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FROM REGIONAL OFFICE
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Seminary Teacher's Book Rapped by Baptist Group

HOUSTON (BP)---A district Baptist convention meeting here has asked trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to restudy their resolution upholding Midwestern professor Ralph Elliott, author of "The Message of Genesis."

Messengers attending the Texas Baptist District Four Convention also commended E. S. James, editor of the "Baptist Standard," and K. Owen White, chairman of the Texas Baptist executive board for their opposition to the controversial book.

District Four includes 243,000 Texas Baptists in 462 churches and missions. It is one of 17 districts within the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The resolution requested that letters be sent to Midwestern Seminary trustees and asked that "The Message of Genesis" not be used in Southern Baptist seminaries or Texas Baptist colleges.

The resolution, passed without a dissenting vote, also asked trustees of the seminary in Kansas City to restudy and clarify their stand.

Earlier, the trustees had affirmed their confidence in Elliott, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at the school.

White and James have openly taken issue with what they call the liberal viewpoint contained in "The Message of Genesis."

After labeling the book "poison" in an article printed in several state Baptist papers, White told the Houston Baptist Pastors' Conference in another recent meeting that the book represented a "crossroads of grave danger."

"It is at this point that great denominations lost their power and surrendered their witness after liberalism entered their seminaries," White said.

James said in an editorial, "We hold in highest esteem the Christian character of Ralph Elliott, but we do object to his book."

He said there is much good in the book but that it contains so much that is disruptive of faith in the Genesis records that it is bound to be harmful.

Elliott told James that like any human interpreter he may have missed the meaning, but he had been in the line of true Baptist heritage in trying.

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Folks and facts.....

(2-2-62)

.....A new book dealing with the psychological aspects of religious counseling by Leslie Mosier, professor of psychology at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., has been released by Prentice Hall Publishing Co. The book, "Counseling: A Modern Emphasis on Religion," deals with the everyday problems of normal people who might seek counseling of pastors, Sunday School teachers, ministers of education or youth workers. The author is a Baptist deacon. (BP)

Heart Diseases Continue
As Major Pastor Killer

DALLAS (BP)---More than 60 per cent of the Southern Baptist ministers who died in 1961 were victims of heart diseases, statistics compiled by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board indicate.

For the third straight year, heart troubles were responsible for more than 50 per cent of the preachers' deaths.

R. Alton Reed, executive secretary of the Annuity Board, released these findings to the trustees attending the 44th annual meeting of the Board in Dallas.

Cancer continued to hold second place by claiming 20 per cent, while accidents climbed to third place with 7 per cent.

Reed said 105 preachers' wives were added to the "widow's annuity" list last year. This was the largest number of women to become widows in any one year since the Board's beginning in 1918.

He said 38 of the preachers died in active service. The preachers' average age was 51.6. The youngest to die, a man killed as a result of an accident, was only 27 years of age.

The youngest minister to die of heart trouble was 30 years old.

Of the 67 ministers who died after retirement, the average age was 72 years. The oldest man was 92, Reed said.

Other causes of death were leukemia, uremia and diabetes.

Reed said the statistics cover only those ministers who are in the retirement plans which the Annuity Board administers for the denomination.

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Baylor Research Seeks
Effect of UHF Sounds

(2-2-62)

WACO, Tex. (BP)---A psychology professor at Baylor University here is combining his psychological research with his hobby in amateur radio in an effort to determine if ultra high-frequency radio waves have any effect on human beings.

Professor William D. Thompson is trying to determine if the UHF sound waves may effect the learning ability and the emotional and motivational characteristics of rats, and perhaps even human beings.

The high-frequency radio waves are the type transmitted by aircraft navigational instruments, radar and ultra high-frequency television stations, Thompson said.

Thompson has received a \$3,985 grant from the United States Public Health Service of the National Institute of Health to further his study of the theory.

During the study, approximately 200 rats will be exposed to small amounts of ultra high-frequency waves for varied lengths of time.

Thompson and a graduate student will observe the changes, if any, in the learning, motivational, and emotional characteristics of the rats.

Thompson said the amount of waves absorbed by any person working around a UHF television station in a single day would far exceed the quantity of waves exposed on the rats during the entire study.

Although he expects any changes to be subtle, Thompson said incomplete reports in Russian journals bear further research due to the increasing number of high-frequency radio transmitters in use.

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Doctor's Touring Liberia
On Medical Mercy Mission

FORT WORTH (BP)---Fourteen doctors have departed for a two-month's medical mercy mission in an effort to immunize more than one million people in the West Africa Republic of Liberia against smallpox, yellow fever and other diseases.

The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here will film and tape record the venture, known as "Project: Brother's Brother II" for future radio and television programs produced by the commission.

All of the doctors participating in the mass immunization program are volunteers, donating their time to the effort.

Medicines, vaccines, and other supplies were contributed in quantity by the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association.

The team will take 20 "peace guns" (mass jet inoculators), each capable of immunizing 10,000 people per hour.

The doctors will be working under the direction of Dr. Robert A. Hingson, professor of anesthesiology for the Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Hingson, who developed the jet inoculator, believes the mammoth undertaking may set a new pattern for progressive health service to underdeveloped countries that are often hit hard by epidemics.

Clarence Duncan, director of promotion for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, will accompany the team aboard ship and for about a week in Liberia. Duncan will gather tape recorded material for later use on the Commission's radio programs, and will handle press relations for the project.

Three other Commission employees will fly later to Liberia to film the activities of the medical team and mission work being carried on in the Republic for television and film productions.

Making the trip to film the "mercy mission" will be Paul M. Stevens, commission director; Truett Myers, television consultant; and Ted Perry, script writer.

An ammunition ship of the United States Navy, the U. S. S. Diamond Head, will transport both the supplies and the doctors from Norfolk, Va., to Monrovia, Liberia.

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Howard Payne Gets
Gift For Dormitory

(2-2-62)

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP)---Howard Payne College here has received a \$51,000 gift, believed to be the largest cash gift in the history of the school.

The donation will be used for the construction of a new four-story brick dormitory expected to go up within the next eight months.

Mrs. J.W. Jennings of Brownwood made the donation. Trustees of the Baptist school have voted to name the proposed men's dormitory in honor of Mrs. Jennings and her late husband.

Mrs. Jennings has had a part in providing for every building on the Howard Payne campus, including a \$20,000 gift for a new science building now under construction, said Howard Payne President Guy D. Newman.

The new men's dormitory, expected to cost about \$450,000, will house lounges, a bookstore, game rooms and other student center facilities.

Howard Payne College is one of nine schools owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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5,500 Needy Baptists
Receive Annuity Aid

DALLAS (BP)---Nearly \$2,880,000 was paid to about 5,500 Baptist pastors, church and denominational employees in 1961 by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board through its protection plan program.

During the 44th annual meeting of the Annuity Board here, the board's executive secretary R. Alton Reed highlighted the figures, calling 1961 a "good year" in the progress and growth of the board.

Reed said 454 persons were added to the annuitants list to start receiving benefits under the plan's provisions.

The new annuitants included 317 retirees, 105 widows and 32 disability cases, Reed said.

Funds held in trust for future payment of benefits to almost 24,000 ministers, church and denominational employees rose to about \$93 million, an increase of nearly \$11 million over 1960 funds, Reed said.

The relief roll decreased from 977 to 1960 to 826 last year, Reed said. Relief beneficiaries are old ministers or their widows who did not have a chance to participate in the denomination's retirement program.

The two-day meeting also featured reports by the Annuity Board's administrative officers and an address by Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist executive committee.

Routh told the trustees that they are placed in a sensitive place of responsibility in administering the retirement and disability funds of Baptist church pastors, employees and denominational workers.

"These funds do not belong to the Annuity Board," Routh said. "They belong to Southern Baptist pastors and churches. You are the trustees," he said.

Routh added that relationships with the churches must be based on a mutual trust. "Replace trust with suspicions," he said, "and you know that you have sown the seed that reaps a whirlwind."

He challenged the trustees to live up to what he termed the two elements of trusteeship. The trustee must be trusted, and he must be trustworthy, Routh said.

"On the other side of the coin is the recognition that the trustee does not act for himself and for his own interest, but always on the behalf of the one he serves," Routh said.

As a result of this trust, more than 64 per cent of all cooperating Southern Baptist churches are in one or more of the plans which the Annuity Board administers, he said.

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