



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

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NOVEMBER 2, 1970

First Baptist, Dallas  
To Begin Bible Institute

DALLAS (BP)--First Baptist Church of Dallas, largest congregation in the Southern Baptist Convention, has announced the establishment of the Criswell Bible Institute, named for its pastor, W. A. Criswell.

Classes will begin in January at the institute with instruction on the college or seminary level, said James Bryant, an associate pastor of the church.

"This will be a Bible institute encompassing Christian training of a conservative and evangelical flavor on a high academic level," said Bryant.

Simultaneously, the church announced that a Conservatory of Music will be established "within the framework of the Criswell Bible Institute, teaching our people and church musicians from across the city and state how to build a music program which will glorify God...."

Criswell, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be president of the institute in addition to his duties as pastor of the 15,000-member Dallas church.

Bryant will serve as academic dean. Chairman of the institute's trustees will be W. C. McCord, who is president of Lone Star Gas Co.

The institute, as outlined by Bryant will offer classes on Tuesday nights, with certificates to be awarded at the end of the completion of three years of study.

Faculty members will be from the faculties of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Dallas Baptist College and Dallas Theological Seminary, both in Dallas.

Classes will be conducted on a college or seminary level, but enrollment will be available to Sunday school teachers and interested laymen from all over North Texas.

The textbook will be the Bible. "We will not study about the Bible," said Bryant, "we will study the Bible itself. We will not study what some theologian or some book says about the Bible, but we will study the unfolding drama of redemption in its own language, in its own words, in its own setting."

Bryant said the elected trustees are all members of the Dallas church. The institute has been chartered by the state and has adopted its "Articles of Faith," he said.

The church will hold a three-day seminar on church dynamics for pastors and other staff members next March 19-21 following the nationwide Bible Conference in Dallas.

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Two Black Congregations Join  
Columbus, Ohio, Association

11/2/70

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Two all-black congregations, the Grace Baptist Church and the Good Faith Baptist Church, were accepted as members of the Capital City Baptist Association in its annual meeting here.

The two churches become the first all-Negro congregations to affiliate with the association, which is comprised of 50 predominately white Southern Baptist churches in Columbus.

Four other all Negro congregations in the state are affiliated with Southern Baptists in Ohio.

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West Virginia Baptists  
Organize 33rd Convention

BELLE, W. Va. (BP)--The 33rd state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention was constituted here during the fourth annual session of the Baptist General Association of West Virginia.

The new convention will be known as the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists. Headquarters offices are located in St. Albans, W.Va.

During the convention's organizational meeting here, more than 300 persons registered with 126 elected messengers representing the 52 churches with a total membership of 13,468 affiliated with the new convention.

Elected president of the convention was George Bulson, pastor of Ceres Baptist Church, Bluefield, W. Va.

The Executive Board of the new convention was instructed by the messengers to prepare a job description, fix a salary schedule, and proceed with the election of an executive secretary for the convention before next year's annual convention.

Currently, the convention has two staff members, but no executive. The staff is composed of John Snedden who is the director of missions, evangelism and Baptist men's work; and Francis Tallant, director of Christian education in charge of Sunday School, Training Union and student work. Mrs. Ola Cox will serve as past-time director of Woman's Missionary Union work in the state.

An operating budget of \$176,524 was adopted by the convention, which also set a statewide Cooperative Program goal of \$70,950 for 1971.

A financial agreement between the new convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board provides for 90 per cent of the state missions program funds, with 10 per cent provided by the state.

Set as top priority programs by the convention in its program of work were the areas of (1) evangelism, (2) starting new churches, and (3) developing church leadership.

The organizational convention was held here at the Witcher Baptist Church, which was instrumental in helping to start Southern Baptist mission work on a statewide basis with the assistance of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

A state fellowship meeting, called the Baptist General Association of West Virginia, was founded in 1966 was a preliminary step toward forming a state convention.

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Swedish Baptist Merger Talks  
With Free Churches Revised

11/2/70

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (BP)--Three free church groups in Sweden, including the Baptist Union of Sweden, have given up the idea of merging into a United Free Church.

Instead, they will discuss only how to coordinate certain features of their work, according to a report in European Baptist Press Service based in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The decision was reached at a recent meeting of the interdenominational merger committee, which includes representatives from the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden (Congregationalist), the Methodist Church of Sweden, and the Baptist Union of Sweden.

There are about 90,000 Congregationalists, about 27,000 Baptists, and about 9,000 Methodists in Sweden.

Erik Ruden, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Sweden with offices here, explained what will take place next at the conference table in the deliberations.

He said there will now be an effort to provide for joint training of pastors, missionaries and youth leaders. Cooperation or coordination could also be developed in home missions, publishing, social work and foreign missions.

Ruden said definitely that a merger between the three church groups would not take place.

Ruden assured members of the Swedish Baptist union that the union's annual general assembly would have opportunities to review and react to proposals for coordination between the three groups before they are put into force.

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A prominent member of the Congregationalist delegation, Jan-Erik Wikstrom, was quoted as saying that he had not personally abandoned the idea of an eventual complete merger. "Perhaps this can be viewed as one station on the way to it," he said.

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Jamaica Church Bus Hit  
By Train, Ten Killed

11/2/70

RICHMOND, Jamaica (BP)--Ten Baptist church members were killed and 45 were injured after their chartered bus was hit by a train.

About 60 members of the St. Mary's Baptist Church here were on their way to install Everard Allen as pastor of the Baptist church in Porus, Jamaica, when the crash occurred.

The church members were singing and clapping their hands at the time of the crash. Witnesses said the driver apparently did not hear the train whistle as he sounded the bus' horn and passed a line of vehicles waiting at the crossing.

Killed was the sister of the pastor, who was being installed. His mother was among those critically injured. Seven passengers died on the spot and three others lived only a short time longer.

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