

January 7, 1962

Southern Seminary
Notations Removed

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here reported it no longer has any notations from the American Association of Theological Schools, national accrediting agency.

A seminary news bulletin said the agency, meeting in Dayton, Ohio, no longer requires any special reporting concerning the local seminary.

Four notations--indicating areas in need of academic strengthening--were pending, one since 1956 and the others since 1959. These notations, now removed, dealt with student-faculty ratio, faculty for graduate studies, the doctor's degree and the library at graduate level.

Executive Director Charles Taylor extended his own appreciation and that of the accrediting commission for work done to remove notations, the seminary added. It said a third of the accredited seminaries in the country carry at least one notation.

Southern Seminary began its accredited status in 1938 with four notations. It has none now for the first time in its history, the institution stated.

Last February, the seminary announced it wouldn't admit graduate students again until September, 1962, saying this complied with a report from the theological school association.

The association reviewed the seminary's accredited status in 1959 after dismissal of 12 professors, dismissals which were later rescinded and the professors' resignations accepted.

Three of the notations followed the 1959 review.

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Ohio Gifts A Record,
Still Shy Of Budget

(1-7-62)

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Southern Baptists in Ohio set a new record in Cooperative Program giving in 1961 with \$237,783.

But, like the Southern Baptist Convention, their record giving fell short of the year's Cooperative Program budget. Ohio had aimed at \$289,000.

Executive Secretary Ray E. Roberts of Columbus said Cooperative Program, or undesignated, receipts from churches were \$15,000 ahead of 1960.

Receipts were reported to the Executive Board of State Convention of Baptists in Ohio during its meeting here.

The Executive Board put finishing touches on plans to make the state Woman's Missionary Union a department, rather than an auxiliary. The women, at their annual meeting in March, will be asked to approve the change.

For the first time, a man was appointed to the board's committee of three on the Woman's Missionary Union. And, in a turn about, a woman was for the first time appointed to the board's administrative committee.

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Oklahoma City, First
Refuses Negro Member

By Leland Webb

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--First Baptist Church here has voted not to accept a 15-year-old Negro youth as a member.

The vote, by secret ballot, was 327 to 311, following a recommendation by deacons that membership be denied on basis of his motivation in seeking membership.

Balloting concluded a Wednesday night service described as "a high spiritual hour." There was thorough discussion with both sides agreeing to accept the outcome as the decision of the whole church.

The boy presented himself for membership after a series of picketing incidents at several Oklahoma City churches of various denominations. One of the churches was First Baptist, where picketers had been invited in each time they appeared.

Twice in advance of the actual effort announcement was made Negroes would attempt to join some of the churches.

On Dec. 3, the 15-year-old presented himself at First Baptist and a Negro couple tried to join Lincoln Terrace Christian Church. While a majority of the church voted to accept the boy into membership, a church bylaw requires the matter be referred to the fellowship committee if there is a negative vote.

Attempting to determine the youth's motive for seeking membership, the fellowship committee conferred with him at length. The committee also consulted with others considered instrumental in his seeking membership. The committee then recommended to the deacons and the deacons recommended to the church that membership be refused.

Lincoln Terrace Christian Church announced the decision of its board to deny membership to the Negro couple, on the same night First Baptist voted. However, each church acted without prior conference in the problem and without knowledge the other church was making a decision.

Both churches stated reason for refusal was on the basis of the insincerity and motivation of the Negroes involved.

An officer of First Baptist Church emphasized that motivation--not race--was the basis of the recommendation.

"In this decision, the members of First Baptist Church have demonstrated the working of Christian democracy in a New Testament church within an atmosphere of Christian love," declared Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor.

After the close vote, Hobbs commented, "I feel this indicates how the membership has searched its heart in this matter."

The congregation was then infomed that the deacons had agreed informally that Sunday school and all other church activities remained open to the Negro youth as t all other persons. No objection was voiced.

In a statement to the congregation before the vote, Hobbs said the Bible by proof text does not teach racial segregation or desegregation.

Hobbs, who is president of the Southern Baptist Convention, pointed out Baptist churches must determine their own membership in a democratic way.

The point at issue in the decision was not the church's policy in receiving members, governed by the constitution and bylaws, but the handling of a specific case within the framework of the constitution and bylaws, said a spokesman.

A statement, released by Lincoln Terrace Christian Church, stated, "It is resolved that the church board accept the findings of the elders that (the couple) did not seek membership in good faith...and that therefore membership not be extended to them." A congregational vote is not required in the Christian Church.

A local white physician who has headed the campaign to force membership of a Negro in the churches earlier had labeled Hobbs as "the leader of 10 million segregationists."

Disputing the reference, Hobbs explained, "There are Southern Baptist churches which have Negro members. Recently one of our largest associations received three all-Negro churches into membership of the association. In the Southern Baptist Convention, each local church handles its own affairs. There is no denominationwide policy. Each congregation handles its own problems."

BAPTIST FEATURES

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Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

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

'Compassion' Denotes
Baptist Hospital Care

By Charles Arrendell
For Baptist Press

A woman came to Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans for minor surgery.

Soon, she demonstrated deep-seated hostilities which were beyond the cure of the surgeon's scalpel. The hospital chaplain responded.

She was hostile toward her parents, especially her mother. This, in turn, caused her to hate tasks which a woman assumes as a normal part of her daily life.

Her husband worried because, in rearing their children, she failed to give the mother's love which should have been expected. She kept a messy house and didn't feed the children properly.

The woman even resented God. She hated God because of the parents "he had given her."

With understanding attention from the chaplain and a psychiatrist, this housewife and mother came to recognize her hostility toward God and her parents. She realized she must accept herself and trust God to take care of many affairs she worried about.

She left the hospital physically well from surgical help and emotionally and spiritually more stable from the help of the chaplain and psychiatrist.

They heard from her later. Her husband was happier. The children were getting more attention. The woman herself was experiencing a greater warmth from her family.

As with this woman patient, many who come to this Baptist hospital bring more than physical ills. Compassion for humans in distress, the mark of a Christian hospital, reaches beyond the physical ailment to help in other areas.

The New Orleans hospital and another Baptist hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., are two maintained through an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. The agency is called Southern Baptist Hospitals. (All other Southern Baptist-related hospitals are operated by state Baptist groups or local Baptists in the city where they are located.)

Southern Baptist Hospital has a closed-circuit radio system, over which is broadcast two programs each day. These reach every room and the hallways. The fare includes music, Scripture reading, prayer and a devotional.

During 1961, the New Orleans hospital and Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville admitted nearly 3000 patients a month. They treated another 4000 a month as outpatients, those who do not require a stay in the hospital but who are treated there and return home.

Over 400 babies a month arrived in maternity wards of the hospitals.

Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, is the older of the two. It began accepting patients in March, 1926. A new wing in 1941 increased capacity from 248 to 332 beds. The newest wing of eight floors, with 140 beds and service areas, x-rays and other laboratories, opened in 1952.

Its Mather School of Nursing contributes trained nurses, who understand the "over and above" factor Christian nurses must give in their care for patients.

Its other special schools are in medical, blood bank and x-ray technology.

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The younger institution in Florida opened Sept. 13, 1955. Because it is located near two expressways, it cares for many emergency cases. It treats 90 outpatients a day compared with 60 for the hospital in New Orleans.

Through the Cooperative Program, every Southern Baptist has an investment in the SBC hospitals and in the state Baptist hospitals in his own particular state. The SBC agency received \$50,000 for capital needs and \$25,000 for operations from the 1961 budget of the Convention.

The \$25,000 operating funds are used to help offset the expense of charity care, which hospital officials say amounts to more than \$350,000 a year.

Executive Secretary-Supt. T. Sloane Guy Jr. of New Orleans directs the agency, with each hospital having an administrator. Guy also helps the state Baptist hospitals in whatever way he can, although there is no corporate relationship and the SBC agency has no authority over the state and local Baptist hospitals.

Like the two SBC agency hospitals, the state hospitals are believers in what they call "the healing team." This includes the physician and surgeon, the nurses, the technologists in x-ray and other laboratories, the chaplain, the psychiatrist and local ministers.

They want patients to leave Baptist hospitals cured of their physical troubles and at peace with God, themselves and their fellow men.

Both hospitals are planning for greater future service--at New Orleans by increasing bed capacity to 600 and enlarging the school of nursing, and at Jacksonville by increasing from 326 to 600 beds and by also providing nursing education.

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Cutlines

HEALING TEAMWORK--Medical and chaplain staffs work together in Baptist hospitals to minister to the whole personality. Consultations between doctors, psychiatrists and chaplains lead to a speedy restoration of the patient's physical, mental and spiritual health. (BP Photo)