

June 9, 1961

Denny, Ray Roberts  
Get Honorary Degrees

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--A Baptist state executive and a Baptist world leader were awarded honorary degrees here by Georgetown College (Baptist).

It conferred the doctor of divinity degree on Ray E. Roberts of Columbus, executive secretary, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. Roberts formerly was pastor in Danville, Ky.

Robert S. (Bob) Denny, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, Washington, got the doctor of humane letters degree. He is formerly of Lexington, Ky.

Georgetown also presented the doctor of laws (honorary) degree to Herbert Anderson, II, Los Angeles, Calif., surgeon who is an alumnus of the school.

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Wake Forest Board  
Lifts New Race Bar

(6-9-61)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--Wake Forest College trustees further liberalized a policy admitting Negroes when they said the college here could admit a "limited number of special students for evening classes or summer term classes without discrimination as to race."

The board action stipulated, however, applicants admitted under such a policy would not be "given undergraduate standing or credit toward an undergraduate degree at Wake Forest College."

An administrative official of the Baptist college explained the intent of the new policy. It is designed primarily for Negro students in the area who wish to take one or two undergraduate courses with the understanding that credit for the courses will be transferred to another institution. It also opens the way for Negroes to audit certain courses.

So far there are no applications from Negroes, the admissions office said.

The trustees at their April meeting first broke the college's color line by voting to admit qualified Negroes to the medical and law schools and to the division of graduate studies. There have been no admissions in these areas.

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1962 Reservations Not  
Accepted Till Dec. 1

(6-9-61)

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--Hold your horses. Reservations for the next Southern Baptist Convention, a year away, won't be accepted by the Housing Bureau here before Dec. 1.

Believe it or not, some applications for rooms during the 1962 Convention in this city June 5-8 have already come in. These are being returned to the individuals with word to reapply Dec. 1. Look for application forms which will appear in this paper in ample time.

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Baptist Press

Miami Baptists Begin  
\$10 Per Person Drive

MIAMI (BP)--Baptists here launched a program to finance property for new missions.

Miami Baptist Association wants 10,000 persons to contribute at least \$10 a year for the new mission property fund. The association plans to enter new residential areas and buy church sites while land is still available.

Baptist leaders estimate at least 40 new missions will be needed in the next 10 years to keep pace with population growth.

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Folks and Facts.....

(6-9-61)

.....Othar O. Smith, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lebanon, Tenn., has been called to pastorate of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. (BP)

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FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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June 9, 1961

Texas Board Interprets  
Church State Separation

By Jim Newton  
Baptist Press Staff Writer

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptist colleges and universities were told here to stop borrowing money from the federal government in a comprehensive statement interpreting specific church-state separation issues ranging from postal privileges to direct grants.

Government loans, ruled the 191-member Texas Baptist executive board, violate moral, spiritual and constitutional aspects of the church-state separation principle.

The action marks an abrupt change in policy for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and deals a severe blow to building plans for nine Texas Baptist schools.

Ten resolutions adopted by the Texas board opposed outright government grants or direct aid to religious institutions, and government surplus property offered to religious groups at a reduced rate.

In interpreting application of the principle, the board said that it did not consider as a violation of church-state separation (1) loans or grants to college students, (2) research grants in which the government contracts for the services of individuals on the staffs of religious organizations, (3) reduced postal rates for church groups, (4) tax exemptions for church contributions, (5) property made available at its actual valuation through urban renewal programs, (6) government reimbursement for hospital treatment, and (7) government employment of chaplains in the armed services.

Final action on the ten resolutions will be taken by the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting in Austin, Nov. 7-10.

Only the question of whether government loans violated the church-state separation principle drew lengthy debate.

Some board members felt no federal subsidy was involved since the schools, in 1959 for example, payed 3.18 per cent interest on government loans, and the government was paying 2.78 interest on the national debt that year. The government, they said, was actually making money on the loans.

Others argued, however, that if the government had to borrow the money in the open market, it would have paid an interest rate of about 4.46 per cent, and that the difference between 3.18 and 4.46 per cent constitutes a subsidy.

Most of the arguments against cutting off the government loans stemmed from warnings that without the loans, enrollments in Baptist schools might be frozen.

Without 40-year government loans, the schools would have to finance their buildings with 20-year commercial loans at a higher interest rate.

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Some board members warned that the result would be either boosting room and board rates so high that students couldn't afford to pay them, or completely stopping any further dormitory construction at Texas Baptist schools.

A survey conducted by the Texas Baptist Christian Education Commission revealed that within the next four years, Baptist colleges will need to construct 15 new dormitories to house 1,920 students. Total cost of the buildings was estimated at \$6 million.

In an impassioned plea before the board, W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas said that the Baptists of Texas must plug the financial gap and assume a moral obligation to make up the losses the institutions would sustain without government loans:

"It would be a tragedy," said Criswell, "to pass this resolution and then sit back and tell our schools, 'you can sink or swim now, we've had our say.'" Criswell said he thought the resolution would do more to boost the morale of the Baptists in Texas to provide the money for Baptist schools than any other thing in the denomination's history.

A special 13-member church-state relations committee made the recommendation to adopt the ten resolutions after an exhaustive two-year study of the principle and actual involvement of Baptist institutions with the federal government.

The committee reported that since 1953, four Baptist colleges (Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.; Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex.; and the University of Corpus Christi) had accepted 11 loans for building construction from the Housing and Home Finance Agency. The loans totaled \$9,506,000.

(EDITORS: The following graphs include background information and more detailed analysis of the board's action for your information and consideration.)

At least one other state convention, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, has passed a resolution opposing government loans. Virginia Baptists adopted a recommendation Nov. 23, 1960, stating "that Baptist institutions and agencies secure needed loans from other than government sources."

Baptists were largely responsible for amending the Hill-Burton Act in 1958 to stop federal grants to religious groups building hospitals, substituting loans instead of grants. The so-called "Baptist amendment" to the act was motivated, say most Baptists, not by a desire to get loans for their hospitals, but to stop unconstitutional direct aid to Catholic hospitals.

In its resolution concerning postal privileges, the Texas executive board stated that "until there is a general overhaul in the postal system of the United States...there is no practical way to alleviate the government subsidy in this field. While there is a technical violation of the principle of church and state by the acceptance in use of a non-profit second class mailing permit, nevertheless, the violation in this regard is more apparent than real."

In explaining its resolution, the church-state committee said that even if the denomination were to mail everything at first-class rates, they still could not say that some portion of the services were not at the expense of the government since the entire system operates at a deficit.

The committee also said that tax deductions for religious gifts are interpreted as privileges rather than support, but added that unrelated business income of religious organizations should be taxed.

"In the cases of exemption of religious properties from local taxation, it is suggested that voluntary fees be paid to local governments for police and fire protection in order to keep the religious organization from being a burden on the taxpayers," said the committee in its report. The statements were not a part of the actual resolutions, however.

The resolution approving research grants to individuals on the staffs of Baptist institutions stipulated that no such grant should be used for the construction of buildings or purchase of lands, and "respectfully requested" that the Health, Education and Welfare Agency of the government change the name of the agreements from research "grants" to "contracts."

The 13-member church-state relations committee was dissolved by the executive board after its report, but the board recommended that the state's 25-member survey committee continue to study church-state relations and the application of its interpretation.

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Texas Board Approves  
Budget, New Employees

(6-9-61)

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist executive board has approved a record \$14,338,194 budget and employed three new workers here.

The proposed 1962 budget, to be considered for final adoption by messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas in November, is a \$650,144 increase over last year's budget.

If approved by the state convention meeting in Austin, Tex., the Cooperative Program budget would allocate \$7,250,000 to world missions causes.

The executive board also authorized a comprehensive study of the state convention's ministry to the Latin American people.

The board will name a committee to study current Baptist work with Spanish-speaking people and make suggestions "for strengthening and enlarging the denomination's missionary, educational and human welfare ministries to this significant segment of our population.

In other action the board elected C. Eugene Kratz, former vice president and dean of Lees-McRae College (Presbyterian) in Banner Elk, N.C., as coordinator of institutional programs for the Texas Baptist Christian Education Commission.

Other employees named by the board were Perry Oswin Crisman, former assistant city attorney in Fort Worth, as associate in the Texas Baptist endowment department, and Lee Garner, recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, as associate in charge of youth work for the Training Union department. Garner received the doctor of religious education degree from Southwestern.

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Former WMU Executive  
Named Elder Statesman

(6-9-61)

INDEPENDENCE, Tex. (BP)--A 76-year-old Dallas woman who has devoted her entire lifetime to work in the Woman's Missionary Union has received the annual Texas Baptist Elder Statesman Award.

She is Mrs. Olivia Davis who for 20 years was office executive and treasurer for the Texas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The award, which went to a woman for the first time this year, was presented here during the annual meeting of the Independence Homecoming Association held at the state's oldest Baptist church--Independence Baptist Church located near the ruins of the old campus of Baylor University.

A special committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Independence Homecoming Association cited Mrs. Davis "for her long and untiring service in the Texas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and for outstanding leadership in civic and temperance organizations."

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For nearly 27 years Mrs. Davis served in some official capacity with the Woman's Missionary Union, retiring in 1945. She is still active in the WMU circle of her local church--First Baptist of Dallas.

After her retirement, she continued to speak and write, serving for 14 years as director of the Christian citizenship department for the National Women's Christian Temperance Union, and for nine years of that period as director of the same department for the World Women's Temperance Union.

In addition to her work with the WMU and the Temperance Union, Mrs. Davis is also an active member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Southern Memorial Association, and the Dallas Patriotic Association.

The Third Elder Statesman Award presented by the Texas Convention and the Independence Association, previous citations went to Dr. J. M. Dawson of Austin, former head of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and famed author, and to T. M. Kennerly of Houston, former federal judge of the southern district.

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Hardin-Simmons Grad  
Is 21st Of Family

(6-9-61)

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--The Marvin B. Leech family must have set some sort of record this spring when son John Marvin graduated from Hardin-Simmons University.

Leech was the 21st member of his family to receive a degree from Hardin-Simmons. He was a summa cum laude graduate with the bachelor of arts degree with a major in Bible.

Both his parents, four uncles, four aunts, nine cousins, and a brother-in-law also have graduated from Hardin-Simmons. His sister has attended the university and a brother is a student there now.

Leech, 21, plans to become a Southern Baptist medical missionary, and will enter Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. After attending the seminary, he plans to enter Southwestern Medical School in Dallas to earn his medical degree.

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Louisiana BSU Head Gets  
Howard Payne Doctorate

(6-9-61)

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP)--Howard Payne College here has awarded honorary doctorate degrees to the Baptist Student Union secretary for the Louisiana Baptist Convention and to a Brownwood public school superintendent.

Udell Smith, who has directed Baptist Student Union work in Louisiana for 14 years, was to have delivered the baccalaureate sermon at Howard Payne, but illness forced Smith to turn his manuscript over to Robert Lee, executive secretary of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, who read the text.

An honorary doctor of laws degree was awarded to James D. King of Brownwood, public school superintendent for 14 years and commencement speaker for the college's graduation exercises.

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Folks and facts.....

(6-9-61)

.....C. R. McPherson Jr. of Natchitoches, La., has been named head of the business department of Mary Hardin-Baylor College in Belton, Tex. McPherson comes to the Baptist school for women from Northwestern State College where he was professor of business administration and football coach. Mrs. McPherson will also join the Mary Hardin-Baylor faculty, teaching in the business and education fields. (BP)

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Baptist Hour To Be  
Broadcast In Nigeria

FORT WORTH (BP)--Herschel H. Hobbs, new president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will soon be preaching monthly in eastern Nigeria on "The Baptist Hour" radio program.

A Baptist missionary in Nigeria, J. B. Durham, requested the use of "The Baptist Hour" once a month on a weekly program now being prepared by National Baptist pastors in eastern Nigeria for a radio station in Enuga, Nigeria.

An Enuga television station is already showing monthly films under "The Answer" series produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here. After the films are shown on television, they are sent to Durham for a second showing.

Eastern Nigeria has a population of more than eight million, and the people there use English more widely than in any other region, said Durham. He said all worship services are conducted in English.

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Seminary To Hold  
Pastors Conference

(6-9-61)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will stage its fifth annual Pastors' Conference here June 26-30 with emphasis on Biblical perspectives, inspirational and Biblical messages, recent research, and worship.

Conference theme is "The Ministry of the Word of God."

Featured speakers on the program include Henlee H. Barnette, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Warren Hultgren, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.; James W. McClendon, professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.; Robert E. Naylor, Southwestern Seminary president; and Southwestern professors Jack MacGorman and David Garland.

Hultgren will deliver the inspirational messages, Naylor will bring evening Biblical messages, and McClendon will present a series of messages on Revelation.

A special feature of the program will be sessions for the pastors' wives twice daily. The meetings will center on "The Pastor's Wife in the Home," and "The Pastor's Wife in the Church."

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Folks and facts.....

.....Earle E. Peeples Jr. has been named to the faculty of Mary Hardin-Baylor College in Belton, Tex., as instructor of biology and chemistry. A graduate of the University of Florida, Peeples also holds the bachelor of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., and is now completing work on a master of science degree at Stetson University, Deland, Fla. He formerly was a pastor of a Baptist church in Washington, D.C. (BP)

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Radio-TV Heads Travel  
Abroad On Film Jaunt

FORT WORTH (BP)--The director and television consultant of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission are making a business trip that covers more than a dozen countries in the Far East, Middle East and Europe in an effort to improve the Baptist television and radio ministry in foreign countries.

Paul M. Stevens, director of the commission, and Truett Myers, television consultant, will investigate the possibility of broadcasting Baptist radio and television programs in Taiwan (Formosa), Indonesia, Ceylon, France, Switzerland, Spain, and nearly every nation on the tour.

In Tokyo, Japan, Stevens and Myers will work with the Japan Baptist Convention on two pilot television films, part of a 13-film dramatic religious television series for Japanese television in 1962.

In Hong Kong, they will lay the groundwork for a special National Broadcasting Co. television program showing Christian life among Baptists in Hong Kong and the conditions under which they live and work.

"Report from Hong Kong" is scheduled for showing on the NBC-TV network Sunday, Dec. 31, the fourth film telecast by the network reporting on Baptist work.

Myers will journey to Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel where he will shoot film in those countries in preparation for an Easter film to be used in the Radio-TV Commission's "The Answer" series on television. Ted Perry, commission script writer, will join Myers in Lebanon. The two will also collaborate on a 15-minute film to be used by the Baptist World Youth Congress slated in Beirut in 1963.

Mrs. Stevens is accompanying her husband on the trip.

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