

January 21, 1954

SEMINARY ENROLS 807
FOR SPRING SEMESTER

NEW ORLEANS, La.---(BP)--Seventy-three new students enrolled for the spring semester at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, bringing the total enrolment to 807. Thirty-nine of the students enrolled in the School of Theology, thirty in religious education, and four in music.

Previous high enrolment at the seminary was in 1951-52 when the number went to 731.

Donald R. Harbuck, Shreveport, La., was the first student ever to sign line 800 in the enrolment book. The moment was a proud one not only for the New Orleans Seminary, but also for Harbuck. It has taken him two-and-a-half years to reach seminary training after finishing college because of an attack of polio. He signed with his left hand. His right is still completely paralyzed.

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"DAY OF OPPORTUNITY IS
BRIEF FOR CHRISTIANS"

FORT WORTH, Tex.---(BP)--"The day of opportunity for Christians is brief because the world is engaged in a struggle that will end in the death of Christianity or the death of Communism," Evangelist Billy Graham warned the largest crowd ever to attend a Texas Baptist Evangelistic Conference, recently.

In describing the qualifications of an evangelist, Graham pointed out that an evangelist must make it clear to the sinner that there's a choice to be made in becoming a Christian--"you can't have the world and Jesus, too," he said.

Graham spoke to an overflow crowd of 13,800 who jammed the Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth during the three day conference.

Others appearing on program included W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas; Sidney W. Powell, pastor, Tremont Temple Baptist Church, Boston, Mass.; and C. Wade Freeman, Dallas.

The 1955 conference will be held January 10-12, in Waco.

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PROPOSED 1955 ALLOCATION PROVIDES FOR MISSION ADVANCE

BY: Porter Routh
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The \$350,000 increase in the total operating budget to be proposed to the Southern Baptist Convention for 1955 will make possible larger Advance gains for the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board in that year if receipts continue at the rate shown over the past few years.

Foreign Mission Board receipts through the Cooperative Program in 1953 amounted to \$4,098,520. If the normal rate of increase continues, the Foreign Mission Board will receive an estimated \$4,435,000 in 1954, and \$4,750,000 in 1955 under the proposed budget.

The Home Mission Board received \$1,472,640 in 1953, through the Cooperative Program. If the normal rate of increase continues, the Home Mission Board will receive about \$1,500,000 in 1954, and an estimated \$1,575,000 in 1955.

If the normal rate of increase continues, and none of the state conventions cut their percentage of gifts to Convention wide causes next year, then the Advance funds in 1955 should amount to about \$1,275,000 for the Foreign Mission Board, and \$425,000 for the Home Mission Board. Both of these amounts would be record figures.

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MISSION ACCOUNTANT RETIRES

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--J. W. Wing, accountant and superintendent of the Church Building Loan Fund, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., for the past thirty-three years retired recently.

During his thirty-three years with the Board, Wing has signed 250,000 checks; seen missionary personnel increase from a little over a hundred to more than thirteen hundred; seen the work grow from three or four phases to a program with more than sixteen phases of work; and seen receipts increase from \$200,000 to nearly \$3,000,000 annually. He served under five secretaries.

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ROGERS' RETREAT
READY IN JUNE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Rogers' Retreat, an ultra-modern camping building now under construction at Camp Ridgecrest for Boys, will be ready for the first session of camp, June 7 July 12.

The building located on the shores of Lake Ridgecrest, will consist of a campers' lounge, prayer room, kitchen, library, and a camp infirmary.

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SEMINARY PROFESSOR NAMED
ORIENTAL SCHOOL DIRECTOR

LOUISVILLE, Ky.--(BP)--William H. Morton, professor of Biblical archaeology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was named director of the American School of Oriental Research at Jerusalem for the school year 1954-55.

The American School, founded in 1900, is responsible for many significant discoveries of Biblical manuscripts and pieces of workmanship from old civilizations.

Eighty-five universities, colleges, and seminaries in the United States including Southern Seminary, support the work of the school.

Morton was a research fellow at the school in 1950-51.

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BAYLOR UNIVERSITY HAS
STUDY PLAN WITH DUKE

WACO, Tex.--(BP)--Baylor University will offer students an opportunity to obtain the Bachelor's degree at Baylor and the Master of Forestry degree at Duke University, Durham, N. C.

W. R. White, president, explained the plan as similar to other five year plans in engineering studies now in operation in co-operation with other schools.

"Three years of study will be done at Baylor and the final two years at Duke," White said.

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SPRING CONFERENCE
SET AT SOUTHERN

LOUISVILLE, KY.--(BP)--C. H. Hopkins, dean, Setson University, De Land, Fla., and N. H. Parker, dean, Divinity School of McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, will be guest lecturers for the spring conference to be held at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., March 9-12.

The conference, designed to offer a week of study, intellectual stimulation, and spiritual enrichment to pastors and other Christian workers, was held in July and August in the past. The change in dates will make it possible for those attending the conference to participate in regular classroom and academic activities of the Seminary while they are on the campus.

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REPORT OF SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December, 1953

Pursuant to the action taken by the Houston convention, May, 1953, referring the Garis T. Long (Virginia) Resolution to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, the undersigned were appointed at the June meeting of this body as a committee to study the matter of ministers of the gospel receiving Social Security benefits and to report to this body at its December meeting.

During these intervening weeks, your committee has sought to acquaint itself with some of the multitudinous and intricate ramifications of this matter, commonly referred to as Social Security coverage for ministers.

In presenting our report today, we would first express appreciation for much valuable information received from Dr. Alexander, executive secretary of our Relief and Annuity Board, and for the assistance afforded us by the presence, when we met, October 23, of Dr. Porter Routh, secretary of the Executive Committee, and Dr. Storer, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The following, therefore, records our findings, together with certain recommendations that we believe it our duty to present today for your consideration.

Findings

(1) Your committee has found this matter is far from a simple one. Good men everywhere hold diverse views with regard to it. There is a wide divergence of opinion within our own denominational group. Men in all denominational fellowships are in disagreement.

(2) In this matter as in others, Congress seeks to know the will of the people. Were the churches of America in accord with regard to this matter, they could practically write their own Social Security bill. Some denominational groups have voiced their convictions in opposition to minister coverage; other groups have expressed their desire to have their ministers covered. Thus far, Southern Baptist have remained inarticulate.

(3) A number of bills are now pending in Congress, purporting to include ministers under Social Security. They represent four bases of inclusion or coverage.

(4) Bill No. 6812, which has the endorsement of the Social Security Board and the backing of the administration, will be considered soon after Congress reconvenes in January. It calls for a voluntary coverage of ministers. However, the

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successors of those who choose coverage would be automatically covered, having no choice in the matter thereafter. Thus it operates on the voluntary principle today, obligatory tomorrow.

(5) Any basis of coverage presents many problems to our Baptist ministers and other denominational workers which ought to be considered now. Perhaps the least objectionable to most Christian bodies, probably the least objectionable to Southern Baptists, would be a coverage on the "self-employed basis," called for in the Cole Bill, HR-1236. Under this bill the Social Security contract would be with the individual, and would not involve the church.

(6) Social Security coverage in itself is not adequate. It makes no provision for the totally and permanently disabled. It permits no withdrawal of payments made by the member. In most cases it offers no benefits, under less than ten years participation. If the coverage basis be voluntary, neither employer nor employee severing relationship after ten years participation can ever be covered again.

(7) Already a number of our boards, institutions, and agencies, and some Baptist churches have covered their employees by Social Security as a substitute for what protection they formerly had under the retirement plans of our denominational board. In many cases, these workers are worse off than they were, which fact is tragic for them.

(8) If Social Security coverage is taken alone, either by the pastor of a church or by employees of some other denominational group, there may be in the future financial problems presented to the Relief and Annuity Board for which there is no solution, greatly endangering the future soundness of the present retirement plans, unless heavily subsidized by the denomination.

(9) It is evident our constituency remains uninformed as to many vital matters pertaining to this entire question. We believe that absolute freedom of action is desirable, but that final decisions should be made in the light of all the facts in the case.

(10) It is quite possible that our constituency will be facing this issue as a result of the passage of a bill in Congress before the St. Louis convention, June 2-5, 1954.

Recommendations

Your committee therefore recommends:

(1) That the Executive Committee inaugurate at once a program of information, through The Baptist Program and the denominational press, concerning the proposed

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Social Security program and our denominational retirement program.

(2) This body take necessary action to secure for our people representation at the public hearings before congressional committees, Washington, D. C., whenever such hearings are held. Many of the major denominations of America will be represented there through the National Council of Churches of Christ, which body does not represent Southern Baptists. It is our conviction request should be made, in the light of all the facts, for a coverage bill least objectionable to our people and presenting fewer complications in the future. It should be a bill calling for a Social Security contract between the federal government and the individual, without in any sense involving the churches.

(3) Remind our entire constituency that the Relief and Annuity Board is the denominational agency in the field of protective plans, retirement, and otherwise, urging that, in every case where Social Security coverage is secured for our denominational servants, it be in addition to that offered by the Relief and Annuity Board, never as a substitute for that protection.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUR COMMITTEE:

G. Allen West

J. D. Grey

Herschel H. Hobbs, Chairman

BAPTIST FEATURES

Released by BAPTIST PRESS
127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn.

THE POWER OF AWAKENED CONSCIENCE BY: Albert McClellan

Early in December the Associated Press carried the following story concerning sale of liquor on military property.

"An order putting all military officers' clubs and messes on government property out of the bottled liquor business was issued by the defense department yesterday.

"Deputy Defense Secretary Roger Kyes signed a directive which will end a privilege exercised by the navy for many years and by the army and air force since December 1.

"No further purchases of liquor for sale in package or bottle form will be made by the military departments after January 1, Kyes decreed. Officers' clubs and messes will be permitted to sell liquor by the bottle until April 1 to dispose of stocks on hand.

"Thus ended an experiment begun by the army last September when for the first time in more than half a century it decided to allow liquor to be sold by the bottle to commissioned and non-commissioned officers in open messes."

Here is the simple truth. The temperance leaders of America became vocal against the vice and the government retreated.

It calls for two things:

(1) Letters of approval from every Baptist in America to Mr. Kyes, to President Eisenhower, and to Mr. Charles E. Wilson, secretary of defense.

(2) Determination of all Baptists to be more vocal against the organized evil of our land.

When we make up our minds to do it, we can silence the liquor and beer advertisers on radio and TV and we can give our news stands a much needed bath.

If the Baptist conscience will assert itself there will be a new holy day in America's moral.

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Albert McClellan is director of publications, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.

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THE MISSIONARIES' LUGGAGE

If I had not happened to meet them on their way to Nigeria I do not suppose I should have given the attention I subsequently did to the departure of a Southern Baptist doctor and his wife with their two children for their new field of missionary service. Of course, they had been inoculated for yellow fever, typhoid, tetanus, typhus, and smallpox. And, of course, they will get accustomed to the regular doses of anti-malaria medicine. But I had not realized how much luggage was necessary--four big trunks and more than thirty large boxes. Here are some of the items which have now, I expect, arrived in Ogbomoso, Nigeria: a stove, to be fed by wood, a washing machine, a sewing machine, bed springs and mattresses, a pressure cooker, three dozen jars filled with various commodities for the table, thirty bed sheets with dozens of towels and cloths (for entertaining when the Nigerian Baptist Convention comes to Ogbomoso), clothes for three years, and of course, surgical and medical instruments for the doctor's use in the hospital.

These will have a special significance for Dr. George Faile, for they were provided by his home church in South Carolina, which was organized by his grandfather, where his father was a deacon, and his mother now an invalid, still has her membership. I wonder whether some dusky son of Africa, as he sees these precious boxes arriving at the hospital, will not exclaim, "There sure is love in them boxes." --From British Baptist Times.