

RESUME OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST HOSPITAL

(Data from Annuals of the Southern Baptist Convention unless otherwise stated)

- 1916 -- The Convention adopted a resolution offered by H. F. Vermillion (New Mexico) that the president appoint a committee of five to "consider the advisability of the establishment by our Baptist people of a sanatorium in the Southwest for the care and treatment of tubercular patients, and . . . to report to the next session of the Convention."
- 1917 -- The Convention adopted a motion by F. M. McConnell to commit "the matter of a Tuberculosis Sanatorium . . . to the Home Mission Board with full power and authority to act in such a way as may be deemed best to accomplish this gracious work. . . ." The Convention adopted its Hospital Committee's recommendations that Baptist hospital workers be encouraged to participate in the meetings of the American Hospital Association to help them keep up "with the latest hospital methods and management;" also, "that the Consideration of our hospital work become a part of the regular program of this Convention and the Committee on Order of Business be instructed to provide a place for this subject."
- 1918 -- The Home Mission Board, following the Convention's instructions of 1917, appointed a five-member "Tuberculosis Commission." The Home Mission Board accepted the property offered by El Paso, appointed H. F. Vermillion, Superintendent, June, 1918, and began to operate the "Southern Baptist Sanatorium."
- 1919 -- The Convention authorized its committee on committees to appoint a committee of one from each state in the Convention to report at this session on Hospitals and Sanitariums. The Convention adopted the report which included a recommendation for the creation of "a standing committee on Baptist Hospitals in the bounds of the Convention," and for the appointment of a committee to arrange for a meeting of the Southern Baptist Hospital Association (Conference) at the next session of the Convention.
- 1920 -- A total of \$2,125,000 of the 75-Million Campaign was to be set apart for hospital construction and enlargement. The Committee on Hospitals after considerable investigation recommended to the Convention that the Home Mission Board consider the construction of a hospital in New Orleans and be given authority to proceed should the proposal be feasible. The Committee declared its conviction that the Home Board was "the logical agency" to conduct this enterprise. . . . The Convention reappointed the Committee on hospitals as a standing committee and added four additional members. . . . An appeal from Florida for a hospital in that state was referred to the Committee on Hospitals.

- 1921 -- The Committee on Hospitals presented a six-page progress report on Baptist hospitals within the Convention territory. All but one of the 17 hospitals were conducting schools of nursing. Evaluation of hospital properties totaled \$6,240,815.25 A site for the proposed Southern Baptist hospital in New Orleans was offered by the Association of Commerce of that city to the Home Mission Board. . . . \$400,000 spent on construction of new facilities for the sanatorium at El Paso.
- 1922 -- The Home Board, because of shortage of funds and other considerations referred the question of building the hospital in New Orleans back to the Convention for reconsideration. The Committee on Hospitals recommended that the Convention approve the steps of the Home Board in securing a hospital site (purchased by funds raised in New Orleans; the city government had offered to give the property to the Baptists, but they refused the gift and purchased it instead so that the property would be undeniably under Baptist control). It also recommended that the Board be instructed to "finance and build the hospital as contemplated by this Convention." The Board was not required to begin construction until two or more years had lapsed. The Convention adopted the committee's report with the above recommendations and also instructed the Hospital Committee to co-operate with the Home Board in carrying out arrangements concerning the New Orleans Hospital. The Convention also approved the Hospital Committee's suggestion that a General Hospital Fund be created at the close of the 75-Million Campaign which "should be administered by whatever board or agency to which is committed the hospital work of the Convention."
- 1923 -- By Convention action members were added to the Committee from those states which previously had no representation on the Committee. This committee recommended that "a special hospital commission consisting of one member from each state shall be created by this Convention, and that the erection and administration of the proposed New Orleans hospital be turned over to this Commission this hospital commission shall make a survey of the hospital situation in the South from a Baptist standpoint, with the view of bringing definite recommendations to this Convention one year hence in regard to a permanent hospital policy for the future." The Convention also approved the Committee's recommendations regarding the financing of the construction of the New Orleans hospital. The Home Board was to contribute \$250,000 toward the first unit to be constructed beginning no later than December 1, 1924. This amount was to be the limit of the Board's responsibility and was to be refunded to it out of the hospital funds to be provided by the Convention. . . . The Convention approved the recommendation of the Hospital Committee "that such funds necessary to ultimately complete [sic] an institution to cost not less than \$2,000,000 shall be provided by this Convention from future campaigns, said funds to be administered by said hospital commission." The Convention also approved the transfer of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium from the management of the Home Mission Board to Hospital Commission as soon as such transfer could be facilitated.

1924 -- The Hospital Commission recommended the following hospital policy which was adopted by the Convention:

First, That the general policy of this Convention be to observe denominational State ownership and control of Baptist hospitals;

Second, That the Convention recognizes certain outstanding exceptions, such as the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at El Paso, Texas, and the General Hospital at New Orleans, for which the Convention stands committed;

Third, That this Hospital Commission with five local members shall be incorporated and shall hold in trust and operate all hospitals of this Convention; and shall act in an advisory capacity with such other Baptist Hospitals within our territory as may desire same; it being understood that in this recommendation no elaborate or expensive organization is contemplated, but only an administrative commission adequate to successful business operation.

Louis J. Bristow, elected Superintendent of the hospital, moved to New Orleans in July, 1924. Construction was begun on the hospital in November. The Convention endorsed the Hospital Commission's suggestion that the workers in official positions in Baptist hospitals, in so far as was practical, should be Baptists; that the hospitals should employ a chaplain or a trained woman worker to do evangelistic work, etc. These suggestions were made on the basis of the conviction that "the denominational feature of Baptist hospitals is paramount. . . ." The Convention voted to designate "Mothers Day" on the denominational calendar as "Hospital Day" for emphasis upon the ministry of Baptist hospitals. The Sunday School Board was to provide the literature in co-operation with the Southern Baptist Hospital Association. Transfer of the El Paso Sanatorium was not to be made until the Hospital Commission had been incorporated.

1925 -- The Second annual report of the Hospital Commission indicated that it had secured a charter from the State of Louisiana and had organized by electing F. S. Groner, Texas, president, James H. Tharp, New Orleans, vice-president, Louis J. Bristow, secretary-treasurer . . . The Commission sold a \$400,000 bond issue to help finance the hospital construction which was to be repaid from the 3% allocation made by the convention to the Commission from South-wide funds. The property for the New Orleans hospital, etc., was transferred to the Commission by the Home Board. . . . Five additional local members were added to the Commission upon its recommendation to the Convention. The continued observance of "Hospital Day" was endorsed by the Convention. The Convention adopted the recommendation of its Resolutions Committee that no further action be taken on the resolution that the Hospital Commission be authorized to promote the establishment of a Baptist hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas--quoted the general hospital policy of the Convention to "observe state ownership and control of Baptist hospitals."

- 1926 -- The New Orleans hospital was opened March 8, 1926.
- 1927 -- The Hospital Commission reported that the New Orleans hospital was operating on a self-sustaining basis and did charity work costing \$27,526.20. . . . The allocation from the Convention to the Hospital Commission was reduced to 2% for 1928 and was less than the cost of charity work being done. The receipts of the Commission from the Convention for the year were barely more than the interest charges on the debt on the New Orleans hospital plant.
- 1928 -- The Hospital Commission declared that its work was "to build and operate a hospital in New Orleans, and to report upon the general conditions within the territory of this Convention." Income from the hospital over expenses was being used to reduce the institution's indebtedness which had been re-financed upon approval by the Executive Committee. The hospital and its school of nurses had been given a high rating by nationally recognized medical associations. The Convention instructed the Hospital Commission to attempt repayment of the \$250,000 loan from the Home Mission Board.

The Convention adopted the following recommendations of its Efficiency Committee regarding the Hospital Commission:

"2. The Hospital Commission

Your Committee recognizes the importance of the city of New Orleans as a strategic center in Southern Baptist territory. However, your Committee is of the opinion that the Southern Baptist Convention, as such, ought to get out of the hospital business at the earliest possible time, and in view of this opinion, we recommend:

First. That for the time being the Hospital Commission continue as now organized.

Second. That at the earliest possible time the Hospital Commission, in connection with the Executive Committee of this Convention, transfer the hospital in New Orleans to the State Baptist Convention of Louisiana, or jointly to Louisiana and other state or states, in such a way as to conserve the integrity of this Convention and the best interest of the Baptist people.

Third. That it be understood that the Hospital Commission shall not project any new building enterprises, or make any additions to existing plants except in cases of unsolicited or local donations which do not involve the Convention in additional expense and which are accepted only with the consent of the Convention or the Executive Committee acting for the Convention.

Fourth. That the Hospital Commission be given an equitable amount of co-operative funds until such time as the transfer is completed."

- 1929 -- The Hospital Commission reported that it had discussed the transfer of the New Orleans Hospital to Louisiana Baptists with the Executive Board of the Louisiana Convention as instructed by the Convention in 1928. The Louisiana

Board indicated that much of the state was mission territory and that the same conditions which had called into being the New Orleans Hospital as a co-operative missionary enterprise still prevailed; that Louisiana Baptists were currently unable to maintain such a hospital; that they would consider its transfer to Louisiana Baptists when they became "strong enough to maintain it without the help of their brethren in other states. . . .": The Hospital Commission then stated that this matter was fully reported to the Executive Committee which made it a part of its records; that it would thus "await further action of this Convention or the Louisiana Brotherhood." The Home Board recommended the future sale or transfer of the El Paso Sanatorium.

- 1930 -- The Hospital Commission reported that the Home Board had again approached it regarding the transfer of the El Paso Sanatorium but that the situation which prevented the transfer in 1926 still prevailed. (SEE entry for 1926) Convention raised the Commission's 1930 allocation to 2 1/2 %. This was the last year that the Hospital Commission carried on its books the "contingent liability" of \$250,000 to the Home Mission Board. A note in the auditor's report refers to the Convention action of 1928 and states that the liability was to be repaid out of funds to be provided by the Southern Baptist Convention.
- 1931 -- At the request of the Home Board, Louis J. Bristow, Superintendent of the New Orleans Hospital, in addition to his regular work, served as superintendent of the El Paso Sanatorium. He reorganized its administration and finances. With the approval of the Home Board, the sanatorium was temporarily leased to a doctor. Bristow also served as superintendent of the Louisiana Baptist Hospital at the request of the State Convention. The Hospital Commission was now listed in By-law 6 of the Convention as a Commission. For several years it had been listed with the "institutions" of the Southern Baptist Convention. The \$250,000 liability to the Home Board no longer appears on the books of the Hospital Commission. No explanation is given.
- 1932 -- The Commission reported that the New Orleans hospital continued to do a large volume of charity work; that Cooperative Program receipts were still insufficient to even pay the interest on the institution's bonded indebtedness; that payments to the principal were made out of the earnings of the hospital; that the hospital was to receive a legacy valued at \$20,000.
- 1933 -- The New Orleans hospital reduced its indebtedness by \$24,000 to \$435,000; contributed free service worth \$22,912; received only \$16,308.25 from Cooperative Program. The Home Board reported that the El Paso Sanatorium was now being operated on a self-sustaining basis with Dr. W. W. Britton, Superintendent and Medical Director.
- 1934 -- Hundred Thousand Club now helping to pay indebtedness of New Orleans Hospital. . . . No effort has yet been made to repay the Home Board loan of \$250,000.

- 1935 -- Hospital Commission reported furnishing information on the work of the denominational hospitals to the periodicals and publications of several Convention agencies. The Commission's report for 1935 is altogether on the New Orleans Hospital.

- 1936 -- Hospital Commission reported on the ten years' record of the New Orleans Hospital which had cared for 64,000 patients, contributed charity work costing \$306,049.10, had net operating receipts of \$426,349.07, received \$245,999.16 from the Cooperative Program, and \$45,099.07 from other gifts.

- 1967 -- The Home Board closed the tubercular sanatorium in El Paso October 1, 1937, when it faced the need for expensive repairs and the threat of an operating deficit, and could not get the Hospital Commission or any group to take over the institution. The Board declared that the need which had called the sanatorium into being no longer existed; that it was reorganizing its program and was excluding institutional work from its activities. The sanatorium property was transferred to the Foreign Mission Board for the use of the Spanish Publishing House.

- 1938 -- The Convention authorized the Hospital Commission to amend its charter by changing its incorporated name from Hospital Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention to the "Southern Baptist Hospital."

- 1939 -- The Hospital Commission indicated that it had made additions to the hospital, paying \$65,000 "from current revenues and borrowing from a bank \$40,000." The bonded indebtedness was now reduced to \$205,000. The Commission's report declared: "We are meeting all deferred obligations upon maturity, as we have done heretofore. This institution has never defaulted in its obligations and has never closed a year with an operating deficit." No reference was made to the Home Board's \$250,000 loan;

- 1940 -- Upon request of the Hospital Commission the Convention authorized the following change in the Commission's charter: "To change the name of the corporation in Article I to--Southern Baptist Hospital. "

- 1941 -- On April 4, 1941, the Hospital Commission charter was amended, changing the name of the corporation from "Hospital Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention" to "Southern Baptist Hospital." The "Commission" then became a "Board of Directors." The Convention amended By-law 5 thereby designating the Southern Baptist Hospital as one of its institutions. The Convention adopted the following recommendation regarding the Hospital Commission's notes for \$250,000 held by the Home Board: "After due deliberation and review of the facts connected with the issuing of the five notes of \$50,000 each, the Executive Committee expressed itself as in favor of the Home Mission Board's cancellation of the five notes given by the Hospital Commission."

- 1942 -- Southern Baptist Hospital reported charity work costing \$82,033.83 for the year. It received only \$38,135.91 from the Cooperative Program and Hundred Thousand Club. The nurses dormitory was enlarged at a cost of \$41,744.42.
- 1943 -- With the consent of the Southern Baptist Hospital, one-half of one per cent of its Cooperative Program allocation was given to the American Baptist Theological Seminary, leaving the hospital with 1.7%. The Hospital reported paying off its mortgaged debt at the end of 1942, thus making the property mortgage free for the first time in the institution's history. The balance of \$120,000 owed to a New Orleans bank was paid and the hospital ended the year with money in the bank. The Hospital reported that it had refused government subsidies offered for its school of nursing. The Hospital employed a full-time student secretary for its student nurses. The Hospital served 19,920 patients during the year.
- 1944 -- Superintendent of the Southern Baptist Hospital since 1924, Louis J. Bristow presented in his report a two-page history of the institution. He indicated that "there was no little opposition" to the Hospital at its beginning in 1924 and that not until 1940 did all the states contribute to the hospital through the Cooperative Program. It received \$68,256.83 from the Program and the Hundred Thousand Club in 1943. The Hospital Board offered a commendation of Dr. Bristow's 20 years' service with the Hospital. Miss Bonnie Jean Ray was employed as hospital missionary by the Southern Baptist Hospital.
- 1945 -- The Southern Baptist Hospital reported completion of a new dormitory for its nurses which it paid for out of operating profits. F. S. Groner, Jr., became administrator of the Southern Baptist Hospital; Bristow continued as its superintendent. . . . The Hospital admitted 25,269 patients during the year.
- 1946 -- The Convention instructed its Executive Committee "to restudy the charter of the Southern Baptist Hospital and the disbursements of any profits accruing from its operations." . . . F. S. Groner, Jr., resigned as administrator in October to go to the Baptist hospital in Miami. The hospital purchased some adjoining property for \$16,000. . . . After reviewing the hospital policy adopted by the Convention in 1924, the Hospital Board declared: "Thus the Convention contemplated establishing other hospitals, . . . but the cases were to be exceptional." The Board reported that they had received many requests "for establishing hospitals under the authority and control of the Southern Baptist Convention. . . from Baptist groups in eight different states . . ." but that it had not recognized any of these cases as "outstanding exceptions" as required by the Convention's hospital policy. It had declined to do more than offer counsel in these situations. Then the Board in its report stated a case for the establishment of a Southern Baptist hospital in San Antonio, Texas. It pointed out that the city was predominantly Catholic; that Baptists had there only one small institution, an orphanage; that a million

people were "within hospital distance of San Antonio;" that Baptist leaders in the area indicated that such a hospital would greatly aid them in their work; that the Chamber of Commerce, bankers, doctors, professional men, Baptists in the area, and the Executive Committee of the Texas Baptist Convention invited Southern Baptists to build a hospital in San Antonio. The Board then stated: "Prolonged and careful study of conditions in San Antonio lead us to believe that the full strength of Southern Baptists is needed and should be given to the cause there. The city presents almost a parallel to New Orleans and comes within the purview of the Convention's hospital policy." The Board stated that its net operating income averaged \$120,000; then it offered the following plan for financing the proposed hospital: The San Antonio proponents of the hospital "should furnish not less than \$400,000 and a site, and the Southern Baptist Hospital \$200,000." Pointing out that this would provide for a 100 to 125 bed hospital, the Board stated that it considered it "neither desirable nor wise to initiate such an enterprise with too large a plant. . . ." and that the hospital would "be financed well within the financial policy of the Convention." The Texas Baptist Convention had endorsed the San Antonio request and had pledged to aid in insuring the hospital against operating loss, if needed. . . . The Southern Baptist Convention approved the San Antonio request, based on the terms above and adopted the Hospital Board's recommendation "that no other branch of the Southern Baptist Hospital be established in any city without the prior approval of this Convention, or its executive committee."

1947 -- Dr. Louis J. Bristow retired May 1, as superintendent of the Southern Baptist hospital and as secretary-treasurer of its board of directors. He was succeeded by Dr. Frank Tripp. . . . The Convention approved the recommendations of the Southern Baptist Hospital and the Executive Committee: (1) That the Convention accept the proposal of the Birmingham, Alabama, Baptist Hospitals to take over and enlarge the institutions, "provided the terms of transfer could be met within the provisions of the Convention's financial policy." The Birmingham Baptist Association had authorized the transfer of the hospital properties, valued at \$1,384,755.81, to the Convention. (2) That the Convention accept the proposal of the Jacksonville, Florida, Association for establishing a Southern Baptist hospital in that city, which offered "to contribute one million dollars and an adequate site for the first unit, and to provide all funds necessary to increase the institution to a 300-bed hospital at a later date." The Hospital Board had stated that the Florida proposal should be accepted "as it does not involve the Convention in the expenditure of money for capital construction; and it is believed the hospital could be operated successfully." The Southern Baptist Hospital reported a fund of \$240,000 toward the establishment of a hospital for the care of the chronically ill. . . . Dr. W. W. Hamilton was employed as "hospital pastor" of the Southern Baptist Hospital. The current assets of the Hospital included \$54,520.44 in

cash, and U. S. Savings Bonds of \$502,221.00; plus accounts receivable and stock inventory. (No report yet from Executive Committee regarding the restudy of the Hospital's charter as authorized in 1946; see 1946 entry) Progress was reported in San Antonio's hospital fund campaign. . . The Hospital's Cooperative Program appropriation is now 0.1%.

- 1948 -- The Convention adopted the following recommendation of its Executive Committee:

Recommendation No. 14

In view of the fact that the board of the Southern Baptist Hospital is receiving numerous requests for the establishment and operation of hospitals in cities in the Convention territory, it is recommended that a committee of seven be appointed by the Convention to make a thorough study of the hospital situation and recommend to the Convention at its 1949 session a Convention hospital policy.

The following were named: Perry Crouch, chairman, A. D. Foreman, Sr., Dick H. Hall, R. Kelly White, Frank Samford, Wallace R. Rogers, J. D. Grey. After months of negotiations, the properties of the Medical and Surgical Memorial Hospital of San Antonio were transferred by deed to the "Baptist Memorial Hospital," March 26, 1948, on the terms that the Baptists enlarge the ten-building, 265-bed hospital by 100 beds. (Property valued at \$1,250,000) The transfer of the Birmingham hospitals anticipated "as soon as certain details can be worked out."

- 1949 -- The Convention approved the following recommendations of its committee to study hospital policy as guiding principles for the future hospital policy of the Convention.

Recommendations

First, that the first part of the first sentence of Article III of the Charter of the Southern Baptist Hospital which reads:

"The objects and purposes for which this corporation is formed are to own, operate and foster hospitals and/or sanitariums under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Convention."

be interpreted to mean "The objects and purposes for which this corporation is formed are to own and operate such hospitals and/or sanitariums as have been authorized or hereafter shall be specifically authorized as a new enterprise by the Southern Baptist Convention."

Second, that if new hospital propositions are made to our Hospital Board, they must be considered as new enterprises of our Convention, whether money is involved at the time of the acquiring of such property or not, and must be presented to two succeeding conventions as required by the business and financial plan of the Southern Baptist Convention as recorded in By-Law 13 which reads:

"New Enterprises: No new enterprise, involving expenditure of money, shall be authorized by the Convention except upon favorable action by the Convention in two succeeding annual meetings; provided, however, that this restriction shall not apply to a recommendation of an agency of the Convention concerning its own work."

Third, that, as a policy (because of conditions already mentioned) Southern Baptists should not acquire additional hospitals in the immediate future.

Fourth, that, as a general policy, hospitals should be owned and operated by state conventions and local associations, rather than acquiring additional hospitals to be operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Fifth, that we urge all Baptist hospitals, whether owned by local associations, state conventions, or the Southern Baptist Convention, to find ways of closer co-operation, perhaps through the Baptist Hospital Association, in order that ideas of operation may be interchanged and materials purchased in a manner that would be advantageous to all groups, but on a purely democratic plan of co-operation.

Sixth, we urge that every Baptist hospital in the Southern Baptist Convention territory provide a special ministry for the patients of their hospitals. This could be either with a full-time or part-time chaplain's service, according to the size of the hospital. We believe that it is important that the spiritual ministry be emphasized in any program that involves the healing of the individual.

The Board of the Southern Baptist Hospital reported that plans were being completed for the construction of the 100 bed unit to be added to the Baptist Memorial Hospital in San Antonio. This hospital and the hospital organized, chartered, but not yet constructed in Jacksonville, Florida, were "affiliated with the Southern Baptist Board for general supervision but each has its own board of directors and administrator." Florida Baptists had already raised \$800,000 in subscriptions toward the Jacksonville hospital. . . . The Southern Baptist Hospital Board released the Birmingham Hospitals from any commitments made to it and approved their proposed transfer to the Alabama Baptist Convention. The Hospital Board offered the following long-range plan and policy for the future expansion of the hospital program which the "Committee to Study Hospital Policy" endorsed and the Convention approved:

(1) That all requests or proposals for the establishment of new hospitals and/or the transfer of presently existing hospitals to Southern Baptist ownership or control be submitted to the Board of the Southern Baptist Hospital at its annual or semi-annual meeting.

(2) That no proposal for the establishment of a new hospital and/or the transfer of a presently existing hospital to the Southern Baptist Hospital Board be considered until such a proposal or request is endorsed by the State Baptist Convention in which the new or presently existing hospital is to be located.

(3) That all requests or proposals for the establishment of new hospitals and/or the transfer of a presently existing hospital to the control and management of the Southern Baptist Hospital either by ownership or affiliation be regarded as a new enterprise as provided for in Articles 10 and 14 of the Convention's Business and Financial Plan which reads as follows:

"Article 10. CAPITAL INVESTMENTS: An agency shall not make any capital investments in the erection of new buildings or in the purchase of real estate that would create a debt or debts, to run for a period of three or more years, without the consent of the Convention or its Executive Committee; the Executive Committee to act only in cases that require prompt action.

"In order to obtain the approval of the Convention or its Executive Committee, as the case may be, the agency erecting a new building or purchasing property must show the source of funds for payment of the obligation."

"Article 14. No new enterprise, involving expenditure of money, shall be authorized by the Convention except upon favorable action by the Convention in two succeeding annual meetings; provided however, that this restriction shall not apply to a recommendation of an agency of the Convention concerning its own work."

(4) Recognizing the value of a concerted and cooperative approach to the problem of providing adequate hospital services in a Christian environment and with a distinctive Christian emphasis, we pledge our continued cooperation with the South-wide Baptist Hospital Association, a voluntary organization composed of Baptist Hospitals within the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention.

We believe that such cooperation on the part of the Superintendents, Administrators, and Trustees of these hospitals will result in the following advantages:

- (1) Improvement in the Education and Training Program.
- (2) Increased efficiency in management and administration by development of uniform policies and procedures.
- (3) A substantial savings through large volume purchasing of hospital supplies and equipment.

1950 -- Southern Baptist Hospital reported a new addition under construction to increase the capacity of the institution by 175 beds, 75 of which were to be used for the chronically ill. . . . Referred to the Baptist Memorial Hospital of San Antonio as "established under the sponsorship of and affiliated with the Southern Baptist Hospital Board. . . ." and as having operated within its income while expanding its plant. . . . Campaign for funds continued in

Jacksonville. . . . The report declared the Board's unwillingness to accept offers of public funds and its determination to maintain its position on the separation of church and state.

- 1951 -- Southern Baptist Hospital reported receiving \$5,000 to be used for payment of the tuition of its student nurses at Tulane University from a foundation established by Col. Edward G. Schleider, formerly a patient in the hospital for over seven years. This man had also contributed \$10,000 toward the new addition then under construction at the hospital.
- 1952 -- After extended discussion and consideration of Dr. Louis D. Newton's substitute motion that the Convention acknowledge its 1947 commitment to the proposed Jacksonville Hospital, which was "not to involve the Convention in the expenditure of money for capital construction" (see 1947 entry), the Convention, meeting in Miami, adopted the following recommendation of its Southern Baptist Hospital Board of Directors:

"That the Board of Directors of the Southern Baptist Hospital, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, be permitted to borrow a sum not to exceed \$750,000 to be used in building and equipping a hospital at Jacksonville, Florida, to be owned and operated by the said Southern Baptist Hospital Board, under the following conditions:

(a) That no agreement to borrow be entered into by the Southern Baptist Hospital Board until the Atlantic National Bank of Jacksonville, Florida, acting as Trustee for the Jacksonville Baptist Hospital Committee, notifies the Southern Baptist Hospital Board that the said Atlantic National Bank is prepared to turn over to the Southern Baptist Hospital Board the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in cash and a building site free of debt.

(b) That the Southern Baptist Hospital Board shall not enter into any agreement to construct any building or buildings until sufficient funds are available for the building and equipping of a hospital at Jacksonville, Florida, having a minimum bed capacity of 150 beds. It being understood, however, that the 50-bed Children's Hospital to be paid for by funds contributed by the Wolfson Foundation shall be included in the total bed capacity.

(c) That the loan of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) shall be secured by a mortgage on the properties, both real and personal, of the Jacksonville, Florida, Hospital, and repaid over a period of time not to exceed twenty (20) years."

. . . . A joint agreement between the Southern Baptist Hospital Board, the Executive Committee of the Texas Baptist Convention, and the Trustees of the Baptist Memorial Hospital was made that the San Antonio hospital should be owned and operated by the Texas Convention as a part of its hospital program. Plans for the proposed transfer were under way.

- 1954 -- The Southern Baptist Hospital report designates Dr. Tripp as "Executive Secretary-General Superintendent." . . . The report states that the administrators of the New Orleans and Jacksonville hospitals "will work under the general supervision of the Executive Secretary who is the executive officer of the Board and supervises the work of its hospitals." . . . The Jacksonville hospital was under construction.
- 1955 -- A definite proposal for the establishment of a Southern Baptist hospital in the Los Angeles area, made in January by a delegation from California to the Convention's Hospital Board, was approved by the Board, and presented to the Convention in May. The Convention approved the proposal on its first reading in 1955, but ruled that final action could not be taken until 1956 since it was a new enterprise. The Executive Committee of the Convention reported that it had approved the Hospital Board's request to extend its loan toward the construction of the Jacksonville hospital by \$750,000 thus making a total loan of \$1,500,000 at an interest rate of 4%. . . . The Jacksonville hospital was opened September 13 with 160 beds.
- 1956 -- The Hospital Board reported that the California group which had proposed the construction of a hospital in Los Angeles had canceled their plans and discontinued their campaign for funds. . . . The New Orleans hospital was approved by the Ford Foundation for a grant of \$246,700; the Jacksonville hospital was to receive \$65,400 from this source. . . . The Executive Committee reported that it had approved the request of the hospital board to negotiate the \$750,000 loan at 4 1/2 % rather than 4%. . . . The Convention approved the proposal of the Miami Baptist Association for the establishment of a Southern Baptist hospital in Miami, Florida, which was subject to final approval by the Convention in 1957.
- 1957 -- The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee petitioned the U.S. Congress to amend the Hill-Burton Act so as "to discontinue and prohibit Federal Government grants for the construction of hospitals and other related medical facilities, when such institutions are to be owned, controlled, or operated by a religious body." . . . The Miami Baptist Association reported that Dr. Tripp of the Hospital Board had been working with the Miami group and had assured them that it was "not necessary for the proposed hospital to be owned and operated by the hospital Board of this Convention in order to receive the complete co-operation of the Board in the organization and operation of the Miami Hospital." In view of this the Miami Association withdrew the request that the Convention establish the hospital in Miami. . . . The two Southern Baptist Hospitals reported co-operation with the Southern Baptist Hospital Association in conducting Institutes in Pastoral Care in five Baptist hospitals. . . . The New Orleans Hospital was co-operating with the New Orleans Seminary in a program designed to give clinical training in pastoral care and counselling to graduate students. It was also helping to train

hospital chaplains. . . . It conducted a nurses school with 200 enrolled and also had a training program for interns and resident doctors. . . . The Hospital Board again recorded its opposition to the acceptance of government grants to Baptist hospitals.

1958 -- The Convention adopted the following recommendations regarding its hospital work as presented by the Committee to Study Total Southern Baptist Convention Program:

Recommendation 30

The Southern Baptist Convention should reaffirm the principles heretofore taken that sponsorship of hospitals is a function most appropriately performed by state conventions and local groups.

Recommendation 31

In keeping with the principle stated above, the Southern Baptist Convention should not establish or acquire additional hospitals.

Recommendation 32

The Southern Baptist Hospital Commission is to be commended for its past efforts to finance its operations from its own earnings and is encouraged to continue to finance its current and capital requirements in this manner.

The free service extended to missionaries of the Home and Foreign Boards by the New Orleans Hospital since 1926 was now granted also at the Jacksonville Hospital. . . . The Jacksonville Hospital leased 40,000 square feet of land to Mallin Developers, Inc., for a term of 52 years at \$7,200 per year. At the expiration of the lease, the doctor's building constructed by this company will become the property of the Hospital Board.

1959 -- Dr. Tripp announced his retirement as Executive Secretary-Superintendent of the Southern Baptist Hospital Board of Directors. He was succeeded by T. Sloane Guy, Jr., of Alabama. . . . The Hospital Board reported that the \$1,500,000 loan for the construction of the Baptist Memorial Hospital of Jacksonville was being repaid out of the hospital's earnings. . . . Since the Jacksonville Hospital is considered a branch or auxillary of the New Orleans Hospital, the Convention's Bylaws still list the body's hospital program among its institutions as: "Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana."