

December 6, 1959

**Denominational College  
Given Dual Obligation**

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--Baptists colleges need to continue to provide Christian education both for the laity and for those preparing for church-related vocations, the executive vice-president of Baylor University said here.

Abner McCall of Waco, Tex., warned that Baptist colleges may return to the point of training only church-related vocational workers unless they can expand.

He called attention to a survey in Texas which showed that only 18 per cent of Baptist students attend Baptist colleges in the state.

Increased financial support from the denomination is the major hope for expansion, McCall added. Government funds must be declined because of ties that may be established. Similarly, he said, funds given by big donors and foundations often have strings attached.

Another alternative to lack of support is that Baptist colleges will become secularized. McCall said many private institutions today once were related to denominations.

The Baylor official addressed the winter meeting of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools, attended by 107 persons. The association meets in connection with the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Three new college presidents were introduced to the Baptist group---Rufus C. Harris, former Tulane president now at Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; Robert L. Mills of Georgetown (Ky.) College, and Herbert C. Gabhart of Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.

A fourth newcomer, President E. N. Patterson of Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz., did not attend since colleges in Arizona are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The Baptist educators heard from Rabun L. Brantley, new executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission. Brantley, of Nashville, will also serve as executive secretary to the Baptist college association.

He paid tribute to forerunners Charles D. Johnson and R. Orin Cornett in the Education Commission leadership.

"The Commission was created by the Convention to serve the colleges and educational interests of Southern Baptists. The proper and best service can result only with the fullest measure of interest and help from the top leadership of our colleges," Brantley added.

"If we could see what is immediately ahead for our colleges, we would surely seek unity and all possible help from one another."

-30-

**Baptist Colleges Take  
Part In Loan Program**

(12-6-59)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--With only a few exceptions, colleges and universities related to the Southern Baptist Convention are taking part in the student loan program under the National Defense Education Act passed in 1958 by Congress.

Three colleges, two in Virginia and one in Alabama, announced they will not seek loan funds because of possible church vs. state entanglements. A fourth college, in Virginia, declined to take part but gave no reason.

-more-

About 25 colleges responded to a Baptist Press survey. Those in the program have asked for and received sums varying from \$1500 each to \$40,000. The total requested is nearly \$350,000, of which funds already received are \$240,000.

In no case did the loyalty oath required of students getting loans stop a college from entering the student loan program.

Under the Act, the federal government makes \$295 million available in loans over a four-year period. Students may borrow up to \$1000 a year at 3 per cent interest, repayment beginning one year after graduation.

Colleges must match nine-tenths government loan funds with one-tenth of their own.

The vast majority saw no conflict over church and state since (1) the money came in the form of a loan, and (2) it was made to the student, not the institution.

"We see nothing wrong with requiring students who receive loans to sign the oath," one college president after another declared. "The government has every right to restrict the loans to students who are willing to sign the oath."

The loyalty oath issue was given national prominence recently when several New England colleges withdrew from the loan program on its account. Those who opposed the oath said it was not out of disloyalty, but deplored the fact that government loans to students require taking of an oath while federal farm subsidies are doled out without any oath.

The executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission, in an editorial for the magazine Southern Baptist Educator, December issue, wrote:

"As much as we admire academic integrity, dignity, and independence, this howl (over the oath) from the Ivy League seems just a bit too much---nothing to emulate or get excited about."

Rabun L. Brantley, who made the above statement, also commented, "There is nothing of church and state involved."

The loan per Baptist college student ranges from \$250 to \$650, with the average running \$300-\$400.

One school, Louisiana College, Pineville, La., first entered, then withdrew from the loan program, but not over the loyalty oath nor the church vs. state issue.

President G. Earl Guinn explained:

"Upon getting into the program and learning how much administrative red tape was involved . . . we concluded that the benefits derived would not be equal to administrative overhead."

President Leslie S. Wright of Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., voiced the church-state feeling in saying, "Our board of trustees decided against (it) on the ground that we did not desire any more entangling alliances with the federal government than absolutely necessary." Joining Howard's refusal on this ground were Bluefield (Va.) College and Virginia Intermont College at Bristol, Va.

Wayland College at Plainview, Tex., secured \$2431 in loan funds, then decided not to participate after the first year. Trustees, who recently backed out of a federal loan for student housing because of church vs. state, apparently withdrew from National Defense Education Act loans for the same reason.

-30-

Woman Scores Again

(12-6-59)

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C.--(BP)--Mrs. Ruth Stroup of Shelby, N. C., is the first woman to be elected chairman of the trustees of Gardner-Webb College here in its 54-year history.

Mrs. Stroup has been closely identified with Gardner-Webb since 1934, having served several times as a trustee and participating in a number of drives for the college. For the past five years she has been treasurer of the board of trustees.

-more-

Th

The junior college is operated by Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

-30-

2 Offers Of Land  
Made To Arizona

(12-6-59)

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona considered here two offers of land to the convention and spent time organizing for the new year's work.

The offers, one an annuity and the other a site for the children's home, will not be made public until some mutual agreements can be worked out by the donors and the convention.

The board had in a called meeting prior to this one, re-elected George Wilson, Phoenix pastor, as chairman and J. Kelly Simmons, editor of the Baptist Beacon, as secretary.

The board of trustees of the proposed Arizona Baptist Children's Home was enlarged from 12 to 18.

-30-

Glorieta Gardener  
Busy At Midwestern

(12-6-59)

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Cecil Pragnell, well-known landscape engineer at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Assembly, has been asked to plan landscaping for the new Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary campus here.

He conferred recently with President Millard J. Berquist about the project.

Berquist said, "I was so pleased with Glorieta Gardens that I have asked him to plan the landscaping for our beautiful grounds here."

The buildings on the spacious campus, completed at enrolment time this fall, are of old Texas stone and blue mosaic trim. "I am pleased they are not made of red brick," Pragnell observed.

Among the landscape plans, these are to be achieved:

Lining the entrance road will be a living three-tiered background planting. The back row will be of crimson king maple. In front of it, 200 blue spruce trees are being set. Pyracantha bushes, green with orange berries, will stand low in the front row.

The large-windowed classroom building, later to be an office building, will give a view of an open Bible reproduced in flowers, perhaps lobelias.

Hollies, pin oaks, and weeping birch will form backgrounds. Herbaceous and perennial borders will highlight flowerbeds of pink and blue blooms to accent building colors. Corners and vistas will add variety, and sometimes surprises.

A bluegrass lawn, like a soft, thick carpet, will cover large areas.

Walks leading from the living Bible to every building will be beautified with low flowers at the sides, and will tie the campus together.

"The purpose of this institution is to send men and women out into all the world with a message of life and love. This message is woven into the master plan for landscaping the new seminary," Berquist said.

-30-

Folks & facts.....

.....Miss Sarah Odle of Jackson, Miss., has been chosen Miss Mississippi College and most beautiful co-ed at the Baptist college located in Clinton, Miss. She is daughter of Joe T. Odle, editor of weekly Baptist Record.

-30-