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NATIONAL OFFICE
 460 James Robertson Parkway
 Nashville, Tennessee 37219
 Telephone (615) 244-2385
 W. C. Fields, Director
 Jim Newton, Assistant Director

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BUREAUS
ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse G. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 333-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 344-4226

Davis C. Woolley, Baptist Historian, Dies of Cancer

NASHVILLE (BP)--Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Historical Commission here, died Jan. 15 of cancer of the bone marrow. He was 62.

Woolley had been hospitalized for the past four months. Up until the first of the year, he continued to work in the hospital, using dictating equipment at his bedside.

No public funeral services were held, at Woolley's request, but rather a memorial service was scheduled on Sunday afternoon, Jan 17, at Glendale Baptist Church where he was a member.

Leading the service were Richard Smith, pastor of the church, and Albert McClellan, program planning secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and close personal friend.

Planned by Mr. and Mrs. Woolley during December, the service carried out the theme of victory through faith and was conducted as a worship service. McClellan's message during the service emphasized the characteristics of the authentic Christian and referred at one point in his message to Woolley as "the man whose authentic Christian life we celebrate here today."

In a statement to Baptist Press, McClellan described Woolley as "representative of the sinew of Southern Baptist integrity," and added that "he loved God with all his heart and mind and soul, and he loved his neighbor as himself."

"Student worker, pastor, educator, historian, denominational leader--his talents and his dedication stand out as bright burning stars in the galaxy of Southern Baptist leadership," McClellan said.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, pointed out that Woolley's death marked the first time in more than a decade that the executive of a Southern Baptist agency had died while in office.

Routh praised Woolley's contribution to the total denomination, especially through the SBC's Inter-Agency Council ^{of Coordinating Committees} of which he was chairman.

"Davis Woolley was not only an able Baptist historian, he was a successful pastor, teacher, administrator, and a devoted father," Routh said. "Above all, Davis Woolley was a Christian man."

Unfortunately, Woolley was unable to see to completion one of his biggest projects as head of the SBC Historical Commission. He died ~~five~~^{four} months before publication and release of Volumn III of the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists which he edited.

Before he died, however, Woolley was able to see all the galley proofs on the 608-page Encyclopedia volume handed over to the printer with final approval given for printing.

W. Morgan Patterson, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and chairman of the historical commission, praised Woolley's work on the encyclopedia, and other significant contributions Woolley made to the SBC.

"He served the Historical Commission diligently, competently, and imaginatively for nearly 12 years as executive secretary-treasurer," Patterson said.

Patterson noted as specific contributions Woolley's publishing project, including a revision of the book, *Champions of Religious Freedom*; editing *Baptist Advance*, which marked the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist work in North America; writing the book, *Guide for Writing the History of a Church*; plus editing the journal, *History and Heritage* published beginning in 1965 by the commission. He also led in sponsoring "Great Moments in Baptist History," composed of a number of paintings depicting Baptist history, as done by artist Erwin Hearne Jr., of Dallas.

Patterson said Woolley's "energies" were devoted to Southern Baptists in an effort to remind them of the importance of their history and the need to preserve it for future generations.

Patterson said the administrative committee of the Historical Commission would be meeting within a week to discuss the procedure for selecting a successor to Woolley. The full commission is scheduled to meet next on April ~~19~~ 21.

Before coming to Nashville in 1959, Woolley was director of the Howard Extension Department Service, an educational program sponsored by Howard College (since re-named Samford University), Birmingham. He served in that position from 1953-59. Previously, he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Palatka, Fla.

A native of Alabama and the son of an Alabama Baptist preacher, the late David Zaccheaus Woolley, he was Training Union secretary for the Alabama Baptist Convention, 1940-42, directing the convention's student work program at the same time.

Woolley was also student secretary for the First Baptist Church of Auburn, Ala., coordinating that church's work with students at Auburn University.

He was a graduate of Draughon Business College, Montgomery, and Howard College, Birmingham. He earned the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

While in Kentucky, he was pastor of Baptist churches in Waddy, Smith Mills, and Henderson.

Active in Baptist camp work, Woolley was director of recreation for the Alabama State Training Union Assembly, director of the Shelby Association Camp in Kentucky, and director of the St. John's River Association Camp in Florida.

Survivors include his widow, the former Kate Wilkins of North Carolina, five children, two brothers and three sisters.

The family requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the American Cancer Society, the Heart Fund, or to memorial funds established by the SBC Historical Commission and the Glendale Baptist Church here.

- 30 -

Stewardship Commission Urges
Church Giving Goals, 1972-75

1/18/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, in annual session here, adopted more than a dozen recommendations, paid tribute to its retiring executive director-treasurer, and adopted specific goals urging an increase in church contributions throughout the SBC.

The commission members adopted a recommendation praising the contributions of Merrill D. Moore, who retires Jan. 31 as executive director-treasurer, and held a special banquet in Moore's honor.

In major business actions, the commission adopted two specific recommendations outlining stewardship goals for the period, 1972-75, and urging Southern Baptist churches to follow a plan for increasing support of world missions through the Cooperative Program.

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The plan calls for churches which now give less than 20 per cent of their total church budget through the Cooperative Program to increase the percentage to the Cooperative Program by two per cent each year until reaching 20 per cent; for churches now giving 20 per cent but under 30 per cent to advance one per cent annually up to 30 per cent; and for churches now giving 30 per cent to increase 1/2 per cent each year "until the objective set by the church is reached."

Stewardship goals approved by the commission for the years 1972-75 included the following:

--An annual increase of 100,000 tithers in the SBC (currently there are about 1.4 million tithers in the SBC);

--An annual increase of 1,000 churches conducting an intensive stewardship and budget subscription emphasis (currently there are an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 churches which conduct such emphases);

--\$1 billion given annually through the churches by 1975 (compared to the current \$850 million given to SBC churches);

--\$100 million given annually through the Cooperative Program by 1975 (compared to \$80 million last year);

Other goals called for an annual increase of 1,000 churches reporting a stewardship chairman or committee, 99 per cent of all SBC churches giving through the Cooperative Program by 1975; \$25 million raised annually with the assistance of the Stewardship Commission for church buildings by 1975; and one million Baptists with a current Christian will by 1975.

Another recommendation adopted by the commission requested its staff to develop "a communication plan directed toward church stewardship and financial leadership that will assure their receiving a continuity of information and materials...." The plan developed by the staff will be reported back to the commission for possible implementation.

James V. Lackey, newly-elected executive director of the commission, told the commission that the weakest link in the commission's work is the lack of a communications vehicle that reaches local church stewardship and finance chairmen, and that such a plan is badly needed.

Another recommendation approved by the commission asked its staff to study "the possible need for the commission to provide information to Southern Baptists related to pastor and other church and staff employees' salaries and benefits," and to "secure and furnish such information and assistance as deemed helpful."

Other recommendations approved by the commission urged the SBC Executive Committee to grant the commission's request for a \$175,000 Cooperative Program allocation for 1972, requested its staff to "continue to plan, develop and implement new and innovative programs and services that will result in a significant breakthrough in personal stewardship response," and urged every Southern Baptist church to conduct a budget subscription and stewardship growth emphasis during the fall or winter of 1971-72 using commission plans and materials.

Several bylaws changes were approved by the commission, which reorganized its committee structure to provide for three major subcommittees--the Cooperative Program promotion committee, the stewardship development committee, and the endowment and capital giving service committee.

Under the reorganization, three staff members assigned new responsibilities by the commission will work with specific committees, including Michael L. Speer, director of Cooperative Program promotion; F. Paul Allison, director of stewardship development, and Ben G. Gill, director of endowment and capital giving service.

Next meeting of the Stewardship Commission will be July 15-16, in Oklahoma City. Joe L. Ingram, executive secretary-elect of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, was re-elected by the commission as chairman.

Other officers include Arvalle L. Harris, businessman and real estate dealer in Flat River, Mo., as vice chairman; and William Purdue, pastor, First Baptist Church, Kingsport, Tenn., secretary.



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HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HQ
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
1ST NORTH AVE, N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIES: Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary of the SBC Historical Commission for the past 11 years, died Jan. 15, after a long illness. He was 62.

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