

March 6, 1959

Baptist Press

CORRECTION:

In 5th paragraph today's release, "Committee Recommends Ways to Strengthen," please substitute the following and delete original 5th paragraph entirely.

That the general board (the convention's executive body between sessions) be cut in size from 85 members to 60. At present, each of the 78 associations of Baptist churches in the state has at least one representative on the general board. Under the new arrangement, the state would be divided into twelve regions, each region having four representatives. There would be 12 members at large plus three members ex-officio.

PICK UP 6TH PARAGRAPH HERE AND CONTINUE REMAINDER OF STORY AS WRITTEN.

THANK YOU. BAPTIST PRESS.

March 6, 1959

North Carolina Press
Arrangement Proposed

RALEIGH, N. C.--(BP)--A committee of Baptist leaders has recommended that the North Carolina Baptist State Convention establish a Baptist press at the convention's children's home in Thomasville, N. C.

The children's home presently has more than \$350,000 in modern equipment including a rotary press. The Thomasville print shop publishes a weekly children's home paper, *Charity and Children*, but the majority of its other work is in job printing contracts for private groups.

The press at Thomasville turns a profit of \$4000 to \$7000 a year, which is placed in the children's home operating fund.

Under the recommended new set up, the press at Thomasville would print the weekly convention newspaper, the *Biblical Recorder*, and would handle printing contracts for the convention and for other Baptist groups in North Carolina.

The "Committee of 25," which made the recommendations, emphasized that their report does not call for a merger of the *Biblical Recorder* and *Charity and Children*. Both presently are publishing general denominational news. "The two papers are competitive," the committee declared.

The committee recommended that *Charity and Children* become a house organ of the three Baptist children's homes in the state. It would be published "with the frequency of similar organs of other children's homes" operated by state missions programs in the Southern Baptist Convention.

No time was recommended for the action to take effect. The recommendations must still be approved by the Baptist state convention at a special session here in May.

The committee declared that the *Biblical Recorder* in the past 18 years has been subsidized by a total of more than \$250,000. In recent years, its subsidy from the denomination has been about \$40,000 a year.

"Elimination of such subsidy (to the Recorder) appears to be essential to the journalistic independence vital to a state paper," the report went on. However, committee members advised reporters at a press conference that this statement was not intended to indicate that there had been a lack of "journalistic independence" in the past.

The proposed new "Baptist Press" publishing shop at Thomasville would, by recommendations of the committee of 25, have its own directors. The directors would be accountable to the convention proper.

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Committee Suggests
Ways To Strengthen

RALEIGH, N. C.--(BP)--The "Committee of 25," which has been at work for two years to find ways and means of strengthening Baptist work in the state, made its recommendations public at a press conference here.

In addition to recommending greater use by the Baptist state convention of a printing plant at the Baptist children's home in Thomasville, N. C., the committee also proposed:

That a director of public relations be approved, who would serve as an assistant to the general secretary (chief executive officer of the convention).

That a council on Christian social services be established to coordinate work of the benevolent institutions operated by the convention. These include three homes for the aged, three children's homes, and a hospital. The council would have no full-time executive officer and would not supplant the directors of the several institutions involved.

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That the general board (the convention's executive body between sessions) be cut in size from 85 members to 60. At present, each of the 78 associations of Baptist churches in the state has at least one representative on the general board. Under the new arrangement, the state would be divided into five regions, each region having 12 representatives on the board.

That a "performance concept budget" using dollars-and-cents terms replace the present percentage type budget used by the convention.

That the first and second vice-presidents elected by the convention be given greater responsibility, by being made ex-officio members of the general board and of its executive committee. The post of third vice-president would be abolished.

To take effect each recommendation must be approved by the convention's messengers at a special session in Raleigh in May.

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'Tis A Woman's World When Roll's Unfurled

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C.--(BP)--"It's a woman's world," says the cynic, and male students at Gardner-Webb College here are inclined to agree.

With the first semester honor roll posted in February, the men could claim only five names listed, but the co-eds captured 21 of the 26 honor spots.

Gardner-Webb is a junior college belonging to North Carolina Baptists.

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College Earns Praise Of Daily Newspaper

RALEIGH, N. C.--(BP)--Sam Ragan, executive editor of The News and Observer here, recently commented in his Sunday column, "Southern Accents":

"The most attractive school publication published in the State is The Chowanian of Chowan College. Edited and printed by students of the Roy Parker School of Printing at Chowan, the newspaper is not only attractive to look at but interesting to read."

Chowan is a Baptist junior college in eastern North Carolina. It was closed during World War II. Since it opened again several years ago, its school of printing has been a strong asset.

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Real Revival Hinged To Bible Preaching

COLUMBIA, S. C.--(BP)--A Baptist educator, addressing a statewide conference on evangelism here, said that revival is impossible without a renewal of real Bible preaching.

"And we are not going to have a revival of real Bible preaching until we have a revival among preachers," declared G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, Pineville, La.

The former professor of sermon preparation at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary added this indictment of the modern ministry:

"There is no group I love more than the preachers. But I know of no other profession in which mediocrity can find such security and prestige."

Speaking to the pastors who made up most of his audience, he said: "When we sanctify ourselves, revival will come from God Almighty. . . ."

"When we are willing to make greater sacrifices and to strive for moral excellence, leaving off some things we have been doing and doing some things we have been neglecting, then I am sure the smile of Heaven will come."

Guinn also criticized some of his fellow-Baptists for preaching eternal security in such a way that they give the impression that God is not concerned about how people live.

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"The modern name for antinomianism (belief that moral issues do not matter) is ignorant Baptist," he said. "An experience of regeneration that is genuine issues in conformity to the will of God."

More than 2350 persons signed registration cards during the three-day conference, largest attendance at the annual event in a decade.

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February Almost A
\$5 Million Month

NASHVILLE--(BP)--February was almost a \$5 million month in funds sent by churches through Baptist state offices to work of the Southern Baptist Convention at large.

Convention Treasurer Porter Routh announced here that February SBC receipts totalled \$4,956,400. In February, 1958, they totalled only \$4,458,302.

Receipts for February, 1959, included \$1,356,727 through the Cooperative Program, representing undesignated gifts to be shared on a percentage system by all Convention agencies.

Designated offerings, on which the donors select a specific activity to support, amounted to \$3,599,673. This reflected more of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

Gifts for 1959 to date (two-month totals) are up 6.72 per cent over the comparative two-month span in 1958 and total \$8,250,037. Cooperative Program receipts have jumped 6-1/4 per cent to \$2,912,093 and designated gifts have risen 6.97 per cent to \$5,337,943, both in relation to 1958 totals.

Disbursements in February included \$3,583,732 in designated funds---chiefly Lottie Moon Offerings---to the Foreign Mission Board, plus the board's \$532,787 percentage allocation out of Cooperative Program gifts.

The next highest amount to any agency was \$207,036 to Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif., through the Cooperative Program. No designated gifts were included.

For the year to date, the Foreign Mission Board has received \$6,440,989 of the total \$8-1/4 million which has come in. No other agency has received even a half-million dollars.

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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March 6, 1959

February In Review
---Month of Progress

By Theo Sommerkamp

NASHVILLE--(BP)--February is a busy month for committees and other groups in Southern Baptist denominational life. It is also the time when Southern Baptists find out where they gained or lost during the previous year.

The Southern Baptist Convention found it gained in all major areas during 1958. Membership surpassed nine million; total gifts through churches exceeded \$400 million, and Sunday school enrolment went over seven million, all for the first time. Baptisms of converts again was more than 400,000 after dropping below that mark in 1957.

Baptist state executive secretaries and editors of state Baptist newspapers met at Savannah, Ga. The secretaries were told that while there are some potential divisive influences in Baptist life, none appears to be a major threat to the unity of the Convention.

The editors, in handling controversial news of their own denomination, should be "compassionately objective," according to a Baptist paper editor who has had to report controversy for nearly a year.

The Advisory Council on work with National Baptists---the two Negro Baptist conventions---heard Convention President Brooks Hays say that the South still recognizes Christian statesmanship on the racial issue, despite the fact that he and other office-holders have lost their elected positions.

In Washington, leaders of the Baptist Jubilee Advance from the six participating Baptist conventions in the United States and Canada projected more details of the advance which continues through 1964.

The response to the special year of evangelism in 1959 has been so "enthusiastic" that another similar emphasis is planned for 1964, the culminating year of the jubilee. In 1964, Baptists observe the 150th anniversary of the first nationwide Baptist group formed in North America.

The world peace committees of the Southern and American Baptist Conventions joined to ask for a united Baptist witness on world peace. They "looked forward" to the possibility of placing a Baptist observer at United Nations offices in New York City.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, already supported by Southern Baptists and five other Baptist bodies, invited the Baptist Federation of Canada to be a participating body. The committee helps interpret the affairs of government in their relation to religious liberty and separation of church and state.

It also helps project the Baptist witness on moral and political issues in the nation's capital.

The Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth was selected by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa., to receive a George Washington Honor Medal for its 30-minute evangelistic TV film, "The Rich Fool." It has been part of the series of "This is the Answer" televangelism programs seen by millions of residents of the United States and Canada.

Director Paul Stevens announced the televangelism series will continue in 1960. More than 100 stations in the United States plus a Canadian network have telecast the 13 films issued in 1959.

Southern Baptist-related colleges began receiving the first funds available under the National Defense Education Act for loans to qualified students.

Ministers living in Tennessee became protected by law in their court appearances. They won't have to divulge---in fact, are prohibited from it under penalty of fine or jailing---confidential information received while counseling.

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The South Carolina legislature had a somewhat similar bill pending but there were doubts it would ever reach the governor's desk to be signed into law.

The program for the 1959 session of the Southern Baptist Convention was released. It featured as a major part of the order of business, or agenda, the 100th anniversary graduation exercises of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, located in Louisville, where the Convention will meet starting May 19.

Baptist hospital administrators, meeting at St. Louis, declared there is a need for more Baptist hospitals because of the increasing population and need for expanding the Christian witness through the healing ministry.