

(2) The "Southern Convention" had its beginnings in 1845 after divisions in the Triennial conference in which the subject of slavery had a prominent part. Control was more centralized in 1869 with an annual convention as a sounding board for the members and a polity designing body. The southern baptist church grew quickly in the south and has spread throughout the total country today...it is the largest protestant denomination and continues to show good growth statistics. The "cooperative" program makes use of five agencies to fulfill its goals. We will note later the influx of liberal ideas into these bodies but at the moment the southern convention is in the throes of dispute on theological lines. Of its seven seminaries, liberalism had become dominant in all but two but in recent years the conservative majority in the denomination has been asserting itself, held the presidency of the annual convention, and has been reassuming control of the Seminaries through selective board member replacements. This has agitated the liberal element to the point of launching their own institution in Richmond..a new seminary to operate free of the board controls of the convention. The convention has many colleges and secondary schools and has pushed missionary expansion both at home and abroad.

(3) The National Conventions...largely "black" groups (in the racial sense...I hate to use such terms to designate historical affairs). The foundation was in 1836 with the Provident Baptist association of Ohio and then the American National Baptist Convention in 1886ddd. On these lines was formed the National Baptist Convention of America in 1915 and in 1961 a division produced the National Baptist Convention of the United States of America. Both are large bodies today and there has been (1987) a further division in the latter body.

(4) The family of Baptist bodies includes the following of which we can say but little although you should know their existence. Particular details may be had in Clark: SMALL SECTS IN AMERICA or in the YEARBOOK OF AMERICAN CHURCHES.

(a) The Baptist General Conference

(b) The American Baptist Association

(c) The Conservative Baptist Fellowship