

February 22, 1959

Ways To Maintain Baptist Unity Told

SAVANNAH, Ga.--(BP)--To retain their unity, Southern Baptists must meet the problems of their own growth and of the pressure of current political and social issues.

This is the opinion of a Baptist leader from Alabama, contained in a speech prepared for delivery to a Baptist audience here.

A. H. Reid, executive secretary, Alabama Baptist State Convention, Montgomery, said however that "At this time Southern Baptists are quite well united, and there appears to be no serious conflict pointing toward division."

To solve the problem created by the continuing growth of the Southern Baptist Convention, there must be "thoughtful and careful leadership on the part of Southern Baptists in both the East and the West in the future years or else it may lead to a division in the Convention," Reid said.

The Alabama Baptist leader called attention to the feeling of some Southern Baptists that the "annual meeting of the Convention has become a large and cumbersome mass meeting which is inefficient in the handling of Baptist affairs."

Those who feel this way, he continued, suggest that there be two regional meetings instead of one central meeting of the Convention each year, and that the work of the Convention be divided into two regions for more effective promotion.

"This is a growing problem for Southern Baptists which the Convention may find it necessary to consider in the future. . . . Should the Convention's annual meeting be divided into two separate territorial sessions, there would be grave danger that this would ultimately lead to a division of Southern Baptists into separate conventions," Reid said.

One of the main political and social issues facing Southern Baptists is that of racial integration, Reid continued.

"Southern Baptists are greatly involved in this issue," he declared. "As is true of other social and political issues, those Southern Baptists in the northern and western states hold a different opinion on the racial issue from that of most Baptists in the southern states."

Voicing the opinion that this problem "will be with us for many years," Reid said "Our pastors and churches across the Southern Baptist Convention do not agree on racial integration in the schools, and neither would they agree on racial integration in the churches.

"Should a definite effort be put forth to lead the Southern Baptist Convention to commit itself more definitely in favor of integration, I am of the opinion that many churches in the South would withdraw. . . . Doubtless the reverse would be true should the Convention be led to commit itself more definitely disfavoring integration," according to Reid.

He said that the Convention has "recognized the decision of the United States Supreme Court establishing racial integration in the public schools, and has called on our people to exercise patience and understanding in the efforts to enforce this court decision." (This appeared to refer to the action of the Convention in 1954 at St. Louis.)

"This action has not greatly disturbed our people. They have not interpreted it as a definite action of the Convention favoring integration," Reid stated.

A more positive SBC stand on the race issue, one way or the other, at this time, in Reid's opinion, "would result in serious division. . . . The Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies with strong representation in its

fellowship, supporting both sides of the issue, will do well to avoid positioning itself further on the issue at this time."

Indicating ways in which denominational unity may be preserved, Reid said "We must recognize this freedom to differ, and yet in a spirit of Christian brotherhood we must equally recognize the importance of maintaining a unity of purpose and effort to extend the Kingdom of Christ."

Laws nor creeds other than the Bible do not bind Southern Baptists, nor are they held together by an ecclesiastical hierarchy, Reid said. "Each individual Baptist has a voice in his church, and each church has a voice in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Yet, in this democracy in principle and practice, there is strong unity and solidarity among Southern Baptists. This is a unity of faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. It is a unity of Christian brotherhood and love. It is a unity of one impelling purpose, that of winning others to Christ and extending his Kingdom," according to Reid.

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Advice On Children's Care At Convention

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--Here's a word of advice to messengers bringing children with them to the 1959 Southern Baptist Convention.

Local arrangements have been made to care for children aged 2 to 5 years. However, no provision has been made for care of babies under 2. Facilities will be located at Freedom Hall, the Convention auditorium. They will be available May 18-22.

Two rooms have been secured, one for 2-3-year-olds, the other for 4-5-year-olds. There will be a charge of \$1 per session per child. Parents will be expected to call for the children 15 minutes after the close of each session.

Only light refreshments will be served the children.

Those who supervise the children will come from Carver School of Missions and Social Work and from nurseries of local Baptist churches. They will furnish entertainment for the children through stories, films, and directed activities.

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Seminary Association Awards Baptist \$4000

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--The American Association of Theological Schools has awarded a \$4000 faculty fellowship for advanced study to a Baptist seminary professor here.

He is Henlee H. Barnette, associate professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He plans to take a sabbatical leave next fall to do research at Harvard Divinity School, Boston University School of Theology, and the Russian Institute at Harvard.

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Tennessee Ministerial Privilege Bill Signed

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington has signed into law a bill recognizing a minister-communicant relationship when ministers are called on as witnesses in court.

The new law protects the minister from contempt of court for withholding information which he has received in confidence while counseling persons.

The law had been sought by church groups in Tennessee, following the sentencing of a Baptist minister last year for refusing to divulge confidences given him by parties in a divorce suit.

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February 22, 1959

3

Baptist Press

Tennessee law at that time did not recognize such minister-communicant counseling as privileged, or beyond the authority of the court to require as testimony.

Like other states, Tennessee had already recognized privileged communications between attorneys and their clients, doctors and their patients, and even in some instances among other professional groups.

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February 22, 1959

Baptist Press

NEW EDITOR---Meet Horace F. Burns, who became editor of the Baptist New Mexican on Feb. 1. The paper, published weekly by the Baptist Convention of New Mexico in Albuquerque, has a circulation of almost 20,000. Burns, who succeeded Lewis A. Myers, was editor of the same paper once several years ago.

SBC PASTORS' CONFERENCE PROGRAM
May 18 - 19, 1959
Louisville, Ky.
(Armory)

THEME - "COMMITTED TO THE COMMISSION"

SCRIPTURE - Matthew 28:19-20 RSV

MONDAY, May 18, 1959
Morning Session

- 9:00 - Song and Praise - Paul McCommon
9:10 - Scripture - Keener Pharr
Prayer - Charles McLaughlin
9:15 - Welcome to Louisville - Duke McCall
9:25 - Response to Welcome - Sterling Price
9:35 - Presentation of Program - Chas. C. Bowles
9:40 - "Our Common Task" - W. L. Howse
10:05 - Song and Announcements
10:15 - "Doctrine of Christian Growth" - Grady C. Cothen
10:40 - "Teach - Baptize - Teach" - James L. Sullivan
11:05 - Special Music - Miss Joe Ann Shelton
11:15 - "Religious Education in Foreign Missions" - Baker James Cauthen
(Introduced by James Morgan)
11:50 - Prayer - R. Archie Ellis
11:55 - Adjourn

AFTERNOON SESSION
Monday, May 18th

- 2:00 - Song and Praise - Elmer F. Bailey
2:10 - Scripture - Gerald Walker
Prayer - J. C. Segler
2:15 - "The Futility of Religion" - Wayne Dehoney
2:40 - "Baptists and Religious Freedom" - Leon Macon
3:05 - "The Christian Basis for World Peace" - Brooks Hays
3:30 - Song
3:35 - "Peace, the Prize and the Price" - Jess Moody
4:00 - Special Music - Ramsey Pollard, Jr., and Mrs. Robert Cliett
4:05 - "The Prince of Peace" - Ramsey Pollard
(introduced by J. T. Ford)
4:30 - Prayer - Grady Randolph
4:35 - Adjourn

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EVENING SESSION

- 7:00 - Song and Praise - Asa Couch
7:10 - Scripture - Walter Mitchell
Prayer - John Robert Stiff
- 7:15 - "The Preacher's Personal Praying" - Bruce Price
- 7:35 - "The Messenger's Message" - John Bob Riddle
- 7:55 - "The Herald's Heart" - Marshall Craig
- 8:15 - "Effective Evangelism" - Max Morris
- 8:35 - Song
Prayer - W. O. Vaught, Jr.
Offering
- 8:45 - Howard Butt - Karl Stell - Fague Springman
- 9:30 - Prayer - Loyal Prior
9:40 - Adjourn

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1959
Morning Session

- 9:00 - Song and Praise - Bill Souther
9:10 - Scripture - Henry Allen Parker
Prayer - Byron Wilkinson
- 9:15 - "Man's Ruin - The Reasons and Results" - Douglas Hudgins
- 9:40 - "The Promised Saviour" - W. D. Wyatt
- 10:05 - "The Virgin Birth" - J. D. Grey
- 10:30 - Song
Prayer - James Wesberry
Offering
- 10:45 - "The Crucified Christ" - Monroe Swilley
- 11:10 - "The Living Lord" - Ralph Langley
- 11:30 - Special Music - Al and Ivy Walsh
- 11:40 - "The Redeemer's Return" - W. A. Criswell
(Introduced by Ed Brooks Bowles)
- 12:05 - Prayer - Paul Roberts
12:10 - Adjourn

AFTERNOON SESSION

- 2:00 - Song and Praise - Forrest Herren
2:10 - Scripture - James Monroe
Prayer - Bob Barker
2:15 - "Positive Preservation" - A. B. VanArsdale
- 2:40 - "The Flame of Power" - Carl Bates
- 3:05 - Election of Officers
- 3:15 - Welcome to Miami in 1960 - Homer Lindsay, Jr.
- 3:20 - Special Music - Sam Allen
- 3:30 - Annual Sermon - "The Diety of Jesus" - R. G. Lee
(Introduced by Herman Cobb)
- 4:20 - Prayer of Benediction - Earl B. Edington
4:25 - Adjourn

SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
May 19-22, 1959
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Brooks Hays, President
Chester Lee Quarles, First Vice-President
Richard Archie Ellis, Second Vice-President
James W. Merritt, Senior Secretary
Joe W. Burton, Secretary
Porter W. Routh, Treasurer
Forrest Heeren, Director of Music for Convention

GENERAL THEME: "...teaching to observe..." Matthew 28:20 RSV

TUESDAY NIGHT

"...teaching them to observe..."
Through Training of Christian Leaders

- 6:45 Fellowship in Song
6:50 Scripture (Mark 6:30-34; Eph. 4:11-16) and Prayer--Elroy Lamb, Kentucky
6:55 Secretary's Report on Registration--Joe W. Burton, Tennessee
7:00 Committee on Order of Business--Franklin Owen, Kentucky, Chairman
7:05 Appointment of Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions, and Tellers
7:10 SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY CENTENNIAL PROCESSIONAL and REPORTS OF THE CONVENTION SEMINARIES

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Millard J. Berquist, President
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Sydnor L. Stealey, President
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
Harold K. Graves, President
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
H. Leo Eddleman, President
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Robert E. Naylor, President

- 7:40 SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY CENTENNIAL COMMENCEMENT

Seminary Hymn: "Soldiers of Christ in Truth Arrayed"
Conferring of Degrees
Convention Sermon - Commencement Address
R. Paul Caudill, Tennessee
Frank Morris, Georgia, Alternate

Benediction followed by Recessional

WEDNESDAY MORNING

"...teaching them to observe..."
Through a Program of Cooperation

- 9:00 Fellowship in Song
9:05 Scripture (Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-47) and Prayer--Howard G. Dawkins, North Carolina
9:10 Recognition of Fraternal Messengers
9:35 Executive Committee Administrative Report--Porter W. Routh, Tennessee, Executive Secretary
10:50 Music
10:55 Election of Officers
11:25 Miscellaneous Business
11:40 Education Commission
11:55 Music
12:00 President's Address--Brooks Hays, Arkansas
12:30 Adjourn

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

"...teaching them to observe..."
Through world-wide witnessing.

6:45 Fellowship in Song
6:50 Scripture (Romans 10:8-15) and Prayer--L. Howard Jenkins, Virginia
6:55 American Bible Society
7:05 Report of Radio and Television Commission--Paul M. Stevens, Texas, Director
7:30 Baptist World Alliance--Arnold T. Ohrn, D. C., Executive Secretary
7:50 Music
7:55 Foreign Mission Board--Baker J. Cauthen, Virginia, Executive Secretary
9:30 Adjourn

THURSDAY MORNING

"...teaching them to observe..."
Through Communication of the Word

9:00 Fellowship in Song
9:05 Scripture (2 Tim. 4:1-8) and Prayer--Perry F. Webb, Jr., Louisiana
9:10 Carver School of Missions and Social Work
9:25 Executive Committee Promotional Report--Merrill D. Moore, Tennessee,
Secretary of Stewardship Promotion
10:00 Election of Officers
10:15 Miscellaneous Business
10:40 Special Music
10:50 Sunday School Board--James L. Sullivan, Tennessee, Executive Secretary
11:50 Music
11:55 Message--Harold W. Tribble, President, Wake Forest College, North Carolina
12:20 Adjourn

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

"...teaching them to observe..."
Through Carefully Planned Organization

2:00 Fellowship in Song
2:05 Scripture (Mark 1:1-6; Luke 3:3-6) and Prayer--Forest Siler, Kansas
2:10 Southern Baptist Foundation--J. W. Storer, Tennessee, Executive Secretary
2:20 Committee on Denominational Papers--Louie D. Newton, Georgia
2:35 Committee on Public Affairs--Walter Pope Binns, Missouri
2:50 Election of Officers
3:05 Miscellaneous Business
3:20 Music
3:25 Committee on Total Program of Southern Baptists--Douglas M. Branch,
North Carolina
4:25 Adjourn

THURSDAY NIGHT

"...teaching them to observe..."
Through Greater Homeland Proclamation

6:50 Fellowship in Song
6:55 Scripture (Matt. 9:35-38) and Prayer--T. R. McKibbens, Mississippi
7:00 The Jubilee Advance Program--C. C. Warren, Chairman, North Carolina
8:00 Special Music
8:05 Home Mission Board--Courts Redford, Georgia, Executive Secretary
9:30 Adjourn

FRIDAY MORNING

"...teaching them to observe..."
Through the Challenge of Opportunity

- 9:30 Fellowship in Song
- 9:35 Scripture (Romans 5:13-24) and Prayer--W. E. Harrell, California
- 9:40 Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary--L. S. Sedberry, Tennessee, Executive Secretary
- 9:55 Music--American Seminary Chorus
- 10:00 Woman's Missionary Union
- 10:20 Committee on Denominational Calendar--Alma Hunt, Alabama, Chairman
- 10:30 Report of Committee on Resolutions
- 10:40 Miscellaneous Business
- 11:10 Music
- 11:15 Report of Committee on Boards--Warren M. Marshall, Jr., Georgia, Chairman
- 11:35 Relief and Annuity Board--R. Alton Reed, Texas, Executive Secretary
- 11:55 Chaplain's Commission--Alfred Carpenter, Georgia, Director
Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Robert T. Taylor, USAF,
Deputy Chief of Air Force Chaplains
- 12:20 Adjourn

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

"...teaching them to observe..."
Through a united witness

- 2:15 Fellowship in Song
- 2:20 Scripture (Acts 20:17-28) and Prayer--John M. Wright, Texas
- 2:25 Committee on Time, Place, and Preacher
- 2:30 Historical Commission--Norman W. Cox, Tennessee, Executive Secretary
- 2:50 Southern Baptist Hospitals--Frank Tripp, Louisiana, Superintendent
- 3:05 Memorial Service--T. L. Holcomb, Texas
- 3:20 Canadian Baptist Committee--James L. Sullivan, Tennessee, Chairman
- 3:30 Music
- 3:40 Address--"And Now ALL TOGETHER"--J. D. Grey, Louisiana
- 4:15 Adjourn

FRIDAY NIGHT

"...teaching them to observe..."
Through Peace and Good Will

- 7:00 Fellowship in Song
- 7:05 Scripture (2 Peter 3:10-18) and Prayer--R. L. Sherrick, Tennessee
- 7:10 Brotherhood Commission--George W. Schroeder, Tennessee, Executive Secretary
- 7:30 Christian Life Commission--A. C. Miller, Tennessee, Executive Secretary
- 7:55 Presentation of Officers
- 8:00 World Peace Committee--Walter Pope Binns, Missouri, Chairman
- 8:20 Music
- 8:30 World Peace Emphasis
- 9:30 Adjourn