

Theo Sommerkamp
Baptist Press
127 9th Av . No.
Nashville, Tenn.

For Release May 17

The Southern Baptist Convention opens its 100th session in the International Amphitheater, Chicago, Ill., May 28, with a joint program conducted by the Convention's Foreign Mission Board and the women's auxiliary, the Woman's Missionary Union.

15,000 persons are expected to be in Chicago one or more days for the Convention and two accompanying meetings, those of the WMU and the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. They will come from nearly all the 43 states and District of Columbia in which there are Southern Baptist churches.

The Convention proper will last four days, with morning and evening sessions in the Amphitheatre. Its closing session is Friday night, May 31.

The Woman's Missionary Union begins its annual convention Sunday, May 26, in Medinah Temple, Chicago. All its meetings will be at Medinah Temple until the joint session with the Convention on Tuesday night.

The joint session marks the end of the WMU convention.

The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference meets Monday and Tuesday, May 27-28, in the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, which will serve as Convention headquarters hotel. The ministers and their meetings Tuesday afternoon.

The Convention which was organized in 1845 will be making only its second trip to Chicago for its annual session. It met in Chicago previously in 1950.

Highlights of the Convention include yearly reports from its 20 agencies, its annual address from the Convention president, and other inspirational addresses. It will also elect officers and make plans for the future.

The WMU convention will have a special emphasis on missions, since one of the WMU's chief objectives is study and support of Southern Baptist home and foreign missionary work. It, too, elects officers and will make plans for the coming years.

The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference has no continuing year-round organization as do the Convention and the WMU. The ministers meet to share pointers in Bible interpretation, preaching, and fulfilling their role as pastors.

The week's activity in Chicago will be marked also by numerous meetings of special other groups -- seminary alumni, church musicians, church educational directors, etc. Many of these will be at luncheons, dinners, or breakfasts.