

April 25, 1958

Early College Entry
Possible For Students

NASHVILLE--(BP)--High school juniors with high aptitude may be able to enter college as freshmen without taking their senior year in high school under a program adopted by a Baptist college.

Orin Cornett, Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, said a program of early admissions has been adopted at Stetson University, DeLand Fla.

It is designed to interest Florida high school juniors of exceptional ability.

"The Stetson early admission program is the first early admission program to be adopted by a Southern Baptist college, to my knowledge," Cornett reported.

Up to 100 high school students will be permitted to take part in a summer's work at Stetson. During the summer they will study English, mathematics or language, and reading skills.

At the end of the summer, many of the high school juniors will be able to enter Stetson immediately as freshmen, without having to complete their senior year in high school.

Others will return to complete their senior year, "but will be well equipped to seek advanced placement in college after they graduate," Stetson officials said.

Cornett said that early admission programs have been adopted at other colleges. These early admissions have been based on a battery of tests to determine if high school juniors are ready for college work.

"In comparison with other early admission programs, the one at Stetson is remarkable in that the student's suitability for early admission is based on a summer of work at the institution in addition to test scores and other criteria that are ordinarily used," Cornett said.

"An early admissions program represents a concession to the conviction of many educators that young people of outstanding ability are not challenged sufficiently in secondary schools," Cornett added. "Outstanding students are capable of progressing at a much more rapid rate than ordinarily maintained."

"The better student is often the most neglected student in America's public schools," Cornett stated. Students of high aptitude are not challenged because the teacher's time must be devoted to the slow and average students.

"Those students who gain a year in time through early admission to college are challenged and better motivated to step up their level to that of the students with whom they compete," Cornett said.

He added that other Baptist colleges will watch the program at Stetson because they may some time consider an early admission program themselves. But, he said, "It's too early to tell if there's a trend in higher education toward early admission."

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Three-Man Committee
To Direct Seminary

FORT WORTH--(BP)--Southwestern Baptist Seminary trustees have appointed a three-member interim administrative committee to guide the affairs of the school until they can select a president to replace the late Dr. J. Howard Williams.

Named to the committee were Robert E. Naylor, chairman of the board of trustees and pastor of Travis Ave. Baptist Church here; William Fleming, Fort Worth oilman

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and vice-chairman of the board; and Wayne Evans, seminary business manager and secretary of the trustees.

The motion approved by the trustees empowered these three men to discharge and fulfill all duties of the administration, especially to the duties of the president.

The trustees are to meet again May 22, during the Southern Baptist Convention session at Houston.

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Mexico Ambassadors Compete For Congress

FORT WORTH--(BP)--Royal Ambassadors in Mexico are competing in a contest that will award the winner a trip to the Second RA Congress in the Southern Baptist Convention being held here Aug. 12-14, Missionary Hiram Duffer reports.

Duffer, of Coahuila, Mexico, said five Royal Ambassadors from Mexico attended the first Convention-wide Congress in Atlanta five years ago.

In order to be a contestant, an RA must be at least 15 years old and hold the rank of "ambassador extraordinary" within the organization, or acquire that rank during the contest.

Points will be awarded for completing projects toward a new rank; organizing and sponsoring new RA chapters; work done in RA chapter, including attendance, being on time, taking part on programs and mission events; and writing programs for use at an RA chapter meeting and for publication.

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Convention Enrolment Opens Tuesday Morning

HOUSTON--(BP)--General registration of messengers for the 1958 session of the Southern Baptist Convention will begin at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 20. The Convention opens that night.

Registration area will be in the main foyer of the Walker St. entrance to the Coliseum, where the Convention will meet.

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BP Folks and Facts.....

.....Van Cliburn, who won an international Tchaikovsky piano competition recently in Moscow, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Cliburn, who were leaders in the First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., while living in that city.

First Church, Shreveport, presented Cliburn in a concert when he was 14. Cliburn, now 23, sings with the Calvary Baptist Church choir when in New York City.

His home now is in Kilgore, Tex. Cliburn's mother gave him piano lessons until he entered Julliard School of Music in New York.

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\$5 Million Expansion
Proposed In Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Missouri Baptist leaders are studying a proposed fund-raising program for at least \$5 million to use for expansion of Missouri Baptist mission and educational work from 1959 through 1964.

The suggestion for such a project came from the executive committee of the executive board of Missouri Baptist General Association. The board voted to give the proposal further study and place the matter on the agenda for its June meeting.

If the campaign is undertaken, the funds would be used primarily for capital expansion at the association's colleges, children's home, and mission projects. It would be a part of the association's objective during the Baptist Jubilee Advance, being celebrated by Baptists throughout North America.

In other action, the executive board:

Voted to underwrite a loan for a new administration building at Missouri Baptist Children's Home, Pattonville.

Employed Roy Cissna, St. Louis, as the association's first worker with the deaf.

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Missouri Recommends
\$2,600,000 Budget

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--The executive board of Missouri Baptist General Association will recommend a 1959 Cooperative Program budget goal of \$2,600,000. It will be voted on at the association's annual meeting in October.

The proposed 1959 budget compares with a \$2½ million budget for 1958.

Missouri budget contains no "preferred items," that is, sums deducted for certain expenses before making a percentage distribution of receipts between state and Southern Baptist Convention work.

The percentage distribution would remain the same as in 1958---65 per cent to state missions and education activities, and 35 per cent for Southern Baptist Convention work.

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Trip To Holy Land
For G. L. Johnson

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--As an expression of appreciation to George L. Johnson for 20 years service at Southern Illinois College of the Bible here, the directors of the Illinois Baptist State Association have voted to sponsor a trip for him to the Holy Land.

Johnson is president of the College of the Bible, which offers Bible and religious education courses accepted for credit by Southern Illinois University here. The College of the Bible is located on Baptist-owned property near the center of the campus of SIU, second largest state university in Illinois.

No date has been fixed for the trip.

The association's directors employed Preston Denton, Casey, Ill., to serve as pioneer missionary in extreme northern Illinois. The city in which Denton's new work will be based has not been decided.

Denton, now associational missionary for Westfield Baptist Association, will take the new position June 1. He succeeds Harold Cameron, Elgin, Ill., now city missionary in Chicago.

The Board heard reports of progress in two areas:

Seven new churches and nine new missions were established in Illinois during the first quarter of 1958, the largest number established in a three-month span in the association's history.

Receipts for state and Southern Baptist Convention work through the Cooperative Program from January through March are \$9120 greater than for a like period last year.

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