

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second story in a series of six articles on the report of the Committee to Study Total Southern Baptist Convention Program. The first story covered the report generally. The second story presents that part of the report covering the Southern Baptist Convention apart from its agencies, the Executive Committee, and the Inter-Agency Council.

**Impartial Role Given
Executive Committee**

By the Baptist Press

The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee would be placed in a more impartial and objective position, under recommendations of the Committee to Study Total SBC Program.

The Executive Committee functions as the Convention "ad interim" (between sessions) in all matters not delegated to any agency or committee by the Convention.

To place the Executive Committee in a better position to "advise the Southern Baptist Convention on all Convention programs on the same objective basis," the Executive Committee's present division of promotion would become an independent, separate agency.

This agency would be known as the Stewardship Commission.

The division of promotion helps promote the Cooperative Program, the Convention's financial plan to support missionary, educational, and benevolent work in states and in the Southern Baptist Convention.

This division also promotes the Forward Program of Church Finance, which aids churches in their yearly budget campaigns through recommended campaign organization and supply of literature.

Recommendations of the Committee to Study Total SBC Program--generally referred to as the Survey Committee--will be presented to the 1958 Convention at Houston for adoption.

The Survey Committee recommends that the division of publications remain with the Executive Committee "to provide a public relations and press service to interpret and promote the total Southern Baptist program."

However, if an expanded Convention public relations activity should at some future date warrant it, the Executive Committee "should recommend the establishment of such a program and the creation of an agency of the Convention to conduct this program.

Some of the activities of the division of publications include operation of the Baptist Press, SBC news service; publication of the Baptist Program, monthly leadership magazine with a circulation of 31,000; the Baptist Bulletin Service providing churches with bulletins with two pages pre-printed, and the SBC Mat and Stencil Service, which also aids church bulletin publication.

The Mat Service includes mats advertising what Baptists believe.

The Survey Committee recommends the addition to the Executive Committee staff of a program analyst and a financial analyst.

These analysts would advise the Executive Committee on the programs and financial needs of various Convention agencies.

The Survey Committee further recommends that the Executive Committee be housed in a building of its own. It now uses space in a building of the Sunday School Board. The new building would also house some of the smaller agencies.

The Survey Committee recommendations, if adopted, would double the number of members of the Committee on Resolutions which serves during each annual session.

Three of the 10 members (under the proposed new set up) of the Committee on Resolutions would be from the Executive Committee to give the Committee on Resolutions "information about recent work of the Executive Committee and Convention agencies."

The Committee on Denominational Calendar would be established as a permanent committee and would "review and recommend approval of the calendar proposed by the Inter-Agency Council."

The Survey Committee restates the role of the Southern Baptist Convention, apart from its agencies, this way: "The Convention should continue to retain to itself only those responsibilities which cannot be effectively delegated."

It recommends more balanced representation on Convention agencies and committees between ministers and laymen---with no more than two thirds of the members coming from either group.

The Executive Committee---which is the Convention "ad interim" (or between sessions) in all matters not delegated by the Convention to any agency or committee---would be placed in a more impartial position, under Survey Committee recommendations.

"In reviewing the total Southern Baptist program, it appears to your committee that lack of correlation of effort is a more general and serious problem than duplication of effort among agencies."

So reads a statement in the report of the Survey Committee. Accompanying this statement is the following recommendation:

"The Inter-Agency Council should be continued and strengthened as the organization through which the agencies should correlate their programs of work."

The Inter-Agency Council at present is a voluntary and unofficial organization within the Southern Baptist Convention. It has, as the committee states, "very limited representation" from four official Convention organizations.

Members of the Inter-Agency Council include three agencies---the Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, and Brotherhood Commission---and the Convention's auxiliary, Woman's Missionary Union.

The Survey Committee declares that the Inter-Agency Council "should be authorized formally by the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as the organization through which the various agencies should correlate their work."

To strengthen the Inter-Agency Council, the committee recommends that representation on it be enlarged to include also the Foreign Mission Board, Relief and Annuity Board, Church Loan Board (a proposed new agency), Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Radio and TV Commission, the proposed new Stewardship Commission, Southern Baptist Foundation, and the seminaries and Carver School of Missions and Social Work.

(Except for the institutions, each agency would have three representatives. The seminaries and Carver School would have three representatives together.)

The Inter-Agency Council would have responsibility for drafting the proposed annual denominational calendar, a function now delegated to a special Convention committee. After the Council had drafted a proposed calendar, the calendar would be submitted to the special Committee on Denominational Calendar.

Expenses of the Council would be borne by the participating agencies, except for a small amount budgeted by the Convention to pay expenses of secretarial help and of persons aiding the Council who are not from its member agencies.

The Survey Committee recommends that the Council not have any administrative duties nor personnel, and that it not be responsible for conducting programs. Its role would remain "purely advisory."

It would not report directly to the Convention as do the agencies. The Council itself would not be considered an agency.

Public Relations Group
Endorses 30,000 Goal

ATLANTA--(BP)--Members of the Southern Baptist Public Relations Association have pledged their support to the Southern Baptist Convention's effort to establish 30,000 new churches or missions.

The Baptist Public Relations Association includes denominational workers in fields of publicity, public relations, news, radio and television, audio-visual aids, and similar areas of public communications.

The Southern Baptist Convention has set 1964 as the date for its 30,000 goal to be reached.

Text of the statement approved by BPRA was:

"That the Baptist Public Relations Association heartily endorse the 30,000 Movement and pledge full co-operation in promoting it through existing channels and that as individual public relations workers we support the Movement in every possible way."

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Give \$3 Million A Year
For Work With Negroes

(with picture Advisory Council officers)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Southern Baptists are contributing an estimated \$3 million a year "in their efforts to render a religious service to Negroes in this country and abroad," according to a report to the Advisory Council on Work with Negroes here.

The Advisory Council is an unofficial organization which meets yearly to discuss mission work which various Southern Baptist Convention groups are doing among Negroes.

The report said that at present, "there are over 60 persons employed by the Home Mission Board to work with Negroes. The budget for this work in the United States for 1958 is over \$200,000.

"Africa has always been a field of major interest for the Foreign Mission Board. In 1956 there were 248 missionaries serving in Africa, with a budget of approximately \$2 million.

"Another major interest of Southern Baptists has been in theological education for Negroes. Since 1924 they have co-operated with National Baptists (National Baptist Convention), U. S. A., Inc., in the operation of the American Baptist Seminary, located in Nashville, Tenn.

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"Southern Baptists have contributed annually approximately \$100,000 to it for the past decade. This property is valued at \$750,000.

"In addition to this, Negroes are admitted to our theological seminaries and several of our colleges.

"There are now eight state conventions that have full-time state directors of Negro work, and seven of these are jointly supported by the Home Mission Board," the report continues.

"There are also many associations and individual churches helping in our work with Negroes."

The report was submitted at the request of the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council asked A. C. Miller, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission, and Victor T. Glass, associate secretary of the Home Mission Board's department of Negro work, to prepare it. Both men are from Nashville.

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Missionary Caliber,
Quality 'Impressive'

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A Southern Baptist leader recently home from a visit with Baptists around the world was "greatly impressed with the caliber and quality of our Southern Baptist Convention missionaries."

Merrill D. Moore, Nashville, associate executive secretary and director of promotion for the SBC Executive Committee, covered 30,000 miles in an eight-week trip. He made the trip in company with W. E. Grindstaff, Oklahoma City, associate executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

He visited in 25 countries and conducted conferences or services in 17 of these nations. The trip was in response to repeated invitations for mission field assistance in the area of stewardship and church finance, Moore said.

He said also that mission opportunities are being lost because of too few missionaries. "An opportunity for missionary advance in one of the countries I visited was lost recently because there was no one to fill the position," he added.

"The need for more mission volunteers is even greater than the need for more missionary money," he said.

According to Moore, Christians should ask themselves "Where should I serve God?" rather than limiting it to "Where should I serve God in America?" He said he felt too many were assuming that God was not leading them to service outside the United States.

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Moore reported that the trip gave them both new insights into Southern Baptist mission work in the Orient, Near East, and Europe.

Their 56-day trip went at the pace of 500 miles a day on the average. On an average day, they spent 2-1/2 hours in public conferences and services, plus uncounted time in private conferences with missionaries.

Moore said he and Grindstaff delivered 120 messages each to representatives of about 360 churches. They contacted 210 Southern Baptist missionaries.

"While these were primarily leadership meetings, we had a total attendance in services and conferences of 11,000 persons," he said.

"In practically every country we found a feeling of urgent need on the part of missionaries and national leaders for help in stewardship and church finance," Moore continued.

"In one Oriental country, missionaries told us: 'You have come at exactly the right time to do the most good. A year ago we would not have been ready for your coming. Six months from now would have been too late. The Lord has led you in coming to us at exactly the right time.' "

The need for counsel in the areas of church finance and stewardship evidenced itself in two ways, according to Moore:

1. Church leaders realized the need for spiritual growth and were concerned about what their churches could do about giving and about becoming self-supporting churches.

2. "The feeling of national pride is being used of the Lord to awaken them to the values of self-support."

Moore and Grindstaff emphasized the fact that stewardship was a matter of spiritual commitment and spiritual development.

The Executive Committee officer said "The time has come when more help must be given missionaries not only in stewardship but also in religious education and other fields." This would be the same type of special, professional counsel available to American churches in clinics, conferences, and field work.

Jubilee Group Adopts
Fellowship Statement

CHICAGO--(BP)--Representatives of seven North American Baptist groups participating in the Baptist Jubilee Advance have adopted a statement (calling for increased evangelism free of any rivalry between groups.)

The statement was adopted at a meeting here of the joint committee planning the Baptist Jubilee Advance. The seven Baptist groups have a total of 18 million members.

They have pledged themselves to work toward common spiritual goals and to observe 1964 as Jubilee Year. That year is the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist work on a national scale in North America.

The participants at the meeting here adopted a second statement which sets forth the six objectives of the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

The objectives relate to Baptist concern for people who have not accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour, the "vital reality" of the Bible as a rule of faith and practice, a renewed understanding of Baptist principles, spiritual growth of Baptist churches and their members, and spiritual fellowship and interdependence of the seven Baptist groups.

The joint committee called for a meeting in Washington Sept. 16 of the editors of all general magazines and newspapers published by the participating Baptist groups in the United States and Canada.

Objective of the one-day meeting of Baptist editors across North America is to see what they can do through their periodicals to publicize the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

The joint committee adopted a bell and torch, with the words "For Liberty and Light," as a symbol of the Baptist Jubilee Advance. This had been approved earlier by a sub-committee on evangelism.

The statement adopted concerning inter-group relations says in part:

"In this Baptist Jubilee Advance, each co-operating unit desires and prays for the strengthening and advance of brother Baptists of other bodies and areas.

"None desires to grow at the expense of the others; none believes it has a right to say to another, 'We must increase and you should decrease.' . . . Each believes that Baptist advance in North America should be an advance on every convention and conference front.

"Each will strive for the enlargement of its particular fellowship in the faith. But this Spirit-promoted ambition will not tolerate scorn of any brethren,

nor that type of rivalry which flouts the principles of brotherhood in order to resort to tactics of predatory warfare."

It said further that "Baptists of North America should march forward toward a nobler destiny" but "not as competitors, but as compatriots; not in fear of one another, but with deep faith in another; not with jealousy but with shared joy."

The joint committee adopted a motion presented by its Chairman, C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., that the chairman of the joint committee be limited to one year term of office. A new chairman will be elected at the next meeting Sept. 22-23 in Nashville.

It elected Warren chairman of the general emphasis for the year 1962 when the theme is "Evangelism through Church Extension." Warren is presently coordinating Southern Baptist Convention efforts to establish 30,000 new churches or missions by Jubilee Year.

March 5, 1958

Baptist Press

ADVISORY COUNCIL OFFICERS---Officers of the Southern Baptist Advisory Council for Work with Negroes are R. Orin Cornett, recording secretary, and Clifton J. Allen, chairman, seated, and Victor T. Glass, vice-chairman. Cornett is executive secretary of the Education Commission; Allen is editorial secretary of the Sunday School Board, and Glass is associate in Negro work for the Home Mission Board. All live in Nashville.---Baptist Press Photo.

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