

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

March 20, 1953

HOUSTON SBC CONVENTION
WILL CONSIDER '54 BUDGET

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The 1954 budget of the Southern Baptist Convention will be one of the major items considered when the Convention meets in Houston, May 6-10. It will come as a recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Convention, Porter Routh, executive secretary.

The recommended budget calls for a full \$8,750,000 for the Cooperative Program to be distributed for current expenses and capital needs in 1954. The Committee is asking that distribution be made on a single percentage basis instead of the heretofore double percentage basis. Under the new plan there will be no differentiation between current funds and capital needs funds. Each agency eligible for capital needs funds will meet their goals out of funds accruing to them from the single budget.

Breakdown of the funds going to the agencies and institutions is as follows:

<u>Agencies or Institutions</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
For. Mission Board	\$3,475,000	39.71
Home Mission Board	1,149,800	13.14
Relief & Annuity Bd.	791,900	9.05
Southern Seminary	590,517	6.75
Southwestern Seminary	590,517	6.75
New Orleans Seminary	644,416	7.37
Golden Gate Seminary	384,450	4.39
Southeastern Seminary	490,900	5.61
W.M.U. Training School	57,500	.66
American Bapt. Seminary	101,000	1.15
Southern Bapt. Hospital	160,000	1.83
Baptist Brotherhood	61,000	.70
Radio Commission	137,000	1.57
Public Affairs Com.	15,000	.17
Baptist World Alliance	25,000	.29
Southern Bapt. Foundation	15,000	.17
Education Commission	22,000	.25
Historical Commission	24,000	.27
Social Service Commission	15,000	.17
TOTAL	\$8,750,000	100.00

All money above the \$8,750,000 budget will be distributed 75 per cent to the Foreign Mission Board and 25 per cent to the Home Mission Board, except that the first \$160,000 will be distributed to the Woman's Missionary Union Training School (Carver School of Missions and Social Work) in Louisville, Ky., in accordance with the action of the Convention in Miami, Fla., last year.

The Convention operating budget for 1954 totals \$160,000 with \$45,000 for Convention expense including the Annual, \$10,000 for special committee meetings; \$75,000 for the Executive Committee, and \$30,000 for Convention reserve. By agreement the Baptist Sunday School Board will pay \$60,000 of the amount required for the Convention operating budget and the remaining \$100,000 will be provided out of distributable funds before

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other allocations are made.

The Committee will also recommend that the American Baptist Seminary Commission be authorized to use capital funds for operating needs up to the amount of other undesignated funds used for capital needs since a survey of capital needs funds was made in 1945.

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HOUSTON CONVENTION TO VOTE
1953 SBC CAPITAL FUNDS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention will recommend to the Convention meeting in Houston, May 6-10, that an estimated \$3,000,000 expected to be available this year for capital needs from the Southern Convention Cooperative Program be distributed as follows:

<u>Agencies or Institution</u>	<u>Amount</u>
For. Mission Board	\$600,000
Home Mission Board	439,800
Relief & Annuity Bd.	291,900
Southern Seminary	304,200
Southwestern Seminary	304,200
New Orleans Seminary	380,100
Golden Gate Seminary	199,800
Southeastern Seminary	300,000
American Bapt. Seminary	42,000
Southern Bapt. Hospital	120,000
Baptist Brotherhood	6,000
Radio Commission	12,000
TOTAL	<u>\$3,000,000</u>

This is in line with a long standing policy of the Convention to rate distribution of capital needs funds within the year in which the funds accrue.

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COMMITTEE APPOINTED

FORT WORTH, Tex.--(BP)--A Committee has been named to find a successor to Dr. E. D. Head, who has resigned as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. It consists of William Fleming, of Fort Worth; E. L. Garnett, president of Buckner Benevolences, Dallas; John H. Haldeman, of Miami, Fla.; W. D. Wyatt, of Albuquerque, N. M.; H. H. Hargrove, of Brownwood, Tex.; E. C. Brown and Scot L. Tatum, of Shreveport, La.

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BAPTIST WORK IN TEXAS

BY
W. R. Estep, Jr.
Chairman Publicity Committee
Southern Baptist Convention
Houston, Texas

Baptist history in Texas is, to say the least, out of the ordinary as far as the growth of Baptists in the United States is concerned. It is believed that pioneer Baptist preachers came into the vast territory which is now Texas around 1812. By 1822, in spite of opposition and threats of imprisonment from the Mexican authorities, Baptists had come into both the political and religious leadership of the Texas frontier. Sam Houston, a man of Baptist leanings from Tennessee, led in the fight for independence against the combined forces of papal tyranny and Mexican oppression. With the formation of the new Republic, Baptist work passed through another ever widening phase of its existence which continued to increase with even greater tempo with Texas being admitted to the Union.

The success of the Baptist message in Texas has been phenomenal. From an insignificant despised sect in a foreign land, Texas Baptists now number 1,254,233 in 3,500 churches. Texas Baptist headquarters, under the direction of the executive secretary, Dr. J. Howard Williams, is located in Dallas, with over twenty departments and phases included in the scope of Texas Baptist work.

The Baptist educational system embraces seven senior colleges, one junior college, an academy, and three professional schools. The colleges are East Texas Baptist College, Marshall; Howard Payne College, Brownwood; Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, famous the world over for its Cowboy Band; Wayland College, Plainview, serving the vast Panhandle and students from many foreign countries; Corpus Christi University, meeting the needs of South Texas and Latin American countries; Mary-Hardin Baylor, Belton, and Baylor University, Waco, our oldest and best known Baptist institutions. Decatur Baptist College, Decatur, is our junior college, and San Marcos Baptist Academy, our only academy.

The professional schools are Baylor University College of Dentistry, Dallas; Baylor University School of Nursing, Waco; and Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston. A Southern Baptist institution, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is located in Fort Worth. Another, Relief and Annuity Board is located in Dallas.

Texas Baptists maintain six hospitals in different sections of the state, and

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Southern Baptists support a hospital in San Antonio.

Along with the program of teaching, preaching, and healing, three orphanages in the state care for between 850 and 900 children. They are Buckner Orphans Home in Dallas, Mexican Baptist Orphans Home in San Antonio, and Texas Baptist Children's Home in Round Rock. New ventures by the Buckner Home include Buckner Boys' Ranch near Marble Falls and Bethesda Home for unfortunate girls in San Antonio. Texas Baptist Haven, a home for the aged, will soon become a reality. A forty-five acre site on Memorial Drive in Houston has already been purchased for it.

And the end is not yet in sight. With the population of the Northeast ever shifting toward the Southwest, and particularly Texas, Baptists are presented with the never ending problem of winning the stranger, who many times does not speak his language either literally or figuratively, to Christ. The future is truly as bright as the promises of God and the vision and energies of Texas Baptists.

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ALL SBC LAYMEN INVITED
TO PASTORS' CONFERENCE

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Southern Baptist laymen are invited to attend sessions of the annual Pastors' Conference in Houston, Tex., May 4-5. The invitation was extended by Dr. C. C. Warren, Charlotte, N. C., of the Pastors' Conference, through George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission.

In his message to Mr. Schroeder he stated, "We have an unusually fine program this year. Our laymen will be particularly interested in several messages to be brought by prominent pastors. We cordially anticipate the attendance of Brotherhood men who may arrive early for the Convention at all sessions of the conference."

The conference begins Monday evening, May 4. Other sessions are scheduled for Tuesday morning and afternoon. The closing session is Tuesday evening, May 5.

Program personalities include Chaplain Ivan Bennett, Chief of Chaplains, Washington, D. C.; R. C. Campbell, North Carolina; Paul S. James, Georgia; and Billy Graham, North Carolina.

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OKLAHOMAN IS PRESIDENT
FOUNDATION SECRETARIES

EDGEWATER PARK, Miss.--(BP)--Dr. Auguie Henry, Oklahoma, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Foundation secretaries at their annual meeting here. Dr. Harry Lee Spencer, Mississippi, was elected vice-president and Mr. N. Lee Dunham, Missouri, secretary.

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BAPTIST WORK IN CONVENTION CITY

The world has been told with unrestrained enthusiasm, traditional in Texas, of the vibrant growth of Houston. But the Houston story has a counterpart that is even more amazing and which is not so well known. That is the Baptist story.

Most Baptist work in the Houston area is accomplished within the framework of Union Baptist Association, one of the largest among Southern Baptists. It includes 115 churches with a membership of more than 103,000. Possibilities for growth apparently are tailored to Baptist taste, for denominational work is expanding more rapidly than is Houston as a city. Baptists are carrying forth an aggressive program under the leadership of Dr. Ross E. Dillon, executive secretary of the association. The 115 churches reported 6,081 baptisms and 16,993 total additions during the associational year, ending September 1952. This was an increase of 1,790 over the previous year.

The work of Union Association has not always been so impressive as numbers go, though its area until six years ago included five counties along the coastal plains of Southeast Texas. Organized in 1840, the work in early years was carried on by itinerant preachers who helped to serve the sparsely settled communities and widely scattered churches of the association.

For many years pastors of Union Association have had a vital interest in missions which culminated in the organization of the City Mission Board and the Baptist Woman's City Union. Dr. Dillon began his work in Houston as city superintendent of missions in April 1948. About a year later, he became executive secretary of the association. Houston pastors felt that a strong mission program could be better promoted by nearby churches, with the result that they banded together in the present Union Baptist Association, while other churches outside of Harris County formed their own associations.

Since 1948, churches of Union Association have established twenty-seven missions, including seven for Spanish-speaking Baptists and one for Chinese baptists. From this number have sprung twenty self-supporting churches and twenty-one missions. Though each mission is sponsored by a church, the association often extends financial aid. This aid to missions and other benevolences last year amounted to \$883,843. During the year \$4,722,726 was given for all causes.

From a physical standpoint, the story of progress is characterized by gleaming structures of modernistic design and, in many instances, little white frame buildings of the new churches and missions. Church property in the association is valued at more than \$15,000,000.

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The Baptist message is presented by way of a fifteen-minute radio program six days a week, with several of the churches sponsoring their own programs. The association also sponsors its own monthly magazine, the BAPTIST MESSENGER. A large, well-stocked book store in the city helps to augment the work.

Baptist work in Houston is also strengthened through the ministries of Baylor University College of Medicine and Memorial Hospital. Strong B.S.J. programs are carried on in these two institutions and also in Rice Institute and the University of Houston. A full-time chaplain serves Memorial Hospital. The association employs a full-time chaplain and a hospital visitor to visit Baptist patients in other hospitals of the city.

Negro Baptists number around 80,000 members, with over 200 churches which form twenty associations in six conventions. A Negro seminary known as the Union Baptist Theological Seminary is supported jointly by the Union Association and Negro Baptists.

Although much has been accomplished in the past, there are yet a large number of challenging tasks ahead. Funds are now being raised for the Texas Baptist Haven, a home for the aged. Other worthy projects will doubtless command the association's best in cooperative effort in the future.

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TEXAS COLLEGES TO BORROW \$1,900,000 FOR BUILDINGS

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--Texas Baptist, March 3, gave two schools the go-ahead signal to issue and sell more than \$1,900,000 in bonds.

The two schools, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, and Howard Payne College, Brownwood, will use the sale of bonds to finance new housing facilities.

Recommendation that the two schools each be given an O.K. to sell the revenue bonds came from the board's committee on loans to institutions headed by Dr. E. S. James, of Vernon.

Hardin-Simmons University will use \$1,302,280 from the bond sales to build two new dormitories and remodel an old one. Administrators at Howard Payne College announced that the college would use money from the sales to raze an old building and erect a new dormitory.

The bonds, to be liquidated in forty years from dormitory and other fees, will be offered first to private investors. If private investors do not purchase the revenue

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type bonds, the Federal Government's Housing and Home Finance Agency has guaranteed sale of the bonds as an aid to student housing for educational institutions contributing to national defense. Members of the board were assured that this would not violate the principle of the separation of church and state since the bonds would first be issued for sale on the open market.

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GARDNER COMMITTEE
REPORTS AT HOUSTON

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--Southern Baptists meeting at Houston, May 6-10, will be called upon to vote on two recommendations being submitted by the Committee on Relations with Other Religious Bodies.

The text of the recommendation is as follows:

1. That the teaching agencies of our Convention continue their effort with renewed vigor to strengthen Baptist conviction with reference to the dangers of inter-denominationalism and non-denominationalism.
2. That the Southern Baptist Convention through its teaching agencies continue to co-operate with the churches affiliated with our Convention in magnifying the scriptural, authoritative position of local, sovereign, New Testament churches, defined in the constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention as "regular Baptist churches" in administering the church ordinances.

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URGENT HOME
ANNOUNCEMENT

HOUSTON, Tex.--(BP)--The Homes Committee for the Southern Baptist Convention urgently requests that all requests for home assignments be sent to it before April 15, in order that they may be properly processed before Convention time. Persons writing later than this date will be cared for, but the committee cannot guarantee that such requests will be processed before the messengers leave home. Contact the Homes Committee at 2420 Milam, Houston, Tex. Make all checks and drafts payable to Union Baptist Association.

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