



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 20, 1972

D.C. Convention Tables  
Anti-Abortion Move

WASHINGTON (BP)--The District of Columbia Baptist Convention, meeting in its 96th annual session, received two new churches into its fellowship, added a new staff member, and adopted resolutions opposing state lotteries, pornography, aid to church-related schools and nonessential business activity on Sunday.

The delegates (messengers) also voted to table an anti-abortion resolution after a brief but spirited debate.

The D.C. Convention, dually aligned with both the Southern and American Baptist Conventions, is made up of 66 churches. The two new churches, both black, bring to eight the total number of predominantly black congregations in the convention. A budget of \$406,831 was adopted.

The new staff members, Miss Edna Woofter, will be director of Christian social ministries, a position made possible by joint sponsorship between the D.C. Baptists and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Mrs. Letha Casazza, the first woman president of a Southern Baptist State Convention, presided over the three-day meeting, held at Luther Rice Memorial Church in Silver Spring Md.

James Windham, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, was elected to succeed Mrs. Casazza.

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Home Mission Board Begins  
High School Evangelism Effort

11/20/72

ATLANTA (BP)--Five recent college graduates have committed themselves to a three-year pilot program of high school evangelism called "Reach Out."

Developed by Barry St. Clair of the youth evangelism office at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here, "Reach Out" will seek to train volunteer leadership to work through local churches to minister to high school students through a three-fold outreach.

The approach features: (1) a "touch ministry" designed to establish contact with the school's students, teachers and administration; (2) a family disciplining ministry where small groups work together to reach Christian maturity; and (3) "joy explosion," which will consist of youth revivals, crusades and mission action projects.

The first group of "Reach Out" staffers consists of Rod Minor of Birmingham, Ala., Tom Alford of Gadsden, Ala., both graduates of Samford University; Linda Harrington of Fort Pierce, Fla., a graduate of Florida Atlantic University; and Vicki Walker from Carrollton, Ga., a graduate of West Georgia College. These four will work at First Baptist Church in Newnan, Ga., with youth director Ronney Davis.

Tom Lowry of Atlanta, a graduate of the University of Georgia, will work at Greenstreet Baptist Church in High Point, N.C., with youth director Jarrell Rial.

While St. Clair serves as advisor, supervisor and policy maker, the youth directors will cooperate unofficially as trainers of the "Reach Out" staff which expects to expand to 50 next year.

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The first year of the three year program gives training in a church with a successful youth program. During this year staffers raise their own salary of \$60 per week through sponsors at their home churches and receive \$15 a week and living quarters from participating churches. The Home Mission Board reimburses staffers for special expenses and materials.

The second year, "Reach Out" staffers will serve as paid staff members of a church wishing to develop a youth program. The third year will be spent in that church training other "Reach Out" staffers to carry out a youth evangelism program.

Minor, working in Newnan Ga., said that he eats lunch in the local high school and makes himself available to talk to students then, before and after school several days each week. He said that the administration is open to his ministry.

On Tuesday nights at Newnan, Minor leads a Bible study program open to anyone. One night a week is "family disciplining" featuring prayer and fellowship for Christian growth for about 10 kids.

At Newnan First Baptist Church, Minor teaches Sunday School in a department where classes are based on spiritual growth. His class is for new Christians who learn the basics of Christian faith.

"Kids are tired of playing games--the days are gone where you could pass out the ping pong ball and open the soft drink machine and call that a ministry, said Minor. "Reach Out" is geared to truth--living Christianity in a consistent and effective way."

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The Centurymen To Sing  
On NBC Christmas Show

11/20/72

FORT WORTH (BP)--The National Broadcasting Co. will broadcast a special Christmas program on its radio network Dec 13, featuring the music of The Centurymen, composed of 100 ministers of music from Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation.

The program, "Voices of Christmas," will be carried on the radio network at 9:36 p.m., (Eastern Time), Dec. 13. It will be carried by about 225 NCB radio affiliates across the country.

The Centurymen were organized by the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission here, and are directed by Buryl Red of New York City.

"While the Centurymen have made two NBC television network appearances, this is the first time they have sung on the radio network," said Paul M. Stevens, president of the Radio-TV Commission.

A highlight of the special holiday music show will be a new arrangement of "Angels We Have Heard On High," and "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah."

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Ed Willingham, SBC,  
ABC Leader, Dies

11/20/72

NEW YORK (BP)--Edward B. Willingham, a prominent Baptist leader in both the Southern and American Baptist Conventions, died at St. Luke's Hospital here Nov. 16.

Willingham, the son of the late R.J. Willingham who for 20 years was head of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, had served as general secretary of the American Baptist Foreign Missions Society from 1956-65.

Previously, he was pastor of National Memorial Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

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He had been chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs for seven years, was a member of the board of trustees for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and had been active in both the Baptist World Alliance and World Council of Churches. He was a graduate of Southern Seminary and the University of Richmond.

In addition to the pastorate at National Memorial in Washington, D.C., Willingham served churches in Lynchburg, Va., St. Louis, Mo., and Huntington, W. Va.

Memorial services were held at the Interchurch Center here, with interment in Richmond, Willingham's native city.

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Kentucky Baptists Approve  
Pastor-Church Relations Effort

11/20/72

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The Kentucky Baptist Convention during its 135th annual session here, instructed its Executive Board to implement a new "minister-church relations" service.

The action came after the Executive Board had earlier deferred action on a similar proposal to give time for additional study.

In other major actions, the messengers adopted a record \$4.5 million budget, honored former executive secretary-treasurer Harold G. Sanders, received reports indicating increases in baptisms and Sunday School enrollments, and elected a new president.

The minister-church relations proposal was introduced by James Taulman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Mitchell, Ky.

Several amendments refining the proposal were approved, but there was little opposition on the final vote.

Only two days earlier, a similar proposal by executive secretary Franklin Owen had been shelved by the Executive Board "for additional study."

There was minor debate over the allocation of any funds which might be received over the 1973-74 budget of \$4.5 million. The messengers amended the budget to specify that 31.5 per cent to go the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program, rather than all the average going to capital needs in Kentucky as recommended by the Executive Board.

The \$4.5 million budget also allocates 31.5 per cent to world mission causes through the SBC Cooperative Program.

Resolutions adopted commended judges, legislators and voters "who are committed to and work for religious liberty," and opposed "television movie filth."

Elected president of the convention was T.L. McSwain, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky.

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180 Baptists, Jews Meet  
To Promote Understanding

11/20/72

NEW YORK (BP)--In a continuing effort to understand each other better, 180 Christians and Jews met here in the first Jewish-Baptist "conversations" on the Northeast Coast.

The meeting, sponsored by the New York Baptist Association and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, was the start of a similar effort to bring together Jewish and Christian lay people on local levels, said Rabbi Bruce Cole.

Southern Baptist home missionary Glean Igleheart said that although members of the Jewish faith have participated in dialogue and similar conferences with other Christian groups,

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including Baptists, the New York conversation marked the first time that black Baptists were included in the group.

"It was remarkable," Igleheart said. "In a night of driving rain, 180 people came to the meeting. Only 55 of these were Baptists, so this enabled us to understand a little of the minority status of the Jewish people in many communities.

"We called the session 'conversation,' because dialogue has a negative connotation here. 'Conversation' emphasizes the two-way street of listening and hearing. Each group was able to bear witness of their own beliefs," Igleheart added.

Rabbi Solomon S. Bernards, the Anti-Defamation League's national director of interreligious cooperation, spoke to the group on "What Is a Jew?" shortly before Igleheart spoke on "What Is a Baptist?"

Bernards said some members of the Jewish faith are disturbed by the Protestant evangelical program, Key '73, which is a promotion effort by 140 religious organizations, including Southern Baptists, to call attention to the need for concern, prayer, and cooperation in evangelizing America.

Jewish participants in the "conversation" said that although they would not mind, many of their friends and relatives would be insulted by an overbearing witness.

Igleheart assured the participants that Key '73 is not directly aimed at Jews, and they will not be singled out. "We will witness to them in the same way as other groups," Igleheart added, with "an appropriate witness without...undue pressure..."

Igleheart said that the conference was the first of several already planned conversations continuing part of understanding the Jewish community.



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