

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

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1,048 Associational
Minutes Microfilmed

NASHVILLE--(BP)--All recoverable minutes of 1,048 Baptist associations of churches have been microfilmed by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, according to Commission Executive Secretary Norman W. Cox.

Of these, 628 associations are co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention, two are co-operating with other Missionary Baptists, and 418 associations are Primitive Baptists.

Among Southern Baptist associations of churches, all recoverable minutes from Illinois, South Carolina, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee have been microfilmed.

The Commission has orders to microfilm minutes of associations in Georgia, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. These are to be filmed in 1959.

The Historical Commission began microfilming Baptists historical material 58 months ago, Cox reported. It hopes to have on microfilm within three years all recoverable minutes of every Southern Baptist association of churches.

States other than those already mentioned are planning to have their associational minutes processed in the near future, according to Cox.

Most of the minutes of associations of Primitive Baptist churches are old rather than recent minutes, Cox said. There is an interest in Primitive Baptist minutes because of their ties with Missionary Baptists in past years, he continued.

The Historical Commission will be able to keep its library of microfilm of the associations up-to-date because the department of survey, statistics, and information of the Baptist Sunday School Board secures the current minutes of the annual meetings of associations co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention.

By states are listed the number of Southern Baptist associations, existing or extinct, whose minutes have been microfilmed.

Arkansas, 90; Illinois, 25; Mississippi, 101; South Carolina, 50; Tennessee, 75; Texas, 242; Alabama, 10; Florida, 6; Georgia, 6; Kentucky, 10; Louisiana, 2; Missouri, 2; North Carolina, 4; Oklahoma, 4; Virginia, 1.

Churches Report On
Forward Program Use

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Southern Baptist churches in several states have written in to report on their use of the Forward Program of Church Finance during stewardship campaigns this fall. Here's what they have to say:

Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.--"In June, the pastor suggested to the finance committee that the church adopt the Forward Program of Church Finance. They recommended it to the church and the church set the month of September to put it on.

"We have completed the task and have pledges for \$117,000 for our new budget. On the strength of these pledges, we have adopted a Cooperative Program goal of \$36,000 for next year. Our budget year begins October 1, and we are already seeing results.

"This is better than a 75 per cent increase in Cooperative Program allocations over last year."

First Baptist Church of St. Johns (St. Louis, Mo.)--"You will rejoice with us over the results of our Forward Program of Church Finance. The amount pledged was \$3,303 per week, number of tithers 869, other pledgers 359, and total number of pledges 1,228."

Braggtown Baptist Church, Durham, N. C.--"Those pledging to the budget rose from 266 in 1956-57 to 613 this year, an increase of 347. Tithers skyrocketed from 56 in the past year to 252, an increase of 196.

"Last year \$26,000 was pledged toward the budget and \$39,000 contributed. To date \$62,088 has been pledged toward next year's budget. Appropriations for world causes are up from 12.5 per cent last year to 25 per cent."

"By far the most important result was quickening the spiritual lives of members of the church."

First Baptist Church, Kingsport, Tenn.--"We subscribed nearly \$155,000 to our annual budget. Never before in the history of our church have so many pledged to tithe or pledged to give. There were over 500 pledged to tithe and approximately 900 pledgers in Bible school and church services."

First Baptist Church, Booneville, Ark.--"This campaign has been equivalent to a revival in our church. People who have not attended church for years are coming back. When the campaign officially closed pledges for the building stood at \$77,000, and budget pledges amounted to \$770 per Sunday.

"Forty-four signed their cards with no definite amount, but the amounts

given in the past carried the budget to approximately \$840 per Sunday. The budget of the church this year is \$24,000 which means that the people have pledged an increase of 275 per cent for next year."

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California Considers Survey Of Finances

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of California wants a survey made of the total financial program of the convention, hoping to reduce spending.

The board will recommend the survey to the annual session of the convention, which meets in the near future.

The president of the executive board appointed a committee to study whether it will be advisable to combine some departments of the convention to cut expenses.

The executive board approved, and will recommend to the annual convention, a Cooperative Program objective of \$725,000 for 1958. The board will recommend that the convention no longer hold back money to meet preferred items in the state budget but that a straight 20.7 per cent of Cooperative Program receipts be sent for use throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

The board also approved purchase of a printing press and other equipment to be operated by the California Southern Baptist, the convention's weekly newspaper. Purchase would be made providing it can be done within the convention's 1958 budget.

The press would be used to print not only the weekly newspaper but also to print other convention materials. The board believed that by owning its own press it could save on printing bills.

The California Baptist Foundation reported that it has elected Gabriel R. Guedj to head a newly-created endowment department. Guedj has been pastor of Baptist Temple, Fresno, for the past three years.

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Census Question On Religion Disapproved

WASHINGTON--(BP)--The proposed question on religious affiliation in the 1960 Federal census would infringe on religious liberty and the separation of church and state, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs declared in a statement here.

The Committee is jointly maintained by six Baptist conventions in the

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United States, including the Southern and American Conventions.

The Committee also said that instructions in civil defense through the pulpit and religious press should remain a function of the churches and should not become a function of government.

A committee of the Joint Committee was appointed to study the problem of moral instruction in the public schools and the problem of the coordination of religious and secular study as projected by the schools and the churches.

Another committee will be appointed to study the Biblical basis of religious liberty. The committee, to be composed of "competent Baptist scholars," will be asked to prepare a paper on the subject to present at a future meeting.

Actions were taken during the Joint Committee's annual meeting at its offices here.

The organization plans to expand its new coverage of public affairs as related to Baptists and religious liberty. The Committee said the expansion will have as its objective keeping Baptists better informed about public affairs.

The Joint Committee elected Eldon W. Koch, pastor, Berwyn Baptist Church, College Park, Md., as chairman succeeding Edward B. Willingham, New York, general secretary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies.

Other officers are Walter Pope Binns, president, William Jewell College, Liberty Mo., vice-chairman; A. C. Miller, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, secretary, and Edward H. DeGroot, Jr., Washington, treasurer.

C. Emanuel Carlson is executive director of the Joint Committee.

The question proposed on the 1960 U. S. Census is, "What is your religion?" The Joint Committee approved this statement, containing its reaction to the question:

"It is our judgment as a Committee that the inclusion of this question in the Census of 1960 would be a violation of religious liberty and separation of church and state; in the absence of Convention resolutions, we recommend that the executive groups of the member Conventions be asked to consider this matter at their next meetings."

The Committee said the religious affairs office of the Federal Civil Defense Administration wishes to reach ministers and laymen through newsletters, conferences, clip sheets for use in sermon preparation, appearances at conventions, Sunday school materials, and mission society programs.

"They seek an organizational plan in which church leadership and community

civil defense leadership tie together into a working organization," the Committee continued.

"As loyal American citizens we share with the Federal Civil Defense Administration its concern for adequate preparedness for national emergencies. However, we believe it is the function of the churches in their own way to provide ideological and spiritual instruction for their members," the Committee said.

The Committee further voted to sponsor another conference on religious liberty similar to one held Oct. 8-10 in Washington. The date will be announced later.

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Gay Elected Acting
Institute President

GRACEVILLE, Fla.--(BP)--George Gay, pastor of First Baptist Church, Marianna, Fla., is serving as acting president of Baptist Bible Institute here until a permanent officer is elected.

Baptist Bible Institute was recently received by the Florida Baptist Convention to be operated under its control. A permanent president is expected to be elected soon.

Marianna is the county seat of the county in which Graceville is located.

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Oliver Shields Heads
Missouri Civic Group

ST. LOUIS--(BP)--Oliver R. Shields, for more than 17 years pastor of Lafayette Park Baptist Church here, has resigned to become executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Missouri.

The Christian Civic Foundation is an organization working with churches "to increase public understanding of the evils resulting from beverage alcohol."

Shields will have his office in St. Louis. He is a former vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Largest Baptistry

OMAHA, Nebr.--(BP)--Members of the First Southern Baptist Church at Omaha smilingly refer to the fact that they have the largest baptistry of any Southern Baptist churches in that area. They baptize converts in the swimming pool of the local YMCA.

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Atlantic City Rally
Caps Jubilee Advance

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.--(BP)--Seven Baptist conventions in the United States and Canada plan to be represented here at a rally in May, 1964, celebrating the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist work on a national scale in North America.

About 40,000 persons are expected to attend. The rally will be for inspiration and fellowship.

Baptist work on a national scale started in Philadelphia in 1814 when the General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States for Foreign Missions was formed. The convention is commonly referred to as the Triennial Convention because it met every three years.

The rally here will culminate the period of Baptist Jubilee Advance in which the seven Baptist groups are participating. Special years of observance have been set for 1959 through 1964.

The Southern Baptist Convention is one of the seven groups. At their 1956 Convention in Kansas City, Southern Baptists approved 1964 as a year of Third Jubilee Celebration.

The statement approved by the Convention at that time said: "It is an effort to bring about, in the Third Jubilee Year of 1964, the greatest achievements of any single year in Baptist history, to give to the world a dramatic presentation of what Baptists stand for and what they have done, and to gain a mighty impetus for even greater achievements for God's glory in the years ahead."

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BP folks and facts

.....Eldredge M. Caskey has been named business manager and treasurer of Furman University, Greenville, S. C. Caskey, who has been treasurer of the University since 1949, will take over many of the duties of Julian H. Scarborough, administrative director, who retired at the end of September.

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.....Whit M. Aiken, pastor, Confederate Ave. Baptist Church, Atlanta, resigned to become pastor of Spring Creek Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

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.....J. D. McCarty has moved from McKinley Ave. Baptist Church, Harrisburg, Ill., to Ash Creek Baptist Church, Azle, Tex. McCarty plans to attend Southwestern Baptist Seminary at the same time.

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Millard J. Berquist
Midwestern President

(Note to Baptist Editors: Picture to come in next mailing.)

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Millard J. Berquist, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla., has been elected president of Midwestern Baptist Seminary here, the newest theological institution in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Berquist will move to Kansas City during December, according to H. I. Hester, Liberty, Mo., president of the seminary board.

Berquist will be returning home. He is a native of Kansas City, Kans., was educated at William Jewell College, in nearby Liberty, Mo., and received his doctor's degree at Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville.

He is a past president of the Florida Baptist Convention and past president of United Florida Drys. Berquist has been a trustee of Southern Seminary and has taken part in Home Mission Board preaching missions to Panama and Jamaica.

He has been pastor of First Church, Tampa, since 1947. He is the second pastor of that church to become president of a Southern Baptist seminary. Roland Q. Leavell, who preceded Berquist at Tampa, is president of New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

Hester said that Midwestern Seminary has made arrangements with Calvary Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., to use the church's educational buildings temporarily for its classes which begin in September, 1958.

The seminary is presently negotiating for "an extremely desirable site close to the heart of Kansas City," according to Hester. Announcement of the location of the property, if negotiations succeed, will be made at the meeting of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville in December.

The Executive Committee must approve the purchase, he added.

Hester said that the state of Missouri granted the charter to Midwestern Seminary on the same day the board elected Berquist president. Berquist is already selecting a faculty, Hester continued.