

December 9, 1949

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

POLL INDICATES MAJORITY
PREFER CALIFORNIA IN '51

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—(BP)—A random sample poll of Southern Baptist ministers completed this past week indicates that 66 per cent still want to go to San Francisco, Calif., for the 1951 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. B. O. Herring, chairman of the California Invitation Committee, has announced.

The tabulation showed that only 30 per cent did not favor the California site while 4 per cent were undecided.

At the meeting of the California convention, it was voted to make the poll to test present views of Southern Baptists since there had been some question about the vote at Oklahoma City. In the letter which Dr. Herring sent to nearly 1100 ministers he stated, "We would like to say to the brethren of the Convention that if it be the sincere and unbiased will of a majority of our people not to come to San Francisco for the 1951 session then we would gladly yield the rights and privileges which the Oklahoma City vote granted to us. Perhaps the instrumentality of a simple poll without undue persuasion of press or speech would yield some guiding data."

Returns were received from 390 pastors, representing all types of churches from all states, by the Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information at Nashville, Tenn., and the tabulation sent by Secretary Porter Routh to Dr. Herring.

Of those who indicated that they attended the Oklahoma City convention, 67 per cent favored the California site. Of those who indicated that they planned to attend the Chicago meeting, 73 per cent favored the meeting in California. Sixty-four per cent of the city ministers expressed a preference for the West, and 80 per cent of the open country ministers voted for California. No state voted a majority for not going to California. Texas voted four to one for going West.

"We ought to live up to our agreement" was the comment on several cards.

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D.C. BAPTISTS PLAN
FOR NEW CHURCHES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(BP)—District of Columbia Baptists decided in their recent convention to spend \$250,000 in the next ten years to establish new churches, according to R. Edward Dowdy, editor, Capitol Baptist. They also voted to divide mission funds 50-50 after deduction of operating expenses and to plan definitely for the 1951 evangelistic crusade. Dr. Frank Burrell, pastor, Fountain Memorial Church, was elected president.

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DR. FRANK H. LEAVELL DIES

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—Dr. Frank Hartwell Leavell, 65, secretary in charge of the Baptist Student Union Department for the Southern Baptist Convention, died at his home here, Wednesday morning, December 7. Dr. Leavell became ill Tuesday night after working as usual in his office Tuesday. His death was attributed to a heart ailment.

Funeral services, held at the First Baptist Church here, were conducted by his brother, Dr. Roland Q. Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. W. F. Powell, pastor, and Dr. T. L. Holcomb, executive-secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Burial was at Dr. Leavell's birthplace, Oxford, Miss.

Dr. Leavell received his early education at Oxford, his bachelor's degree at the University of Mississippi, and a master's degree at Columbia University. He also studied at Harvard University Law School and held honorary degrees of LL.D. from Mississippi College and L.H.D. from Baylor University.

A member of the executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance since 1934, Dr. Leavell had been secretary of the youth committee of the organization since 1931. He had been connected with church student work for 27 years and came here in 1928 from a similar post in Memphis. Before his assignment to student work with the Convention, he was in charge of Baptist Training Union work in Georgia, with headquarters at Atlanta. He was secretary of the Georgia State Baptist Young People's Union from 1913 to 1922.

In 1922, Dr. Leavell became executive secretary of the Inter-Board Commission of the Convention, and held the post until he came here. At one time he served as secretary of the Convention's Education Commission and member of the World Baptist Young People's Union. He had also served as a member of the National Commission of Church-Related Colleges and the National Commission on University Work since 1935. Before entering Baptist Student work, he taught at Mercer University at Macon, Ga.

He was a deacon in the First Baptist Church and a member of the Rotary Club and Sigma Chi fraternity.

His wife, the former Miss Martha Maria Boone, of Memphis, survives him. Other survivors include two daughters, Miss Mary Martha Leavell of Louisville, Ky., and Mrs. John P. Newport of Waco, Tex.; a son, Frank H. Leavell, Jr., who is a senior at Baylor University; five brothers; and two grandchildren.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD RECEIVES
LARGE PART OF SOUTHWIDE FUNDS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—\$8,882,705 has been distributed to the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention in the first eleven months of 1949, according to Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive-secretary of the Convention's Executive Committee. Of this amount, \$5,796,333 was from the Cooperative Program, the rest, \$3,086,372, from designations. 1949 receipts for the period was \$590,012 ahead of the same period in 1948. November receipts this year were \$630,615.

In distribution, the largest amount, \$4,542,017, went to the Foreign Mission Board. The Home Mission Board received \$1,646,565. Distribution was as follows:

S. B. C. Budget Fund.....	\$ 128,000.00
Baptist Brotherhood of the South.....	40,001.90
Radio Commission.....	94,199.22
Foreign Mission Board.....	4,542,017.99
Home Mission Board.....	1,646,565.56
Relief and Annuity Board.....	815,448.75
Southern Baptist Hospital.....	4,132.12
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.....	518,667.22
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary..	465,194.26
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary...	469,742.01
WMU (Training School and Designations).....	44,925.72
American Baptist Theological Seminary.....	103,266.64
Miscellaneous.....	10,544.46
	<u>\$8,882,705.85</u>

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SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD VOTES \$5000
FOR CHRISTMAS DAY BAPTIST HOUR

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—The Baptist Sunday School Board has voted \$5,000 to pay for the radio broadcast of the Gospel message by Dr. Robert G. Lee on the Baptist Hour over 132 stations on Sunday, Christmas Day, Dr. T. L. Holcomb, executive secretary, has announced.

"We appreciate the splendid work the Radio Commission is doing in sponsoring the broadcast of the Word of God over an enlarged network which reaches into millions of homes," Dr. Holcomb said, "and we think of no better investment than to have a part in sending the real message of Christ into American homes on Christmas Day."

Dr. Holcomb pointed out that the business men and ministers on the Sunday School Board felt that the investment of the \$5,000 through the Radio Commission for the Christmas Day broadcast would be in line with the expanded program of Bible teaching which the Board has been promoting.

"There may be other individuals, organizations, or churches in the Southern Baptist Convention who would want to write Dr. S. F. Lowe at Atlanta and ask for the opportunity of having a part in preaching to millions of Americans on some particular Sunday," Dr. Holcomb said, "It is our prayer that others will catch the spirit which has prompted this gift by the Sunday School Board."