

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

March 31, 1957

College Trustees Vote
Confidence In Leader

PINEVILLE, La.--(BP)--Louisiana College trustees have issued a report in which they express "continued confidence as to character, ability, and quality of leadership" of College President G. Earl Guinn.

The trustees' statement followed their investigation of criticism directed against the college administration. Trustees said a committee of their number held three hearings at which critics could present their views.

The report listed criticisms of the college, with a statement of the committee's findings following each criticism.

The trustees' lengthy report ended with an appeal to "friends and supporters of Louisiana College (to) close ranks and work together for an even greater and more glorious college."

The report also said the board looked with favor on employing a college public relations director at an early date.

The four-year college, located in Pineville, is operated by the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

-30-

\$100,000 Left To Endow
Foreign Mission Work

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.--(BP)--A 73-year-old San Antonio widow, Mrs. Lillian Nelson, has transferred \$100,000 in common stocks to the Baptist Foundation of Texas to be used as a permanent endowment fund for foreign missions after her death.

Until her death, income from the stocks will provide her with annuity income. Mrs. Nelson is a member of Beacon Hill Baptist Church and has been a Sunday school teacher for 55 years.

"If I can't go to the foreign mission field," she said, "it is my duty to make provision for those who can. I am obligated to see that the other person has the same opportunity of knowing Christ that I have had."

-30-

S.B.C. Increases Over
1½ Million In 7 Years

CHICAGO--(BP)--In the seven years since Southern Baptists last trekked to Chicago for their annual Convention, the denomination has grown in membership from 7 million to over 8½ million.

The number of churches co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention has increased during that span from 27,800 to 30,800.

Southern Baptist Convention work has moved more and more out of the traditional South with the organization of state Baptist conventions in Ohio and Colorado which are affiliated with the SBC.

The Colorado convention actually represents six states. In addition to Colorado, it has co-operating churches in Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, and both Dakotas.

Michigan Southern Baptists are looking forward to organizing a state convention in the near future. They are presently sponsored by the Arkansas convention.

In Indiana, Southern Baptists are sponsored by the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky and the Illinois Baptist State Association. Hoosier Baptists, too, are planning for a state convention of their own.

Recently, the Texas convention voted to support Southern Baptist work in the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Total gifts to Southern Baptist Convention work, both local and Convention-wide, were near \$200 million in 1950. Today annual gifts are close to twice that amount. They reached over \$372 million last year, and may top the \$400 million mark in 1957.

There are seven times as many Southern Baptist churches in Chicago's metropolitan area than seven years ago. Then, there were eight churches with 1131 members compared with the present 57 churches and 7368 members.

The Illinois Baptist State Association, which had just over 600 co-operating churches in 1950, believes there will be 800 co-operating churches by Convention meeting time. Membership of these churches has increased from 102,000 to beyond 136,000.

Illinois Baptists are boosting Chicago strongly as site for a proposed sixth Southern Baptist seminary. Missouri Baptists are boosting Kansas City, host to last year's convention, and Baptists farther west are backing Denver.

Seven years ago, the major decisions of the Convention session included:

1. Locating the Convention's fourth and fifth seminaries. One was to be in Berkeley, Cal., known as Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, the other in Wake Forest, N.C., known as Southeastern Baptist Seminary.
2. A request that the President of the United States and Government bodies withdraw the representative to the Vatican "immediately."
3. Reaffirmation of "our conviction that Southern Baptists cannot enter into organic connection with the Federal (National) Council of Churches of Christ in America or any other organizations which would compromise Baptist principles and truths revealed in the inspired Word of God.

Baptist Students Meet
For 12th Conference

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Baptist students from colleges and seminaries of the South met at American Baptist Seminary here recently for the 12th annual conference of the Fellowship of Baptist Theological Students.

The Fellowship is an inter-racial organization of Baptist students, educators, ministers, and laymen. According to Ernest Poston, its executive director, the Fellowship's purpose is to "explore together ways of promoting an awakened Christian conscience and a proper understanding and application of Christian principles in human relations."

-30-

BP folks & facts

.....Wendell H. Ford, Southern Baptist layman from Tulsa, Okla., and president of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, attended the "Religion in American Life" dinner in New York recently. Ford is one of seven Southern Baptists who are members of the sponsoring "layman's committee" of RIAL.

-0-

.....Mrs. J. T. Lyons, McComb, Miss., was formally elected president of Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union at the closing session of its 79th annual meeting in Jackson, Miss. She succeeds Miss Almarine Brown, Jackson, who retired after six years of service.

-0-

.....Stanley R. Hahn, pastor, First Baptist Church, Cairo, Ga., has resigned to become pastor of Southside Estates Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla. His resignation is effective May 1.

-0-

.....James C. D. McDaniel, pastor, Stanton Baptist Church, Stanton, Ky., and county missionary for Powell County, Ky., has accepted pastorate of Kingston Baptist Church, Kingston, Ga.

-30-