



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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SBC 125h Anniversary Film  
Emphasizes Present, Not Past

NASHVILLE (BP)--The 45-minute motion picture prepared as part of the Southern Baptist Convention's 125 anniversary emphasizes the present and future more than the past, according to reactions from about 30 persons attending a press preview of the film.

The movie is to be premiered at about 100 Baptist Mobilization Night (M-Night) rallies at major metropolitan centers, mostly in the South, from Nov. 15-Dec. 15.

Following the mid-December date, it will be available for showing at Baptist churches and other meetings through the Baptist Film Centers.

"In preparing this film, we were not just interested in saying 'Happy Birthday to us,' and showing a costume piece with people dressed like they did 125 years ago," said W. C. Fields public relations secretary of the SBC Executive Committee and chairman of the committee which coordinated the film.

"We were concerned about trying to portray who we are, and what we are, where we have been and where we are going," said Fields in informal remarks at the press preview.

Entitled "Dimensions of Courage," the film portrays both the unity and diversity among the 11.3 million members of the convention by showing Baptists from all across the country as they express divergent views about things that affect their faith and witness.

Both Fields and Crawford Howell, manager of Broadman Films department at the SBC Sunday School Board and another member of the film committee, said that one of the difficult things was to try to portray within 45 minutes the views of 11 million people in 34,000 churches in all 50 states, plus cover 125 years of history.

Howell said that National Education Media, Inc., of Hollywood, which produced the film ended up with nearly 8 miles of film and 8 miles of tape on the editing room floor. It would take 20 hours to show that much film. The problem was to decide how much and which of those 8 miles to use.

The movie opens with scenes from the present, showing guitar-strumming Dan McBride of Texas using musical satire to provoke laughter about the denomination.

Then it quickly shifts to the past, showing the graveyard in South Carolina where Luther Rice, a founder of the convention is buried, and the First Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga., where the convention was founded 125 years ago, in 1845.

After a brief historical background, the scene shifts back to the present with an interview with Convention President W. A. Criswell of Dallas, and another interview with Porter Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville.

Quickly, the camera pans buildings where SBC agencies have their headquarters, but quotes Routh and several pastors placing the emphasis of the denomination on people and on evangelism, not buildings.

Though several top denominational leaders are interviewed in the film, the main focus is on Baptist people of all kinds and from all areas, and their views about the denomination.

Among those interviewed are a deacon from Knoxville, Tenn., a Baptist college student from Pineville, La., a missionary commissioned for service overseas, several top missions leaders, a pastor of an inner-city church in Worcester, Mass., missions workers with a hippie colony in Berkely and San Francisco, a Negro Home Mission Board staff member, and several seminary professors.

One scene showed former SBC President Wayne Dehoney, wearing a turtle-neck shirt and pendant, telling of the inner-city ministry of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, and another showed Allen Graves, dean of administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, debating with his son over the generation gap.

The film closes with an appeal for the kind of "Dimensions of Courage" Southern Baptists have shown in the past as the denomination faces the future.

Bill Boyd Named New  
Promotion Director

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. (BP)--William E. Boyd, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Eustis, Fla., and former associate editor of Home Life magazine, published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named director of promotion by Gardner-Webb College here, effective Nov. 1.

Boyd is a journalism graduate of the University of Florida, and a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has been pastor of churches in Sanders, Ky., and Tampa, Fla. His wife is a former state Sunbeam Director for the Florida Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Boyd was reporter for the Tampa Tribune for eight years before entering the ministry and attending the seminary.

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Illinois Baptists Approve  
New Name Similar To Others

10/31/69

MT. VERNON, ILL. (BP)--The Illinois Baptist State Association, meeting here for its 63rd annual session, adopted a new constitution changing the name of the organization to the Illinois Baptist Convention.

American Baptists in the state, however, promptly protested the new name, saying it is too similar to their name, the Illinois Baptist State Convention, for use in legal documents within the state.

Technically the new name, Illinois Baptist Convention, cannot be used until the Illinois Secretary of State rules on it as an acceptable corporate title. American Baptists filed their protest with the Secretary of State.

In view of the complications, the Illinois Baptist State Association Executive Secretary James H. Smith said that, "out of courtesy to American Baptists, we will continue to use our old name on letterheads and promotional literature...until the problem is resolved to the satisfaction of both groups."

There are about 900 Southern Baptist churches affiliated with the Illinois Baptist State Association and 267 American Baptist churches.

The new constitution also includes a section on doctrine, accepting the Statement on Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the SBC in 1963 as the doctrinal statement of the convention. At the same time, the constitution recognizes that it is "not a statement of faith for every church of the convention or every individual, but rather a statement of the majority."

The constitution also provides for a simplified organization, with four committees of the Board of Directors instead of 11 committees. The constitution was drafted as a result of a two-year study.

In other major action, the convention authorized an expenditure of up to \$1½ million for erection for a new office building in Springfield, Ill. Total cost of the new property, furnishings, architects fees, etc., will be about \$1,790,000.

The convention authorized the Board of Directors to sign a contract for construction providing they could come up with satisfactory plan of financing. The convention also approved a \$750,000 bond issue to pay the difference for the new building and the sale of the old building in Carbondale, Ill. The convention has not yet been able to sell its old building.

Resolutions adopted by the convention commended Illinois Gov. Richard Ogilvie for vetoing a recent bill authorizing bingo games for religious and fraternal organizations, urged the new state Constitutional Convention to preserve the "time-honored guarantee of separation of church and state" in the new constitution.

Another resolution, coming on the heels of speeches by Negro Baptist pastors, urged Baptists in the state "to seek additional ways to exercise fellowship with our Negro bretheren, so as to show the spirit of Christ in relevance."

Two long-range studies were authorized. One requested a committee of five to study salaries of church-related employees and bring findings back next year. Another study would investigate the possibility of establishing a Baptist home for the aged and a home for unwed mothers in the state.

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The convention, reversing a decision last year to discontinue the Lake Sallateeska Baptist Assembly near Pinckneyville, in Southern Illinois, approved a committee's plan to purchase 80 acres adjacent to the assembly and develop it further, along with another camp in Streator, Ill., in the northern part of the state.

Elected president of the convention was Charles Chaney, pastor of First Baptist Church, Palatine, Ill.

Next year the convention will meet Nov. 3-5, at the Eastview Baptist Church, Rockford, Ill.

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Koinonia Farm Founder,  
Clarence Jordan, Dies

10/31/69

AMERICUS, Ga. (BP)--Clarence L. Jordan, controversial Southern Baptist theologian and founder of an interracial cooperative farm, died of an apparent heart attack in his study here while autographing a copy of his latest book for one of the workers at the farm.

Jordan, 57, was buried in a pine box in a pasture at the Koinonia Farms, the Christian community near Americus, which he founded in 1942.

A graduate of the University of Georgia and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned the doctor of theology degree, Jordan had written the Cotton Patch Version of the New Testament, and apparently was autographing the Cotton Patch Version of Luke and Acts when he died.

Using Southern phrases and colloquialisms, Jordan attempted to strip away "the fancy language, the artificial piety, and the barriers of time and distance in his writing.

Though he was a Greek scholar, Jordan devoted his life to hard farm labor and building an interracial Christian community "to witness to the Christian teachings on peace, sharing, and brotherhood," On the farm, white and black Christians lived as equals.

As racial tensions increased in South Georgia during the 1950's, the farm and those who worked there became the victims of bombings, shootings, beatings, and economic boycotts. The farm finally had to close its cattle, hog and chicken business.

When he died, Jordan and a farm associate Millard Fuller, were working to intergrate the First United Methodist Church of Americus. He had scheduled a meeting Dec. 1 with Americus ministers to discuss the issue.

He felt that the Koinonia Farms needed fresh goals and directions, and wrote last year that the farm "stands at the end of an era or perhaps existence." "Its goals," he added, "and methods which were logical and effective in the 1940s and 1950s seem no longer relevant to an age which is undergoing vast and rapid changes.

"An integrated Christian community was a very practical vehicle through which to bear witness to a segregated society a decade ago, but now it is too slow, too weak, and not aggressive enough," Jordan wrote.

Jordan had outlined a new program called PARTNERS to include proclamation of a "radical transforming Gospel," traveling schools of discipleship, and a new approach to "provide the disinherited with an inheritance through jobs and housing."

The third phase of the new program would use the assets of the farm to begin a fund "for humanity" that frees land and poor farmers to use and work in partnership. It also sought to create low-overhead, rural-based industries for job opportunities, and no-interest loans so that poor rural families could own their own homes.

Few of his Americus neighbors came to mourn Jordan, but one of the Negro farmers at Koinonia Farms summed up the feelings of those who worked with him. "He's the best friend I ever had," the grieving man said.

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Missouri Baptists Hold  
135th Anniversary Meeting

10/31/69

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention observed its 135th anniversary convention here, approving a record budget for 1970, purchasing a downtown Jefferson City hotel for its headquarters, and establishing a new scholarship fund in honor of its executive secretary.

Both the convention's 135th anniversary and the 15th anniversary of its executive secretary, Earl O. Harding, were observed at an anniversary banquet the night before the

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convention began.

At the banquet, establishment of the Earl O. Harding scholarship fund was announced. The scholarship fund, which may amount to more than \$1 million within five years, will benefit students at three colleges affiliated with the state convention.

The fund was started with a gift of \$15,000 by the convention's Executive Board, and is expected to reach \$135,000 the first year. It will be funded by special gifts from interested individuals and groups.

The convention approved a \$4.1 million Cooperative Program budget goal for 1970, an increase of \$500,000 over the 1969 goal. The budget will provide 35 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes, 10 per cent to special denominational causes, and 55 per cent for Missouri Baptist Convention causes.

Messengers to the convention voted to revise previous plans to erect a new Baptist building in the southern part of Jefferson City, approving plans instead to buy the Missouri Hotel just one block from the present offices and convert it to an office building for the convention.

The seven-story building will be remodeled both within and without. Three floors will be leased to other businesses, and five floors will be used by the convention's 17 departments, eight divisions, and the Missouri Baptist Press.

Cost of the total project is expected to be around \$1,7 million.

A resolution adopted by the convention commended the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention for extensive preparation in "leading the churches into the 70 Onward emphasis to update methodology in presentation and application of God's changless truth."

Another resolution commended President Richard M. Nixon for his decision against appointing an ambassador or representative to the Vatican.

In an address to the convention Glenn L. Archer, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, predicted that the Supreme Court would uphold tax exemption for houses of worship, but would approve taxation of church-owned business property.

Elected new president of the convention was H. L. McClanahan, of Kennett, Mo., director of mission work for the Black River Baptist Association for the past 23 years.

The convention meets next year at the First Baptist Church, Raytown, Mo., Oct. 27-29.



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