

November 24, 1954

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

RADIO GROUP TO ASK
MOVE TO FORT WORTH

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--The Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, producers of the "Baptist Hour," Tuesday night voted unanimously to recommend to the Executive Committee of the Convention that it be allowed to move from its present site in Atlanta, Ga., to Fort Worth, Tex. This announcement was made by Malcolm B. Knight, Jacksonville, Fla., chairman of the twenty-nine member Commission. This was a semi-annual meeting.

The possibility of relocation came up early this year in an effort to arrive at more suitable technical facilities.

Decision to move to Fort Worth came after concentrated study of written proposals from several cities, including Atlanta and Tulsa, Okla., and visits to all cities by the Commission's Central Committee.

Several factors influenced the recommendation. Among them were: offer of Radio and Television Station WBAP's outstanding technical facilities, an apparent avenue to excellent local relations, and the scheduling of the "Baptist Hour" on a fifty thousand watt clear channel station. Access to more radio and television production facilities at cost, and a more adequate headquarters building also played a part in the decision.

The matter of moving the Commission was taken to the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo., last June, but by action of the Convention was referred to the Convention's Executive Committee. Action of the Convention is as follows:

"That the place of location be left open for further study of the Radio and Television Commission with the instruction that they present their report to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention or to the Southern Baptist Convention for final approval with the understanding that if circumstances should arise within the year that should be to the advantage of the Radio and Television Commission to move, that the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention be given authority to approve the location with necessary charter changes required."

The Executive Committee meets in Nashville, Tenn., December 15-16, at which time a final decision will be rendered.

Tuesday night's indications were that the Radio and Television Commission's headquarters would not be moved immediately.

Paul Stevens is director of the Commission.

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BAPTIST CONVENTIONS
REPORT ADVANCEMENT

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--October and mid-November were progressive months for Southern Baptists. During this time most of the states met in annual session to review work of the past year, adopt new Cooperative Program budgets, and make plans for next year's work. All the work done by the conventions was forward-looking. Listed below are short reports of some of the state conventions.

MISSISSIPPI: Elected Layman Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, president. Met in Jackson November 16-18 with over 1,000 present. Okayed a million-dollar campaign for the Mississippi Baptist Hospital--\$500,000 to be raised in Jackson and \$500,000 more over the state. Adopted a \$1,510,000 budget for 1955. \$1,300,000 less administrative expenses is to be divided 45 per cent for Southern Convention causes and 55 per cent for state causes.

LOUISIANA: Met in Baton Rouge, November 16-18 with 844 messengers. Elected S. C. Rushing, pastor, Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, president. Adopted a total Cooperative Program budget of \$1,570,000 to be divided 45 per cent to state causes and 55 per cent to Southern Baptist causes. Adopted resolutions calling for Baptists to back anti-gambling crusade of state police and to establish public affairs committee to watch for separation of church and state violations.

ALABAMA: In session, Mobile, November 16-18, the Baptists approved a Cooperative Program budget of \$1,153,250 to be divided 46 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention causes and 54 per cent to state causes. Henry L. Lyons, pastor, Highland Ave. Baptist Church, Montgomery, was elected president.

FLORIDA: Met in Daytona Beach, November 16-18. Adopted \$1,300,000 Cooperative Program budget with 50 per cent going to the Southern Baptist Convention and 50 per cent to the state. Elected Cecil B. Carroll, insurance executive from Jacksonville, president. Celebrated the Centennial of Florida Baptist Convention. Voted memorial to Southern Baptist Convention requesting the Convention to take such steps as will provide for the ownership, control, promotion, and support of Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla.

KENTUCKY: Gave approval to a \$1,800,000 budget to go 58 per cent to state mission causes and 42 per cent to Southern Baptist mission causes. Elected Harley C. Chiles, pastor, First Baptist Church, Murray, moderator.

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ARKANSAS: Met in Little Rock, November 16-18 with 1,275 messengers. Voted \$1,750,000 addition to Arkansas Baptist Hospital in Little Rock and a \$300,000 boys' dormitory for Ouachita College. Approved total Cooperative Program budget of \$1,205,375 with \$500,432 going to state causes and \$149,453 going to Southern Baptist Convention mission causes. Elected W. O. Vaught, Jr., Little Rock, president.

ARIZONA: Met in Winslow, November 10-12. Adopted \$206,434 Cooperative Program budget with 32 per cent going to Southern Baptist Convention and 68 per cent to the state. Adopted resolution asking Arizona Temperance Association to lead in securing legislation to prohibit sale of intoxicating beverage on Sunday. Re-elected Jack K. Maben, Glendale, president.

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GA. BAPTISTS VETO
COLLEGE MOVE PROPOSAL

AUGUSTA, Ga.--(BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention turned down a proposal of its education commission to relocate two of its six colleges, adopted its largest Cooperative Program budget in history and called for "the spirit of Christ" in racial problems, in annual session recently.

A three-hour debate preceded defeat of the plan to relocate Truett-McConnell, Cleveland and Brewton-Parker of Mount Vernon, junior colleges, in areas of great wealth and student possibilities. The education commission had given the alternative of relocation or continued high costs per student for operation. The convention accepted the latter plan.

The Cooperative Program budget provides \$792,300 for Convention-wide causes, the same for Georgia, and \$269,000 for administration and promotional expenses. The total is \$1,853,600 with a goal of \$2,000,000.

James W. Merritt, who retires January 1 as executive secretary, was elected president. He is retiring after thirty-four years of denominational service, including twenty-four as state secretary.

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SEMINARY TO BUILD
100 STUDENT APTS.

NEW ORLEANS, La.--(BP)--One hundred new student apartments costing \$840,000 will be constructed on the campus of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Roland Q. Leavell, president, announced.

The apartments will be of the two-bedroom type and will more than double the housing available to student families. Construction will be completed by fall, 1955.

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Nashville, Tennessee
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Baptist Press

PROMOTION CONFERENCE SET FOR
NASHVILLE, DECEMBER 14

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The eighty-five members of the Joint Promotion Conference of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention coming to Nashville December 14 for their semi-annual meeting will hear analysis of the biblical background for stewardship and reports on promotion of stewardship, recommendations on non-resident member problems, and the Stewardship Handbook Committee for 1955, according to J. Norris Palmer, Baton Rouge, chairman of the Conference. The conference will get underway at 9:00 a.m., December 14 and run through Wednesday, December 15. Two morning conferences, two afternoon conferences, and one evening conference have been scheduled.

Committee reports to be heard are: "Recommendations from Conference on Non-Resident Member Problem," C. E. Matthews, Dallas, Tex.; "Committee on Stewardship Handbook, 1955," Purser Hewitt, Jackson, Miss.; "World Evangelization Committee" H. Guy Moore, Fort Worth, Tex.; "Audio Visual Committee," C. Vaughan Rock, Phoenix, Ariz.; "Committee on Downtown Churches," Frank Tripp, New Orleans, La.; "Committee on Church Finance Record Forms," R. N. Owen, Nashville, Tenn.; "Future Program Committee," T. B. Lackey, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Also on program are: H. E. Ingraham, Nashville, Tenn., "Using the Services of the Sunday School Board in the Promotion of Stewardship;" Clifton J. Allen, "Proposed Program for Moral Values;" S. L. Stealey, Wake Forest, N. C., "Stewardship in the Old Testament;" H. H. Hobbs, Oklahoma City, Okla., "Stewardship in the Gospels;" John Newport, Fort Worth, Tex., "Stewardship in the Pauline Writings;" Robert E. Naylor, Fort Worth, Tex., "Some Practical Questions in the Application of Biblical Stewardship;" S. F. Dows, Atlanta, Ga., "The Rural Life Conference and its Significance to Southern Baptists;" A. C. Miller, Nashville, Tenn., "New Aspects of the Ministry of the Christian Life Commission;" W. J. McDonald, Canada, "Canadian Baptists and the Program of Stewardship;" and Baker James Cauthen, Richmond, Va., "Together We Build."

Showing of the filmstrip, "Starting a Church Budget for the First Time," will highlight the Tuesday evening session.

The Conference is under direction of Merrill D. Moore, Nashville, Tenn., and J. Norris Palmer, Baton Rouge, La.

RECORD CROWD ATTENDS
N. C. BAPTIST CONVENTION

GREENSBORO, N. C.--(BP)--A record-breaking total of 3,084 messengers and visitors overflowed the First Baptist Church here attending the 124th annual session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. This high was an increase over attendance set last year of 2,675 at Greensboro.

President Douglas M. Branch, Rocky Mount, and every other officer was re-elected, probably for the first time in the convention's history.

The convention also:

(1) Increased its Cooperative Program goal for 1955 to \$2,725,000 compared to \$2,275,000 anticipated income for this year, to be divided 59.31 per cent to state causes and 40.69 per cent for Southern Convention causes.

(2) Heard a report from Wake Forest College trustees saying that it would be mid-1955 before the college will move to Winston-Salem.

(3) Appointed a committee of twenty-one to study race relations.

(4) Granted Wake Forest permission to borrow \$3,000,000 for its new campus; Campbell College \$225,000 for a dormitory; and Meredith College \$150,000 for classrooms.

(5) Received a set of suggested by-laws and constitution for a local Baptist church. This action was taken after the property dispute at North Rocky Mount Baptist Church.

(6) Approved a committee's report recommending the continued separation of the Biblical Recorder, state Baptist paper, and Charity and Children, Baptist orphanage weekly.

(7) Deplored the closing of the Baptist church in Madrid, Spain, in a strongly worded resolution, calling the incident a "serious denial of the right of man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience."