

Southern Baptist Convention
1956 - at Kansas City, Mo.
Office of Press Representative
Albert McClellan

FOR RELEASE: Afternoon papers
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WELCOME ADDRESS AND INTRODUCTION OF MAYOR BARTLE
~~Conrad R. Willard Chairman, Local Steering Committee~~
Southern Baptist Convention, Kansas City, Missouri, May 30, 1956

On behalf of the fifty-nine churches and missions of the Kansas City Baptist Association I extend to you, as messengers to the 99th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, a most cordial welcome.

It has been thirty-three years since the Southern Baptist Convention met in Kansas City.

On the opening day of that Convention in 1923, only 2,004 messengers were registered. Today, as of a few moments ago, were registered.

Messengers to that Convention were led in song at the opening session by Bob Coleman. They heard an address by their president, E. Y. Mullins, on the subject "Present Dangers and Duties."

On the opening day in 1923, the Convention messengers received a telegram from Dr. Everett Gill, missionary to Roumania, which read: "European Baptists salute you. Read II Thess. 3:1-2." This Scripture passage says:

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

---a message that can be repeated with deep meaning for 1956.

The Convention of 1923 in Kansas City was a historic meeting:

The Convention was urged to consider Ridgecrest, N. C. the site for a summer camp.

Southwestern Seminary was offered to Southern Baptists by the Texas Baptist Convention. It thus became a Southern Baptist Institution.

The Convention of 1923 invited President of the United States, Warren G. Harding, to be a principal speaker at the following meeting. An invitation was also extended to Wm. Jennings Bryan.

2,200,000 were enrolled in Sunday School as against 6,000,000 today.

480,000 were enrolled in Training Union, as compared to 2,000,000 plus today.

There were only 3,300,000 Southern Baptists in 1923. Today there are more than 8,000,000.

God has blessed Southern Baptists since they last met in Kansas City.

On behalf of thirty-five thousand Southern Baptists in Kansas City, Welcome! We are at your service. We want your stay to be pleasant. We pray that the following thirty-three years will continue to reveal the fruit of your labors.

It is my happy privilege to present His Honor, "The Colossal Mayor of Kansas City" --the dimensions of his heart and soul far exceed all other sizes attributed to him --Mayor H. Roe Bartle.