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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 28, 1975

75-67

**SBC Schedules Business And  
Celebration in Miami Beach**

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The annual business of the Southern Baptist Convention will be conducted here, June 10-12 marking the celebration of the nation's bicentennial and the observance of the 50th anniversary of the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget.

Projected on bigger-than-life image closed-circuit color TV magnification screens for the second year, the SBC program will draw some 16,000 registered "messengers" from across the nation to attend sessions of the nation's largest Protestant-evangelical denomination. The SBC has 12.5 million members in 34,734 churches across 50 states.

Business will center around presentation of a proposed \$51 million national Cooperative Program budget for 1975-76 and reports from 19 national SBC agencies. The \$51 million includes \$41 million for operating needs of SBC agencies, \$1 million in capital needs and \$9 million in "challenge" funds. It represents about one third of the total Cooperative Program budgets of 33 state or regional conventions affiliated with the SBC, which have a combined budget goal of \$150 million for 1975-76.

In other business, the Committee of Seven, appointed last year to study the SBC Executive Committee and a possible name change for the SBC, will recommend, on the basis of extensive surveys, that no name change be considered at this time.

The committee, according to its chairman, C. R. Daley, editor of Kentucky Baptists' Western Recorder, Middletown, Ky., has another session scheduled, May 26-28 in Dallas, to prepare its convention report on the Executive Committee.

Seemingly no divisive issues loom on the SBC horizon, and SBC president, Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., hopes the convention will not debate "insignificant issues."

He said he hopes people will leave the SBC annual session, built around the theme, "Let Christ's Freedom Ring," with a greater compassion for the spiritual and physical needs of the world. "World conditions are so serious that we can't debate insignificant issues," said Weber, who will deliver his presidential address, Tuesday night, June 10.

An issue that Weber says he hopes will not come up at the convention is the charismatic movement, which has surfaced, centering mainly around its tongues-speaking aspects, in a number of associations of churches and state conventions during the past year.

Both Weber and Charles Harvey, Shreveport, La., pastor and chairman of the Executive Committee, predict that the tongues question will not become a divisive issue at Miami Beach.

Harvey said the SBC is not a doctrine-making organization and whatever practices a local church adopts is its own business.

Weber said that while the tongues movement is an idea to be dealt with by the local church, it has "peaked out" and less emphasis will be given to it in the future.

SBC state and national agencies and individual Southern Baptists have shown a growing concern about world hunger and Southern Baptists' ability to respond to various kinds of disaster throughout the world.

World hunger and disaster relief will likely surface as a topic for discussion during the three-day gathering in Miami Beach.

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The role of women in the church was an issue during the past two annual sessions of the convention in Portland and Dallas. No actions on the subject have been proposed thus far this year, convention leaders say.

Other business will involve a series of recommendations on bylaw changes, including a suggestion that at least one year should elapse before a person is eligible for election to a board or agency after serving two previous terms on another board or agency; and a suggestion that the Committee on Boards give first consideration to those primarily involved in local church work when selecting members of SBC boards.

The latter recommendation would not preclude use of denominational persons (such as state convention employees) on boards but would ask that first consideration go to persons active in programs of the local church, such as staff members and laypersons.

Charles Colson, convicted Nixon presidential aide, who testified to a life-changing experience with Jesus Christ during the Watergate trials, will speak to the Monday night, June 9, session of the SBC Pastor's Conference at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

Vonda Kay Van Dyke, a former Miss America, performer and active Christian witness, will appear on the SBC program Wednesday night, June 11.

Among others on the three-day program besides Weber, who is expected to be re-elected to a second one-year term as president, and Miss Van Dyke, are Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., who will preach the convention sermon on Wednesday morning; entertainer Jerry Clower of Yazoo City, Miss., a Southern Baptist deacon, who will deliver a major address Thursday morning; and former SBC president, W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, who will speak Thursday afternoon.

Each session will open with the ringing of a replica of the Liberty Bell, commemorating the nation's bicentennial, which will be loaned to the SBC by the State of Mississippi. Prior to the convention, the bell will be taken on a historic route to Baptist sites in Philadelphia, Washington, D. C., Richmond, Raleigh and Savannah. Stops along the way will include rallies and remembrances of Baptist contributions to the nation's first 200 years.

The convention will also feature emphasis on the Cooperative Program, which has produced nearly \$1.6 billion for state and national SBC needs since its inception in 1925. This is in addition to the billions more retained by local churches for their needs during this 50 year period.

Some 500 youthful runners, in the SBC's Royal Ambassador (RA) program for boys operated by the SBC Brotherhood Commission, will relay a lighted torch 1,280 miles from Memphis to Miami Beach during May and June in celebration of the Cooperative Program 50th anniversary.

The torch, symbolizing the gospel spread in the United States and 83 foreign countries around the world by the Cooperative Program, was to be lighted May 13 in Memphis, birthplace of the Cooperative Program, and carried in relays to the convention.

It will be presented to the SBC messengers June 10 in a special feature on the Cooperative Program the opening night of the convention during the SBC Stewardship Commission's report.

On a sadder note, messengers will mourn the death of Charles King, a Kentucky Baptist pastor who died during his term as second vice president of the SBC. King was the first black national SBC officer in the convention's history.

Four new agency heads will make reports to the convention for the first time--Carolyn Watherford, executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC auxiliary in Birmingham; W. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.; Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and Grady C. Cothen, president of the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The 118th annual session (130th year of the SBC) will close on Thursday, June 12, with a presentation by the denomination's Foreign Mission Board on its worldwide work in 83 countries, including war-torn Vietnam, from which the board's 39 missionaries have been evacuated until further notice.

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Liberty Bell Replica  
Begins Baptist Journey

Baptist Press  
4/28/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--A replica of the original Liberty Bell loaned to Southern Baptists by the State of Mississippi begins a journey May 12 via Washington, D. C., to Miami Beach for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting, June 10-12.

The nation's bicentennial will be commemorated at the SBC this year, with the Liberty Bell replica on display.

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Mississippi Governor William Waller, a member of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., will hand over the bell in Jackson to SBC President Jaroy Weber of Lubbock, Tex.

Similar bells were presented to each state in 1954. The Mississippi bell has rested on the grounds of the state capitol building in Jackson.

The SBC's committee on order of business, chaired by Searcy S. Garrison, executive secretary-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention, made the arrangements.

W. O. Vaught, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., has chaired the sub-committee responsible for the bell's itinerary and related ceremonies.

From Jackson, the bell will travel on a truck specially built for the purpose by Ford Motor Company for dedication at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, May 27.

The first Baptist association in the United States was founded in 1707 in Philadelphia. Likewise, the first national body of Baptists, The General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denominations in the United States of America for Foreign Missions (the triennial convention), was organized in Philadelphia May 18, 1814.

From Philadelphia the Liberty Bell replica will journey to the White House, Washington, D. C., where on May 28 it will be displayed and Weber will speak in brief ceremonies, possibly attended by President Gerald Ford, the committee says.

The next stop for the bell will be at 7:30 p.m., June 2, in Richmond, Va., on the front steps of the state capitol.

Presiding over the Richmond ceremony will be Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, with greetings to be brought from the offices of the Virginia governor and the Richmond mayor. Richard Stephenson, executive secretary of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond, will lead in prayer. W. O. Vaught of Little Rock will speak.

On June 3 an 11:30 a.m. meeting will feature the bell in Raleigh, N. C., for a program on the state capitol lawn. Greetings are expected from W. Perry Crouch, general secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention; John Lewis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Raleigh; and Randall Lolley, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

An area band is expected to play for the Raleigh program, a North Carolina convention spokesman said, after which the bell will proceed on for a stop at Southeastern Seminary.

The North Carolina convention offices are in Raleigh. Southeastern Seminary is 17 miles north of Raleigh, on the former campus of Wake Forest University, now in Winston-Salem, N. C.

The night of June 3, Duke K. McCall, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will speak at a display of the bell in Greenville, S. C., where Southern Seminary was founded in 1859.

June 4 the bell moves to Charleston, S. C., home of the oldest Baptist church and the oldest Baptist district association in the South.

The oldest Baptist church in the South--First Baptist Church, Charleston--was actually founded in Kittery, Maine, in 1682 and moved later to Charleston. Charleston Baptist Association was founded in 1751.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board will be responsible for transporting the bell from Jackson, Miss., to Charleston. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will take responsibility for transportation from Charleston to Miami Beach. The SBC Historical Commission is cooperating in the project.

On June 5, the bell will be displayed in Savannah, Ga., the state's oldest city. The Southern Baptist Convention was founded in May, 1845, in nearby Augusta.

In Savannah, the bell will be displayed at noon in Johnson Square and at Oglethorpe Mall. Programs will be presented at each site. Music will be provided by Southern Baptist church choirs from the area.

Garrison will preside over the Savannah ceremonies, with James W. Waters, president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, to lead in a prayer calling the nation to revival and recommitment to religious liberty. Participating also will be other Georgia Baptist and governmental dignitaries.

The bell will then move on to the Miami Beach Convention Center, arriving in time for the opening session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 10, when Gov. Waller of Mississippi will present the bell to SBC President Weber.

Weber will ring the bell instead of using a gavel in the SBC's opening session, following his presidential address, and as each session of the convention opens.

The convention theme is "Let Christ's Freedom Ring."

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SBC Agency Among Bicentennial  
Program Grant Recipients

Baptist Press  
4/28/75

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The Lilly Endowment here has awarded a \$100,000 joint grant to the four religious organizations, including the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission, which regularly cooperate with National Broadcasting Company (NBC) news in religious television programming.

The grant, also including the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the United States Catholic Conference and the National Council of Churches, will enable the four religious organizations to work together in publicizing their NBC news religious television specials related to the bicentennial.

Among several of the Radio and Television Commission's bicentennial-related programs done in conjunction with NBC, are the hour-long color documentary, *Legacy*, narrated by Alexander Scourby on contributions of the Dutch to religious freedom in America, and a documentary which will be filmed in Yugoslavia this summer with Josip Horak, a Yugoslav Baptist minister. His grandfather immigrated to America, where he became a Christian and later returned to Yugoslavia to conduct Baptist work. The documentary will deal with immigrants and the religious freedom they find in America.

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Missouri Baptists Name Hall  
To Direct Business Services

Baptist Press  
4/28/75

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Roger W. Hall, a certified public accountant currently teaching accounting at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., has been named director of the business services division of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

A former staff accountant with Baird, Kurtz and Dobson, Joplin, Mo., 1970-72, and James McManus Co., Kansas City, Mo., 1972-74, Hall is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City.

Effective June 1, he will take over as chief accountant for the Missouri convention's executive board, serving as purchasing agent for all departments, managing all physical properties of the Missouri Baptist Building and all printing and office service operations, and overseeing all Missouri Baptist Convention properties including encampment and student centers.

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"Sin and Celebrate"  
Title Wasn't In Print

Baptist Press  
4/28/75

PHOENIX (BP)--A Baptist Book Store customer here had a laugh and surprise when advised that a requested copy of "Sin and Celebrate" could be picked up.

The book the customer had actually ordered was "Sing and Celebrate," a collection of Christian songs primarily for youth.

This just proves that dropping your "g's" may be even worse than your spellin' teacher told you it was!

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APR 30 1975

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