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November 23, 1971

**Northwest Baptists Resolve
On Race, Church-State Issues**

YAKIMA, Wash. (BP)--During sessions described as "more like a revival than a convention," the Northwest Baptist Convention here adopted resolutions expressing regrets over the withdrawal of a Southern Baptist study unit on race relations, urging churches to reach all people regardless of race, and reaffirming church-state separation guarantees of the U. S. Constitution.

The convention also adopted a budget of \$349,950, and authorized a committee to make an in-depth study of the convention's constitution and recommend any changes the committee felt should be made. No guidelines were given the committee.

In resolutions, the convention expressed "regrets" concerning "an executive action of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in recalling 160,000 copies of the church training quarterly *Becoming*, because it contained a picture of a black teenage boy talking with two white girls."

The convention's resolution claimed the action had prompted "an adverse effect on the progress of good relationships between the races." It pointed out that "many churches and individuals of the Northwest are seeking to apply the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in a ministry of reconciliation, and to help break down racial barriers."

The resolution concluded by affirming that the gospel is for people of all races, and urging each local Southern Baptist church in the Oregon-Washington area to "reach all people in their respective communities."

Another resolution reaffirmed belief in, and commitment to, the Constitution of the United States, and its protections guaranteeing separation of church and state through the First Amendment.

Observers described the convention as harmonious, saying the highest spiritual hour came with a dramatic presentation on the work of the convention and the churches during the past year.

Next year, the convention will meet in North Bend, Ore., Nov. 14-16.

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**Dennis Named to PR Post
For N.C. Children's Homes**

THOMASVILLE, N.C. (BP)--J. D. (Sonny) Dennis has joined the staff of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina here as an officer in public relations, communications and news, according to W. R. Wagoner, president of the homes.

For the past three years, Dennis, 27, has served as assistant to the director of public relations at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Dallas.

A native of Troy, Ala., Dennis has worked for radio stations in Talladega and Troy, Ala., and in Jackson, Miss., and has also been a summer intern for the Alabama Baptist State Executive Board for two summers. He operated a news bureau at Shoco Springs Baptist Assembly, and was pastor of three rural Alabama churches.

A graduate of Troy State University, Troy, Ala., Dennis directed sports information and produced a daily five-minute radio program at Troy State as a student. He also attended Mars Hill (N.C.) College.

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In Dallas, he also did part-time announcing for a Christian radio station, and served on the public relations and technical committees of First Baptist Church, Dallas.

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Mississippi Convention Plans
New Assembly, Commends Board

11/23/71

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention voted here to build a new assembly to replace one destroyed by Hurricane Camille two years ago, commended the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and its executive secretary "for the excellent manner in which they are performing their duties," and adopted statements on gambling and the so-called prayer amendment.

The resolution commending the Sunday School Board in general terms was adopted instead of a much stronger resolution submitted by a Jackson pastor specifically endorsing and commending the board for revising a unit on race relations in a church training quarterly for teenagers.

By a vote of 365-218, the convention's messengers approved a two-year study by its assemblies committee which had recommended that the convention re-establish its assemblies program and construct a \$2.5 million assembly at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly grounds, Pass Christian, Miss.

The report called for construction on the new assembly to begin as soon as the necessary funds are available in accordance with constitutional requirements. About \$500,000, most of it from insurance settlements on damage to Gulfshore Assembly following Hurricane Camille, is now in hand.

Debate on the issue was described as "mild," and centered mostly around proposed location of the new assembly.

In another action, the convention approved the report of its resolutions committee commending "the Sunday School Board (of the SBC) and its executive secretary, Dr. James L. Sullivan, for the excellent manner in which they are performing their duties."

Earlier, David T. Cranford, pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Jackson, had introduced a resolution commending Sullivan and the board specifically for revising the quarterly, *Becoming*, "so as to deal with the question of race relations in a more responsible and redemptive manner." Cranford's resolution by procedure was referred automatically to the resolutions committee.

In making the committee's report, Chairman John McCall, pastor of First Baptist Church in Vicksburg, Miss., said that the committee had not seen the quarterly in question, and that the decision to revise it was "an executive, editorial and administrative one," which could not adequately be dealt with by the convention.

The Mississippi convention is the only one of the 32 Baptist state conventions meeting during October and November which has commended the board. Six state conventions have adopted resolutions expressing regret over the board's action.

Statements submitted by the convention's Christian Action Commission on gambling and on the prayer amendment were also approved.

The convention commended governor-elect Bill Waller for his strong stand against legalized gambling, and expressed approval of the defeat of the prayer amendment in the U. S. House of Representatives.

In other action, the convention adopted a record budget of \$4.6 million, an increase of \$335,000 over the 1971 budget. The total includes an operating and capital needs section of \$4.3 million, plus a \$300,000 "advance section" to be distributed to designated causes after the base budget is met. In the operating section, \$1.3 million, or 31 per cent, is allocated to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

In the report of the convention's Education Commission, chairman Harold Kitchings of Kosciusko, Miss., said that a year-long study by his commission of charges made last year of alleged "immoral conditions" on the campuses of four Baptist schools were entirely false.

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The report declared that the "charges were unwarranted, indefensible, and detrimental to the image our colleges are entitled to possess." The commission was requested to study the charges made last year during the convention by Herschel Markham, a messenger from Collins, Miss.

Re-elected to a second term as president of the convention was Glenn Perry, a businessman from Philadelphia, Miss. Next year the convention will meet at First Baptist Church, Jackson, Nov. 14-16.

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Texas Baptist Pastor
Slain in Store Holdup

11/23/71

BONHAM, Tex. (BP)--The pastor of a rural Texas Baptist church, David Caddell, was shot to death during a robbery at a Bonham grocery store while the minister was working a late night shift.

Speculation has surrounded the motive and circumstances of the killing, with one fellow pastor suggesting that Caddell might have been trying to share his faith with the robbers at the time.

Caddell was pastor of the Duplex Baptist Church near Bonham.

Police, who arrested three youthful suspects a short time after the shooting and robbery, were trying to piece together the tragic events.

Initially they surmised that the 46-year-old minister was shot because he was unable to open the store's safe.

Later, however, Aubrey McAlister, editor of the Bonham Daily Favorite, told Baptist Press that Caddell apparently had followed his assailants outside after they took \$40 from the cash register and an undetermined amount from the pastor and a woman customer.

Police said the woman, who had been drinking, did not remember hearing the shots, but did recall that the bandits took her purse and watch. She said that after the robbery she found a telephone and alerted police.

A Bonham pastor friend of the slain minister described Caddell as a big man--physically and spiritually.

"Knowing Dave as I did, I don't doubt that he was trying to talk with his assailants," said Tommy Marshall, pastor of Seventh and Main Baptist Church, Bonham. "I wouldn't be surprised at all that he was trying to give a Christian witness in some way."

Caddell, the father of three children, two of them married, was studying for a teaching degree at East Texas State University, Commerce, Tex., and working nights to support himself and his wife and teenage daughter.

A few nights before Caddell was murdered, his daughter, Donna, had expressed fear of her father's being robbed while working so late. Caddell merely replied, "You can't shut yourself away at home."

He had been pastor of the small Duplex Baptist Church since 1968, and had led the congregation in erecting a new church building.

The Sunday before his death, Caddell had realized two personal goals, said Harry Ball, former superintendent of missions in Fannin Baptist Association where the Duplex Church is located. He had seen the church pay off its building debt and had baptized a young person for whose salvation he had prayed for some time, Ball explained.

Ball said he understood that Caddell had no life insurance. A fund to assist the slain pastor's family has been started at the First National and the Bonham State banks, Ball said.

About 500 people attended the funeral services at Seventh and Main Baptist Church in Bonham. Burial was at Petrolia, Tex., near Wichita Falls.

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C O R R E C T I O N

On Baptist Press story mailed 11/19/71, headlined: "California Baptists Score Quarterly, Elect Black Officer," please change graph 13, line 1 to read "Harley J. Murray" instead of Harley J. Ray, as sent. Thanks.

--Baptist Press