

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Baptists from \_\_\_\_\_ will have important roles on the program of the Southern Baptist Convention, when it meets in annual session in Miami, Fla., May 18-21.

In addition, members of many Southern Baptist churches in the state will attend the Convention as messengers, empowered to vote on business matters.

In all, about 13,000 are expected to attend meetings of the Convention in Dinner Key Auditorium at Miami.

A conference for Southern Baptist ministers and a meeting of women belonging to the Convention's auxiliary, the Woman's Missionary Union, will precede the main Convention session.

The Southern Baptist Convention has nearly 30,000 self-governed local churches co-operating. These churches have a total membership of 8,169,000, making the Southern Baptist Convention the largest Baptist group in the United States.

These churches are located in more than thirty states, Hawaii, and Alaska.

Sessions of the Convention are held once a year in cities in various parts of the territory covered by Southern Baptist churches.

Policy decided at the Convention is not binding on the co-operating churches but is recommended to them to follow. Each of the churches is permitted to send messengers to vote on Convention affairs.

Some of the principal matters of business to come before the Convention at Miami include the election of Convention officers; a proposed increase in the Convention's missionary program; approval of budgets of agencies and institutions operated by the Convention, and the presentation of annual reports by these agencies and institutions.