

December 17, 1958

Oklahoma To Acquire  
Hospital, Camp Site

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma will acquire two new institutions, by virtue of action here at the December meeting of its executive board.

The board voted to accept the gift of a 73-acre, lakeside camp site near McAlester, Okla. The site includes several buildings which are in disrepair. The gift, from a donor who prefers to remain anonymous, included \$1500 to help repair property.

The executive board said that it would supplement the \$1500 from state convention funds and develop the site into a Royal Ambassador camp.

The 11th hospital operated by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma will be acquired next year. It is being built by city officials at Sulphur, Okla., and will be leased at \$1-a-year for 25 years to the state convention.

State Baptist leaders pointed out the convention is making no investment in its construction. Some of the construction funds are coming from Hill-Burton Act appropriations to the city government.

It will be the fifth municipally-owned hospital operated under lease by the Oklahoma convention. The hospital, tentatively known as Sulphur Municipal Hospital, will cost about \$500,000 and have 30 beds.

The state executive board also voted to increase its 1959 Cooperative Program budget from \$2,180,000 to \$2,232,000. The increase includes \$20,000 more for Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee will receive \$10,000 of the added amount. Another \$10,000 will go to the department of religious education of the board, and a like amount as the state's contribution on retirement and annuity programs for pastors and denominational workers in Oklahoma.

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Georgia Moves Toward  
Controlling Shorter

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention's executive committee here has approved the proposal to give it control of Shorter College at Rome, one of six colleges which have been receiving state Cooperative Program funds.

The committee approved a charter amendment which would vest election of trustees in the convention. All that remains is for legal sanction of the amendment through the courts.

Shorter's trustees formerly were elected by the convention, but since their charter gave them a self-perpetuating status, it remained for them to formally elect the members. The new charter also will make the onetime girls' school co-educational, a policy instituted four years ago by the trustees. Shorter has an enrolment of about 400.

The new charter provisions bring the institution in line with Mercer University, Tift College, Truett-McConnell and Brewton-Parker junior colleges. Only Norman College remains outside the convention group although it receives Cooperative Program support.

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Baptists First To Get  
Loan From Hill-Burton

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--Baptist Memorial Hospital of Oklahoma City is the first hospital in the nation to receive a government loan under new provisions of the Hill-Burton Act, Baptist leaders here reported.

The hospital, expected to open early in 1959, will receive a 40-year, \$500,000 loan from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, an agency of the federal government.

The loan carries a 3-3/8 per cent interest rate. The interest rate includes the cost of servicing the loan so that the denomination will not receive any money in the form of a gift, Baptist leaders declared.

The hospital had contracted earlier for \$2,200,000, 20-year loan at 5 1/2 per cent interest from an insurance company.

The funds will be used to complete the hospital.

Congress in 1958 amended the Hill-Burton Act to provide for loans to hospitals as well as outright gifts. Chief among groups petitioning Congress for the loans provision were Baptists, who feel that direct gifts from the government to a sectarian hospital violate separation of church and state.

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'Enforce Anti-Gambling  
Laws'--Louisiana Board

ALEXANDRIA, La.--(BP)--The executive board of Louisiana Baptist Convention, in its December meeting here, passed a resolution calling on Gov. Earl Long and John Nick Brown, superintendent of state police, to enforce anti-gambling laws in Louisiana.

The board's action came after Lucian Conway, pastor of Tallulah's First Baptist Church, cited a newspaper article which quoted Brown as saying a photograph taken in a Jefferson Parish gambling dive resembled a Sunday school class.

Following Conway's talk, the board unanimously voted to appoint a committee to draft a resolution calling on the governor and police superintendent to enforce all laws related to gambling. The resolution read:

"Whereas, several major newspapers have reportedly uncovered evidence of gambling in Louisiana and have informed the public that little is being done to suppress these illegal operations, and

"Whereas, the superintendent of state police has reportedly made refernece to a photograph of alleged gambling as resembling a Sunday School class,

"Therefore, be it resolved that the executive board of Louisiana Baptist Convention does hereby express its disapproval of such laxity in law enforcement and hereby calls upon the public officials of our state to give their support to the enforcement of all laws relating to gambling.

"Be it further resolved that we express our deep regret that the superintendent of police has referred to a gambling scene as resembling a Sunday school class."

The resolution was signed by Lucian Conway, Paul Roberts, president of the convention, and Grady Sparkman, associate editor of the Baptist Message. The three signers were appointed by W. R. Fussell, president of the board.

In other action the board made allocations from its \$2.5 million budget for 1959 and elected members of several standing committees.

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Folks and facts . . . .

Baptists in Nashville are prominently featured in a booklet recently written by James W. Carty Jr., religion editor of the morning Nashville Tennessean.

The booklet, produced as a public service by a private Nashville printing firm, is entitled "Nashville as a World Religious Center." It has been sent to executive secretaries of about 300 religious organizations throughout the United States as well as been placed on sale to the general public.

The opening paragraph of the section on Baptists in the capital of Tennessee says:

"Nashville Baptists daily re-discover that the plan, the persistent doorbell ringer and the pen are three of their mightiest evangelistic forces around the nation and the world.

"The results are that, nationally, Baptists form the largest Protestant denomination."

Carty is an ordained minister of religious journalism with the Disciples of Christ.

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Pastor Rings Doorbells  
And Baptisms Increase

SAVANNAH, Ga.--(BP)--The pastor of a five-year-old church who spends at least half his time ringing doorbells has Georgia's best baptism record and one that may be without equal anywhere else.

Grady L. Glaze, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Savannah, baptized 175 converts last year or one for every three members. The church started the associational year with 522 members and ended it with 622.

The 175 baptisms was the third best in the state, Taliaferro Baptist Church, just eight years old and also in Savannah, was second with 192. J. Carswell Milligan is pastor.

First place in the state went to Mabel White Memorial Baptist Church in Macon with 244. The church, with James W. Waters as pastor, has led Georgia for the last four years.

Glaze says that constant visitation is the secret of his record. He gives a minimum of two and a half days each week to visiting. When he exhausts the usual prospect cards, he makes his own house-to-house canvass. The church is in the center of four housing projects and has 15,000 residents in its area.

Glaze said the professions were made throughout the year and only 53 came in the one revival. There were additions every Sunday with two exceptions.

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Ex-Tift College Head,  
Lamar McGinty, Dead

ATLANTA--(BP)--C. Lamar McGinty, 73, retired president of Tift College at Forsyth, died of a heart ailment during a visit to Atlanta. He retired in 1947 after nine years as president of the Baptist school for girls.

He formerly taught at Mercer University in Macon and at the old Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now Carver School) in Louisville. Survivors include his wife and a daughter, Mrs. Carey T. Vinzant, whose husband is now president of Tift.

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