

December 12, 1958

Texas And Home Mission Board In New Venture

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas have entered into a new pattern of state mission work, it was announced at the Home Mission Board offices here.

The SBC agency and the Texas board voted in recent meetings to co-operate in the selection, support, and direction of missionaries among language groups in Texas.

"This action will help implement 'Survey Committee' recommendations to the Home Mission Board," according to Executive Secretary Courts Redford. "It is hoped that this plan will serve as a pattern of mission work between other state boards and the Home Mission Board."

The basic principles of the plan are to combine the 200 missionaries to the language groups already on the field, calling them missionaries of the Home Mission Board and the Texas executive board; to jointly support the combined missionary force, and to administer the work through the Texas board.

The present missionaries of both boards will be accepted by the other and future mission personnel will be selected by the Texas convention and approved by the Home Mission Board. The 200 missionaries on the field include all those previously employed separately by the two boards.

L. D. Wood of Dallas has been employed for some time by both boards as language co-ordinator in Texas.

In joint financial support of the new mission venture, Texas will pay 70 per cent of the cost and the Home Mission Board 30 per cent.

Home Mission Board officials said Texas was chosen for the venture in language group missions "because we have more language work in Texas. We felt that if the new plan would work in a state of Texas's size on a percentage basis of support, we could expand it to other states."

Language work in Texas is chiefly among Spanish-Americans although there is language work among Chinese in San Antonio and El Paso. Most of the Spanish-Americans among whom work is conducted are permanent residents of the United States who have not learned the English language.

However, there are large numbers of Mexican nationals who come into Texas for seasonal employment in the cotton fields.

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Texas Sunday National Guard Drills Studied

DALLAS--(BP)--Because of complaints about Sunday drills for the National Guard in Texas, the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas will appoint a committee to study the Guard's policy on Sunday drills.

The board was told that Sunday drills cause members of the National Guard to miss regular church worship services.

Similar complaints about the National Guard in Tennessee led the Tennessee Baptist Convention, in annual session recently at Memphis, to criticize the Guard. Sunday drills were called unnecessary.

In other action, the Texas executive board reaffirmed its requirement that no convention institution may undertake a special fund drive without approval from the board.

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It extended a convention school, Hardin-Simmons University at Abilene, permission to continue for another year its special drive to raise \$1- $\frac{1}{2}$ million. The money raised will rebuild the school's chapel destroyed by fire, and will be used to construct two new buildings, a student center and an auditorium.

Hardin-Simmons officials said that \$600,000 has already been subscribed.

A record \$1,682,443 state mission budget for 1959 was allocated from the total convention budget of about \$8 $\frac{1}{2}$ million. The largest single state mission allocation was to the convention's stewardship and direct missions program. The \$450,000 will be used for stewardship promotion, church building service, domestic relations service, and salary supplements to rural pastors.

Another \$191,581 of the state missions budget will underwrite Baptist student work on college campuses in Texas.

James H. Landes, pastor, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, was elected chairman of the executive board.

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T. L. Holcomb Gives 200 Books To Library

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The library of American Baptist Theological Seminary here has received a gift of books from the private library of Dr. T. L. Holcomb, retired executive secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The library building at the seminary is named in honor of Dr. Holcomb.

The gift included about 200 volumes. Dr. Holcomb was a member of the Southern Baptist Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary for several years while executive secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

After retiring from the Baptist Sunday School Board, Dr. Holcomb served for several years as executive secretary of Southern Baptist Foundation.

During his long service in Nashville, he was active in serving the seminary. He was instrumental in securing a gift of \$25,000 for the erection of the library building in 1953.

Dr. Holcomb now lives in Dallas, where he was associate pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church while his son, Luther, was pastor. He resigned from the position as associate pastor in November, but will continue to live in Dallas.

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\$277,250 In Alabama Office Building Fund

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--(BP)--The executive board of Alabama Baptist State Convention has set aside to date \$277,250 for a new state Baptist office building here.

It expects to set aside more funds during 1959 and may employ an architect next December to plan the structure. State Baptist leaders are tentatively considering a building which would cost from \$700,000 to \$800,000.

Funds set aside so far have been from extra mission funds and surplus in budget items.

It was reported to the board at its December meeting that a search is under way for someone to promote denominational retirement and annuity programs in the state. The person would be employed co-operatively by the state board the Relief and Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

William Weaver, pastor, First Baptist Church of Sylacauga, was elected chairman of the board.

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Reporting on the progress made during seven years of an advance program, leaders pointed out the following accomplishments from 1952 through 1958:

Gain of 165 Churches, or $6\frac{1}{4}$ pct. increase.

Gain of 116,544 members of affiliated churches, 21.09 pct. increase.

Total baptisms of converts were 183,076, annual average of 26,153.

Cooperative Program giving by affiliated churches up 159.6 pct. to 1958 total of \$2,722,692. Of the 1958 figure, \$938,128 went to the Southern Baptist Convention for support of its agencies.

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Mississippi To Study Nursing School Ties

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--The relationship between the school of nursing at Mississippi Baptist Hospital here and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will be "carefully studied" during the coming months.

The aim is to strengthen the relationship between the school of nursing and the state convention. It is the only accredited school of nursing in the state of Mississippi.

The convention board also recommended that convention-related colleges adopt a uniform system of records, based on approved standards of national educational groups. Convention leaders said a uniform system of records will enable the convention to make "more accurate" comparisons of costs at its several schools.

Both convention board actions were upon recommendation of the convention's education commission.

W. L. Meadows, pastor of First Baptist Church, Quitman, Miss., was re-elected president of the convention board.

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Adult Worker Resigns Tennessee State Post

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The resignation of its director of adult work in the Training Union department was accepted at the December meeting of the executive board of Tennessee Baptist Convention here.

J. Eugene Crane resigned to become director of education at Parker Memorial Baptist Church, Anniston, Ala.

Robert Orr, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, Tenn., was re-elected president of the executive board.

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Contract For \$500,000 Florida State Offices

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--(BP)-- The board of missions of Florida Baptist Convention has awarded a contract for a new state convention office building here. It is expected to cost about \$500,000.

Contract was awarded to George D. Auchter Co. of Jacksonville. The building, which will be of modern architecture with a basement and four floors, will be located in south Jacksonville about three blocks from Baptist Memorial Hospital.

State Baptist leaders said they probably will occupy the new building late in 1959.

The foundation for the new building will make it possible to add fifth and

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sixth floors to it in the future. The building will house the Jacksonville branch of Baptist Book Stores, all convention offices, and leave one floor available for rental space.

The convention's office building at 218 W. Church St. in the business district has been sold for \$200,000 to a local real estate investor, but will be used until the move can be made into the new building. The sale price is being applied to cost of the new office building.

The new office building will make it possible for the Florida board to move two of its departments from other cities in Florida to Jacksonville. The state foundation office is presently located in Plant City, the Baptist student union department office in Gainesville.

The new structure will also provide a 200-seat chapel. The convention's present building has only a makeshift chapel seating not more than 40 to 50 persons.

At the close of its December meeting, the state board of missions observed a ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the new building.

In another matter of business, the board approved a new title for S. Oscar Bean, who has been its personnel director and business manager. He becomes assistant executive secretary with responsibilities for personnel, properties, new work, and church loans. The new position embodies his past responsibilities plus additional ones in the fields of new work and church loans.

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Colorado State Board Lauds Hays's Stands

DENVER--(BP)--"Your messages, deportment, and news broadcasts have properly represented Baptists as striving to be Scriptural and Christian in all things," the executive board of Colorado Baptist General Convention said in a letter addressed to Congressman Brooks Hays of Arkansas.

The letter of commendation to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention was approved at the board's December meeting here. Hays was defeated Nov. 4 in the Arkansas general election, where he was trying for a ninth term as representative in Congress from the Little Rock vicinity.

At the same board meeting, the Coloradans adopted a strong statement against gambling. This was prompted by the recent state vote to legalize bingo. Gambling at horse and dog tracks has been legal for several years.

The Colorado board said it felt there is a spirit of "public apathy" to the dangers brought by legalized gambling. They felt there is an effort of Nevada big-time gambling interests to move eastward.

The board voted to employ a full-time state denominational worker to direct the convention's bond sales program. The program aids churches in their building projects in the five-state area of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The new worker, it was hoped, would be on the field within 30 to 60 days. The new bond program in 1958 has provided \$300,000 to 11 churches. The total amount of loans in 1959 is expected to be about \$500,000.

The board reported that R. Bates Ivey, education director at First Southern Baptist Church, San Diego, Calif., has accepted its call to be secretary of Sunday school, Vacation Bible school, and church music. He will report Jan. 1.

Text of the statement commending Hays included these remarks also:

"The executive board of the Colorado Baptist General Convention by unanimous vote commends you on your Christian stand on the racial issue and your Christian statesmanship for the right during your many years in our United States Congress. . . .

"You continue to be in our love and prayers. Since the door of service to you as representative from Arkansas in Congress has closed, we pray a greater door of service and more effectual one is open for the future."

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