

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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Editors: This is the tenth in the Series on SBC agencies.

Marriage No Hindrance  
To Southern Students

By Badgett Dillard  
for Baptist Press

A pair of blue eyes often comes between a preacher and his education, a seminary president of another day used to say.

Not any more. At Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., as at ther Convention-operated seminaries, marriage no longer comes between the ministerial student and his seminary education.

In fact, marriage now is an ally to education for many men. Putting hubby thr ough has become the style, with the wives working while their husbands study for a degree.

At Southern, three-fourths of the students are married. The seminary "family" embraces 600 children, including the record seventh child born recently to one seminary couple.

The seminary has adjusted itself to the times. Education becomes a family affair. Parents may leave their preschool children in the seminary's nursery school-kindergarten.

The nursery school fulfills a dual purpose. It trains the children, and it also is a training center for seminary students enroled in the school of religious education. The seminary students learn how to work with nursery-age youngsters.

Husbands and wives often enrol together in seminary courses. They stagger their class schedules, if necessary, to have one parent at home babysitting with the children all the time.

Some other wives take classes in the seminary-provided evening school which has survey courses in biblical studies, religious education, music and how to be a good minister's wife.

At Southern Seminary, housing is adjusted to the changed times, too. About 500 apartments are available for seminary families. The Seminary bought a housing project not far from the campus to meet the pressing needs after World War II. Apartments range from one-room efficiencies to two-bedroom apartments for larger families. Since education no longer deters a family from having children, the demand for two-bedro m apartments is the greatest.

The seminary is rich in history and remembers its earlier days, even while adapting itself to the second half of the 20th century.

Four faculty members, after the Civil War, resolved to die before they would let the seminary become a victim of the post-war depression in Dixie.

They would hardly recognize the school today. Transplanted from Greenville, S. C., where it was founded in 1859, to Louisville, it has a spacious campus boasting the new \$1.4 million James P. Boyce Centennial Library.

Boyce was among the original four--the others being John A. Broadus, William Williams and Basil Manly Jr. Boyce, as chairman of the faculty in the lean years after the War Between the States, had the job of finding money then for faculty salaries and student aid.

On one occasion he reported he had begged for the seminary "as I would n t beg for myself if I were starving."

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Today, Southern considers herself the mother of SBC's six seminaries. The Louisville seminary and her five companion institutions will share among them \$3,012,000 for operations during 1962. The money comes from the Southern Baptist financial plan, the Cooperative Program.

Southern Seminary itself will get about \$575,000 of this amount.

Today's students may be married, whereas yesterday's were single men, but today and yesterday share one point. Students of both eras have served as they studied.

They are pastors of churches, education directors and ministers of music--representing the three seminary schools in which they are enrolled: theology, religious education and church music. Other students teach and preach in local hospitals and in other institutions.

Southern Seminary, being in Louisville, considers itself strategically located. Across the Ohio River bordering the city are the vast industrial expanses of the North and Midwest. Students cross it every weekend to work in Southern Baptist pioneer churches in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

The Seminary has occupied its present site in Louisville--2825 Lexington Rd.--since 1926. Its campus is acclaimed as a place of beauty and adequacy. With buildings of Georgian colonial architecture rising from the bluegrass sod, the present facilities are valued at about \$10 million.

The faculty of four of post-Civil War days is the forerunner of today's faculty of 51. The administration of the school is directed by President Duke K. McCall. With 728 students, the student-faculty ratio is 14:1, considered an ideal balance.

The faculty of the seminary follows in the tradition of great Baptist leaders of the past:

Broadus' book, "Preparation and Delivery of Sermons," which began as lectures for one blind student 100 years ago, is world-known today as a standard text on preaching.

A. T. Robertson's "Grammar of the Greek New Testament" is still the most comprehensive study of New Testament grammar ever published.

E. Y. Mullins' numerous books on theology established him as a leading Baptist theologian of his day.

The stature of the present faculty is perhaps best described by a new student who in his enthusiasm was heard to remark of his professor after the first week of school: "That man is the best New Testament scholar in the world!"

Southern Seminary is happy over the service of its alumni and former students. They include the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, the presidents of four other SBC seminaries, the executive secretaries of the Baptist World Alliance and the SBC Executive Committee, etc.

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cutlines to Southern Seminary feature

Married students make up a vital part of the enrolment and campus life at seminaries today. The usual pattern: Wife works to put hubby through his theological studies while children attend the seminary-operated kindergarten. (BP) Photo.

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