



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 16, 1972

### Alabama Baptists Reject Federal Aid for Students

**BIRMINGHAM (BP)**--The Alabama Baptist State Convention refused to authorize their Baptist colleges to secure federal and state funds which would benefit students directly during their 150th annual session here.

The messengers also elected a woman for the first time as vice president, adopted a record budget, and labored through a lengthy discussion and 17 parliamentary moves before minor constitution changes dealing with routine convention matters.

The federal funds recommendation called for permitting the convention's three colleges to secure funds which would directly benefit students from federal and state governmental agencies to enable the institutions to keep tuition at the lowest possible level "providing that in no instance shall the funds secured place any restriction on the freedom of these institutions to operate as independent colleges, fulfilling their mission as Christian institutions..."

Opposition was expressed by J. Herbert Bilmore, pastor of Baptist Church of the Covenant here, who said Baptists could avoid the consequences of federal encroachment by denying the entanglement. "Our present way is the best way," he said.

The motion was soundly defeated, and a burst of applause broke out when the decision was announced.

For the first time, a woman was elected vice president. She is Mrs. Miriam Jackson, dean of women at Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala., and the widow of a Baptist minister.

Re-elected president was Walter Nunn, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jasper, Ala.

The convention adopted a record \$8.1 million budget, including \$2.1 million in anticipated designated gifts and \$6 million through the state Cooperative Program. Of the \$6 million Cooperative Program goal, 35.5 per cent would go to support Southern Baptist world mission causes.

In a lengthy business session, the convention approved several proposed constitutional amendments, but not until after lengthy debate and 17 parliamentary maneuvers.

Objections centered around the procedures outlined in the constitution for election of officers. Opponents favored election of a president-elect instead of first and second vice presidents as suggested in the constitution, but their efforts failed and the constitution was approved as recommended. Most of the constitution changes were considered minor.

Resolutions adopted by the convention opposed any form of legislation that will use tax funds for parochial aid or private schools, and expressed appreciation of and support of the majority of public school teachers and administrators who demonstrate genuine Christian love and concern.

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**Maryland Convention Raps Nixon,  
Governor for Parochial Stands**

TEMPLE HILLS, Md. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of Maryland, meeting in this Maryland suburb of Washington, C.D., held one of its calmest sessions in years, adopting a record budget, electing a new president, and adopting two resolutions dealing with political and moral issues.

One resolution criticized both the Governor of Maryland and the President of the nation for continued efforts to provide tax funds for non-public funds.

Another urged Maryland Baptists and other Christians to boycott a statewide lottery approved No. 7 by voters in Maryland, rapping the lottery for its immoral implications on gambling.

Elected president was Lewis McKinney, pastor of Allen Memorial Baptist Church, Salisbury, Md. The convention also honored its executive secretary, Roy D. Gresham, on his 15th anniversary as executive secretary.

A record budget of \$1.2 million was approved, with 40 per cent of the state goal going to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

In another action, the convention voted to help fund a religious education field worker in Boston, Mass., to help churches in the six-state New England area in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board.

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**Hawaii Baptists Vote Aid  
For Fiji Hurricane Victims**

11/16/72

HONOLULU, Hawaii (BP)--In an unprecedented action, the Hawaii Baptist Convention voted to contribute \$5,000 toward relief efforts among victims of Hurricane Bebe in the Fiji Islands which reportedly has left more than 100,000 persons homeless.

Mori Hiratani, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pearl City, urged the convention to come to the aid of the Fiji Island hurricane victims, saying such an effort would fit into long range plans by Hawaii Baptists to project their ministry throughout the Pacific islands.

In other actions, the convention adopted a Cooperative Program goal of \$110,000 as part of a \$317,869 budget for 1973, with 25 per cent of the state goal going to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

A layman was elected president of the convention--Allen Au, realtor and developer from Honolulu.

Messengers adopted a resolution expressing opposition to gambling in any form, and urged concerned citizens to work for the repeal of a new social gambling law which is to go into effect in 1973.

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**Louisiana Baptists Approve  
11 Resolutions on Moral Issues**

11/16/72

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The Louisiana Baptist Convention adopted a flurry of 11 resolutions dealing with subjects ranging from "sexual perversion" to horse race gambling, and authorized establishing a counseling and information service to assist ministers in pastor-church relationships.

The resolutions adopted by the convention dealt with such topics as guarantees for church-state separation in the Louisiana state constitution; pornography and violence on television;

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coeducational housing at state-supported university; alcohol and highway safety; tax aid to parochial schools; local option elections on race track gambling; and sexual perversion.

Several minor constitution changes were approved on the recommendation of a special committee to study convention committee restructure.

Also approved was a recommendation from the convention's Executive Board to set up a procedure within the convention for an office of information and counseling services to assist in pastor-church relationships within the state.

Several other state conventions in the Southern Baptist Convention have recently created similar offices to provide factual information to help pastorless churches and churchless pastors get together, and to provide counseling for pastors having relationship problems with churches.

The convention also adopted a \$4.4 million budget, allocating 31.5 per cent to Southern Baptist world mission causes; and elected James E. Carter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Natchitoches, La., as president after Charles E. Harvey of Shreveport, La., asked that he not be re-elected to the customary second term.

A resolution on sexual perversion reaffirmed scriptural teaching against such immorality, but offered all possible counsel and guidance to people with sexual problems.

One pastor in discussing merits of the resolution pointed out that he was opposed strongly to homosexuality, for example, but would not close the doors of the church to homosexuals and would do everything possible to help them.

The convention in another resolution urged the Louisiana State University board of supervisors to rescind their action to permit 24-hour visitation by females in male dormitories and to permit possession and consumption of alcohol on campus.

Still another resolution called on television networks to reappraise programs and eliminate those which project a low moral tone, lewdness, and excessive violence.

A resolution on alcohol called it "the major killer on highways," and asked the state legislature to update old laws and make new ones to deal more firmly with drinking drivers.

The convention also urged the Louisiana State Constitutional Committee which meets in January to revise the state constitution to maintain the present constitutional guarantees of separation of church and state.

Another commended Baptists in Bossier Parish near Shreveport for their fight against opening of a race track in that area, even though the race track was approved by voters by a narrow margin.

In another action, the convention voted to appoint a special committee to study retirement benefits for Louisiana Baptist pastors under Plan A of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, urging an upgrading of the retirement benefits to offset cost of living increases.

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State Executives Visit  
American Bible Society

11/16/72

NEW YORK (BP)--Nineteen Southern Baptist state executive secretaries visited the American Bible Society here for "A Day at Bible House" recently, receiving a first-hand view of the society's program and operations to which Southern Baptists contribute.

Last year, Southern Baptist churches contributed \$240,249 to the American Bible Society, the largest amount from any of the 70 denominations and agencies that support the society's work.

Bible Society officials expressed appreciation to the state Baptist leaders for the support Baptists have given to the society's Bible publication projects, and translation efforts aimed

at providing people with the scriptures in a language they can read or understand at a price they can afford.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the Baptist leaders were told, has for five years made annual grants totalling \$14,000 annually to four African translation projects.

One of the society's most successful translation projects, "Good News for Modern Man, the New Testament in Today's English Version," was translated by Robert G. Bratcher, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil who is now research associate in the society's translations department. "Good News" has sold more than 35 million copies.

For the last four years, Southern Baptists have requested from the Bible Society special scripture publications for use in the denomination's January Bible Study emphasis. The American Bible Society has published for the SBC special copies of the book of James, John, Job, and Galatians.

In addition, several state conventions of the SBC have requested special scripture portions from the Bible Society for special projects. The Baptist General Convention of Texas, for example, ordered and distributed more than 1 million copies of Good News for Modern Man in both English and Spanish versions in 1969 as part of the Crusade of the Americas.

Currently, two Southern Baptists serve as honorary vice presidents of the American Bible Society--E. Smythe Gambrell, an Atlanta attorney, and W. Maxey Jarman, a business executive from Nashville, Tenn.

Two other Southern Baptists are members of the ABS Board of Managers--Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention; and James L. Pleitz, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.

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Tennessee Convention Votes  
Continuation of Academy

11/16/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting here voted 574-334 to continue operation of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour, Tenn., and to dismiss a committee which had recommended closing down the school.

The action came as a substitute motion to a recommendation from the convention's Executive Board and its special education committee, which had made a study of the East Tennessee high school-level school and felt the academy should be closed.

Richard R. Allison, pastor of South Knoxville Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., and chairman of the academy's board of trustees, argued that the school performs a needed ministry to people including a new college preparatory program for deaf students.

Allison made the substitute motion to continue the school, and to dismiss the committee which had recommended closing the school. His motion passed by a two-to-one margin.

Wade Darby, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Tenn., and chairman of the education committee, pointed out that a serious study of the school's future and purpose had recommended that the academy be closed because of financial difficulties, poor management and low enrollments. Enrollment figures ranged from an estimated average enrollment of 128 to a high of 175 students.

The convention approved without discussion a record \$6.3 million budget goal for 1973, allocating 33.3 per cent to Southern Baptist world mission causes through the Cooperative Program, plus a \$140,000 "advance" section should the receipts exceed the basic \$6.3 million goal.

Elected president of the convention was Fred Wood, pastor of Eudora Baptist Church, Memphis, where the 1973 convention will meet. Messengers also paid tribute to their executive secretary, W. Fred Kendall, who is retiring Dec. 31, and welcomed his successor, Ralph Norton of Chattanooga, Tenn.

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Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

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