

November 23, 1949

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

EVANGELISM, COOPERATIVE PROGRAM EMPHASIZED BY GEORGIA CONVENTION

AUGUSTA, Ga.—(BP)—The Georgia Baptist Convention has voted to increase its Cooperative Program goal for 1950 with a continued 50-50 division of distributable funds between state and Southern Baptist Convention causes. The distributable fund goal will be \$1,167,400, an increase of \$145,000 over the budget for the current year.

Keynotes of the 128th session, meeting here where the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845, were on the Cooperative Program and its relation to missions and upon the evangelistic crusade within the state.

"Undesignated Cooperative Program gifts continue for the 15th consecutive year to show an increase," reported Dr. James W. Merritt, executive secretary-treasurer. Distributable receipts for the first 10 months of the year were \$760,631, an increase of \$52,885.

Secretary of Evangelism H. C. Whitener told the convention that reports from 78 of the 88 associations gave an incomplete total of 26,678 baptisms during the year — 486 more than the total of all associations the previous year. He said all associations were planning to cooperate in the 1951 simultaneous crusade.

Dr. Spring Dowell, president of Mercer University, was re-elected president of the convention for a second year. The 1950 convention will be held November 14-16 at the First Baptist Church in Savannah which will be celebrating its 150th anniversary.

The convention adopted a report from the Social Service Commission deploring "as anti-Christian and anti-democratic the use of any Christian symbol by the promoters of racial hatred and bigotry." It added "any organized attempts to encourage racial or religious hatreds have no place in a Christian democracy."

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KENTUCKY BAPTISTS PLAN ADVANCE IN EVANGELISM

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—(BP)—The General Association of Baptists in Kentucky met at the Crescent Hill Baptist Church, here, for their annual session and voted a Cooperative Program goal of \$1,250,000 for 1950.

Messengers voted a general program of advance in evangelism, including an evangelistic conference in January. Dr. Robert E. Humphreys, First Baptist Church, Owensboro, was re-elected president.

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ARKANSAS BAPTISTS ADOPT LARGEST BUDGET IN HISTORY

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(BP)—Arkansas Baptists meeting here in their 96th annual session and the first of their second century voted a budget of \$1,016,666.67 for 1950, the largest in their history, with \$318,666.67 going to Southwide causes.

The number of baptisms reported was 14,700, an increase of 753 over last year. A change in the convention constitution was adopted to the effect that no member of any board of any institution of the convention might at the same time be a member of the Executive Board.

The messengers deplored efforts being made in the national Congress to break down the American principle of separation of church and state and registered its protest against the recent action of the Arkansas General Assembly in appropriating \$50,000 to the School of Pharmacy of the College of the Ozarks, a Presbyterian institution.

The convention voted to refuse to seat messengers from any church that accepts alien immersion, practices open communion, or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, or any other organization similar to or growing out of such. A resolution was passed looking toward the possibility of taking over Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, as an institution of the convention.

Officers elected at the meeting are T. H. Jordan, president; C. Z. Holland, first vice-president; A. F. Muncy, second vice-president; W. Dawson King, recording secretary; B. L. Bridges, executive secretary-treasurer.

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BRITISH BAPTISTS PLAN ADVANCE

LONDON, England—(BP)—The Baptist churches of this country are sounding the note of advance under the leadership of M. E. Aubrey, who is approaching the later stages of his secretaryship of the Baptist Union. A plan of action at national and local levels is being evolved. One of the most striking evidences of Baptist vitality has been the great assemblies organized recently in London. At these meetings, which were attended by more than 20,000 young people, the challenge to missionary service was sounded. In addition, London's largest hall was filled with 10,000 Baptist women at a special meeting.

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