



BAPTIST PRESS

New Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 5, 1974

Texas Baptist Churches
Top Two Million Members

DALLAS (BP)--Baptists in Texas now number more than two million, a figure which eclipses the membership of all but a few nationwide Protestant groups, and are the first among the 33 Southern Baptist-affiliated state conventions to pass that total.

Statistics prepared by the Baptist General Convention of Texas indicate that there are 2,001,022 members of Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated churches in Texas, compared with 1,965,723 in 1972.

The growth reflects the growth rate of the entire SBC, which is about a two per cent increase each year.

Texas Baptists also contributed in record amounts in 1973, giving \$16,971,392 through the Cooperative Program and \$6,966,404 to designated purposes.

Growth areas included Sunday School attendance, choir enrolment and Baptist Men (missions education program) involvement. Decline areas were baptisms, Training Union attendance and Woman's Missionary Union involvement.

The statistics show there are 3,855 churches and 350 missions. During the past year, 46 new churches were formed and 54 were disbanded, or otherwise became inactive.

North Carolina is second largest among the 33 Baptist state conventions with 1,059,605 members and Georgia is third with 1,049,924.

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Southwestern Trustees
Adopt Record Budget

3/5/74

FORT WORTH (BP)--Concluding a two-day, semi-annual meeting here recently, trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a record budget of nearly \$4 million, completed a reorganization of the administrative staff and acted on the tenure of several of the seminary's staff.

A record \$3.97 million budget was approved for the 1974-75 term. The new budget represents a 16 per cent increase over the current budget.

The trustees completed a reorganization of the administrative staff begun last year. At that time they created three of four new divisions: administrative affairs, academic affairs and business affairs.

Action during their spring meeting saw the completion of that reorganization with the formation of a student affairs division.

Named as dean of student affairs, beginning June 1, was Felix Gresham, who has served since 1955 as director of admissions.

The dean of student affairs responsibilities will include the direction of student activities, student counseling, student loans, grants in aid, scholarship assistance and the work of the dean of men and the dean of women.

L. L. Collins Jr., an instructor in New Testament, was named as the new director of admissions and registrar.

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The trustees also affirmed an earlier action in which seminary President Robert E. Naylor was asked to continue as president beyond his 65th year. They expressed "unqualified confidence in his leadership" and set a compulsory retirement for the president at age 70.

Three faculty members were granted tenure. They were Virginia Seelig, assistant professor of voice; Hazel Morris, assistant professor of childhood education; and David D'Amico, assistant professor of church history.

Faculty members Scotty Gray and Phillip Sims were promoted from assistant to associate professors.

In other action, several faculty and staff persons were named to new responsibilities. They were Harold Dill, professor of youth religious education, who becomes professor of field education and director of field education, and Phil Briggs, associate professor of education administration, who becomes associate professor of youth education.

Donald S. Hepburn, associate director of public relations, becomes director of communications, and Charles Cottle, assistant to the vice president for business affairs, becomes director of purchasing and material.

During a faculty-trustee dinner, a retiring professor and four trustees were honored. Harvey B. Hatcher, professor of communication arts, was honored for 16 years of service.

The four trustees honored will rotate off the board this June. They are Raymond Gary from Oklahoma, J. Thurmond George from California, Ralph M. Smith from Texas and Boyd A. Turner from South Carolina.

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Home Town Raises \$1 Million For Radio-TV Commission

3/5/74

FORT WORTH (BP)--An interdenominational effort in this hometown city of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, has raised more than \$1 million for the agency's second step campaign.

The Radio-TV Commission is seeking to raise \$2 million nationwide for construction of a television production studio, a broadcast training center and for expansion of its facilities.

However, when it was noted rising prices pushed the needed amount to more than \$3 million, people in the Fort Worth area started a drive to provide the additional \$1 million.

"The effort was ecumenical," said a Radio-TV Commission spokesman. "We had representatives of the Disciples of Christ (Christian) Church, Episcopalian, Methodist and Presbyterian--as well as Southern Baptist--working on the campaign."

When the final report was made, Fort Worth residents raised \$1,000,729.02 for the commission.

Radio-TV Commission employes did their part, too. The 105 employes pledged \$111,905.20 to the effort.

A. L. Scott, president and chief executive officer of Kimbell, Inc. of Fort Worth, was chairman of the local effort. Scott is a member of Broadway Baptist Church.

National chairman is Charles D. Tandy, chairman and chief executive officer of Tandy Corp., with headquarters in Fort Worth. Tandy also is a member of Broadway Baptist Church.

Second step campaigns currently are underway in Dallas, Houston, Miami, Atlanta, Birmingham and Greenville, S. C. Campaigns have been completed in Knoxville, Tenn., Roanoke, Va., Martinville-Henry County, Va., Shreveport, La., and Jackson, Miss.

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Baptist Tour Groups Book
6,700 Rooms in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (BP)--Requests for 6,700 of 8,000 beds being held for the Baptist World Congress here, July 8-13, 1975, have already been reserved, mostly by travel agencies, for the Baptist World Alliance-sponsored event.

Donald Hellstedt, executive secretary of the Stockholm Convention Bureau said his organization is holding rooms in Stockholm hotels, dormitories and private homes.

An attendance of 10,000, which could include about 8,000 Americans, is expected for the congress.

Hellstedt met with a group of American travel agents in Washington recently and with Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the alliance, concerning details for the 1975 world meeting of Baptists.

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Ministers' Wives to Hold
'1974 Roundup' in Dallas

3/5/74

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Ministers' Wives Conference will meet at First Baptist Church, Dallas, June 11, 1974.

The conference, based on the theme, "1974 Roundup of Ministers' Wives," will include a panel discussion on concerns and current stresses faced by ministers' wives.

Panel members are Mrs. Hüber Drumwright, moderator, and Mrs. John Claypool, both of Forth Worth; Mrs. Forbes Woods and Mrs. John Hurt, both of Dallas.

Special music will be furnished by a trio of ministers' wives, who, with their husbands, are Southern Baptist missionaries in Vietnam. Officers for 1976 will be elected.

Present officers are Mrs. Roy W. Babb, Nashville, Tenn., president; Mrs. James Landes, Dallas, Tex., vice president; Mrs. Charles Jolly, Madison, N. J., recording secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Emile Williams, Jonesboro, Ark., corresponding secretary.

Officers to serve in 1975 include Mrs. Maurice Clayton, Jackson, Miss., president; Mrs. Conrad R. Willard, Miami, Fla., vice president; Mrs. B. J. Martin, Pasadena, Tex., recording secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. P. A. Michel, Brookhaven, Miss., corresponding secretary.

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CORRECTION

In the Baptist Press story mailed 2/26/74 headlined "Superintendents of Missions to Discuss Pulling Together," change the headline to read 'Functioning Together.' Also, in the second graph, second line of the same story, change the line to read, "Connections that Count--Churches Functioning Together." (instead of "Pulling Together").

--Thanks
Baptist Press