

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 12, 1973

**Illinois Baptists
Set Goals for Growth**

URBANA, Ill. (BP)--In its 67th annual session, the Illinois Baptist State Association accepted a challenge to gain a net of 100 churches over the next three years and to move toward the \$2 million mark in Cooperative Program giving.

Meeting at the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church here, adjacent to the University of Illinois, "messengers" to the convention set a goal of 1,000-member churches by 1976, with total membership of 200,000. Eight new churches were received by the convention this year.

The convention also set progressive goals of giving to world missions through their Cooperative Program unified budget over the next three years--\$1,650,000 in 1974, \$1,825,000 in 1975 and the first \$2,000,000 year in 1976.

The 1972 convention had approved a three-year plan to adjust Cooperative Program percentage one per cent per year--62 per cent for the Illinois convention and 38 per cent for Southern Baptist Convention causes in 1973, 61 to 39 per cent in 1974 and 60 to 40 per cent in 1975.

The 1974 general budget calls for expenditures of \$2,120,336, plus \$882,292 for the convention's children's home and farm and Baptist student centers. Messengers approved the budget along with an income goal of \$2,121,285.

Resolutions approved commended the Illinois Supreme Court for its decision against parochialism, affirmed faith in biblical foundations of government, called for prosecution of those found guilty of maligning justice, called for support of national leaders with prayer, opposed a state lottery and recommended that non-participating churches enter the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Program for their pastors and participating churches upgrade their pastors' pension plan.

Messengers took a final vote against changing the convention's constitution to remove the office of communications from the present administrative structure and place it under a separate committee. The office of communications publishes the convention's newspaper, the Illinois Baptist, and handles the convention's public relations.

Maurice Swinford, a messenger from Herrin, Ill., who made the original motion, said he felt the move was a good plan, although it did not apply to the current executive secretary, James H. Smith, and the current editor, Robert J. Hastings. He said he felt they have a good relationship but that it might change under future administrations. He added he would not pursue the issue if the convention chose not to accept it.

Messengers voted to hold next year's convention at Calvary Baptist Church, Elgin, Ill., Nov. 6-7, and the 1975 meeting in Springfield, where the convention will meet every third year in the future.

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**BWA Seeks \$100,000
for Vietnam Relief**

11/12/73

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist World Alliance relief leaders are seeking \$100,000 for refugee resettlement, economic rehabilitation and other projects in war-ravaged Southeast Asia.

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Carl W. Tiller, associate secretary and relief coordinator for BWA, said an original goal of \$50,000, announced at the end of the Vietnam war last May, has been doubled because of reports of pressing need.

While Vietnam will be the primary focus for relief projects, the neighboring countries of Laos and the Khmer Republic (Cambodia) are also included in the Baptist relief committee plans, Tiller said.

He said that while published figures vary, it appears the war victimized an estimated 10,000,000 people. In South Vietnam alone, he said, 800,000 were left homeless and large numbers of children were orphaned. Substantial numbers of civilians were wounded in the conflict.

The BWA works through several channels to administer its relief work, Tiller said. One is the Vietnam Baptist Mission (Southern Baptist missionaries from the States), which, Tiller said, has outlined a three-point program for the use of BWA relief funds:

1. Refugee resettlement--That involves clearing of land, provision of building materials and transportation. Refugee families will generally build their own houses, except where skilled labor may be necessary. Baptists' initial share in this activity will involve about 300 families, he said.
2. Economic rehabilitation for the war handicapped--Job training and employment are provided for the needy, after first securing the wheelchairs and crutches which they need to hold a job.
3. Halfway house and foster home service for children--The halfway house will serve as a temporary residence for children awaiting foster home placement. It may also be a short-term residence (six months to a year) for children where severe economic stress on a family may be lightened by providing a temporary home for a child, Tiller said.

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Ohio Convention Names
Sunday School Director

11/12/73

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Michael R. Collins, Sunday school department associate in the Florida Baptist Convention since 1970, has been named director of the Sunday school department for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, effective Dec. 1.

Collins was elected to the position by the Ohio Convention's executive committee, meeting here.

A native of Jacksonville, Fla., Collins will fill the staff position vacated last July when Charles E. Raley, Sunday school director for Ohio Baptists, resigned.

The new Ohio Sunday school director is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Collins has served as minister of education for both Shady Oaks Baptist Church in Hurst, Tex., and Wallace Memorial Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

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Watergate Chairman Commends
Baptist Statement of Concern

11/12/73

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--The chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee, Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D.-N. C.), has praised a statement adopted by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs calling for moral and ethical principles in the conduct of public life.

Ervin placed in the Congressional Record "A Statement of Concern" adopted by the Baptist Joint Committee in semi-annual session in October. The Congressional Record, published daily when Congress is in session, is the official record of all congressional proceedings and debates.

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The powerful North Carolina senator, considered the foremost constitutional lawyer in Congress, agreed with the committee's viewpoint that "the great constitutional principle of separation of church and state does not divorce 'religion's basic moral and ethical principles from the conduct of public affairs.'"

In the House of Representatives, Congressman Henry Helstoski (D.-N. J.) also placed the committee's statement in the record.

Helstoski commended the statement as "offering perceptive insight" into some of our national problems. "In addition," he said, "this statement is a good example of the kind of forceful leadership groups such as the Baptist Joint Committee can provide in a time of crisis."

In "A Statement of Concern," which has been published widely in Baptist Press and other religious news outlets, the Baptist Joint Committee declared that "all public officials must be subject to law in both public and private conduct."

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, described the present crisis in the nation, known as the Watergate Affair, as "the dark ages of public affairs in America."

In addressing the opening session of the committee, Wood said: "There has been the attempted prostitution of government power to manipulate the electoral process and to justify lying, illegal spying and criminal lawlessness on the part of high ranking members of the administration and federal government agencies in the name of national security. . .

"Dangerous assaults have been made on constitutional liberties, often by those who at the same time they eschew these constitutional liberties mouth 'law and order' for the citizenry at large."

In response to Wood's challenge, the committee adopted the statement of concern in which it reaffirmed its trust in the basic principles of the American system of democracy.

The committee statement concluded with an affirmation of faith "in the ultimate triumph of the right and of the truth in a nation whose citizens are dedicated to justice and righteousness in every aspect of life."

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Ohio Baptists Urge Prayer,
Not Criticism, for Leaders

11/12/73

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio approved a record budget topping \$1.5 million, upgraded salaries of convention employees and resolved to encourage Baptists to pray for their national leaders rather than criticize them.

The record budget of \$1,566,436 includes \$937,484 in expected receipts from the Cooperative Program unified budgets of some 480 Southern Baptist congregations in the state. Thirty-five per cent of the Cooperative Program figure will go to Southern Baptist Convention-wide causes.

In other action, the messengers voted to continue assistance to the Ohio Free Public Schools Committee, a state committee opposing use of public tax funds in parochial schools.

The resolution on prayer for national leaders referred to the "moral and physical crises" faced by the world and "resolved that instead of criticism of our leaders that we as Baptists pray for our leaders as admonished to do in the New Testament."

The action on staff salaries called for an additional \$1,000 per year for department directors, \$750 a year for associational superintendents of missions and \$500 per year more for department associates, field workers and office secretaries.

"Messengers" re-elected Joe Crumpler, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Cincinnati, as convention president.

Next year's convention will be held Oct. 30-Nov. 1 at First Baptist Church, Kettering, Ohio.

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