

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Kansas Convention Announces
Victory In Fund Campaign**BUREAUS**

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WICHITA, Kan. (BP)--The Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists has successfully completed a fund campaign to enlist pledges of \$500,000 and announced "victory" in an effort to provide funds to solve its \$1.6 million indebtedness.

"Perhaps this will be noted as our greatest hour," said Kansas Convention President W. E. Thorn of Wichita on learning of the successful completion of the campaign.

When the campaign closed on Jan. 26, a total of 147 congregations within the Kansas convention had pledged \$623,540, going over their goal of \$500,000 by \$124,540.

Convention officials said that two other major churches in the convention are expected to take action soon on their pledge commitment, and the amount in pledges may go over the \$700,000 mark by early February.

Meanwhile, in addition to the \$623,540 pledged by churches in Kansas and Nebraska, an effort to seek financial support from other Baptist state conventions in the Southern Baptist Convention has resulted so far in written commitments from 10 conventions pledging a total of \$442,500 over a five year period.

Earl O. Harding, executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Convention and chairman of a committee of executive secretaries from the state convention to enlist aid for the Kansas convention, said that the executive secretary of at least 10 other state conventions had told him their boards may take some action in the future, but official approval has not yet been given.

"I think we will come out beyond the goal of \$500,000 and furthermore, think that we can go beyond the \$500,000 even if no other state conventions participate," Harding said.

In addition to the \$623,540 pledged by Baptists in Kansas and Nebraska, and the \$442,500 the Kansas Convention took action at its annual session last November allocating \$1,500 per week from the state Cooperative Program contributions to go towards solving the convention's financial crisis.

If all of the amounts pledged is actually received during the next five years, the convention would go well over the \$1.6 million needed to solve the indebtedness of its church loan association.

Convention officials involved in the campaign said they realize, however, that as much as one-third more than the actual needed amount would be necessary in pledges, since unforeseen financial difficulties on the part of those making pledges might cause some to fail to actually give all they had hoped and planned to contribute.

The convention faced the fact that its church loan association was insolvent in November of 1968, when it was disclosed that indebtedness exceeded \$1.6 million after the association had long-term loans to churches backed by short-term bonds. With nearly 45 of 77 churches in arrears on their loan payments, the association used the proceeds of bond sales to make sinking fund payments on bonds that were gradually maturing.

The Kansas State Securities Commissioner, Michael Quinn, requested that a five-man management board take control of the operations of the association and convention last August in an effort to find solutions to the financial crisis.

The board of managers proposed and the convention approved in November of 1969, the fund campaign of \$500,000 within the states of Kansas and Nebraska, and proposed the \$1,500 weekly allocation from state Cooperative Program receipts to make sinking fund payments.

At the same time, the committee of executive secretaries for the 31 other Baptist state conventions in the SBC proposed to raise \$500,000 over five years to bring in the needed \$1.6 million to solve the problem.

When the campaign was completed on Jan. 25, the chairman of the board of managers, Sen. Lester Arvin, an attorney in Wichita, said he was "thrilled at what our churches and the other conventions have done. It is indicative of the wonderful spirit that has prevailed during the difficult time we have just come through."

Another member of the board of managers, Wichita Businessman Robert Hobson and interim editor of the Kansas Baptist Digest, wrote: "This is a great day for the Lord in Kansas and Nebraska. Total pledges for underwriting the financial deficit of the convention have reached \$1,623,540!"

The fund campaign in Kansas and Nebraska was conducted with staff assistance from the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. The late Bill Pitt of Nashville of the Stewardship Commission directed the campaign at first, but died of a heart attack while the campaign was in progress. His associate, Ben Gill, completed the campaign.

Gill commented that the Stewardship Commission was excited about "the tremendous success" of the effort, called the "Strengthen Our Witness Campaign." Gill said success was made possible "by the sacrificial attitudes shown by every member of every church."

Harding, head of the Missouri Convention, said he felt that many other state conventions in addition to the 10 whose committees or boards have already taken action, would participate in the aid to Kansas. He said he had received letters from a dozen state convention executive secretaries saying they planned to present the matter to their boards or committees at a later date.

The Missouri Convention Executive Board, under Harding's leadership, had pledged as much as half of the \$500,000 goal, if necessary. The Missouri board voted to contribute up to \$50,000 a year for five years (\$250,000 total) if necessary, although Harding said he hoped that enough would come from the other states so that no state would have to give more than \$10,000 a year (\$50,000 total).

Harding said he had received written commitments from executive secretaries of 10 conventions stating that their boards or committees had taken action to provide financial aid to the Kansas convention. The states of the proposals in each state, however, was at different stages, and in some, the actual amount was still pending.

Three state conventions' boards have approved annual contributions of \$10,000 for five years, or as is necessary. Thus \$150,000 would come from the Georgia, Oklahoma and Kentucky conventions.

Several other smaller conventions have pledged smaller amounts, Harding said. Included were annual five-year pledges of \$1,000 from Alaska, Arizona and New Mexico conventions; \$2,000 annually from Ohio and Michigan; and \$5,000 for 1970 from North Carolina (pending).

In addition, Harding said the executive secretaries from Illinois, Indiana, Arkansas, South Carolina, Oregon-Washington, Texas, Virginia and Hawaii, had written saying they planned to present the matter to their committees or boards.

Harding said he hoped enough would come in from the other states to allow Missouri to reduce its pledge, so that no one state would have to carry a substantially larger load than the others.

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Louisiana Baptists Voice
Parochial School Oppositions

1/29/70

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)--The public affairs committee of the Louisiana Baptist Convention adopted a statement here strongly opposing government aid to parochial schools, and the chairman read the statement to the convention's annual Evangelism Conference in session here.

Though the Evangelism Conference, which conducts no business, took no action on the statement, the president of the convention called a special meeting of Baptist ministers attending the meeting to organize opposition to efforts in the legislature to provide funds to parochial schools.

Several hundred ministers attended the special meeting, and were urged to contact every state legislator and congressman in the state requesting them to respect the position of the convention's public affairs committee.

The committee's statement pointed out that those "who seek funds as a means of avoiding integration or preserving segregation are deceiving themselves, since reports make it clear that all schools supported by tax monies cannot maintain a policy of discrimination on the basis of race."

The statement further argued that public tax support for parochial schools would undermine and seriously weaken public school education.

"If the competing parochial school systems had access to public funds, the result to public schools would be disastrous," said the committee.

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The statement also said that such government support of parochial schools would "destroy America's unique contribution to religious liberty and separation of church and state."

It warned that America is in danger of returning to Europe's sectarian and religious establishment procedures, which have reduced the public schools in some situations to third rate institutions.

Many of those attending the conference had just received a copy of the Baptist Message, official weekly publication of the convention, which included an editorial advocating a "Christian" response to the Supreme Court ruling ordering Louisiana schools to integrate by Feb. 1.

The editorial stated that the "current court rulings regarding public schools has produced a serious crisis" in the state, and observed that "a man's response to a crisis reveals his true inner being.

"For the Christian," wrote Editor James Cole, "it is a test as to whether his profession and practice as a Christian are identical or separate roles and any similarity is a matter of personal convenience."

The editorial quoted a resolution adopted by the Executive Board of the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association "supporting the public school system as the best course of education for most of our children."

It also quoted extensively from a sermon by Damon Vaughn, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La., for the reader's "consideration as you try to resolve the public school crisis in your own mind and conscience."

Vaughn said he felt the establishment of private school systems would hurt the public schools, and that this alternative "holds no hope as an educational system for the masses."

He urged public school teachers to continue their work saying, "If you-level headed Christian teachers don't stay with the public schools, what then? I hope you won't resign... because we need you now more than ever."

Vaughn was quoted as telling students in the public schools to "do right" and "act Christian. And if you have forgotten," he added, "what 'Christian' means, listen again to Christ: 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' and that includes the neighbor at the next desk.

"Now as never before," Vaughn said, "we need a generation that can think straight, control their emotions, and be Christian in spite of everything. Who knows but God put you on earth to help show the way in such a time as this?"

Editor Cole, in a special report to Baptist Press, said that he and other state convention leaders knew of no Baptist church or group of churches that has formed a private school in Louisiana, nor of any church that has leased its buildings to private schools.

Several churches have noted such schools or lease agreements down by close margins, Cole said. He added that a number of Baptist pastors had told him they read the Baptist Message editorial to their congregations, and expressed opposition to private school systems and support of public schools.

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California Board Hears
Plight of Baptist School

1/29/70

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California heard a report of a "serious financial crisis" at California Baptist College, Riverside, but voted down a proposal to cut back all convention operations to the 1968 level in order to give the school more funds.

J. L. Harden, business manager, at the college and Andrew Tucker, chairman of the school's board of trustees, outlined the financial woes of the school, and indicated that at the present they were not sure exactly what the indebtedness might be.

Much of the problem was caused, they said, by the depletion of all reserve funds during recent years by the construction of two dormitories and a gymnasium, plus a \$90,000 loan negotiated on the basis of pledges that have thus far failed to materialize to pay for the new gymnasium.

During the board meeting, W.E. Harrell, pastor of Ignacia Valley Baptist Church, Walnut Creek, Calif., made a motion that the board cut all possible convention expenditures back to the 1968 level and channel the resulting savings to the college.

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The motion was defeated however, after Tucker, the college board chairman, and several others urged the board not to take such a drastic step.

In other action, the board adopted a resolution urging California merchants to cease Sunday business operations, and reaffirmed an earlier vote to sell the Berkeley Baptist Student Center on the campus of the University of California.

Last April, the board voted to sell the student center after city officials issued an order requiring extensive repairs to the aged building in order to meet building codes in the city. With no funds available for the renovation, the board decided to sell.

Local opposition in the San Francisco Bay area prompted the board to review the situation, but the final decision was to sell the property because of lack of funds.

The resolutions on Sunday closing law enforcement declared that every family has a right to a day for worship, recreation and rest; and argued that Sunday business operations contributes to a further weakening of family life.

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Carter Accepts
College Post

1/29/70

DALLAS (BP)--John D. Carter, press representative for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and a staff writer for the Dallas Bureau of Baptist Press, has been named director of public information for Dallas Baptist College, effective March 1.

He is a native of Jacksonville, Fla., and is a graduate of Southern Colorado State College, Pueblo, Colo. He served more than seven years as an Air Force newspaper editor and information officer prior to his association with the Texas Convention.

Since 1968, he has been a frequent contributor to Baptist Press, including coverage of pop music festivals in Lewisville, Tex., and West Palm Beach, Fla.

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"Noise" Prompts Study of
North Carolina Headquarters

1/29/70

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--The General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has authorized a study of the adequacy of its convention office facilities, citing "a terrific noise" and a "very difficult parking problem" at the Baptist building here.

The recommendation also asked the special long-range planning committee to study the "present and future need for more (office) space."

The four-story building, located at 301 Hillsborough Street, was completed in 1957 and is located on the business routes of U.S. Highways 70 and 1, considered one of the busiest thoroughfares in North Carolina, according to convention officials.

In other actions, the General Board gave permission to the North Carolina Homes for the Aging in Winston-Salem, N.C., to accept Medicaid for needy residents who require nursing care, and authorized a \$6 million fund campaign for Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

James C. Cammack of Fayetteville, N.C., was re-elected president of the board.

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