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**Brotherhood Commission Adopts
Budget, Urges Hotels for SBC**

MEMPHIS (BP)--The Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, in annual session here, adopted a record \$1.3 million budget, elected a new slate of officers and approved a resolution urging the City of Memphis to encourage adequate hotel facilities for the 1977 session of the Southern Baptist Convention scheduled in Memphis.

The resolution said the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention might re-evaluate its decision to hold the 1977 convention in Memphis if adequate hotel facilities are not constructed "within a reasonable distance from the downtown auditorium."

The resolution pointed out that the convention's decision to meet in Memphis is contingent on a pledge from the Memphis Convention and Housing Bureau indicating the availability of 5,000 hotel and motel rooms in Memphis to house an anticipated 15,000 Baptists from throughout the nation.

The action by the commission, the only national agency of the Southern Baptist Convention located in Memphis, came only a few days after the Memphis City Council had voted to release an entire block of city-county owned property adjacent to the Everett R. Cook Convention Center for possible development into hotel-motel accommodations for conventions.

In another action, the 36-member board of directors adopted unanimously, a 1973-74 budget of \$1.3 million, an increase of \$117,598 over the 1972-73 budget.

Only debate on the budget came over a \$10,500 allocation to aid work with Baptist laymen and boys in states where Southern Baptist work is weak. Some commissioners made an appeal to increase the allocation.

Elected as new chairman of the agency, which coordinates Southern Baptist efforts at involving three million laymen and two-and-a-half million boys in missions, was H. D. Revis Jr., pastor of Laurel Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C. He succeeds John Smarge, a construction contractor from Silver Spring, Md.

Named new vice chairman was P. A. Stevens, an automatic sprinkler contractor from Louisville, Ky., and elected recording secretary was William E. Hardy Jr., minister of education for First Baptist Church, Kosciusko, Miss.

During the two-day meeting here, Ken Taylor, the man who paraphrased the best-selling Living Bible, which has sold 10 million copies in two years, presented to commission members complementary first copies of a pocket sized paperback edition of the Living New Testament, with marked scripture passages, for use by Baptist laymen in personal witnessing.

Taylor, president of Tyndale House Publishing Co., Wheaton, Ill., told the commission members he worked for 17 years in paraphrasing the Bible into readable language because neither he nor his 10 children could understand what the Bible really meant in the old King James Version.

In two other major addresses, Brotherhood Commission Executive Director Glendon McCullough and outgoing chairman Smarge issued challenges for laymen to take a more aggressive role in missions, witnessing and working in their churches.

Smarge urged Baptist laymen to utilize in sharing their faith the same degree of experience and aggressiveness they develop in their business and profession.

McCullough summed up the last 12 months of Brotherhood work as being "up hill all the way, and the grades have been steep. . . . But we intend to move aggressively" in implementing a program to three million laymen and several million boys in the denomination.

In brief remarks to the commission members, Elmer West of Nashville said he was excited about the role of the agency as "a catalyst for a laymen's liberation movement" in the Southern Baptist Convention.

West, director of program development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, attended as one of six advisory representatives from SBC agencies.

Besides the commission's board of directors, about 50 staff members of Brotherhood departments for state Baptist conventions attended sessions in an advisory capacity.

The commission's 1974 annual session is scheduled in Memphis, Aug. 22-23.

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Frank P. Samford, Baptist
Benefactor, Dies in Alabama

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Frank Park Samford Sr., described as the greatest benefactor of Samford University, died here at 75.

Leslie S. Wright, president of the Southern Baptist university, said Samford's "service and influence have been without parallel in the 132-year-history of the school," which has become, "as a direct result of his leadership, influence and generosity, Alabama's largest privately supported institution of higher learning."

Samford, former chairman of the board of Liberty National Life Insurance Co., served as chairman of the board for 34 years at Samford University, which bears his family name. He also was widely noted for his civic work.

A native of Troy, Ala., he was a graduate of Auburn University and held honorary doctorates from three schools.

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Christian Life Commission
Honors Rutledge and Knight

NASHVILLE (BP)--Arthur B. Rutledge and Walker L. Knight have been named joint recipients of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's 1973 Distinguished Service Award for their team effort in leading Baptists to apply Christianity.

Rutledge, a native Texan, is executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, and Knight, a native Kentuckian, edits Home Mission magazine and serves as secretary of the Home Mission Board's editorial service department.

The Christian Life Commission award, presented at the commission's annual meeting here, went to two recipients for the first time in its history. Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, won the 1972 award.

"This award recognizes two of the most significant influences for applied Christianity in Southern Baptist life," said Foy Valentine, commission executive secretary. "The Home Mission Board and these two men have been powerful forces for Christian morality, integrity and righteousness."

Valentine added, "We pray God that this kind of teamwork, with denominational administrator as the enabler and the professional staff person as the doer may more and more come to characterize the Southern Baptist Convention's organizational life."

Rutledge, 62, has been the Home Mission Board's top executive since 1965. Before that he directed the board's missions division for six years, served as secretary of stewardship and direct missions for the Baptist General Convention of Texas for three years and held nine

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pastorates in Texas and Indiana for 25 years.

Knight, 49, also chief of the Atlanta Bureau of Baptist Press, joined the Home Mission Board staff in 1959. Formerly he was associate editor of the Baptist Standard, news publication of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, for 10 years.

He has also edited a weekly newspaper in Martin, Tex. served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Dale, Tex., and reported for the Henderson (Ky.) Gleaner-Journal.

Both men are graduates of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Rutledge also holds a Th. M. degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and a Th. D from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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BP Photo will be mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

Georgia Foundation Records
\$442,716 Gift From Estate

ATLANTA (BP)--Georgia Baptist Children's Homes will benefit from proceeds of a \$442,716 estate, the largest single gift in the 30-year history of the Georgia Baptist Foundation.

The gift came from the estate of the late Edward Seitzinger, a Conley, Ga., metals dealer, who died in 1970. His wife died this spring.

The foundation receives funds in trust for the benefit of all Georgia Baptist Convention or Southern Baptist Convention causes.

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