(BP) BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 17, 1971

"Quiet Sessions" Expected For Southern Baptist Convention

ST. LOUIS (BP)--More than 15,000 Baptists from throughout the nation are expected here June 1-3 for what the president of the Southern Baptist Convention predicts will be "a quiet convention."

Carl E. Bates, president of the convention and pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., said in an interview with Baptist Press, news service of the convention, that he had heard of "no major issues at this point" which might erupt at the Convention.

Bates said the convention, with sessions at Kiel Auditorium beginning Monday morning, June 1, and concluding at noon Thursday, June 3, would probably be a "routine" me ting.

Most of the time will be spent conducting the business of the nation's largest Protestant-evangelical denomination. The Southern Baptist Convention has 11.6 million members in about 34,000 churches in all 50 states.

Several major business items are on the agenda for the convention, but Bates said he did not expect any to spark unusual debate or discussion.

The convention will act on recommendations from its Executive Committee calling for a $24.6 million Cooperative Program unified budget for the first nine months of 1972 leading up to a new fiscal year, and a second-year recommendation to eliminate its hospital agency operation.

Bates, serving his first term as president of the convention, is expected to be re-elected for a traditional second term.

Asked if he thought there would be an effort to bring up the issue of the Broadman Bible Commentary volume which was banned by the convention last year in Denver, Bates said he knew of no organized move to bring up the matter in St. Louis.

"I feel we (Southern Baptists) are obligated by the action in Denver to give the Sunday School Board a real chance to resolve the matter," Bates said.

Last June in Denver the convention voted 5,394 to 2,170 in favor of a motion asking the SBC publishing house, the Sunday School Board, to withdraw Volume One of the new Broadman Bible Commentary.

The action called on the publisher to have the commentary volume, on Genesis and Exodus rewritten "with due consideration of the conservative viewpoint." In August the Sunday School Board voted to comply with the request, and in January the board asked the authors of the volume to revise their own materials.

A total of about five hours will be devoted to conducting the business of the St. Louis convention, according to the proposed program released by the committee on order of business.

Most of the Tuesday morning and afternoon sessions will be devoted to business, including action on recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee, election of officers, introduction of miscellaneous business and resolutions, and receiving and acting upon reports from SBC agencies and organizations.

The SBC Executive Committee will present the recommended budget of $24.6 million for the first nine months of 1972. The operating budget section for the nine-month period is equal to the same operating budget for a similar nine-month period in 1971, with no increases recommended for the 19 agencies receiving budget funds.

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Another major recommendation from the Executive Committee would dissolve the Hospital Agency of the SBC, on second reading.

Last year, the convention set up a procedure for getting out of the hospital business by immediately giving two hospitals in New Orleans and Jackson, Fla., to a corporation called Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., and phasing out in 1971 the corporation called the Hospital Agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other recommendations from the Executive Committee to the SBC deal with relationships and program assignments for several SBC agencies, program promotion plans for denominational emphases in 1973-74, and a proposal that the 1976 convention meet in Norfolk, Va.

The Executive Committee will also report on a study of the basis of representation at the convention, recommending no change in the current system.

Only three major addresses are scheduled during the convention, including Bates' presidential address, the annual convention sermon by John R. Claypool, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, and a message by the president of the Baptist World Alliance, V. Carney Hargroves, retired pastor from Philadelphia, Pa.

Following an hour-long presentation of foreign missions, the convention will feature a joint commissioning service for newly-appointed home and foreign missionaries on Wednesday evening.

Baptist students, led by a group of state Baptist Student Union presidents, will make a multi-media presentation on what youth are trying to do through the church, during the Wednesday morning session. A message on theological education by Duke K. McCall, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, also will be featured Wednesday.

The convention will close Thursday at noon following an hour-long presentation on "Meeting the Challenge of the Cities of the World," depicting efforts by all SBC agencies. The presentation will be coordinated by James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Several related nationwide Baptist conventions will meet in connection with the SBC. The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, involving about 5,000 persons, will meet Monday. In simultaneous sessions also will be the Woman's Missionary Union Convention, an auxiliary to the SBC.

The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association will meet on Sunday and Monday, May 30-31; the Southern Baptist Evangelists' Conference will convene Wednesday, June 2, and the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, June 4-5.

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Former BWA Youth Leader,
Joel Sorenson, Dies

5/17/71

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (BP)--Joel Sorenson, first youth secretary for the Baptist World Alliance, died here April 21 at the age of 55.

Sorenson, pastor of Norrmalms Baptist Church here, was youth secretary for th world-wide organization of Baptists from 1950-55. His successor as youth secretary, Robert S. Denny of Washington, is now the general secretary of the BWA.

Sorenson had been pastor of First Baptist Church, Stockholm, and was a youth leader in the European Baptist Federation. He also served in the Swedish parliament for six years, and for eight years in the Stockholm City Council.

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Woman's Missionary Union Names
Mickey Martin New GAs Director

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Miss Mickey Martin, associate in the church training department for the K ntucky Baptist Convention, has been named director of Girls in Action-Mission Friends for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union here.

Her appointment is effective May 15.

Miss Martin will help design and plan the missions programs for children, ages birth to school entrance, involved in Missions Friends, and for girls, grades one through six, enrolled in Girls in Action.

She will also interpret GA and Mission Friends work through field service activities with state, associational and church leaders, WMU officials said here. Other responsibilities include writing and planning for Aware, Discovery, and Start, the three WMU magazines related to GA and Mission Friends.

Miss Martin began work with the Kentucky church training department in 1958, having responsibility for preschool and children's work. She was previously education director for the First Baptist Church of Mayfield, Ky.

A native of Virginia, Miss Martin graduated from Campbellsville College, Georgetown College, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

She is vice-president for field workers of the Southern Baptist Relitious Education Association, and is a former president of the Kentucky Religious Education Association.

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The Commission Wins Photo
Awards From Evangelical Press (5/17/71)

CHICAGO (BP)--The Commission, monthly magazine published by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, won two awards for photography in competition sponsor d by Evangelical Press Association during its convention here.

The Baptist magazine won a first-place award in the "single photo" category, and a second place award in the "photo feature" category.

Campus Life, a publication of Youth for Christ International in Wheaton, Ill., won the top award, selection as "Periodical of the Year" by the association.

Th Commission, edited by Floyd North, was the only Baptist publication to win an award in the competition. Earlier this year, The Commission was among several other Baptist publications winning awards in competition sponsored by the Baptist Public Relations Association.

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