



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
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March 22, 1971

**Heart Disease, Cancer Claim Lives of Most Baptist Pastors**

DALLAS (BP)--Heart disease and cancer killed more Baptist pastors, church staff members, and denominational employees in 1970 than any other disease.

It was the 11th straight year the duo topped the list as killers of active and retired members of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's protection programs.

During the year, 67 persons died while in active service and another 92 died after retirement, according to records from the Annuity Board here.

Heart disease, the number one killer, resulted in the death of 45 per cent of those who died while in active service and claimed the lives of 62 per cent of the retired members.

Cancer claimed the lives of 10 per cent of the active members and 12 per cent of those retired.

Nine accidents and six suicides ranked as causes of death for other active members. Last year, neither cause was recorded.

Leukemia and brain tumor claimed three each, followed by liver disease, pneumonia, hernia, vein hemorrhage and cerebral hemorrhage with one each among active members of the protection plan.

Pneumonia killed six of the 92 retired members and stroke claimed three; Parkinson's disease, uremia and nephritis killed two each, while arteriosclerosis, cerebral thrombosis, brain tumor, septicemia, suicide. Peritonitis, diverticulitis, accident and emphysema each killed one.

Eighteen of the 50 persons who began receiving disability income from the Annuity Board during 1970 suffered heart complications. Other causes included arthritis, five; cancer, four; ulcers and colitis, three each; and paralysis, accident and stroke, two each.

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Retiring Mississippi WMU Executive To Help New York

3/22/71

ATLANTA (BP)--Miss Edwina Robinson, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will work with the Baptist Convention of New York in establishing a statewide WMU program for Baptists there following her retirement May 1.

Her work in New York will be sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Division of Missions, and was approved by the board of directors meeting here.

Miss Robinson will visit local churches for six weeks this fall and another six weeks in the spring of 1972 helping to ignite the auxiliary to the infant convention.

Wendell Belew, director of the board's Missions Division, said he was "most anxious" to see that WMU in the new state convention of New York be well established. I am confident that Miss Robinson," Belew continued, "with her background and dedication to missions can lay a basis for a growing, functioning WMU in this convention."

Miss Robinson became WMU youth secretary for the Mississippi Convention in 1933, and was elected executive secretary in 1944.

Business Officers Told SBC  
Institutions Need Reassessing

DALLAS (BP)--The Conference of Southern Baptist Business Officers was challenged here to help re-evaluate the essentiality of Southern Baptist institutions and agencies and to help reassess the direction of their service.

Paul M. Stevens, executive director of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission issued the challenge during the only address scheduled during the two-day conference here.

In major business, the conference elected J. Morris Green of Baptist Medical Centers, Birmingham, as chairman of the conference, which met at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board for its ninth annual meeting. Theme for the conference was "Surveying the Seventies."

In discussion the future of Baptist agencies and institutions, Stevens said that Baptist agencies are almost daily faced with the question, "Can our institutions survive?"

Stevens said they can, but it will take a redirection, reevaluation and sometimes re-location of the institutions so that the original purpose might be rediscovered and that there might be a renewal of the meaning of "the personal equation in Christian witness."

Stevens identified five major problems that face Baptist institutions and agencies: economics, loyalty, colossalization and secularization.

He said that it would take an estimated \$5 billion to bring all Southern Baptist agencies and institutions up to date, and added that one Baptist leader had noted it would take twice that amount.

Citing a general indifference among Baptists toward their institutions, Stevens said this attitude affects both the economics of the situation and the problem of "loyalty."

Stevens said that the debts, operating budgets, and costs for Baptist institutions have become "colossal" as they have expanded their operations to include more and more objectives than the institutions were originally created to handle.

Originally, the institutions were "born of concern, there was a scriptural authority, and there were people who were willing to pay the price," Stevens said.

Five vice chairmen were elected to serve with Green, who succeeds F. Thurston Bowman of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Thomasville, N.C., as chairman. Elected secretary-treasurer was Mrs. Janie Neal of the SBC Annuity Board.

The vice chairmen and their areas are: J. Ivey Miller of Mexican Baptist Children's Home, San Antonio, child care institutions; J. W. Fortner of Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, churches; W. D. Briton Jr., of Belmont College, Nashville, Baptist educational institutions; W. Dean Willis of Buckner Baptist Benevolences, Dallas, homes for the aged; John H. Williams of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, SBC agencies, foundations and state papers; and James T. Todd of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond, state conventions.

The conference will meet again in Dallas on March 16-17, 1972.

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American Baptist Churches  
Organize First Unit in South

3/22/71

RICHMOND (BP)--Calling itself "the first thoroughly integrated Baptist organization to encompass the South," The American Baptist Churches of the South held its constituting convention.

The president of the new organization, composed of 124 churches in 14 states, said it would provide a new option to Southern Baptist churches that are not happy with the Southern Baptist Convention's stand on race.

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The new organization is composed of 104 black churches and 20 predominately white churches. All of the white churches are jointly affiliated with the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, officials of the organization said.

"Only tokenism, not integration" exists in the Southern Baptist Convention, said J. B. Henderson, a black Baptist pastor from Norfolk, Va., who is the new president of American Baptist Churches of the South.

"Some Southern Baptist churches desire another option," Henderson added. "We are seeking to provide that option."

Henderson said that a desire to clarify their stand on race, a more liberal theological position, and approval of ecumenical cooperation has moved some Southern Baptist churches toward alliance with the American Baptist Convention.

Both the president of the organization, Henderson, and the second vice president, Leroy Jordan are black. The first vice president, Samuel Hill, professor at the University of North Carolina and a member of a dually-aligned ABC-SBC church in Chapel Hill, N.C., is white.

The president of the American Baptist Convention, Roger Fredrickson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, S. D., spoke at the constituting convention here, telling the several hundred delegates that the ABC is not "a white man's organization, and we will struggle together to discover God's will."

The American Baptist Convention, with 1.4 million members in about 6,200 churches has about 750 black churches. The Southern Baptist Convention, with 11.6 million members, in 34,400 churches in all 50 states, has about 60 black churches.

Emmanuel McCall, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board department of work with National Baptists, contacted by the Washington Post for comment on the organization of American Baptist Churches of the South, had this reaction:

"The new American Baptist unit in the south should force us (Southern Baptists) to not just accept black churches, but to actively seek them." McCall, one of the few black executive staff members for a Southern Baptist agency, observed that none of the SBC state conventions is "thoroughly integrated," and there are no blacks on any national committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

American Baptist Churches of the South includes congregations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

The organization got its start in Charlotte, N.C., last April when 242 delegates from 75 churches met and voted to recommend to their congregations that a new region, related to the American Baptist Convention, be formed.

The constituting convention closed with a public worship service at Fifth Stree Baptist Church here.



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