop include Gerald Martin, Angel Martinez, E. J. Daniels, Bill Carlson, John Haggai, W. Clyde Martin, and others.

Topics for discussion will cover both the practical mechanics for successful revivals and a study of the content of evangelistic preaching. Evangelists from several states are expected to attend the three-day workshop.

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