

March 19, 1958

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the sixth and concluding article in a series based on the report of the Committee to Study Total Southern Baptist Convention Program. In this article, the committee's philosophy and guiding principles in making the two-year survey are reported.

7 Principles Guided Committee In Survey

By the Baptist Press

In making its two-year survey of the Convention, the Committee to Study Total Southern Baptist Convention Program says it was guided by seven principles.

It says further that it set out to make "a thorough and objective study, out of which would be revealed the possibilities of effecting changes which would enable Southern Baptists to do more effectively the work they are now doing well."

It reports that from the start of its survey in 1956, it took into account the "tremendous success which has accompanied the activities of the Southern Baptist Convention (as) proof of the workability of the methods employed by Southern Baptists generally . . .

"Such success is an evidence of the blessing of God upon our efforts" as a Convention, it continues.

The Total Program Study Committee, more often called the Survey Committee, presents its 63-page report to the 1958 session of the SBC in Houston in May.

(These recommendations for change or re-affirmation of Convention policy and programs have been reported in previous articles.)

The Survey Committee lists the seven principles which guided its study as:

1. "Local Baptist churches are autonomous organizations and each general Baptist body is independent and self-governing. Cooperation is always on a voluntary basis.
2. "The Southern Baptist Convention has responsibility for providing broad direction to all its agencies. The purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention is to carry on programs which are essential to attainment of the denomination's objective, but which can not be carried on by individual churches working alone, and which can not be more effectively carried on by local associations and state conventions.
3. "Convention agencies should have full responsibility and authority for the conduct of their affairs within the limits established by the Convention.

4. "The Executive Committee should assist the Convention in its work without infringing upon the authority and responsibility of the agencies.

"The Convention meeting once a year does not have ample time or information necessary to carry out detailed operation of its many ministries. The Executive Committee is established to assist the Convention in carrying out its programs without assuming either the Convention's responsibilities or those of the agencies.

5. "The Convention's programs should be promoted through other general Baptist bodies wherever feasible. Under this concept, the Southern Baptist Convention should provide promotional methods and materials to assist the state conventions in their work.

6. "The Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies should carry on only those programs which can not be carried on more effectively by the local churches, the associations, or the state conventions.

7. "Sound organization concepts should be observed in all activities of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The committee said it discussed fully each of its recommendations with personnel of the agencies or institutions involved.

"We have, individually and as a group, constantly sought God's guidance. We believe with deep conviction that each recommendation made in the report . . . represents the result of mature thought and study on our part, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit," the committee adds.

Man To Be Missing
At Houston Reunion

HOUSTON--(BP)-- One man will be missing from a reunion breakfast of laymen during the Southern Baptist Convention here in May.

He is Hugo Parkman, a former motel operator of Langdale, Ala. The reason: He will be 8,000 miles away in his new job in Manila, Philippines.

However, he will be much in the conversation of the nearly 100 men who have made Brotherhood-sponsored tours of Southern Baptist mission fields as they sit down to breakfast on Thursday morning, May 22.

Fifty of these laymen, including Parkman, made a tour into Mexico in the spring of 1956. Returning home, Parkman reached a decision he had struggled with for some time. In September, 1956 he volunteered for mission work.

The Foreign Mission Board accepted him and assigned him to the post of business manager of Baptist mission work in the Philippines. He and his family arrived at their new work the last week in January, 1958.

Parkman, a graduate of Auburn, was a deacon of the Langdale Baptist Church, a Sunday school leader, Brotherhood president, Training Union worker, and church pianist.

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Suggests Conventioneers
Might Like Galveston

HOUSTON--(BP)--The chairman of the general arrangements committee for the 1958 Southern Baptist Convention here suggests that messengers might consider commuting from Galveston, 50 miles away.

The chairman, E. H. Westmoreland, pastor, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, says that Galveston is one hour's driving time from Houston via the Gulf Freeway.

"This might enable some of the messengers to combine a brief vacation period with their trip to the Convention," he reports. Galveston is a port and resort city located on the Gulf of Mexico.

He lists the Galvez Hotel, Buccaneer Hotel, and Jack Tar Courts as "ideal places to stay" in Galveston.

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Arizona Decides Site
Of Children's Home

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona has voted to name its proposed children's home here the Baptist Children's Home of Arizona.

Decisions on the name and location of the children's home were reached at a special called meeting of the board here.

In the same session, the Arizona executive board also voted to issue \$250,000 worth of bonds on Apr. 1. Several months ago, it had voted to issue up to \$1 million in bonds at some future date.

The first quarter-million dollars will be used to make loans to churches for building.

The Baptist Children's Home of Arizona will be located on property in Phoenix already owned by the convention. Construction is scheduled to begin at an early date, probably during 1958. The first unit will cost an estimated \$18,000.

The Arizona Convention has an agreement with Baptist Building Service, an independent organization, in the sale of bonds. Whatever bonds are sold to investors within the state will partly benefit the convention, because Baptist Building Service has agreed to turn back to the convention one-fifth of the service percentage for selling these bonds.

In return, the convention executive board voted not to endorse another bond sales company.

As security for the quarter-million dollar bond issue, Arizona Convention is mortgaging its assembly grounds, Paradise Valley Baptist Ranch at Prescott.

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Baptist Press

NOTE TO EDITORS: The meeting of the Minister's Wives Conference at Houston has been changed from Thursday, May 22 to Wednesday, May 21. Hours are 3 to 5 P.M. The meeting place remains the same, River Oaks Baptist Church. Transportation will be furnished from the Coliseum to the church and back to the Coliseum.