

September 12, 1958

Texas Baptists Set Achievement Goals

DALLAS--(BP)--Texas Baptists will attempt to establish 300 new churches and missions next year and will try to increase their total gifts through co-operating churches to \$85 million.

Other achievement goals for 1959 set when the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas met here include a five per cent gain in Sunday school enrolment, a 15 per cent increase in Training Union enrolment, 75,000 baptisms, and total mission gifts to state and worldwide objectives of \$9,350,000.

Convention leaders said attainment of these goals would increase the number of co-operating churches and missions in the state to 4114 and would hike enrolment of Sunday schools in these churches to 1,167,202 and in Training Unions to 531,378.

If the \$85 million total giving goal is reached, it will mark an all-time record for the convention. The figure includes total contributions to local, state, national, and worldwide Baptist work.

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Start Efforts To Alter Buckner Home Charter

DALLAS--(BP)--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas has launched an effort to make two changes in the charter of Buckner Orphans' Home here, an institution of the convention.

One change would permit Buckner Home trustees to sell or lease part of their institution's property on Dallas' east side, provided proceeds from sale or lease continued to benefit the home.

A second charter change would enable pastors and women, as well as some additional laymen, to serve on the home's board of trustees. Since 1879 the charter has limited trustee membership to men serving as deacons in Baptist churches.

A change in the charter would continue to require that all trustees be members of Baptist churches in active co-operation with the Texas convention.

The two proposed changes must pass two additional bodies before becoming effective. They will first be submitted to the annual session of the general convention this fall. If approved there, the charter changes will be submitted to the Texas state legislature for its concurrence.

Buckner Home officials told the state executive board that there has been a demand for property owned by the home and now used in farming. One east Dallas civic group is interested in the property for a municipal junior college.

Some of the home's farm lands, Buckner officials continued, would be worth more to the home if they were sold and proceeds of the sale were invested with the state Baptist foundation.

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Sam Houston's Life Baptist Movie Theme

DALLAS--(BP)--Texas Baptists are planning a feature-length color movie on the life of Sam Houston, a Baptist layman who was a military hero and governor of two states.

The film will be produced by Worldwide Films Inc., the California company which produces films for Evangelist Billy Graham. The estimated million dollar-plus cost of the Houston film will be underwritten by individual Texas Baptists. It will be filmed along the pattern of Graham films rather than the pattern of secular films.

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Sam Houston first served as governor of Tennessee, later moving to Texas in its pre-statehood days. After Texas declared its independence, Houston was chosen commander-in-chief of its army. He was elected president of the republic of Texas. After Texas was admitted to the union, Houston was governor of the new state and also was a United States senator.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas, through its executive board, approved filming of Houston's life story, upon recommendation of a state Baptist public relations advisory committee. It was understood that the cost would be borne outside the convention by individual Baptists.

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College, 1959 Budget Georgia Recommendations

ATLANTA--(BP)--Georgia Baptist Convention's executive committee will recommend establishment of a Baptist college in Atlanta and a convention budget of \$2,821,936 for 1959.

Recommendations will be presented to the annual session of the Georgia convention here in November.

The Georgia Baptist education commission and a school committee of Atlanta Baptist Association asked executive committee approval of college plans. Monroe F. Swilley, pastor of Atlanta's Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church and chairman of the school committee, said "We definitely plan to establish a four-year senior college in time."

It was probable, however, that the college's first year would be open to freshmen only. The new school would be a co-ordinate college of Mercer University, Macon, Ga.

Coupled with recommendation for establishing the Atlanta college at an indefinite future date is another recommendation that a three-year fund-raising campaign be permitted to secure \$3 million for establishing the school. The fund-raising drive would be directed toward foundations and individuals.

The proposed 1959 convention budget is \$51,636 greater than the current budget. After setting aside \$308,250 for administration, promotion, and denominational retirement funds the balance of the new budget would be split equally between Georgia convention objectives and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The largest increase in the state's share of the 1959 budget is an additional \$10,000 for state missions.

The proposed budget also is subject to approval at the annual convention session here.

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140 Students Register As Midwestern Opens

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--"This may be the most important year in the history of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary," President Millard J. Berquist told the 140 students registering for the school's first year of operation here.

"This class will be responsible for setting the pattern for the seminary in the days ahead. The fingers of the future will point back during the next five, 50, or 100 years as we write history," he continued.

The 140 students represented almost the capacity of the new Southern Baptist Convention seminary, meeting during the coming year in buildings of local Calvary Baptist Church. Berquist said 150 students would be capacity, and he anticipates late registrants will cause the enrolment to reach that figure.

About 95 per cent of the students are married. All of them are first-year seminary men studying toward the bachelor of divinity degree. The Convention has limited the school to theological subjects.

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In addition to the president, the staff of the seminary includes four professors and a librarian with faculty status. "We expect to add five or six more faculty members before the opening of the 1959-1960 academic year," according to Berquist.

After opening on Monday, Sept. 8, the seminary held its first student assembly on Tuesday with Berquist conducting an orientation session. H. I. Hester, vice-president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and chairman of Midwestern trustees, spoke Wednesday at the first chapel service.

It is using the Westport Building of Calvary Baptist Church for its classrooms and student assemblies. Calvary Church is buying a former business building next door to the Westport Building and renting this building to the seminary. Midwestern's library is located on the first floor of this other building while staff offices and a book store are on the second floor.

Arrangements have been made with the Netherlands Hotel, less than two blocks from Calvary Church, to house single students. Many students commute daily to and from points within 50 miles of Kansas City. Others spend four days in Kansas City returning to homes and pastorates in Missouri and adjoining states on weekends.

"Most all of our students are located as far as work is concerned," Berquist said. Some were already holding pastorates within commuting distance; others have found pastorates to serve during seminary days. Still others have found secular employment to aid them financially while they secure an education.

One of the first dates on the academic calendar for the new seminary is Oct. 8, set apart as "Missionary Day." Baker James Cauthen, Richmond, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, will be the speaker.

"An open house and reception for Baptists in the Kansas City area will be held in the very near future," Berquist reported.

"The seminary has just purchased the library of William Rockwell, professor at Union Theological Seminary, New York City," he said. This 3000-volume library will be available immediately and will bring the number of volumes in Midwestern's library to 15,000, all "choicely selected," according to the president.

While the seminary opened its doors in buildings belonging to a local church, its administration was planning the development of a 99-acre campus site in another part of Kansas City, Mo.

Berquist said that construction of the first buildings on this property will start soon. First to be built will be a library, temporary chapel, and educational building.