



BAPTIST PRESS
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November 12, 1969

North Carolina Convention
Approves Education Study

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. (BP)--The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved here a massive two-year study of its higher education program, underscoring the right of its colleges to participate in publicly-funded programs under the "services rendered" principle.

Despite predictions of heated discussions, most observers said the convention was one of the calmest in recent years.

In addition to the education study, the convention also adopted a record \$7 million 1970 budget, and approved resolutions dealing with:

--Breaking down barriers between segments of the population and healing the "hurts of humanity through the ministry of reconciliation";

--Urging compliance with international treaties by all forces in the humane treatment of prisoners of war in Vietnam;

--Commending those who led in the defeat of efforts to liberalize the North Carolina liquor laws, including the Methodist and Baptist state papers and the North Carolina Christian Action League;

The convention did not adopt, however, resolutions on amnesty for conscientious objectors either imprisoned in the United States, or in exile in other countries, and on voluntary prayer in public schools. The two resolutions were referred to its Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs.

Messengers to the convention approved in entirety the 13,000-word report from its Committee of Twenty, a panel that has worked for the past two years on problems concerning the state's seven Baptist colleges.

The report recommended that the seven schools be maintained and strengthened and be given additional state convention financial support when possible.

The report asked that a special committee of the convention General Board be named to hear requests from various convention agencies and institutions for participation in tax-funded programs and referred them to the General Board for action.

North Carolina Baptist colleges have been able for many years to accept federal loans for construction of such buildings as dormitories, and since 1958 have been able to participate in projects financed through tax funds under the principle of "services rendered". The report reaffirmed this principle.

One of the committee's recommendations urged that channels of communications with students be improved.

Later, messengers followed through by electing James Cross, 22, president of the student body at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, as a voting member of the Wake Forest board of trustees. Cross is apparently the first student at a Southern Baptist college to be elected to his school's board as a voting member.

The new \$7 million budget for 1970 calls for a \$300,000 increase in spending over 1969 and will be distributed according to the same formula as in 1969--33.34 per cent to the Southern Baptist Convention, 29.46 per cent to state missions, 25.6 per cent to Christian higher education, and 11.6 per cent to Christian social services.

John E. Lawrence, pastor of Forrest Hills Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C., was elected new president of the convention.

Next year's sessions will be held in Greensboro, N.C., Nov. 9-11.

Verse-by-Verse Guide
To Romans Prepared

NASHVILLE (BP)--A Study Guide to Romans, the first of its kind, has been prepared for use with the adult and young people's Life and Work Sunday School curriculum material for the first quarter 1970.

The guide, prepared by staff members of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department, is the first produced by the board to use a verse-by-verse method of study of a biblical book.

Scripture texts from the American Bible Society's Today's English Version of the New Testament are reproduced in the guide. Accompanying the biblical text are study notes, including additional scripture references as background to quoted scripture, and study questions.

Ernest J. Holloway, supervisor, general editorial services section in the board's Sunday School department, prepared study notes, and Robert J. Dean, also an editor of adult materials, prepared the study questions.

The guide is designed as a multiple-use piece, including use by Bible study groups in youth groups.

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Neta Stewart Named Dean
Of Women By Southwestern

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH (BP)--Neta Stewart of Nashville, consultant in children's work for the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named dean of women and director of student activities at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Miss Stewart, a native of Fort Smith, Ark., is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Seminary.

Before joining the Sunday School Board staff in 1962, she worked with the Training Union department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and on the staff of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

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Ron Willis, Minister
To Hippies, Transferred

Baptist Press

BANGOR, Me. (BP)--Ron Willis, young Southern Baptist pastor whose ministry to hippies on the West Coast has projected him into national prominence in the Southern Baptist Convention, has been named pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church here.

Willis, 29, was pastor of Golden Gate Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif., and a student at California's Merritt Junior College. He, more than any other individual, has been responsible for Southern Baptists' ministry to hippies in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district.

While serving as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church here, Willis will also attend the University of Maine.

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Beam Named Development
Head at Gardner-Webb

Baptist Press

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. (BP)--John Beam, former dean of students at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, N.C., has been named director of development for Gardner-Webb College here.

A graduate of Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C., and George Peabody College, Nashville, Beam has also been involved in public school education in several North Carolina high schools, and for nine years was with the Peerless Spinning Corp., Lowell, N.C.

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NOV 13 1969

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