

December 18, 1952

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PROJECTS 1954 SBC BUDGET

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention voted to approve a recommendation that a full \$8,750,000 of Cooperative Program funds be distributed for current operating expenses and capital needs in 1954 for Convention activity.

An operating budget of \$160,000 for the Convention in 1954 was approved, with the Sunday School Board paying \$60,000 of the amount required and the remaining \$100,000 to be provided out of distributable funds.

In other action, the Executive Committee approved the following recommendations:

1. That additional distributable Cooperative Program funds above \$8,750,000 and the Convention operating budget, be distributed to the Convention Advance Mission Program, with the Home Mission Board receiving 25 per cent of the amount, and the Foreign Mission Board receiving 75 per cent.

(In accordance with action of the Miami Convention, made in agreement with the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board, the first \$160,000 of the Advance Program to be given to the W.M.U. Training School at Louisville.)

2. Distributable Cooperative Program receipts for 1954 be distributed on a single percentage basis up to the Advance Program for home and foreign missionaries.

3. The fiscal year for the Southern Baptist seminaries to close with July 31.

4. The 1953 budgets of the Southwide agencies be approved as printed in the book of agency budgets.

5. A committee be appointed to study jointly with a committee from the W.M.U. Training School, presidents of the seminaries and representatives of the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, the relationship of the W.M.U. Training School to Southern Baptist Convention.

6. That American Seminary Commission be authorized to use capital needs funds for operating expenses until capital needs funds can be replaced.

Approval of the 1953-54 capital needs budget as well as the 1954 operating budget, all of which will be presented to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston in May. The 1953 operating budget was approved by the SBC in Miami last spring.

Total amount approved in meeting for each agency with the percentage this figure represents of the total agency budgets is as follows:
(more)

2...Executive Committee

Foreign Mission Board, \$3,475,000 - 39.71 per cent; Home Mission Board, \$1,149,800 - 13.14 per cent; Relief and Annuity Board, \$791,900 - 9.05 per cent; Southern Seminary, \$591,867 - 6.77 per cent; New Orleans Seminary, \$645,766 - 7.38 per cent; Golden Gate Seminary, \$385,800 - 4.41 per cent; Southwestern Seminary, \$591,867 - 6.7 per cent; Southeastern Seminary, \$492,250 - 5.62 per cent; WMU Training School, \$57,500 - .53 per cent; American Baptist Seminary, \$101,000 - 1.15 per cent; Southern Baptist Hospital, \$160,000 - 1.83 per cent; Baptist Brotherhood, \$61,000 - .70 per cent; Radio Commission, \$137,000 - 1.57 per cent; Baptist Joint Public Affairs Committee, \$15,000 - .17 per cent; Baptist World Alliance, \$25,000 - .29 per cent; Southern Baptist Foundation, \$15,000 - .17 per cent; Education Commission, \$22,000 - .25 per cent; Historical Commission, \$24,000 - .27 per cent; and Social Service Commission, \$15,000 - .17 per cent.

The Home Mission Board was commended by the Executive Committee for its effort to extend their church loan funds to meet the greatly expanded building programs of Southern Baptist Convention churches.

No goal was set for this work. The Home Mission Board now has \$2,500,000 available for church loans. The additional funds will be raised from four sources: (a) annuities, (b) a special allocation of budget money beginning in 1952, (c) \$100,000 from the special Annie Armstrong offerings to be taken next spring, and (d) large gifts from people interested in building mission projects.

All solicitations will be in keeping with the Convention's business and financial plan.

In other action, the committee voted to request Dr. Austin Crouch, veteran Convention leader, and first executive secretary of the Executive Committee, to pose for an oil portrait to hang in the chambers of the Executive Committee. Dr. Crouch led in the creation of the Executive Committee.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY ADD 14 MEMBERS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Action by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Nashville in mid-December, will expand their body from the present thirty-one members to forty-five members and perhaps more later, it was disclosed.

The forty-five number is based on the number of church members in constituent state conventions. Each state will have one representative plus an additional member for each full 250,000 members.

No state may have more than five representatives and when a state has more than one member on the board, one of them must be a lay person.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS
TO ENLIST HALF MILLION

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Dr. Homer L. Grice, Nashville, secretary of the Vacation Bible School Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board assured members of the state Sunday school secretaries' conference that half of the "Million More in 1954" to be enrolled in Baptist Sunday schools can be enlisted through Vacation Bible schools.

He pointed out that in the past year 150,000 children have been enrolled in Vacation Bible schools who are not members of any Sunday school. He said that through these youngsters it would be comparatively simple to reach 500,000.

Dr. Grice reported 130,000 Vacation Bible schools this year with 40,000 professions of faith in these schools, which are designed for children up to high school age.

An appreciation banquet at Belmont College was held for six retiring Sunday school workers. These include:

Dr. Grice, a veteran of thirty years in Sunday school work; Dr. William P. Phillips, Nashville, general associate in the Sunday school department; Miss Mary Virginia Lee, Nashville, superintendent of Intermediate work; J. C. Hockett, assistant editor of The Sunday School Builder magazine; Dr. J. B. Hill, Richmond, Va., state Sunday school secretary for Virginia; and Dr. W. A. Gardiner of Louisville, Ky., state Sunday school secretary of Kentucky.

Dr. Barnette was master of ceremonies at the banquet.

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C. A. HOLCOMB TO
BOARD MUSIC POST

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Clifford A. Holcomb, recently named associate in the Department of Church Music for the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board, has assumed duties, as music directors from twelve of twenty-two states in the SBC gathered to discuss mutual problems.

Holcomb, who will assist Dr. W. Hines Sims, secretary of the department, was for the past seven years Florida's music director.

Dr. Loren Williams, also an associate, took over his job in August.

The three led discussions relative to co-ordinating the Convention's music with emphasis on sponsoring the state organizations. Development of a music education program in each state was foremost topic, since the church music training course, which culminates in state-wide hymn festivals, etc., is the basis of this educational program.

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EVANGELISM COMMITTEE
PROJECTS THREE YEAR PLANS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Dr. C. E. Matthews, Dallas, Tex., secretary of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Convention, announced a national evangelistic crusade for 1955 which will extend to more than thirty-six states, Panama, Cuba and Alaska.

Dates for the various zones of action have been set. The United States is divided into three zones, moving east to west.

(1) The tropical zone, which will include Panama, Cuba, Florida and the extreme southern part of the states, will engage in simultaneous revivals March 6-20, 1955. (2) Central zone, extending to the Mason-Dixon Line, will have revivals March 27 - April 10, 1955; and (3) the northern zone, including all north of the Mason-Dixon Line and Alaska, April 10-24, 1955.

C. Y. Dossey, assistant to Dr. Matthews, observed that the evangelism department sets up a church-centered program with its purpose to make evangelists of all Southern Baptist pastors and soul-winners of all members. "We propose to do that by promoting annual associational simultaneous crusades, and a perennial program of evangelism through a weekly visitation program."

Two other problems which the committee on evangelism is attempting to solve are those of churches reporting no baptisms and the problem of non-resident church members.

The latter is partially being remedied by the "Transfer Your Church Membership Week," begun this year and to be carried on next September 13-20.

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ROBERT S. KERR GIVES OBU
QUARTER MILLION FOR DORM

SHAWNEE, Okla.--(BP)--President John W. Raley has announced a \$250,000 gift to Oklahoma Baptist University by U.S. Senator Robert S. Kerr, to be used in erecting a dormitory for women in honor of his mother, Margaret Wright Kerr.

Kerr was once a student of the University and a member of its football team. For many years he has been an active Baptist Sunday school teacher. During his long political career, he has made Sunday school and church attendance an invariable habit. Soon after graduation from law school, he entered the oil business. His holdings and investments make him one of the largest independent operators in the field. He served Oklahoma as governor for four years and has been U. S. Senator since 1948.

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PLAN ONE MILLION INCREASE
IN 1954 SUNDAY SCHOOL ROLLS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Southern Baptists will have as their objective for 1954 a net Sunday school enrolment gain in the 28,000 Southern Baptist churches of the Convention of a million more persons.

With this slogan in mind, "A Million More in '54," Sunday school secretaries from twenty-two states gathered here to work out problems pertaining to the gigantic undertaking.

According to Dr. J. N. Barnette, secretary of the Sunday School Department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, the average net gain per year in Sunday schools has been approximately 300,000 since 1946. In that year, a goal of 600,000 was set and, although they fell far short of the goal, a greater gain than ever before in history of SBC work was scored.

When Dr. T. L. Holcomb assumed the job of executive secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board in June, 1935, Sunday school enrolment stood at 3,157,458. Last year the figure had increased to 5,253,695 and a minimum estimate for this year is 5,500,000.

The idea for one million more people to be enrolled in Bible study and Sunday school came from a conference of state Sunday school secretaries in May, 1952, with representatives of the Sunday School Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Tennessee's state goal is for 85,000 additional enrollees.

All churches will kick-off simultaneously at associational Sunday school rallies, September 11, 1953. Victory Week will be September 17-24, 1954. Actually, however, churches will be asked to launch preparations January 4, 1953.

Dr. J. N. Barnette and his department will co-ordinate the program on a Southwide basis, while the state Sunday school secretary in each of twenty-two states will take the lead there. Jesse Daniel of Nashville is the key man in Tennessee. He will head a special committee in this state as Sunday school secretary.

The following are some of the marginal gains which are expected to issue forth from the drive for greater numbers:

- (1) The enlistment and training of additional workers, (2) enlargement of church buildings, (3) many class Sunday schools developing into department Sunday schools, (4) thousands of new Sunday schools organized, (5) greater concern by Southern Baptists for multitudes not studying the Bible, (6) greater concern for unsaved people, (7) greater solidarity and spirit of "togetherness" in a co-operative enterprise, and (8) impetus for sustained advances in Bible study, Bible evangelism, and Christian growth.

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In a report from Dr. Barnette Monday afternoon, it was observed that Southern Baptist Sunday school enrolment in fifty years has grown from 712,012 in 1901 to 5,253,695 in 1951 -- a gain of 4,541,683. The gain for the six years of most rapid growth, beginning in 1945 and ending in 1951, was 1,728,385.

It took Southern Baptists sixty-three years, from 1845 to 1908, to enrol their first million in Sunday school, thirteen more years for the second million, and eleven more, 1921 to 1932, to pass three million.

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ALLEN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT
INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The Inter-Agency Council, a co-operative planning group for the Southern Baptist Convention but not a Convention committee, devoted their mid-December meeting here to consideration of various areas of co-operative study.

Dr. Clifton J. Allen, editorial secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board, was re-elected chairman of the council along with all other officers. They include:

Mrs. J. M. Dawson of Washington, representative of the Woman's Missionary Union, vice-chairman; Dr. Frank K. Means, Richmond, Va., educational secretary of Foreign Mission Board, recording secretary; George Schroeder, Memphis, secretary of the Brotherhood Commission, assistant recording secretary; and Dr. J. O. Williams, Sunday School Board, treasurer.

Special resource persons attending the meeting were: Rev. Joe Anglin, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church near Huntsville, Ala., and Curtis Beard, educational director of Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

These men discussed the experience of their churches in all phases of their educational activity, and offered helpful suggestions to council members with respect to materials, methods and desirable correlation.

Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, led the group in a discussion of problems and opportunities in Southern Baptist life.

Dr. Allen presented a paper prepared by Dr. W. L. Howse of Southwestern Seminary, giving his impressions of the need for religious education agencies on mission fields in Latin America. Dr. Howse recently made a tour of South American missions with Ernest Loessner, educational director of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas.

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CHIEF CHAPLAIN BENNETT
CITES NEED FOR CHAPLAINS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Major General Ivan L. Bennett, Army Chief of Chaplains, told members of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee there is a need for hundreds of young chaplains in all branches of service at this time.

He stressed need for young ministers to enter the service to provide for the men in combat areas. "Old men do not have the physical stamina to take it," General Bennett said. "Young men who are to be pastors of churches will do themselves and their members a service by serving in the armed forces for a period."

General Bennett also deplored the lack of worship facilities. He has just returned from a trip around the world during which he interviewed more than 500 chaplains. "These men," he said, "now have the opportunity to advance missionary enterprises."

Observing that the present crisis presents an unprecedented situation in that a million men are leaving the service each year while another million are entering, the Chief Chaplain stressed that:

"I have gone from unit to unit to impress chaplains to lead men to take places of leadership in churches and communities after they leave the service."

General Bennett said, "We are trying to open channels of expression in the lives of servicemen to keep alive their humanitarian interests. More than a quarter million dollars has been distributed by G. I.'s for relief of suffering in the countries where they have been fighting," he said.

The general is a Southern Baptist and has been in the army since 1918. He was nominated by President Truman as Chief of Chaplains of the Army on April 10, 1952, was sworn into office that month at Fort Mason, Calif.

He was promoted to Captain, July 29, 1924; to Major, July 29, 1933; to Lieutenant Colonel, July 29, 1939; to Colonel, July 29, 1945 and to his present rank, April 30, 1952.

He was awarded the D.D. degree by Wake Forest College, N. C., and also by Paine Theological Seminary.

General Bennett said 71 per cent of students now attending associated seminaries in the United States have served in the Armed Forces. He pointed to this fact as an indication of what the chaplains have been able to do.

STATISTICS HELP SOLVE
NON-RESIDENT PROBLEM

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--"Statistics will help us plan intelligently to conserve our evangelistic results," J. P. Edmunds, head of the Department of Statistics for the Baptist Sunday School Board said in pointing out that 850,000 former church members have been lost from Southern Baptist church rolls in the past twenty years. Edmunds was speaking to the annual over-all committee to plan evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Statistics, when carefully studied and interpreted, will reveal the strength or weakness of our plans and programs," he observed. "In evangelism, for instance, statistics will show which localities and which types of churches are reaping the greatest dividend from our program, as well as those being neglected or not responding."

Edmunds released a number of preliminary figures having to do with Southern Baptists in the course of his talk. He said a recent report of the National Council of Churches shows membership of the sixty-seven larger denominations in America increased 59.8 per cent since 1926, while Southern Baptists increased 98.8 per cent.

Southern Baptists baptized 5,182,017 persons, or an average of 259,101 per year, for the past twenty years, a record unequalled by any other denomination.

An estimated figure on 1952 baptisms was between 355,000 and 360,000 persons. According to Edmunds, the total church membership is now approximately 7,606,000. A net gain of 394,000 during the present year would set the membership of the Southern Baptist denomination at 8,000,000. Final figures on gains will be released in February, upon completion of the annual survey.

The growth came from both city and country churches, Edmunds said. "The cry that our country churches are failing is not borne out by statistics. In fact, from 1946-51 the achievements of Southern Baptists were almost equally divided between all types of churches."

A recent study made by the Department of Survey, Statistics and Information indicates that within the more than 4,000 churches organized since 1940, it took 8.5 persons to win one person to baptism, whereas, in the older churches the baptism to membership ratio ranged from one baptism to 13.9 persons to a ratio of one to 19.9.

In other words, statistics bear out the fact that younger churches of the Convention are more evangelistic.

SCHOOLS OF STEWARDSHIP
SET FOR 28,289 CHURCHES

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Every facility and agency of the Southern Baptist Convention will be focused on Christian Stewardship Week October 18-25, 1953, Dr. Merrill D. Moore, director of promotion of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee told the Promotion Committee in its mid-December meeting.

Promotion of a School of Stewardship in every one of 28,289 churches in the Convention next October will mark the first time that all Southern Baptist efforts have been pitted toward a Convention-wide goal, with the exception of the simultaneous revival crusades which have been carried on the past two years. A goal of thirty-four million dollars has been set as an over-all mission target for 1954.

Planning for the stewardship advance will begin on the state level with the executive secretary of each state convention heading the effort. Heads of the state Sunday school department, Training Union department, brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union will carry the program to the association and to the church where a similar setup will go into action.

The Training Union Department of the Sunday School Board of the SBC is providing the books for study in the schools. Dr. J. E. Lambdin is secretary of this department. Classes for all ages, Junion through Adults will be set up on a graded basis.

E. W. Westmoreland, Training Union-Sunday school secretary for Oklahoma, told of the integrated planning and promotion which has been carried out in his state with reference to stewardship.

He said every agency in each church has been asked to accept a goal of 50 per cent of their organization for enrolment in the School of Stewardship. Goal for Oklahoma is 100,000 awards for persons completing the week-long course.

(If this goal is reached, it would mean that at least 300,000 in Oklahoma took at least a portion of the stewardship study course.)

Plans for a Convention-wide Promotion Conference were also laid December 16, to be held in Oklahoma City, March 18-19, 1953. Long range plans and promotion techniques will be considered at this session.

One new method of promoting the Stewardship School to be utilized during the year will be a series of six fifteen minute radio transcriptions, presenting in dramatic programs the call to liberal Christian giving, the Bible teachings on giving and the blessings of liberality.

These programs, distributed through the Baptist Radio Commission, will present typical life situations and show the way of Christian stewardship as the best way.

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**HOLCOMB TO END SERVICE
WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Dr. T. L. Holcomb, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, for the past eighteen years, has announced he will conclude his work and retire next June. He will be seventy and retirement age December 22, but was elected last June for a full year.

Comparative figures for the past seventeen years show that the Sunday school's income has risen from \$1,728,931.84 in 1935 to \$10,693,333.19 in 1951. Appropriations for state and denominational work increased from \$429,671.04 to \$1,247,135.32 last year. Periodical circulation rose from 32,329,668 in 1935 to 45,825,053 in 1951.

A committee has been named to select a new executive secretary-treasurer.

In his remarks to the Board, Dr. Holcomb pointed out that "the purpose of all the varied ministries of the Sunday School Board in literature, promotion, book stores, assemblies, and in all of its work is to render a spiritual service to the home and the church.

"The Board is definitely committed to the extent of its resources to help bind these two divine institutions in the holy task of advancing the cause of Christ throughout our land and in all nations of the earth."

The Sunday School Board also voted to send Dr. Holcomb to Zurich, Switzerland, as a representative from the Board to explain the overall workings of the organization, literature techniques, etc., to students of Southern Baptist Seminary there.

The retiring executive secretary was also invited by the Sunday School Board to become a general associate with the Board after his retirement. His status would be that of department head and his main emphasis would be promotion of the "Million More in '54" Sunday school campaign.

Dr. Holcomb did not indicate whether he would accept the position.

In other action, the Sunday School Board approved an appropriation of nearly \$300,000 with which to complete and equip Glorieta Assembly buildings now under construction in New Mexico. The new Southern Baptist counterpart of Ridgecrest for the western states will open June 8, 1953, and will accommodate 1,000 persons.

Dedication of the nine story addition to the Board administration building was announced for sometime next spring. The building is now only partially finished but is already occupied on some floors.

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2...Holcomb to end service

The retirement of Dr. Homer L. Grice as head of the Vacation Bible School Department of the Board created two vacancies since the editorial and promotional work were set up under different heads. Dr. Grice had worked in his present position since September 1, 1924.

Dr. Charles F. Treadway, formerly pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbia, Miss., joined the Board's editorial departments and was today approved for the editorial position. Sibley C. Burnett was elected secretary in charge of promotion for Vacation Bible work in the Sunday School Department.

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**SBC RESOLUTION TO
PRESIDENT-ELECT**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Dr. Louie D. Newton, pastor of Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, brought a resolution on the Vatican to the Executive Committee meeting stating that "The earnest hope, based on the conviction that religious liberty and the separation of church and state are the foundation stones of our democratic way of life, that the new administration will not renew any form of diplomatic relations with the Vatican or any other ecclesiastical body."

The resolution was addressed to the President-Elect and the new Secretary of State.

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