

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

October 11, 1956

It's State Convention  
Time Among Baptists

By the Baptist Press

It's state convention (or association) time throughout the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention.

From 40,000 to 45,000 Baptists in 30 states will gather at 24 convention sites during October and November. Locations of the conventions stretch from Easton, on Maryland's peninsula near the Atlantic Ocean, to Eureka, on the Pacific in northwest California.

One of the major items of business at all conventions will be adopting budgets for 1957 to support state and Southern Baptist Convention work.

The budgets are all expected to exceed those for 1956. The 1956 budgets total an estimated \$37 million. Texas has the largest budget and will seek to increase it to \$7½ million. Budgets scale downward to \$100,000 and \$200,000 in states like Ohio, Colorado, and Kansas, where Southern Baptist work is relatively new.

Together with the annual Southern Baptist Convention sessions, the individual state conventions serve to consolidate the co-operative witness of Southern Baptists.

There are 8½ million members of more than 30,000 Southern Baptist churches. Each church retains its own freedom and co-operates with the state convention and Southern Baptist Convention voluntarily.

The state conventions retain their independence from the Southern Baptist Convention, but work with it through Cooperative Program budgets and joint efforts in denominational activities.

Drop in at Corpus Christi for the Texas convention and you would find about two-thirds as many there as at the Southern Baptist annual convention. You'd find only a few hundred at conventions in states where Southern Baptists are still pioneers and work is not as well-known yet.

About half the states expect to elect new state presidents or moderators, depending on the title they use for this office. Acting on established custom, the other half of the states will re-elect their presidents or moderators for second terms of a year each.

The programs of the state conventions include reports from state convention-operated schools, hospitals, and children's homes. They also include reports from

convention boards and agencies, and inspirational addresses. These meetings also are times for people to renew friendships and acquaintances.

The matters of business voted on will be along the same general line as the reports they hear. Many of the reports will bear recommendations for future convention policy and action.

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#### Groner President-Elect Of Hospital Managers

MEMPHIS--(BP)--Frank S. Groner, administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital here, has been named president-elect of the American College of Hospital Administrators, the highest elective office in the field. He will take over the duties of his new office at the annual meeting next September.

Groner has been administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital since 1946. During this time the hospital has undertaken the largest expansion program in its history. The new 13-story Madison-East addition opened early this year.

He is the immediate past president of the Tennessee Hospital Association and a former president of the Southwide Baptist Hospital Association and the Southeastern Hospital Conference.

He is a deacon at Union Avenue Baptist Church here and for 10 years has taught a young men's Sunday School class.

The hospital is supported by Baptists in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

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#### Chowan College Hosts Accreditation Agency

MURFREESBORO, N. C.--(BP)--The Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools will visit Chowan College here the first week in November to see if it meets accreditation requirements.

The junior college is operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. In preparation for the visit, the college is holding "clean-up day" Oct. 25.

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Wake Forest Dedicates  
\$20 Million New Campus

Winston-Salem, N. C.--(BP)--Representatives from more than 150 colleges and universities in the eastern half of the Nation mingled with hundreds of Wake Forest College alumni at dedication ceremonies of the new Wake Forest campus here Oct. 12.

Principal speakers at the dedication of the \$20 million campus included Wilson Compton, president of the Council for Financial Aid to Education, and Casper C. Warren, Charlotte, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A scroll of appreciation was presented to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the group whose offer in 1946 sparked the move from Wake Forest to Winston-Salem this summer.

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900 Gifts to Furman  
Exceed \$1½ Million

GREENVILLE, S. C.--(BP)--Nearly 900 gifts were received by Furman University here last year, totalling \$1,543,534, President John L. Plyler has announced.

Funds for construction on Furman's new campus were \$1,279,225 of this amount -- the most ever given to Furman for building in a year's time. Duke Endowment gave the largest donation, \$929,624, for new campus construction.

The Duke Endowment funds will build a library to be named in memory of the late James B. Duke.

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Details For Transfer  
Of Carver Discussed

NASHVILLE--(BP)--More details for the transfer of Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, Ky., to the Southern Baptist Convention were worked out at a meeting in Nashville recently.

The school has been operated by the Woman's Missionary Union, women's auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention. Both the WMU and the Convention approved its transfer in sessions at Kansas City in May.

The Nashville meeting was of the subcommittee of the SBC Theological Education Committee working on Carver School arrangements. H. H. Hobbs, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, is subcommittee chairman.

The subcommittee discussed future of the school's endowment funds, drafting of legal papers necessary for change in operation, and selection of school trustees.

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