

11 - November 9, 1958

Texas Baptists Adopt Race, School Reports

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.--(BP)--Texas Baptists, at their state convention session here, adopted a resolution deploring "all acts of violence growing out of religious intolerance or race hatred."

They also adopted recommendations of their state Christian life commission which described the public school system as a "bulwark" of American society and the race problem as "primarily a moral and spiritual problem."

Another recommendation of the Christian life commission, likewise adopted, "protested the inclusion of sectarian and church-related agencies" in community United Fund campaigns. It urged Baptist agencies to refrain from asking or receiving support through these campaigns.

Observers believed the resolution and the adoption of the recommendations of the Christian life commission were the "stongest stand" taken by Texas Baptists on the matter of race.

The state Christian life commission acknowledged that "members of Baptist churches are honestly divided on the best course for Christians" in the racial issue.

It said, however, there was "solid Scriptural ground" for rejecting force or violence as a way to solve the problem. It also deplored "exploitation of race hatred for gain whether religious, political, or economic," and spoke of recent bombings of churches and schools as the "malignant fruition of the general rejection of law and order."

Another statement of the commission adopted by the convention said that Texas Baptists "regret that some seem willing to sacrifice the public schools in order to avoid compliance with the United States Supreme Court ruling that segregation in public schools on the basis of race is unconstitutional."

It continued: "We must not imperil the structure of the public school system either through attempts to avoid integration or through indifference and neglect. As the free public schools have been a bulwark in society in the past, we believe they ought to continue to be so in the future."

Members of affiliated Texas Baptist churches were urged to "prayerfully seek the mind of Christ in these troubled times."

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Southern Foundation Dissolution Asked

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.--(BP)--The most-debated question on the agenda for the Baptist General Convention of Texas here concerned the role of the Southern Baptist Foundation, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers approved a report presented by the Texas Baptist Foundation, a state agency, asking the Southern Baptist Convention "to consider dissolving" Southern Baptist Foundation and transferring assets to another agency.

The future role of the Southern Baptist Foundation is expected to be among business matters discussed during the 1959 session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville, Ky., in May.

"The services rendered by the Baptist Foundation of Texas and by the Southern Baptist Foundation are the same," according to the statement adopted. "While Texas Baptists recognize the noble character and worthy aims of the secretary and

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directors of the Southern Baptist Foundation, and the fact that through this Foundation some bequests have been secured for Southern Baptist work;

"Yet it is the consensus of this body that the overlapping of the work makes it more confusing than constructive, more expensive than expedient, and more divisive than cohesive," according to the statement.

"The messengers of the Baptist General Convention of Texas hold that no Baptist convention should undertake or continue a work that can be done as efficiently and more economically by a smaller Baptist body," it continued.

Dissolution of the Southern Baptist Foundation during the next three years was asked. Texas messengers requested that assets of the Foundation be transferred to the Southern Baptist Convention's Relief and Annuity Board, which has offices in Dallas. The Foundation has offices in Nashville.

A three-member committee appointed by the new Texas convention president---Carl Bates, pastor, First Baptist Church, Amarillo---will present the Foundation recommendation to Southern Baptist Convention leaders.

Bates, the new president, succeeded E. H. Westmoreland, pastor, South Main Baptist Church, Houston.

The convention adopted a record \$11-1/2 million budget for fiscal 1959, which began Nov. 1. Of the first \$8-1/2 million, considered undesignated receipts, 37 per cent will be distributed to the Southern Baptist Convention as its share of Cooperative Program funds.

The remaining \$3 million is anticipated in designations, chiefly through such special offerings as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions, and a state missions offering.

Corpus Christi had already been chosen as site of the 1959 session, with the dates being Nov. 2-4. Messengers here selected Lubbock for the 1960 session, dates being Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

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Missouri Association Becomes Convention

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.--(BP)--The Missouri Baptist General Association has changed its name to Missouri Baptist Convention, discarding the title which the state Baptist body has borne since its organization in 1834.

Action changing the name came at the 124th annual session of the association here, attended by a record 1700 messengers from co-operating Missouri Southern Baptist churches.

With the change, the moderator became the president of the group. Legal steps have been instituted to change the charter, but already it is being spoken of as convention rather than association.

Missouri Baptist leaders said the change was made because the title "general association" had become confusing. They said those unfamiliar with Baptist life were confusing the body---related to the Southern Baptist Convention---with General Baptists, an entirely different organization. Too, they said the term convention is more in keeping with Southern Baptist terminology.

The new title is one word shorter, and thus more easily written and said, than the old title, it was pointed out.

The convention's 1959 Cooperative Program goal, as adopted here, is \$2,600,000, to be divided 65 per cent for state Baptist work and 35 per cent for work of the Southern Baptist Convention. The state budget assumes all costs for administration, promotion, and publicity.

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Funds were set apart for expansion of Southern Baptist work in Iowa and for college extension work in St. Louis.

W. Ross Edwards, last year's general association moderator, was re-elected and became first president of the convention. Edwards is pastor of Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City.

The 1959 session of the convention will meet in Kansas City Oct. 27-29.

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Construction Started For Miami Hospital

MIAMI, Fla.--(BP)--Arthur Vining Davis, multi-millionaire industrialist, dug down deep to win the hearts of Miami area Baptists, although he wasn't digging money.

He was digging with a shovel to turn ground, the first spadeful of dirt for the start of Miami Baptist Hospital. Davis donated the property for the hospital along with more than \$50,000. 500 Baptists attended the ceremony.

The hospital's cardiac pavilion will be named in honor of his late wife, Elizabeth Hawkins Davis. In all this first unit will house 246 beds.

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Kansas Convention Changes Proposed

TOPEKA, Kans.--(BP)--The 210 messengers attending the annual session of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists here heard suggested changes for their constitution and bylaws.

The proposed amendment for the constitution reads, "This body shall be known as the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists." The amendment, which won't be voted on until the 1959 session at Wichita, has been suggested because several Baptist churches in Nebraska are affiliated with Kansas convention.

Messengers adopted the largest budget in the convention's 12-year history. The sum for 1959 is \$263,894. Of this amount Kansas Convention will raise \$153,700. The budget includes an allocation of \$62,462 for world missions.

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Hays Suffers Defeat In Arkansas Voting

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--Rep. Brooks Hays (D., Ark.), who is president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was defeated recently in his bid for re-election to represent the fifth district of Arkansas---the Little Rock area---in Congress.

Hays had been in Congress 16 years. His opponent, Dr. Dale Alford, Little Rock eye surgeon, won on a last-minute write-in vote campaign, receiving about 30,500 votes to 29,000 for Hays.

Following the political upset, Hays made this statement to Baptist Press:

"I am deeply moved by the evidence I've had of warm feeling toward me of my Baptist brethren and am grateful for their expressions of disappointment over my political misfortunes.

"As everyone knows, my political activity has been confined to the fifth district of Arkansas and I've refrained from campaigning and work of a political nature outside my district.

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"One gratifying aspect is that I will be able to give more of my time, perhaps full time, to work as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The only plans I have for the future pertain to my work as president of the Convention. I expect to devote the next six months to carrying forward our great (Baptist) program."

Hays said he prized highly a message from one Baptist leader who wired:

"The results remind me of the idea expressed by Jesus: We get by giving. We live by dying. We achieve by being defeated. Congratulations on your victory."

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Michigan Convention Holds Second Meeting

DETROIT--(BP)--The Baptist State Convention of Michigan, holding its second annual meeting here, approved a 1959 budget of \$147,131. Of that amount, \$20,276 will be forwarded through the Cooperative Program to Southern Baptist Convention activities.

Another objective for the coming year, approved at the session, was the establishing of 49 new churches or missions. The slogan for the year is "49 in '59."

Reports given at the convention showed 1500 baptisms of converts during the past year and a membership gain of 3671 in co-operating churches. There are 64 churches and 22 missions affiliated with Michigan convention.

H. T. Starkey, pastor, Merriman Rd. Baptist Church, Garden City, Mich., was re-elected president. Edgar J. Roberts, pastor of host Fairview Ave. Baptist Church, was elected president of the newly-organized Michigan Baptist Pastors' Conference.

It was also reported that Miss Frances Brown began work Nov. 1 as Woman's Missionary Union secretary for Michigan. She came to Detroit from First Baptist Church, Barbourville, Ky., where she was educational director and church secretary.

The next meeting of Michigan convention is to be held Nov. 3-4, 1959, at Lincoln Park Baptist Church in Flint.

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