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January 31, 1957

Brotherhood Group
To Meet Sept. 18-20

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--The first National Conference of Southern Baptist Men will meet here Sept. 18-20. Sessions will be held in the Municipal Auditorium.

The gathering, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, will have participants -- both laymen and pastors -- from Baptist churches in more than 30 states. About 8,000 to 10,000 men are expected to attend.

Held in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Brotherhood movement, the conference will strive to "capture the attention and interest of Southern Baptist men from across the country" and "to send Southern Baptist men home on fire to work through their churches to present the claims of Christ upon men throughout the world."

The theme for the conference will be "Free Men Through the Ages."

Sessions will begin Wednesday, September 18 and continue until Friday, September 20, at 9:30 p. m.

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Ohio Baptist Group
Forms 100th Church

SLIGO, Ohio--(BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio reached another milestone when First Baptist church was constituted here. The Sligo church is the 100th Southern Baptist church to be organized in Ohio.

The church, formerly sponsored by Blue Ash Church of Cincinnati had a charter membership of 85. At the present time the church has paid for a building site and constructed the foundation for the first building.

The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, constituted in 1954 with 39 churches, now has 100 churches and 29 missions. Goals for this year include 80 new missions and 36 new churches.

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BP folks & facts

.....With 293 students enrolled for the spring semester, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif., the cumulative enrollment for 1956-57 has reached a record high of 347.

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Baptist Hospitals Said
To Originate Locally

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Hospital Board has issued a statement saying that movements to establish Southern Baptist Convention hospitals have always originated from local Baptist groups rather than the board or the Convention.

The statement also says that accepting federal grants for Southern Baptist hospitals, such as could be done under the present Hill-Burton Act, "is out of the question."

Their statement as to the grants, however, would be binding only on the two hospitals operated by the Southern Baptist Convention at large -- in New Orleans and in Jacksonville, Fla.

Other Southern Baptist hospitals are operated by the state Baptist conventions affiliated with the SBC. These independent state conventions however have also declined to permit Hill-Burton funds to be used for expansion of Baptist hospitals under their control.

The Hospital Board's statement followed comments elsewhere both supporting and objecting to a proposed new Southern Baptist Convention hospital in Miami. This proposed hospital would be operated by the SBC at large rather than by Florida Baptists or Miami Baptists alone.

It also followed action by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and some other Baptist groups opposing the provisions of the Hill-Burton Act and seeking its revision, because they believe it violates the separation of church and state in America. They want it revised so that denominational hospitals will no longer be able to receive government grants.

The Hospital Board said that the hospital in New Orleans was established after a petition originated with the New Orleans Baptist Association and the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The hospital project in Jacksonville followed the same pattern.

The board continued with these remarks on the matter of government aid to hospitals:

"We are of the conviction that the acceptance of Government grants to be used in the building and/or operation of hospitals by any Baptist group is in violation of the principle of separation of Church and State, regardless of the favorable conditions or circumstances under which the grants are made. . . . If we accept Government funds for the building of hospitals, we certainly can raise no objections to the Government subsidizing denominational schools or other service institutions or organizations operated and conducted by religious groups."

Churches Must Decide
College Race Issue

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention are the ones which must decide if the denomination's colleges and universities will open their doors to students of all races.

This is the opinion of G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, four-year Baptist school in Pineville, La., as voiced in the January issue of Southern Baptist Educator.

Guinn adds: "Until the churches receive Negroes into their membership, it is doubtful that the college should open its doors to Negroes."

He explains that the Baptist college does not exist for itself; it "must always be loyal to and reflect the views of the churches that gave it birth and sustain it."

About six Southern Baptist colleges (not including seminaries) have decided to admit students of other than the white race. "Most of our colleges are still caught in the struggle. Their ultimate course is yet to be determined," according to Guinn.

The college president declares that both those who want to maintain segregation and those who want to open colleges to all races rely on Scripture to support their arguments.

Asserting that the decision of the individual college should be based on the churches that support it, Guinn says: "It is certain that the college should not integrate without the assurance that it is carrying out the will of the churches."

The Southern Baptist Convention, although it owns and operates seminaries, does not own and operate colleges and universities. These are owned and operated by the various state Baptist conventions which co-operate with the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Baptistry Burns In
Greenville, S. C.

GREENVILLE, S. C.--(BP)--The baptistry at Brushy Creek Baptist Church here caught fire recently.

The electrical system used to heat the water in the baptismal pool developed a short circuit. The pool was empty so the heat built up and a fire resulted. The church janitor doused the fire before fire trucks arrived.

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BP folks & facts

.....A former missionary scholarship student, Miss Mary Fitzer, joined the Oklahoma Woman's Missionary Union Feb. 1 to serve in the youth department.

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Gardner-Webb Student
Works Despite Polio

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C.--(BP)--Martha Mason, resident freshman at Gardner-Webb College here, is the nation's only boarding college student confined to an iron lung.

An 18-year-old who has been in an iron lung since 1948, Martha "attends" classes by using a two-way communications system leading from the various classrooms to her apartment in the dormitory where she lives with her parents.

The young co-ed manages to hear chapel programs, church service, social and sports events, and to complete her studies with "honor roll" rating.

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Charles Maddry Retires
From N. C. Pastorate

HILLSBORO, N. C.--(BP)--Charles E. Maddry, former executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has retired from pastorate of First Baptist Church here.

Maddry began his preaching ministry in 1901, and he came to the Hillsboro church in 1902 -- his first pastorate.

Maddry says he wants to make room "for a younger man, one with new enthusiasm and a new outlook on the intricate problems and needs of a church in this confused, atomic age."

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Moore Elected To Post
By Illinois Baptists

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--E. Harmon Moore, secretary of stewardship and missions of the Illinois Baptist State Association, has been elected associate executive secretary in charge of missions.

Moore will continue to direct the mission program in Illinois and will work under the direction of the missions committee. In addition he will assist in the general promotional work done by the office of the executive secretary.

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Second Pledge Paid To
\$75 Million Campaign

BESSEMER, Ala.--(BP)--A Bessemer Baptist has sent \$25 in payment of her pledge to the old \$75 Million Campaign of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The \$75 Million Campaign, a fund-raising program of about 30 years ago, was never fully subscribed.

Mrs. Delma Scales, of Bessemer, said she had read in her state Baptist paper that a Los Angeles, Calif., woman recently sent in \$50 to pay out her long-standing \$75 Million Campaign pledge. Mrs. Scales recalled she owed a pledge too.

Southern Baptist Treasurer Porter Routh of Nashville, said the money will be applied to the Convention's current financial plan, the Cooperative Program, which supports all missionary and benevolent work done by the Convention.

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BP folks & facts

.....Registration for the second semester at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is currently running ahead of student enrollment for the same period last year. According to Miss Katie Reed, registrar, enrollment for the the new semester had reached 1714; in 1956, 1691 students had completed their registration by this date.

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.....A check for \$5000 was received by the Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, Ky., from Davella Mills Foundation of Montclair, N. J.

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.....Tom C. Lawler of Richland Hills Baptist Church, Fort Worth, became pastor of Northway Baptist Church, Milwaukee, Wisc., Feb. 1. He is the first Texas pastor to move to Wisconsin-Minnesota association since it became part of Baptist General Convention of Texas last November.

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