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Increased Circulation
Of Papers Recommended

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Committee on State Baptist Papers recommends that the 1957 Southern Baptist Convention take action to promote increased circulation of the papers.

H. H. McGinty, editor of the Word and Way, Missouri Baptist weekly newspaper here, is chairman of the committee. He reports there are 25 state Baptist newspapers, most of which are printed weekly.

The papers have a combined circulation today of 1,279,691 compared with 850,612 seven years ago. During that time, three new state Baptist papers have been created.

The committee's recommendations for increased circulations follow two lines: (1) that SBC agencies emphasize the importance of the state papers and promote them, and (2) that the 30,800 affiliated SBC churches send the paper of their respective states into every Baptist home in the churches' memberships.

McGinty said that the present circulation reaches an estimated 5 million of the more than 8½ million Southern Baptists. Many churches have plans for sending the state papers into the homes of their members.

"The unifying and co-ordinating effect of these papers would be difficult to estimate," the committee says. "The state Baptist papers have had much to do with inducing (the) unity (through which) Southern Baptists are making a remarkable record of achievement."

"It is interesting to note that the increase in the combined circulation of these papers has exceeded the rate of increase in the membership of the Convention," according to the committee.

The committee said the papers "are responsive to" the challenge to establish 30,000 new preaching points in the Convention by 1964 and to the new Forward Program of Church Finance.

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BP folks & facts

.....E.S. Hall has assumed his duties as pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church, Shubuta, Miss. He comes from First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Ark.

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.....Franklin M. Segler, acting dean of the school of theology, Southwestern Baptist Seminary, has received a \$4,000 fellowship for further study from the Rockefeller Brothers Theological Fellowship Program.

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Group Reviews Policy
Of Baptist Chaplaincy

(Picture enclosed goes with this story.)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A committee of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee has taken under advisement procedures and policies followed in relationships between the Southern Baptist Convention and ministers serving as chaplains.

The committee conducted a day-long hearing in Nashville recently. It was set up after the Chaplains Commission of the Home Mission Board, which established the policies and procedures, asked the Executive Committee to review them.

Lemuel Hall, Veterans' Administration chaplain at Oteen, N. C., and B. J. Murrie, Carbondale, Ill., minister, questioned some of the policies and procedures.

Hall asked about denominational endorsement, which the military and Veterans' Administration require before accepting a minister for the chaplaincy.

The denominational endorsement must be continued for the chaplain to remain in service. Such endorsement states among other things that the minister-chaplain remains true to the principles and policies of the denomination and possesses moral fortitude and temperament suitable for the chaplaincy.

Hall said that "this Commission puts a smear on a man when it withdraws its endorsement." He also asked if individual Baptist churches rather than the Chaplains Commission should not give the endorsements.

Murrie said that the membership of the Chaplains Commission was not inclusive enough and that its rules of procedure did not show any limitation on the terms its members could serve.

Murrie also questioned whether a chaplain would be considered "non-co-operative" if he failed to file monthly reports with the Commission.

Ivan L. Bennett, Alexandria, Va., a Southern Baptist who was chief of chaplains for the Army from 1952 to 1954, spoke on behalf of the Chaplains Commission.

Bennett said it is "not the policy of the government to deal with local churches in endorsement." He said that the various branches of the military service look to the denominations to tell them whether their ministers are "emotionally or temperamentally suitable" for the chaplaincy.

Chaplain (Col.) Robert P. Taylor, staff chaplain at headquarters, Air University, Maxwell Field, Ala., supported the Chaplains Commission. He spoke in favor of the policies and procedures of the Commission. Taylor said he had been a chaplain for 18 years.

Several other chaplains or former chaplains supported the Commission.

Bennett declared that the "percentage of failures of chaplains was 20 times greater before denominational endorsement was required than afterward." He pleaded for the denomination to trust its Chaplains Commission.

He said that the quota for chaplains from the various denominations is based on their numerical strength. "The quota is not given to a church," Bennett added.

Survey Committee Asks
Another Year For Work

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.--(BP)--A committee created last year to study the total Southern Baptist Convention program will ask the 1957 Convention to give it another year in which to complete its survey of denominational work.

The committee's annual report to the Convention, released by Chairman Douglas M. Branch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, will also recommend that the Convention appropriate an additional \$25,000. It will be used for consultant and other necessary services needed in completing the study.

The 1956 Southern Baptist Convention established the committee to study the functions of the agencies and boards of the Southern Baptist Convention and their relationship with the 30,800 affiliated churches, with the 24 state conventions, and with other agencies and boards.

The goal of the study is to find "the most effective way of promoting the kingdom (of God) through the Southern Baptist Convention." The committee was granted \$25,000 to use during the first year of its study.

In December the committee employed the services of Booz, Allen, and Hamilton, of Chicago, a professional management consultant firm. The firm agreed to conduct the first phase of the study -- a fact-finding phase -- of the Southern Baptist Convention's program, according to Branch.

The management consultant firm agreed to make these findings available in printed form to the committee by June, 1957, at a cost not to exceed \$22,500, Branch said.

When the firm of Booz, Allen, and Hamilton met with the committee on Mar. 21 and 22 to review progress to date, it became apparent that the committee would not be able to make a specific recommendation concerning any phase of the Southern Baptist program before the 1957 Convention, Branch continued.

"Our study thus far has convinced us of several things," the committee reports. "First, Southern Baptists constitute one of the major spiritual forces in America today.

"Second, we are also convinced that we must awaken our people to the tremendous responsibility we have in winning America and the world to Jesus Christ and to realization that we are under obligation to God and to the world to find the most effective means for directing the energies of this great Christian body in establishing the Kingdom of God on earth."

"It should be noted," the committee continues in its report, "that while there have been committees and commissions which from time to time have studied certain facets of the Southern Baptist Convention program, this is the first time in 112 years of existence as a distinct religious denomination that a serious effort has been made

to study the total framework of our denominational program and to bring that program into harmony with the best methods of functional efficiency."

The committee says it has sought to be guided by Article II of the Southern Baptist Constitution which states the purpose of the Convention, and by Article IV which withholds from the Convention any authority over any other Baptist body, whether a church, auxiliary organization, association, or state convention.

"We are convinced that in carrying out the mission of our Lord, the Southern Baptist Convention can make its best contribution by performing those functions which the local churches, district associations, and state conventions or associations cannot perform more effectively," the report states. Another guiding principle the committee has sought to follow is that each agency and institution of the Convention "is morally bound to serve the best interests of the total Southern Baptist Convention program."

"In the course of our study your committee and the professional group working with us have identified many points where we believe correlation and improvement could be made in the total Southern Baptist Convention program with resultant increased effectiveness in carrying forward our God-given mission," according to the committee.

The committee says it has not encountered any incompetence or wilful waste anywhere during its study.

The committee says that it will present its final report to the 1958 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, Tex. A copy of its proposed report will be available through Baptist Press at least 60 days prior to that Convention.

Before the report is presented in its final form, the committee says it will consult the boards and executive officers of those agencies and institutions which may be involved in an effort to find a common ground of agreement.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

In the course of our study your committee and the professional group working with us have identified many points where we believe correlation and improvement could be made in the total Southern Baptist Convention program with resultant increased effectiveness in carrying forward our God-given mission. This is not to say that incompetence or wilful waste have been encountered anywhere--they have not. It is to say that we believe this vast, intricate and glorious work of Southern Baptists can be improved in effectiveness through intelligent, reverent and prayerful effort. As your servants, committed unreservedly to the Baptist message and method, your committee is willing to faithfully carry forward this study if you desire it. We therefore submit the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that this study committee be continued for another year in order that we may get our report in final form, discuss it freely with the boards and executive officers of those agencies and institutions which may be involved in an effort to find a common ground of agreement, and then to publish it in the Baptist press at least sixty days prior to the 1958 convention at which time we would make our final report.

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2. We recommend that the Convention authorize an expenditure at the committee's discretion of a maximum of \$25,000.00 for consultant and other necessary services needed in carrying this project to completion.

In closing the committee wishes to take note of the fact that all executive officers and board members of Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions and other denominational leaders contacted in this study have given superb cooperation. Each seemed anxious to do more effectively what is now being done well. We believe this spirit among our denominational servants will carry us forward to greater things for our Lord.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,

Your Committee
Douglas M. Branch, Chairman
Mrs. J. I. Alford, Secretary

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Baptist Encyclopedia
In Final Stage of Work

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The last set of manuscripts for the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists has been sent to the printer, Norman W. Cox, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Historical Commission, reported.

With a total of 899 writers and 57 editorial workers, the Encyclopedia will be published in two volumes. To be printed by Kingsport Press, Kingsport, Tenn., the work is being published by Broadman Press of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

The Encyclopedia, scheduled for release early in 1958, includes 4349 articles and 90 pages of pictures. 8767 pages of manuscript were sent to the printer.

The Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists is produced under the auspices of a committee of representatives from each of the Southern Baptist state conventions, agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary.

According to Cox, 80 per cent of the material has already been set into type.

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Texas Governor Given
Sunday School Award

DALLAS--(BP)--Oklahoma Gov. Raymond Gary, a Baptist Sunday school teacher and deacon, has received the first annual Texas Baptist Sunday School Award of Recognition.

E. Hermond Westmoreland, president, Baptist General Convention of Texas, presented a plaque commemorating the event to Gov. Gary.

Gov. Gary is a member of the Kelham Ave. Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, a member of the Oklahoma Baptist University board of trustees, and a member of the Oklahoma Baptist General Convention board.

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