

June 5, 1960

Merrill D. Moore Heads
New Convention Agency

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The new Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission selected a veteran Baptist stewardship leader as its executive secretary here.

The commission called Merrill D. Moore of Nashville, who has been stewardship promotion secretary with the convention's Executive Committee.

Harold Sanders, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla., was elected chairman of the commission. James C. Franks, an insurance executive of Kansas City, Mo., was elected vice chairman and Marion Hayes, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Nashville, was chosen secretary.

Moore will continue as a staff member of the convention's Executive Committee until January 1, 1961 when the Stewardship Commission will become fully operative.

Moore has been the Executive Committee staff member with the longest service in the organization. He was elected in 1947. At the time, he was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville.

During his tenure as director of (Stewardship) promotion and as secretary of Stewardship Promotion, gifts through the Cooperative Program--financial plan of Southern Baptists--rose from \$6 million to Southern Baptist Convention objectives in 1948 to \$17 million in 1959.

The Forward Program of Church Finance developed in 1956 and 1957 and is in wide use by Southern Baptist Churches to pledge their annual budgets.

In addition to promoting the Cooperative Program and the Forward Program, the new commission will also promote stewardship after death through wills and annuities with Southern Baptist work as beneficiary.

Moore, a native of Senatobia, Miss., graduated from Meridian (Miss.) high school; Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He served as associate in the Sunday school department of Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1926-27. Later he was president of Tennessee College for Women (1940-42).

He was at various times trustee of Judson College (Baptist), Marion, Ala.; member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board; member of the S B C Executive Committee, member of the Annuity Board of the S B C, and member of the Social Service (now Christian Life) Commission of Southern Baptists.

He served churches in Money, Miss.; New Albany, Ind.; New Salem, Ky.; Selma, Ala., and Newport, Tenn.

His brother--John A. Moore--is a missionary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board serving in Europe.

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Folk & facts.....

(6-3-60)

.....Howard E. Butt, Texas supermarket executive and layman preacher, will give two major addresses at the 59th annual Scottish Christian Endeavor Convention in Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland, June 6-7. The Scottish Union is one of the strongest branches of the world Christian endeavor movement with affiliated groups in more than 80 church denominations.

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Missouri Leaders In
Automobile Collision

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.--(BP)--A head-on car collision at Osage Beach, Mo. has left three Missouri Baptist Convention staff members painfully but not dangerously injured.

Earl Harding, executive secretary-treasurer of the Missouri convention; Harry L. Cameron, executive secretary-treasurer of the Missouri Baptist Foundation; and W. D. Baker, church building consultant of the Missouri convention suffered varying degrees of cuts and bruises.

Baker received a possible hip fracture.

Harding was the least injured of the three and was expected to be released shortly from the Memorial Community Hospital, Jefferson City, where the three were admitted as patients.

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Gezork Challenges
American Baptist Meeting

(6-5-60)

ROCHESTER, N. Y.--(BP)--An exile from Nazi Germany who has seen what the ravages of two world wars can do, the president of the American Baptist Convention in his address here asked that the quest for peace be led by a purified church.

Herbert J. Gezork, president of Andover-Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass., said that Communism, the worldwide race problem, and the divisions of Christianity cause disturbances of the peace. These are disturbances needing Christian attention.

But, he went on, the most important point of all is that Christians "are called to the high and holy task to be peacemakers between God and man."

Gezork told the 1960 Convention that evangelism must start with renewal of the church--a church "broken on the anvil of the Word of God, purified in the searing fires of deep self-searching and repentance, vitalized by the spirit of the living God..."

On the threat imposed by Communism, he said, "none of us likes coexistence in the world with the openly godless Communist power. But let us remember; it may be coexistence or non-existence."

The Theologian recounted his experiences during the first and second world wars. His parents, he explained, "died a lonely death of hunger and cold between the fighting lines of Germans and Russinas: near the end of the last war. They were buried in an unknown mass grave.

Gezork pointed to South Africa as well as to the United States in talking of the race issue. He said some Christians "are using the same arguments for inequality and discrimination that I heard often used by Hitler and his followers..."

Non-whites are no longer willing to be content with second class citizenship, he said.

He pleaded for continuation of a strong bond of peace between American Baptists and other Christian denominations.

"The diversity among us, manifest in the existence of so many denominations, is basically a result of the inexhaustible richness of the Gospel; but it is partly also a result of our human imperfection and sinfulness.

"I have come to believe that there will always be this diversity as long as we are on earth; and as much as we deplore the evils of our dividedness, the evils of a super-church might well be much greater," Gezork added.

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Baptist Press

"I cannot agree with some of the things our Southern Baptist brethern are doing but they are still my brethren although I may not agree with some of the things...in the wider Christian fellowship...but I can not renounce the deep and strong bond which I have with them in Christ," according to Gezork.

He did not enumerate the differences in his address.

The "most important" area where peace is disturbed is between man and God. The American Convention president said that the church is charged with proclaiming the Gospel which offers salvation to man in all his relationships.

Only a purified church "will be ready to go forth and proclaim the Good News with authority and power and persuasiveness" he concluded.

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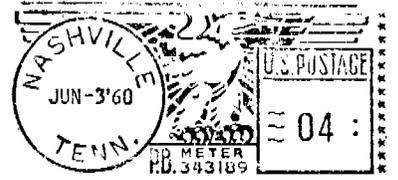
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