



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Pridde, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2393

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

Thursday, January 25

Billy Graham Scheduled
As Major SBC Speaker

HOUSTON (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham will be the headline speaker when the Southern Baptist Convention meets here for its 111th annual convention June 4-7.

Graham will deliver the closing address on Friday evening, June 7, according to the proposed program prepared by the convention's committee on order of business.

The completed program was released by the chairman of the committee, J. Norris Palmer, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, La.

Palmer explained that the 1968 convention would devote an hour-and-half more time for business than the convention last year in Miami Beach, Fla.

The 1968 proposed convention program provides 4½ hours for conducting the business of the nation's largest Protestant denomination. The 1967 convention devoted two hours, 50 minutes to business.

Palmer pointed out two other changes this year, both relating to conducting convention business. The committee, he said, would seek to enforce a bylaw which provides that one-third of the time for reports from convention agencies be reserved for discussion from the floor.

He added that the convention's committee on boards will make its report by sections this year, with the election of new board members and trustees coming at the time when the report of that board or agency is presented to the convention.

The convention will open Tuesday evening, June 4, at Sam Houston Coliseum with the annual convention sermon as the major feature of the opening session. W. Douglas Hudgins, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., will deliver the annual sermon, with John Newport, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, as alternate.

The annual president's address, presented by SBC President H. Franklin Paschall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tenn., is scheduled Wednesday morning, June 5.

Carrying out a traditional pattern, the Wednesday evening program will emphasize home missions and the Thursday evening program will feature foreign missions.

Most of the program will be devoted to reports from the 21 agencies of the SBC, and time for business of the convention. Only four major sermon-type messages are scheduled, not including the reports from the agencies.

Joel Murphy, pastor of the Citadel Square Baptist Church in Charleston, S. C., is scheduled to bring a major address on Friday morning, June 7.

Theme for the four-day convention will be "Good News For Today's World," with sub-themes for each session carrying out the "Good News" theme.

Radio-TV Commission
Issues Last Magazine

1/25/68

FORT WORTH (BP)--The last issue of Beam International as a monthly magazine for both general readers and the radio-television industry has come off the press here.

With the January, 1968 issue, the official publication of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has been discontinued.

Instead of one monthly magazine to reach three different audiences for three purposes, the Radio-TV Commission will utilize special media to reach the three different audiences.

It will provide (1) advertisements in the 29 Baptist state papers with a combined circulation of 1.6 million with increased editorial and feature material to these papers plus listings of programs in each state; (2) quarterly publication of sermons preached on "The Baptist Hour," and (3) a specialized newsletter entitled Beam International designed especially for the radio-television industry.

In a page-2 message to the readers of Beam International, Radio-TV Commission Executive Director Paul M. Stevens urged subscribers to be "faithful" and "understanding" about the changes.

"All of this is new," Stevens said. "Some will be displeased or even hurt. Just remember though, we will reach hundreds of thousands of people where we have been reaching approximately 40,000.

"Coming of age requires the wisest possible expenditure of our resources to reach the greatest number of people," Stevens said. "You will like this new arrangement, I trust. It's all in the best interests of the Christian cause we serve."

In another section of the magazine's last issue, a two-page spread was devoted to explaining the changes.

"It is in the context of improving our stewardship that we announce that Beam International in its present magazine format will pass into Commission history with this issue," said a boxed column headed "Important News About Subscriptions."

Four alternatives to subscribers were offered: allowing the remainder of a subscription to be regarded as a contribution to the agency's ministry, receiving The Baptist Hour Sermons for 1968 in booklet form quarterly, receiving a copy of the book, The Ultimate Weapon---Christianity, by Paul M. Stevens, or full refund of unused portion of the subscription.

Clarence E. Duncan, executive assistant at the commission who was the first editor of The Beam when it began magazine format production in 1954, wrote that change is not always progress, but "we firmly believe that there is no progress without change."

"This agency has tried to establish no sacred traditions by which to operate," Duncan wrote. "Rather a magazine should be issued for the good of the cause. When it has outlived its purpose, change should be accepted without a backward glance."

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Presbyterian Pastor
To Present Lectures

1/25/68

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The pastor of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, David H. C. Read, will deliver the annual Hester Lectures at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here Feb. 13-16.

A native of Scotland who has gained a reputation as one of America's foremost churchmen, Read has been pastor of New York's largest Presbyterian church since 1956.

Read's lectures will include the following subjects: "The Conception," "The Gestation," "The Delivery," and "The Extension of Preaching---Radio, Television and the Performing Arts." He will also speak on "The Church Under Fire" at a dinner.

In addition to Read's lectures, three Midwestern Seminary professors will lead Continuing Theological Education Seminars the same week. The seminars will be conducted by Old Testament Professor Roy L. Honneycutt Jr., Pastoral Care Professor Everett V. Reneer, and New Testament Professor George D. Thomason.

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