

May 19, 1956

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

CONVENTION TO DECIDE
ABOUT MIAMI HOSPITALS

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One of the hospitals would be built on a site yet to be chosen in downtown Miami. The other site has been offered in Kendall, 10 miles south of Miami, by Arthur Vining Davis, multi-millionaire aluminum company official and Florida land developer. Davis also offered a sizeable donation toward cost of construction.

Under Southern Baptist Convention policy, the proposal to operate the hospitals would have to receive two affirmative votes of the Convention, indicating that final approval would come no earlier than the 1957 annual meeting in Chicago.

Miami Baptist Association is prepared to undertake a fund-raising drive to build the hospitals, if the Convention approves them, according to Angell. The two would probably be under single management.

Miami has only a little more than half the number of hospital beds that medical men say it needs, Angell stated. Roman Catholics are the only religious group now operating a hospital in Miami, Florida's largest city.

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CHOICE OF LOCATIONS
FOR 1959 CONVENTION

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RECOMMENDS CONVENTION
MODIFY SITE SELECTION

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If adopted, the recommendation will give added weight to the investigation of the Convention's Executive Committee into suitable locations.

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The Executive Committee then presented its findings to the committee on time, place, and preacher, which made final recommendations to the Convention as to a particular site.

The change will give the findings of the Executive Committee added importance in the consideration by the committee on time, place, and preacher. The Executive Committee will be empowered to make recommendations with its report.

Here is the recommendation, as worded by the committee to study policies and procedures of the committee on time, place, and preacher:

"The Committee on Convention Arrangements of the Executive Committee shall investigate invitations for the Convention's annual meeting and bring a summary of findings, with recommendation or recommendations, to the Committee on Time, Place, and Preacher." (The emphatic words are "with recommendation or recommendations.")

The committee, of which C. Roy Angell, Miami, Fla., minister, is chairman, felt that the Executive Committee recommendation could include more than one city and that the committee on time, place, and preacher might let the Convention itself choose between more than one prospective site.

**SOUTHERN BAPTISTS SEE
POTENTIAL IN MICHIGAN**

By R. J. Hastings

DETROIT, Mich.--(BP)--May 11 was a hot, sticky night in Detroit. Tornado warnings were posted. But neither the heat nor the approaching storm lessened the spirit of over 500 Baptists gathered in Detroit's Fairview Baptist Church for the largest meeting in the history of Southern Baptist work in Michigan.

This was their first fellowship meeting looking forward to organizing a Michigan state convention. It has been over 20 years since the initial church, Antioch in Detroit, was organized in 1934. The host church, now meeting in a building seating 740, could remember its own birth in a small room of a former brewery.

Now Southern Baptists in Michigan number 8,500 in 59 churches. They gave \$40,000 to all causes last year. The stability that would come from a state convention, organized to take the gospel as Baptists believe it to 8 million citizens of Michigan, thrilled everyone present.

In spite of past achievements, Michigan Southern Baptists recognize that far too little has been done to evangelize their state. The migration of Southern people to Michigan dates to Henry Ford's unparalleled offer of \$5 a day to build automobiles. The trek northward has continued unabated.

If every church in the greater Detroit area should conduct services every hour on the hour for all 24 hours of every Sunday, less than two-thirds of the 4 million people could be accommodated. One of the newer churches recently began an ambitious religious census, only to stop after it had gone 10 blocks from the church. "Within those few blocks we found more prospects than we could ever accommodate in our church," explained the pastor.

Many Unchurched

Fred D. Hubbs, superintendent of missions for the Motor Cities Association, comprising 50 of 59 Southern Baptist churches, said that in addition to the need of providing for incoming Southern Baptists, much remains in evangelizing those affiliated with no church.

Courts Redford, one of two representatives of the Home Mission Board at the fellowship gathering, pointed out that the Home Mission Board is pressed to keep up with requests to help existing Southern Baptist work in new states such as the Great Lakes area of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. "Often we are criticized for going outside traditional Southern Baptist boundaries. But note that our Board is not so much initiating new work as it is assisting what springs up by itself wherever Southern people move."

Several pastors told how new Baptist congregations stimulated older, existing churches. "After the program that Southern Baptists have to offer became apparent in our community, a neighboring church planned its first revival in 13 years," cited one pastor. "And all of the churches in our area have entered building programs since we organized."

Future Plans Made

A. H. Mullins, pastor of Columbia Avenue Baptist Church in Pontiac, was elected president of the new Fellowship of Michigan Southern Baptists. He and other leaders will map plans for the formal organization of a state convention, possibly by January, 1957. It is hoped the new convention will embrace all of the 38 Michigan churches now affiliated with Arkansas state convention, 11 affiliated with Kentucky, one with Illinois, and 9 churches having no state affiliation.

Suggestions made at the meeting included an educational program to train pastors, a straight percentage division of Cooperative Program funds between state and Convention causes, and a weekly denominational paper. Truett Smith now heads a Michigan extension of Arkansas' Ouachita College, which may develop into one or more chairs of Bible at state schools.

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W. C. FIELDS CHOSEN MISSISSIPPI EDITOR

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--W. C. Fields, pastor of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, Miss., has been elected editor of the Baptist Record, weekly state denominational newspaper here.

He will assume editorship June 1, succeeding the late A. L. Goodrich.

Fields, current president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention board, is a native of Saline, La., and a graduate of Louisiana College and Southern Baptist Seminary. He has been pastor in Yazoo City five years.

The editorship was filled by the state convention board, which also took two other actions concerning state personnel. Joe Abrams, director of promotion, was transferred to associate editor of the Baptist Record. Abrams will continue to be public relations director for Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Joe T. Odle, pastor of Gulfport, Miss., First Baptist Church, was elected associate executive secretary in charge of promotion, evangelism, and missions. The position had been vacant since the resignation of C. E. Wilbanks two years ago.

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2

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