

September 10, 1959

View Adult Education
By Baptist Principle

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--"The historic Baptist principle of individual freedom must have a rebirth in terms of the education of adults," declared the leaders of the Seminary Extension Department of Southern Baptist seminaries at a meeting here.

Lee Gallman, director, and associates W. A. Whitten of Jackson; Albert Fauth, Kansas City, Kans.; G. Ray Worley, Fort Worth; Eugene Wallace, Riverside, Calif; and Frank Koger, Gastonia, N. C., met in department headquarters in Jackson for their annual planning meeting.

In recognizing the value of present methods, the group voiced the conviction that a "methodology that encourages greater latitude in the use of resources other than handed-down program materials" is needed in adult education.

These adult religious educators who make up the leadership of the Seminary Extension Department, sponsored by the six seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, are committed to the task of providing in-service training for the ministers and local church leaders throughout the territory of the Convention.

Since its beginning in 1951, the Seminary Extension Department has grown from a one-man operation to a staff of five associates, four full-time secretaries, and an enrollment in excess of 12,000 students in extension and correspondence courses.

Gallman has guided development of the department from its beginning as a correspondence program in adult religious education. It now includes over 100 extension centers.

The department is a member of the Adult Education Association and the National Home Study Council. It participates, through its associates, in the various state and local adult education programs.

The courses provided by the department include studies in Bible, religious education, and theology. Any interested person may enroll in either the correspondence study plan or through a local extension center.

The extension centers use facilities of local Baptist churches. Local pastors instruct the classes. Credit may be earned toward a seminary diploma or toward a college degree by the students. Students are encouraged to discover and develop their own goals.

The plan of the extension department is a co-operative venture. It seeks to work with local Baptist colleges in developing its program and achieving its goals. Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., is one of the recent Baptist schools to join in the program.

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Helen Falls Elected
By Mission Educators

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Miss Helen Falls, counselor for women, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, has been elected chairman of the Missionary Education Council of the Southern Baptist Convention.

She succeeds Miss Mary Christian, missions book editor, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, for a two-year term.

Other officers elected at the Council's session here are David T. Mashburn, Memphis, associate secretary, Baptist Brotherhood Commission, as vice-chairman, and Miss Johnni Johnson, visual aids production assistant, SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., as secretary.

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The Council, a voluntary association representing several SBC agencies, plans books, magazines, films, and other materials used in missionary education among Southern Baptists. Its decisions are not necessarily binding on agencies.

About 85 persons attended the Council's session in Nashville. The 1960 meeting will be held in Memphis Nov. 16-18.

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Folks & facts.....

.....Grady C. Cothen, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., has been called by First Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

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Crescent Hill Up
To Par--Golf Par

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--When young people at Crescent Hill Baptist Church get teed off, they may very likely not be up to par--golf par, that is. (The church has a new nine-hole miniature golf course.)

The young people of this Louisville church got to thinking about the unfinished, unfurnished third floor of an education building at the church. Why not install a miniature golf course?

They approached their elders. In due course it was approved. Half of the \$400 cost of the course was donated. The kids themselves visited commercial courses around the city and picked up ideas for designing tricky and difficult layouts. Then they built the course.

To pay off the \$200 owed on the equipment, players are paying 10 cents a game. This is reasonable enough considering the going rate of 35 and 50 cents for 18-hole miniature golf courses operated for profit.

The golf course is not as unusual for Crescent Hill Church as it would be for most other Baptist churches. For this church, hard by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and with the moderator of Kentucky Baptists for its pastor, has had its own gymnasium and other recreational facilities for several years.

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Self-Inflicted, Says
Coroner Of Ohio Death

DAYTON, Ohio--(BP)--The death of George H. Riggs, killed by a shotgun blast in his church Aug. 5, was ruled a suicide by the Montgomery county coroner.

A 30-page report was made of the investigation leading to the verdict of suicide due to mental anxiety.

Riggs, pastor of Westwood (Southern) Baptist church, was found shot to death in a hallway near the church office at 5:15 a.m. on Aug. 5. Possibilities of accidental death, homicide, and suicide were investigated.

"There were no main reasons leading to the conclusion of suicide," Dr. Robert E. Zipf, county coroner explained. "There were a complexity of things. Like a jig-saw puzzle, the separate pieces didn't mean anything until they were all put together."

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According to the report the pastor apparently was a man unable to cope with anxieties, and he had many of them.

As an example, Deputy Coroner Harry Bloomer said Riggs, who came from Louisville to Dayton eight months ago, did not seem to adjust to leaving his home town. During his time at his new pastorate here, he made repeated trips back to Louisville, where he had been pastor of Victory Memorial Baptist Church.

Members of the coroner's staff spent several days in Kentucky, checking into Riggs's background.

Other factors contributing to the final verdict included:

1. Reports showed the .12 gauge shotgun Riggs carried would not have discharged accidentally, even if dropped or thrown, Bloomer said.
2. Dermal nitrate tests, which are used to detect gunpowder on the skin, showed positive evidence of powder on the victim's right hand. The left hand showed negative.
3. Microscopic examination showed no bruises on the victim's knees or lower limbs. Bloomer said such bruises would be expected if the 215 pound man had tripped and fallen.
4. Riggs' arms were under his body, not extended as by a man bracing for a fall.

Previously Dayton police termed the death accidental, theorizing the 40-year-old minister was accidentally shot with his own gun while investigating a possible burglary.

Police Lieutenant Richard Grundish, who previously termed the death accidental, said his department would abide by the coroner's ruling.