

June 20, 1959

Education Commission
Re-Elects 2 Officers

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has re-elected its chairman, Ralph A. Phelps, Jr., and its vice-chairman, John A. Barry, Jr.

Phelps is president of Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Barry is president of Coker College, Hartsville, S. C.

Warren F. Jones, president of Union University (Baptist), Jackson, Tenn., was elected secretary of the Commission.

The Commission elected officers at its June meeting in Nashville, where its administrative offices are located. The agency helps co-ordinate Southern Baptist educational programs, although not charged with responsibility of operating schools.

The chairman of the Commission, Phelps, reported that no decision has been reached on a new executive secretary to succeed R. Orin Cornett. The nominating committee is expected to meet again in July to consider the matter.

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Church Adult Education
Faces Study, Review

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Adult religious education in the Southern Baptist Convention needs to be rethought in light of several recent developments.

This opinion was voiced by Lee Gallman of Jackson, Miss., director of the Seminary Extension Department for Southern Baptists' six seminaries. He made his statements in address to the Southern Baptist Association of Extension Educators here, of which he is president.

Recent developments requiring a restudy of adult education include the Bible school movement, the co-ordinated Bible study course program announced by the Baptist Sunday School Board, and national trends in education, Gallman said.

He applied these developments particularly to the field of extension education. This field has to do with the operation of educational programs away from campuses of colleges and other schools.

Among the extension educators are those who direct off-campus programs for state Baptist colleges. The association's aim is to establish and foster liaison with other Southern Baptist groups engaged in adult education.

Leaders of the Bible school movement, Gallman reported, "will seek increasingly to improve their facilities, develop their curricula, and give greater character to their graduates. In the light of this integrity we can not but be impressed as Baptists."

He said college and seminary extension educators are partners, rather than opponents, of Bible school leaders---"partners in a task that all Baptist leaders see as important."

The new co-ordinated study course program designed by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Gallman added, is "a real challenge to a particular element of our students---the Sunday school workers. Of course we will lose most of them!"

He estimated that at least 15 seminary extension centers will close due to the new Sunday School Board program. Of the 750,000 Sunday school workers in Southern Baptist churches, seminary and college extension centers last year enroled about 4000, Gallman said.

"We can not be fair and claim that we are meeting the need of our denomination with our 4000 Sunday school workers enroled."

He applauded the new format of the study course brought about by the Sunday School Board's plan.

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"We may well question whether ours, the (Sunday School) board's plan, or the Bible school should siphon off young people who should go on to college and/or seminary," Gallman went on. "When one of these competes with standard education there is a real issue at stake.

"Let us not compromise our position. There is need for Bible school, and college or seminary extension training for one type of minister only--that man who began too late in life to go on! If we cause young men to spend time in our programs when they ought to be in standard education, we are betraying them," he declared.

There still remain areas in which extension religious education programs may be effective. Gallman cited these: "We can have supervised group study. We can set up intensive centers of training to offset interdenominational movements of Bible study, and to answer needs in pioneer areas. We can hold two-week preachers' institutes. The patterns are many. We need to know these patterns and learn to use them to meet needs wherever they appear."

Extension education must be directed mainly toward those who can not go to a campus, he said.

The association re-elected Gallman as president. Two staff members from Baptist-related Mercer University, Macon, Ga., are other officers. P. H. Anderson, Jr., is vice-president, and A. D. Phillips is secretary.

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Teachers Deny Summer A Time For Loafing

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C.--(BP)--How do college professors spend the summer?

Do they loaf for three months, fishing by the river or dozing in the shade?

A survey at Gardner-Webb College here reveals that one teacher in five does exactly that. Of 35 teachers at the Baptist junior college, seven have "no plans" for the summer.

The other 80 per cent are busy with a variety of occupations. Most popular choice is advanced study. Eleven teachers are away in universities doing graduate work toward higher degrees.

Six are teaching in the Gardner-Webb summer session and five are on the job as full-time members of the administrative staff. Of the half-dozen remaining, four have part-time jobs, one is working full time, and one is traveling abroad.

Another look at the seven enjoying summer leisure reveals that three are housewives catching up on the chores of homemaking. They deny knowledge of the word "leisure."

For most Gardner-Webb teachers, like those anywhere else, summer is the year's busiest season. Dashing away for summer study at a distant university is a major operation when it involves apartment hunting and moving the family. For those who remain at the college the accelerated summer school program moves at a dizzy pace.

It seems the popular myth about 90 days summer leisure for the college professor is just that -- a popular myth.

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New Mexico Baptists Fill Office Positions

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.--(BP)--The state mission board of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico filled two denominational offices at a special meeting here.

W. C. Ribble was elected executive secretary of the state Baptist foundation. He comes from Arkadelphia, Ark., where has been a faculty of Ouachita Baptist College. He also formerly taught at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.

The new Baptist foundation leader takes office Sept. 1.

Joseph B. Underwood, secretary of evangelism for New Mexico Baptists for the

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past three years, was elected as secretary of stewardship and promotion. He agreed to "transfer" in the board meeting by resigning as secretary of evangelism and accepting the new position.

It is felt that in this new work he will have a broader field of activity and responsibility. This creates a vacancy in the department of evangelism.

H. C. Sivells has been serving as secretary of the foundation, in addition to his duties as secretary of Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador work. He will now give his time to the promotion of the denomination's retirement plan, in addition to his Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador work.

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Colleges Tell Reliance On Cooperative Program

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A Baptist college president declared here that he often promotes the denomination's orphanage and hospital in his state while speaking on behalf of the college.

This, he added, is because of the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention plan of undesignated giving which supports a wide variety of church educational, missionary, and benevolent work.

"When the percentage of Cooperative Program giving goes up, all of our Baptist institutions benefit," Ralph A. Phelps, Jr., of Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., said.

Phelps, chairman of the Convention's Education Commission, said that the Cooperative Program stimulates a spirit of friendly co-operation and mutual help among institutions supported by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

His remarks were made during an open discussion period at the annual meeting of the Education Commission here. Presidents and other Baptist college officials were discussing the part that Cooperative Program giving plays in financing their budgets.

At Ouachita, with 1060 students, from one-third to one-fourth of the operating budget comes through the Cooperative Program, Phelps said. Ouachita, the only school owned and operated by Arkansas Convention, receives about \$249,000 a year from this source.

Other college officials, from states which support two or more colleges under Baptist ownership, told of their dependence on Cooperative Program allocations. However, because more colleges had to share in their states, the allocation to an individual college was not as great as Ouachita's.

Porter Routh, Nashville, treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention, told the educators that Cooperative Program receipts at state Baptist offices have risen from \$14.8 million to \$45 million in a decade.

While total receipts were increasing approximately three times, Routh added that the allocations from the Cooperative Program to Baptist colleges and schools (not including seminaries) had increased almost five times. It rose in the 10 years from \$1-2/3 million to \$7-1/2 million.

"The Cooperative Program is not a gimmick for agencies to raise money from the churches," the treasurer said. "It is a plan whereby through our churches we respond to the commission God has given us. The Cooperative Program is an opportunity to express our deepest feelings, to bring men to God through Jesus Christ."

Warren F. Jones, president of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., reported a need to show the direct relationship between evangelism and stewardship. He said the educators should encourage more Cooperative Program giving in the churches, and less designation to single objectives.

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Florida Ministers Get
Witness Stand Immunity

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.--(BP)--A bill giving Florida ministers protection on the witness stand became law when Gov. LeRoy Collins signed the new act.

The measure, introduced early in Florida's 1959 legislative session by Rep. Mack Cleveland of Seminole County, prohibits a clergyman over 21 years of age from disclosing as a witness in any litigation, information confidentially communicated to him for spiritual purposes.

The only exception is when the communicating party waives the right in open court or by affidavit.

This bill does not affect the hearsay law.

It provides a penalty of not less than \$50 fine and imprisonment up to six months. It requires the judge to determine whether the witness is within this prohibition.

Three other measures along similar lines died in legislative committees.

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Louisiana College
Faces Possible Move

PINEVILLE, La.--(BP)--The Louisiana College board of trustees at a special meeting here voted to delay further construction on the campus until a professional study is made.

The board voted (1) to conduct a professional study of the responsibility of Louisiana Baptists in higher education in the state, and (2) that further construction be delayed pending outcome of the survey.

Purpose of the study will be to determine whether Louisiana Baptists should consider moving Louisiana College to another area with a greater center of population, or remain in Pineville and continue the \$5 million program of expansion already adopted by the board.

The action by the board was necessitated by several factors, according to a news release issued shortly after the meeting. These include (1) population trends in Louisiana, and (2) the possible effects of the establishment of a state college in the area.

The board's concern over a state college was prompted by a bill passed in the recent state legislature providing \$650,000 for a junior college at Chambers, about 12 miles from Pineville. The state already has land there for an agricultural experiment station.

The new college would be a branch of Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge. Date of its establishment is uncertain.

The board's action will delay the construction of Louisiana College's \$1/2 million fine arts building, for which plans have been prepared.

Louisiana College, only college operated by Louisiana Baptist Convention, has been at Pineville since its founding in 1906. Pineville is across Red River from Alexandria, where convention offices are located.

The nearest college at present is at Natchitoches, 70 miles northwest.

Seventeen buildings are located on the 81-acre Louisiana College campus. It enrolled about 700 students during the last academic year. Three years ago, a new library building was opened on the campus. Property and equipment were recently evaluated at \$2-1/2 million, and the college has an endowment of nearly \$1-1/2 million.

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Louisville, Kentucky---The second-largest registration in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention was recorded at the 102nd annual session in Louisville's Freedom Hall May 19-22. Secretary Joe W. Burton of Nashville, Tennessee, said total number of messengers from churches was 12,326.

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Louisville, Kentucky---Ramsey Pollard, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, succeeding Brooks Hays, of Washington, D. C., and Little Rock, Ark. If custom prevails, Pollard will be re-elected in 1960 and serve the maximum two years in office allowed by the SBC constitution.

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Louisville, Kentucky---Editors of Baptist papers who attended the 1959 session of the Southern Baptist Convention held here, declared it demonstrated the unity and forward progress of Southern Baptists.

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Louisville, Kentucky---The most debated questions at the 1959 Southern Baptist Convention involved the race issue, creation of a new SBC agency, charge of heresy in one of the Convention's seminaries, and extension of church representation into Canada. The Convention turned down an appeal to rescind its 1954 action which recognized the Supreme Court's school segregation ruling as being "in harmony with the constitutional guarantee . . . and Christian principles." By a narrow margin it voted to create a new and separate agency, the Stewardship Commission. It overwhelmingly rebuffed one messenger's repeated efforts to charge heresy was being taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, thus expressing confidence in the seminary's adherence to Baptist doctrines. The Convention asked its Executive Committee to consider calling a top-level meeting of white and Negro Baptist leaders to discuss common problems. An attempt to seat messengers from Baptist churches in Canada was withdrawn when faulty wording was discovered in a proposed amendment to the Convention's constitution.

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Kansas City, Missouri---Professor V. Lavell Seats of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here was loaned to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team for the month of June to help arrange a series of meetings Graham will conduct in Africa next year. Seats revisited the continent on which he served 15 years as a Southern Baptist missionary in Nigeria.

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Chicago, Illinois---20 Southern Baptist congregation dedicated new property on May 10 in unique simultaneous services in the Chicago metropolitan area. 1500 persons attended a rally held in the spacious Conrad-Hilton Hotel to climax the day.

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Ridgecrest, North Carolina---One girl was killed and another seriously injured near here when they fell 50 feet down a roaring mountain waterfall. Both were attending the Baptist college student retreat at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly and had taken an unsupervised hike to Catawba Falls. They had waded into the swift stream when dragged over the falls by the current. ~~The dead student--Miss Barbara Butler of Saluda, S. C.--was president of the Baptist student union at Coker College, Hartsville, S. C.~~

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Fort Worth, Texas---Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees dedicated a housing project for seminary students here to the late Dr. J. Howard Williams, seminary president. Williams died last year.

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