

June 15, 1950

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SELECTS STUDY OF CHURCH FOR 1952
DOCTRINAL EMPHASIS; WORK OF BAPTIST PRESS EXPANDED

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—Southern Baptists will devote 1952 to the study of the doctrine of the church. All Convention agencies will cooperate "in every way which they consider to be feasible in effectively teaching the truths relating this doctrine to our people." The emphasis was voted by the Executive Committee in its semi-annual meeting after instruction from the Southern Baptist Convention at Chicago and recommendations from the annual Conference on Promotion. The Chicago instructions were the result of the adoption of the Gardner report of the Committee on Common Problems. The Promotion Conference, composed of state and Southwide executives and editors and members of the Executive Committee's sub-committee on promotion, met for two days prior to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee also voted to ask all Southern Baptist agencies to participate in a common exhibit at the Cleveland Baptist World Alliance. The Executive Committee will plan and direct the staffing of the booths. The agencies will share in the cost.

The Division of Publications of the Executive Committee will survey the need and possibility of a Convention-wide preaching paper. The survey was voted by the Executive Committee when it adopted the following recommendation offered by the sub-committee on promotion: "We take cognizance of the growing need of a well-edited preaching publication for Southern Baptist ministers. We recommend, therefore, that the Division of Publications of the Executive Committee conduct a careful study in this field and report back to the Executive Committee regarding the possibility of an early offering of such a publication on a subscription basis."

The Baptist Press will be expanded to include additional secretarial personnel as soon as the cost of the expansion can be brought within the budget of the Division of Publications. The action voted by the Committee was as follows: "We recommend that the Division of Publications be authorized to expand its personnel to include a secretary trained as a specialist in journalism, provided the cost of such a move can be brought within the budget of the division. This recommendation has as its purpose (1) expansion of the Baptist Press service to state Baptist papers to provide more and better news releases, and (2) further relating in an effective way the denomination to the secular press."

(more)

The Executive Committee will ask the Committee on Order of Business to set aside one whole evening of the 1951 convention at San Francisco to be devoted to the presentation of stewardship. The move came as a recommendation of the subcommittee on promotion. Dr. Merrill D. Moore, director of promotion, will be in charge.

The next Promotion Conference was scheduled for May 15-16, 1951, to meet in Nashville.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY DIVISION OF
CAPITAL NEEDS FUNDS TO S.B.C. AGENCIES

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The Executive Committee appointed a special committee to study division of the 1951 capital needs funds. The move came when several proposals for division were offered at the annual meeting, none of which were completely satisfactory.

The problem was how to follow the Southern Baptist Convention instructions at Chicago to find \$300,000 capital needs funds for the new Southeastern Seminary and sufficient funds estimated at \$150,000 for the Golden Gate Seminary without either (1) upsetting the capital needs distribution plan followed since 1945, or (2) raising the capital needs budget from \$2½ to \$3 million..

Changing the present capital needs distribution plan, according to some, would seriously hamper building programs projected when the plan was launched five years ago. Raising the capital needs budget from \$2½ to \$3 million, according to others, would alter the foreign missions prospects for advance. (The 1951 \$10 million budget is divided: (a) first \$4½ million for current needs, with foreign missions getting 50 per cent; (b) next \$2½ millions for capital needs divided percentage wise on the basis of the 1945 survey; and (c) last \$3 million going to foreign missions.)

The Executive Committee also asked the special committee to restudy all matters relating to the capital needs of the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The special committee consists of H. W. Tiffany, Virginia, chairman; W. Boyd Hunt, Texas; Louie D. Newton, Georgia; J. W. Storer, Oklahoma; George B. Fraser, Washington, D. C. A report is expected at the next Executive Committee meeting December 13 and 14.

SUB-COMMITTEE WILL STUDY
CENTRAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—The Executive Committee has appointed a committee of three to make a study of the possibility of setting up a central accounting system for the Convention agencies. The move came as a recommendation of the administrative committee at the annual organization meeting of the Executive Committee. The committee consists of E. L. Compere, A. J. Moncrief, Jr., and Ralph P. Baylor, chairman.

On recommendation of the administrative committee the Executive Committee also voted: (1) To limit borrowing of funds by Convention agencies to three years. (2) Return \$1700 received from a Virginia man last January because of some question by the family and lawyer of the donor. (3) To give Merrill D. Moore full administrative authority during the absence of Dr. Duke K. McCall from the United States this year. (Dr. McCall will participate in the foreign mission centennial celebration in Africa and a preaching mission in Japan.) (4) To designate Walter Pope Binns to take J. R. Noffsinger's place, resigned, on the Public Affairs Commission. (5) To designate G. C. Hodge of Biloxi, Miss., to take the place of Mr. Ed. Byrd, who had moved from the state, on the Social Service Commission.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD WILL
HANDLE AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—The Visual Education Service of the Baptist Sunday School Board has been expanded to include audio-visual aids and the name changed to the Audio-Visual Service Department, according to Dr. T. L. Holcomb, executive secretary of the Board. Mr. Earl Waldrup will serve as secretary of the service and the personnel will be increased to care for the added responsibility of production. The expansion was voted in the summer meeting of the Sunday School Board in response to an action at the Chicago Convention designating the Sunday School Board as the central agency for promotion, production, and distribution of visual aids equipment and materials. Production of materials will begin as soon as plans can be completed for the service.

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DR. RICHARD N. OWEN ACCEPTS
EDITORSHIP OF TENNESSEE PAPER

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—Dr. Richard N. Owen, editor-elect of the Baptist and Reflector, has been pastor of the First Baptist Church here since 1938. The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention unanimously elected Dr. Owen on June 6 as successor to Dr. O. W. Taylor, who retires on September 11 after 17 years as editor.

A native Tennessean, Owen received his education in the schools of Covington, Tenn.; Tulane University, New Orleans; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was awarded the Doctor of Divinity Degree by Union University in 1934. While a student at the University of Tennessee he published for two years the university paper, "The Orange and White."

Dr. Owen has a wide acquaintance with Tennessee Baptists, having served as pastor at Milan, Elizabethton, and Paris. He has served as trustee of Union University, Tennessee College, and Cumberland University, as a member of the administrative committee of the Tennessee Executive Board, and as a director of the Tennessee Baptist Press. He is a past president of the convention. Dr. Owen has also served on the board of the Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans. He is vice-chairman of the Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary.

In a statement to the Baptist Press, Dr. Owen described his plans as follows: "I consider to be my audience...Tennessee Baptists, but beyond that other Baptists....I feel first of all that I am writing for the Lord Jesus and trying to be true to his spirit as he may direct....The Baptist and Reflector should not be a paper just to preachers. It should be a paper that is for the people. I want us to have a sincere appreciation of the past, wherein the people called Baptists have measured up and have met the crisis of their own time and the challenge of it and an awareness of present day trends and of the significance of the message of the Gospel of Christ through the Baptists as it meets the challenge of the present."

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STUDENTS TO PRAY FOUR HOURS
DAILY FOR SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—"Southern Baptist students have committed themselves to pray four hours each day for the simultaneous evangelistic crusade east of the Mississippi River," according to Dr. G. Kearnie Keegan, new Convention-wide B.S.U. secretary, as he returned here from the 24th annual Baptist Student Retreat at Ridgecrest, N.C.

He said that the students have set the hour from seven to eight each morning in every time belt as a prayer time for spiritual awakening.

By the close of the eight-day retreat, 633 of the 2,500 young Baptists who attended had publicly registered life decisions for the Lord. Seventeen, including one of the bus drivers who brought students to Ridgecrest, accepted Christ as personal Saviour.

Speakers included four men who had been active in B.S.U. work during their own student days. They were Dr. Paul Geren, recently returned from his duties in the American consulate in Bombay, India; Dr. Ralph Overman, chairman of the special training division for the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies; Robert Norman, lawyer from Augusta, Ga.; and Howard E. Butt, Jr., vice president of a super market chain in Texas.

Other speakers included Dr. Robert Hingston of Johns Hopkins University; Dr. C. Oscar Johnson, president, Baptist World Alliance, and Joel Sorenson, youth secretary, Baptist World Alliance.

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