

February 13, 1950

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Nashville, Tennessee

LEGAL DECISION GIVES FORCE  
OF LAW TO BAPTIST POSITION

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—"The force of law was given to the Southern Baptist Convention position with reference to church union by the recent ruling of Justice Meier Steinbrink of the Brooklyn Supreme Court," declared Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Convention's Executive Committee.

Dr. McCall's statement followed a recent court decision by Justice Steinbrink upon the proposed merger of the Congregational Christian churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church which would have resulted in the formation of a United Church of Christ with nearly 2,000,000 members. Merger was blocked on the ground that no action taken by the denomination as a whole "can or will affect in any manner the several Congregational churches, except in so far as individual churches shall, by independent action," unite with some new church or religious body.

"The decision was based on a definition of the polity of the Congregational churches which could be taken from Justice Steinbrink's decision as a definition of the polity of the Southern Baptist Convention," Dr. McCall said in his comment. Steinbrink said that the polity of the Congregational churches "is that system of church organization which recognizes the independence and autonomy of the local church in all matters temporal and spiritual, and the association of churches, through voluntary, independent organizations devised for fellowship and cooperation is without ecclesiastical authority."

Dr. McCall further stated: "The decision of Judge Steinbrink supports the position of the Southern Baptist Convention which in 1940 replied to the invitation to join the World Council of Churches." The 1940 reply reads: "The Southern Baptist Convention is a voluntary association of Baptists for the purpose of eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of our denomination in missionary activity at home and abroad and in educational and benevolent work throughout the world. Our Convention has no ecclesiastical authority... the thousands of churches would disapprove of any attempted exercise of ecclesiastical authority over them."

"The legal decision," Dr. McCall concluded, "should dispel the fears of those who have been concerned lest the Southern Baptist Convention 'unionize' the churches of its fellowship by carrying them into some organic union with other denominations. ...In effect this decision means that any local congregation of a denomination whose policy is that of the Congregational churches or the Baptist churches may unite with whomever they please, but no vote of theirs has any effect on any other congregation."

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT  
SOUTHERN BAPTISTS PRODUCE MOVIES**

DALLAS, Tex.—(BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention should set up its own studios to produce religious movies, a committee of Southwide Baptist leaders recommended here.

The suggestion was offered in a report of a special committee appointed by the S.B.C. Executive Committee to study means to get better sound and silent motion pictures and film strips for showing in churches and institutions. The report asked "that Southern Baptists should approach seriously and with great vision the matter of audio visual education."

The report will go to the Executive Committee and then will be presented to the Convention in Chicago in May. If the committee's suggestions are carried out, Southern Baptists will produce sound and silent movies and film strips of an educational-religious nature to be sold or rented to Southern Baptists.

The Sunday School Board was suggested as the agency to handle the audio visual aid business. The committee's report said: "Since, in the providence of God, Southern Baptists have the Sunday School Board, the most competent and powerful agency of its kind among evangelical Christians, and since audio visual education belongs in its general field of service, we recommend that Southern Baptists make the Sunday School Board their central agency for the promotion, production, and distribution of visual aids...." The Sunday School Board now operates book stores and supplies Sunday school and other literature for Baptist churches.

The report also said: "We recommend further that the state boards and institutions, and the Southern Baptist Convention boards, institutions, and agencies which may choose to use the Sunday School Board in producing their audio visual aids bear the expense of their own productions; and that the expense for providing adequate equipment for this ministry be referred to the Sunday School Board, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, in conference with the state secretaries." The cost would be borne by the agencies or conventions using the Sunday School Board facilities.

Those who drew up the report were Dr. Ellis A. Fuller, Louisville, Ky.; Dr. J. Howard Williams, Dallas; Dr. Norris Palmer, Baton Rouge, La.; Dr. James Merritt, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. M. Theron Rankin, Richmond, Va.; and J. A. Ellis, Sherman, Tex.

**CAPITAL BAPTISTS OBSERVE WORLD MISSION WEEK;  
MISSIONARIES MAKE GOODWILL CALL ON PRESIDENT**

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(BP)—Three American Indians called on President Truman the other day. They were David Owl, a Cherokee missionary to Seneca Indians in New York, and Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Hancock, of Oklahoma. The occasion was a brief visit of 24 Baptist missionaries and leaders to the White House during the Washington, D. C. fifth annual World Mission Week. Included were missionaries who serve in China, Argentina, Nigeria, Burma, Japan, Belgian Congo, Hungary, and the United States. During the week they spoke to nearly 20,000 people in 175 meetings.

Dr. Edward H. Pruden, pastor of the First Baptist Church where the President attends, said in presenting the visiting missionaries to the President: "This is the fifth annual World Mission Week in which we have tried to make the people of Washington conscious that missionaries are ambassadors of goodwill to every nation. They are a powerful influence in creating that reservoir of goodwill which may prevent another world conflict."

Rev. Isamu Chiba, native Japanese pastor, told the group earlier in the week that despite the fact that 23 of the 53 Baptist church buildings in Japan were bombed during the war, membership in the Baptist churches had more than doubled since the war.

Dr. Harold B. Canning, a medical missionary in Nigeria, told the group: "Africa is jumping from the 16th to the 20th century.... It is no longer the 'dark continent'... it is explosive Africa. There is the greatest hatred for white people today that Africa has ever known. We can change this feeling if we missionaries get there first and in sufficient numbers."

The group of missionaries included Miss Lettie G. Archer, China; Rev. and Mrs. George A. Bowdler, Argentina; Dr. Harold B. Canning, Nigeria; Rev. Isamu Chiba, Japan; Rev. Charles L. Conrad, Burma; Rev. A. R. Gallimore, China; Dr. David G. Graham, China; Rev. and Mrs. Joshua Grijalva, Texas; Rev. and Mrs. Aaron Hancock, Oklahoma; Rev. Chester J. Jump, Belgian Congo; Rev. Trygve Langmo, New York; Dr. Frank Lide, China; Rev. Miguel A. Lopez, New Mexico; Dr. Lewis W. Martin, Georgia; Rev. David Owl, New York; Rev. Joseph Palmer, New York; Rev. M. W. Rankin, China; Miss Helen Schmitz, New York; Dr. and Mrs. Bela Udvarnoki, Hungary; and Rev. A. F. Ufford, China.

SBC CAPITAL NEEDS  
BUDGET EXPLAINED

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--There are four sets of figures that Southern Baptists need to understand at this time. They have to do with the capital needs section of the S.B.C. Cooperative Program budget. But before they are presented a word should be said about how the capital needs section of the Cooperative Program came into being.

In 1946, on recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Convention decided to take advantage of the growing offerings to improve capital equipment. All money up to 3 million received in 1946 was to be used to keep the work going for the year. This part of the S.B.C. budget was called the current needs section. All money above the 3 million was to be used to improve old properties or to purchase new properties or for endowment. This part of the S.B.C. Cooperative Program budget was called the capital needs section. With some minor modification this plan has been followed ever since.

Creation of a capital needs section in the S.B.C. Cooperative Program budget raised the question: How are capital needs funds to be distributed? To answer this question the Executive Committee and the S.B.C. agency heads in conference agreed on certain figures that would cover their long range capital needs. They were called long range goals. And these are the first set of figures Southern Baptists need to face at this time. They are as follows:

Long Range Capital Needs Goals Adopted in 1945:

Foreign Mission Board.....	\$ 5,000,000.00
Home Mission Board.....	3,000,000.00
Relief and Annuity Board.....	3,000,000.00
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.....	3,500,000.00
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary..	3,000,000.00
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary...	3,000,000.00
American Baptist Theological Seminary.....	250,000.00
Radio Commission (as of 1949).....	150,000.00
Southern Baptist Hospital (as of 1950).....	150,000.00
Baptist Brotherhood (as of 1950).....	45,000.00
	<u>\$21,095,000.00</u>

The second set of figures consists of the money applied on the long-range goals since their adoption in 1945. This money was accrued to the long range goals from the Cooperative Program and other sources. It is as follows:

Total Capital Needs Funds Received January 1, 1946 — December 31, 1949:

Foreign Mission Board.....	\$ 3,136,507.79
Home Mission Board.....	889,876.49
Relief and Annuity Board.....	777,230.95
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.....	1,269,449.54
Southwestern Baptist Theological S minary..	1,612,205.87
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary...	944,511.61
American Baptist Th ological Seminary.....	81,104.70
Radio Commission.....	30,604.70
Southern Baptist Hospital.....	none
Baptist Brotherhood.....	none
	<u>\$ 8,741,491.65</u>

The third set of figures is simply determined by subtracting the money raised from the goals to leave the money yet to be raised before the completion of the long range capital needs program. It is as follows:

Amount of Capital Needs Funds Needed to Complete the Program:

Foreign Mission Board.....	\$ 1,863,492.21
Home Mission Board.....	2,110,123.51
Relief and Annuity Board.....	2,222,769.05
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.....	2,230,550.46
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary...	1,387,794.13
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary...	2,055,488.39
American Baptist Theological Seminary.....	168,895.30
Radio Commission.....	119,395.30
Southern Baptist Hospital.....	150,000.00
Baptist Brotherhood.....	45,000.00
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	\$12,353,508.35

This brings us to the fourth set of figures to be faced, the percentages that will govern distribution of 1950 capital needs funds. These percentages were arrived at in a conference of Southern Baptist Convention agency executives and Dr. Duke K. McCall of the Executive Committee in accordance with a recommendation voted by the Executive Committee last December. They are proportionate to the unraised portion of the capital needs program. The percentages will be voted on by the Executive Committee and the Southern Baptist Convention at Chicago. They are as follows:

1950 Capital Needs Distribution:

Foreign Mission Board.....	15.1 per cent
Home Mission Board.....	17.1 "
Relief and Annuity Board.....	18.0 "
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.....	18.0 "
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary..	11.2 "
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary...	16.6 "
American Baptist Theological Seminary.....	1.4 "
Radio Commission.....	1.0 "
Southern Baptist Hospital.....	1.2 "
Baptist Brotherhood.....	0.4 "
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	100 per cent

SOUTHERN BAPTIST LEADERS  
DISCUSS FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--The proposed five-year program for Southern Baptists is taking shape, according to Dr. Merrill D. Moore, director of promotion for the S.B.C Executive Committee. The latest step was an all-day conference of Southwide agency and institution executives here. The leaders freely talked of their plans for the next five years. No effort was made to crystalize a program beyond 1951. The mass of information accumulated will be presented to the summer promotion conference of the Executive Committee meeting in Nashville next June. At that time the five-year program will be carried out.

Dr. Moore gives five results of the Dallas meeting:

1. An increased conviction of the need for a five-year program of work to be adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, as envisioned by recent action of the Executive Committee.
2. Round-table discussion of the plans and programs of each of the Convention agencies for the next five years.
3. A clearer view of certain major aspects of these programs, which should be reflected in the Convention's proposed five-year program.
4. An increased sense of the unity and interdependence of all our work.
5. Groundwork for further progress toward a five-year plan of work for the Convention.