

December 9, 1959

Belmont College Gets  
Senior Accreditation

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Belmont College, newest senior college of Tennessee Baptist Convention, has received word of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The college has an enrolment of 350 students. It has been a Tennessee Baptist co-educational institution since 1951, when the convention bought Ward-Belmont College, a private junior college for women.

Ward-Belmont's accreditation as a junior college was carried over to the new ownership, but since the college was expanded into a senior college, additional accreditation became necessary.

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California Agency  
Considers Printing

(12-9-59)

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--The California Baptist Foundation may enter the printing business.

The Foundation, an agency of the Southern Baptist/Convention of California, received approval from the convention's board of directors here subject to a printing arrangement desirable to all parties involved.

The Foundation would enter the printing business if it obtained contract to print the weekly denominational paper, California Southern Baptist, and other material used by the convention.

Foundation officers said it will take several months to begin the printing arrangement even if suitable contracts are worked out.

In other action, the board of directors okayed a subscription increase for the California Southern Baptist. The increase affects only individual subscriptions, which go up from \$2 to \$2.50 per year effective Jan. 1.

Church budget subscriptions for members of the church remain at 16 cents per month per family.

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Louisville Seminary  
Retains Its Standing

(12-9-59)

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here closes its centennial year on a note of joy--its accreditation with the American Association of Theological Schools remains intact.

The seminary went through a period of crisis between June, 1958, and June, 1959, climaxed by the dismissal of 12 professors. The seminary's trustees later rescinded the dismissals and accepted the professors' resignations instead.

The American Association of Theological Schools expressed concern over the dismissals and reviewed the seminary's accredited standing. Its report, issued in December, continued this accredited standing.

A committee of Southern Baptist Convention presidents and former presidents was appointed at one time during the crisis to assist the seminary. This committee ended its work during the summer of 1959.

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Even while the crisis was going on, the seminary continued with its centennial celebration. It was established in 1859 at Greenville, S. C., and is the oldest of ~~six Southern Baptist Convention~~ seminaries.

Its centennial celebration was highlighted by the holding of the 1959 session of the Southern Baptist Convention at Louisville, and by erection of the James P. Boyce Centennial Library, named in honor of the founder and first president of the seminary.

The accrediting report "made it clear that the authorities of the seminary had taken certain positive steps on behalf of the dismissed professors and for the seminary's improvement" although the accrediting commission did not feel that fully adequate steps had been taken.

Strengthening of the faculty, improvement of faculty salaries, and library facilities were noted as necessary by the commission.

"This continues the integral relationship between Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the American Association of Theological Schools which has been unbroken since 1938," Lamar Jackson of Birmingham, Ala., chairman, board of trustees of Southern Seminary said.

Jackson's statement was echoed by President Duke K. McCall, and by Penrose St. Amant, chairman of the faculty-trustee committee on accreditation. St. Amant, one of Southern Baptists' leading authorities on church history, joined the faculty this year after leaving the faculty of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Latin America Tests  
Stewardship Material

(12-9-59)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A member of the stewardship office staff of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will lead clinics in four South American countries in 1960.

The clinics will be on the Forward Program of Church Finance, or as it is known in Latin America, "the Advance Program."

Robert J. Hastings of Nashville, assistant director of church finance, will lead the clinics in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia during January and February.

Several Spanish and Portugese-speaking churches in central and South America have conducted test campaigns during October and November with "amazing success," Merrill D. Moore, secretary of Stewardship promotion of the Executive Committee, said.

Moore's office provided instructions by mail to help the churches.

Leadership for stewardship clinics was requested by Baptists of the four countries through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Moore reported.

In February, 1959, Moore attended the Latin American Missions Conference at Buenos Aires, Argentina, and presented stewardship and church finance methods which are used by Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

It was this conference which stimulated interest of Latin American churches and which led to their request for clinic leadership, according to Moore.

Pastors of churches in the four countries and Southern Baptist missionaries working in these countries will attend the clinics at Sao Paulo, Recife, and Belem in Brazil; Thea, Argentina; Santiago, Chile, and Cali, Colombia.

In addition, Hastings will be in Rio de Janeiro for conferences with regional Baptist secretaries. Brazilian Baptists have recently inaugurated their own Cooperative Program and wish to hear about the financial program of the same name used by Southern Baptists in the United States.

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The Cooperative Program, as used in the United States, is the means for individual Baptist churches to pool their offerings in support of missionary, educational, and benevolent work locally and around the world.

The Forward Program of Church Finance is designed to assist churches in conducting campaigns to pledge their annual budgets. The stewardship office of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has developed printed materials and directions for using the program.

The stewardship office has received one report after another of the success of the Forward Program in United States churches---budgets being increased substantially, the number of tithers growing, and the spirit of the church being awakened toward its mission opportunity.

Test campaigns in Latin America indicate that some churches there, using only limited materials thus far available in Spanish and Portuguese, may experience more success numerically than some churches in the United States, Moore's office declared.

A church in Santiago, Chile, wrote that its total income for 1959 will be about \$5000. During its Forward Program campaign for 1960 it set a goal of \$6700 in pledges. Pledges, however, exceeded \$9000. Of the church's 326 members, 295 pledged and 203 said they would tithe.

Hastings will also stop over in Lima, Peru, for a conference with missionaries but will not conduct a clinic.

The clinics will help discover if the Forward Program "is the plan these Latin American churches need at this time" and if so to proceed with full translations of Forward Program printed materials into Spanish and Portuguese.

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Anderson College  
Gains Recognition

(12-9-59)

ANDERSON, S. C.--(BP)--The Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools gave full accreditation to Anderson Junior College, Baptist college here, at the annual association meeting.

The Southern Association is the top accrediting association in the South, and its ratings are nationally recognized. Anderson will have full accreditation by this agency for the first time since Anderson's founding in 1911. The school already has full rating with the American Association of Junior Colleges, the Southern Association of Colleges for Women, and with the South Carolina state department of education.

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Education Commission  
Gets Placement Officer

(12-9-59)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--John A. Barry, Jr., of Hartsville, S. C., has joined the staff of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission here as associate secretary in charge of placement services.

"This is an effort to increase the number of qualified Baptist teachers on the faculties of Southern Baptist colleges and universities," according to Rabun L. Brantley, executive secretary of the commission.

Barry came to the staff of the Education Commission after serving four years as president of Coker College in Hartsville. Before heading Coker College, he was professor of philosophy at Furman University, Baptist school in Greenville, S. C.

Presidents of Southern Baptist colleges and universities have indicated that help in securing qualified teachers is their number one need, Brantley added.

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Barry, as placement officer, will visit the leading graduate schools in the South and talk with Baptist students about teaching in Baptist colleges. They will be invited to register with the Education Commission, which offers a free placement service for Baptists who are prospective teachers.

The placement service is one of the commission's major fields. There is a shortage of qualified teachers in Baptist colleges in every field except Bible and religious education.

"We are most fortunate to have Barry lead us in this vital work because of his wide experience in Baptist work and his broad acquaintance with Baptists," Brantley commented.

The new associate secretary is a native of Fountain Inn, S. C., who received his bachelor of arts degree from Furman and his master and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was assistant professor of homiletics at the seminary from 1946 to 1949.

Barry has studied toward his Ph.D. degree at Yale University, working in the field of philosophy of religion under a General Education Board grant.

He has been vice-chairman of the Education Commission. Barry assumed his new position Dec. 1.

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add Southern Seminary story

(12-9-59)

Charles H. Taylor, executive director of the American Association of Theological Schools, said the agency's accrediting commission wasn't satisfied with Southern Seminary in four respects:

(1) The seminary has not taken fully adequate steps to repair the injustice of the dismissed professors.

(2) There is grave doubt that new regulations governing academic freedom and tenure are sufficient to guarantee proper exercise of administrative authority and faculty responsibility in the future.

(3) The seminary has an unfavorable faculty-student ratio.

(4) The faculty and library are inadequate for the ambitious program of the school---this is especially true in work leading to the master's and doctor's degrees in theology.

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