



THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

November 6, 1957

Baptist Schools Enrol
Record 46,235 Students

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Enrolments in Southern Baptist colleges and schools reached an all-time high with the opening of the fall term in September, according to R. Orin Cornett, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Education Commission here.

Total net enrolment for the six seminaries is 5,118; for the 30 senior colleges and universities, 30,830; for the 21 junior colleges, 7,604; for the 12 academies and Bible schools, 2,683. Total net enrolment in Southern Baptist schools is 46,235, which is about 3½ per cent more than the 1956 total of 44,632.

"In the last five years," said Cornett, "fall enrolments in the 51 Southern Baptist colleges and universities have increased 37 per cent during a period in which the college-age population of the United States has fluctuated very little, after dropping 11 per cent from 1942 to 1952.

During the next 12 years, 1958-1970, the college-age population of the United States will increase about 65 per cent, that of the South 50-60 per cent.

"The number of college-age Southern Baptists will increase at least 100 per cent, and perhaps as much as 150 per cent. Southern Baptists, state by state, must make long-range plans for expansion of the facilities of their colleges."

-30-

Bill Reynolds To Lead
1958 Convention Music

NASHVILLE--(BP)--W. J. (Bill) Reynolds, associate editor of church music materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board here, will be music director at the 1958 session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Convention President Brooks Hays announced the selection of Reynolds for the Convention next May in Houston.

-30-

First, Kansas City
Strengthens ABC Tie

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--First Baptist Church here has notified Kansas City Baptist Association that the church wishes to report its year's activities directly to the American Baptist Convention from now on.

Kansas City Baptist Association is composed of churches co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention while First Baptist Church, though one of 28 churches which organized the local association, has always co-operated with the American Convention.

It is common practice for Baptist churches to file an "associational letter" each year with the association of churches to which they belong. This letter describes the activities of the church during the past 12 months.

A resolution of the Kansas City Association took note of the fact that the association since its organization in 1926 has reached the point that it is now "almost entirely Southern Baptist in its concepts, methods, and objectives."

The resolution said that the number of Baptist churches in the Missouri city affiliated with the American Convention or co-operating with both American and Southern Conventions has "greatly decreased."

The association said "We express to the First Baptist Church our complete understanding of their problem, and . . . recognize fully their privilege as a sovereign autonomous church to take such action in the interest of more effective work in their own denomination . . .

"We express . . . our gratitude for their contributions to the cause of Christ in Kansas City . . . and assure them of our prayer that God will bless them in all of their efforts for Him . . ."

Atlanta Asks 'Speed
Up' On College Plans

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Atlanta Baptist Association, made up of churches in the Georgia capital, wants to speed up plans for a proposed senior Baptist college here.

The association, in its annual session recently, asked its college committee to "proceed with all possible speed toward making definite decisions and recommendations."

Committee Chairman Monroe F. Swilley, Jr., pastor of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, said the committee has been working "diligently" in efforts to find a campus site and secure financial support.

Tracts in downtown and suburban Atlanta are being considered by the committee, he declared. Swilley said he hoped to make a report in January.

George Sparks, retired former president of Georgia State College of Business Administration, has been employed by the college committee to advise on campus sites and securing financial backing.

-30-

640-Acre Farm Given
To Aid Baptist Work

DALLAS--(BP)--A \$200,000, 640-acre farm near Hereford, Tex., has been given to the Baptist foundation of Texas by an Amarillo couple, Mr. and Mrs. Red L. Ferguson because of their "gratitude to God."

They will receive a life time income from the transfer. After their deaths, three separate endowment funds will be established. These include \$25,000 for Wayland Baptist College, Plainview; \$25,000 for the Texas Baptist cooperative missions program through the First Baptist Church, Amarillo; and the remaining amount will be an endowment investment for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

-30-

Alabama Church Tries
New Hours On Sunday

BIRMINGHAM--(BP)--Norwood Baptist Church here has changed the hours of its Sunday school and morning worship service in what the pastor describes as an effort to slow the hurried pace of Sunday worshippers.

The church moved its Sunday school hour from 9:30 to 9 a.m., its time for the morning service from 10:50 to 10:10. Pastor John Scott Trent said this permits worshippers to leave the church by 11:10.

"The people at the church have taken on a new Sunday-morning glow," Trent continues. "The feeling of having to rush around on this day is now gone.

"They may enjoy the Sunday school lesson, the sermon, and every phase of the worship service knowing that they will get out in plenty of time to do what they have planned."

-30-

BP folks and facts.....

.....William I. Barkley has begun pastorate of East Baltimore Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md. Barkley is former pastor of the Baptist church at Gene Autry, Okla.

-0-

.....Purser Hewitt has been elevated from managing editor to executive editor of the Clarion-Ledger, morning newspaper published in Jackson, Miss. Hewitt is a former president of Mississippi Baptist Convention and is at present a member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

-0-

.....Ellie Hopkins, reporter and editor for the Longview, Tex., Daily News and Morning Journal for more than 27 years, received the 1957 press award sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He is now vice-president of Carl Estes publications, which include the two daily newspapers, weeklies and magazines.

-30-