

July 14, 1962

Furman Phases Out
Greek Fraternities

By Tom McMahan

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--Furman University trustees have decided to remove Greek letter social fraternities from the Baptist campus here within three years.

By a vote of 11 to 10, the trustees ruled that fraternities will not be allowed to receive any more pledges. Thus, when this year's sophomores are graduated, the Greek letter societies will be no more.

The state Baptist convention has asked several times that social fraternities be barred from the Furman campus.

Last November the convention went a step further and directed all state Baptist colleges to amend their charters in order to ban student membership in Greek-letter societies, on- or off-campus.

The Furman trustees have not taken action on the charter amendment demand. Presumably it is hoped that the central demand of the convention majorities have been met by the gradual phasing-out of the fraternities.

There has been strong feeling among the Furman trustees, leading laymen and some pastors, that the convention should avoid making specific policy rulings on its schools. Such matters should be left to the trustees elected by the convention, in this view.

However, the prevailing viewpoint at several recent convention sessions has been that the convention has the right and duty to decide such issues when a majority think a moral issue is at stake.

Some have predicted that the banning of fraternities will cause Furman to lose large gifts from individuals and foundations.

Others have pointed out that continued defiance of the expressed will of convention majorities would jeopardize Furman's full participation in a new capital needs program now being studied by state Baptist convention leaders.

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J. V. James Resigns
Rehabilitation Work

(7-15-62)

ATLANTA (BP)--J. V. James of Atlanta, Southern Baptist leader in juvenile rehabilitation work, has resigned his position with the Convention's Home Mission Board.

James was assistant secretary of the department of city missions in charge of juvenile rehabilitation for the mission board. In resigning, he did not indicate his future plans.

Southern Baptists conduct 35 ministries in major cities or Baptist associations of the nation in juvenile rehabilitation, operated in cooperation with local Baptist groups. Most of these have been established since James began directing the work.

The juvenile rehabilitation work is a church-centered associational ministry which deals directly with the courts in providing sponsors for wayward youths.

Previous to his work with the mission board, James was superintendent of city missions in Columbus, Ga. Before that, he was pastor in his native Alabama. He was educated at Howard College (Baptist) in Birmingham and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

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Brown Named Secretary
For Military Ministry

(Photo being mailed from Atlanta to Baptist state papers.)

ATLANTA (BP)--Willis A. Brown of New Orleans was named secretary of military personnel ministries in the chaplaincy division of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Brown, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, New Orleans, for six years, assumes his new duties here Aug. 1.

With the chaplaincy division, he will encourage churches to give spiritual preparation to and keep contact with their military related personnel and dependents throughout pre-induction, service and post-service experience.

He will also enlist churches near military centers to minister to military personnel and their dependents through a church-contact ministry.

In announcing the election, George W. Cummins of Atlanta, director of the chaplaincy division, said, "Brown is well qualified for this work because of his background and experience as a military chaplain, as a successful pastor, and as a denominational leader. He is a minister with a missionary heart."

Brown, a native of Pontotoc, Miss., was educated at Mississippi College in Clinton and at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. At the seminary he received both the master's and doctor's degrees in theology.

He was pastor at Tioga Baptist Church in Tioga, La., for seven years before going to New Orleans. During World War II he served five years as an army chaplain and presently holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U. S. Army reserve.

In denominational life, he served on the executive board for Louisiana Baptist Convention and was moderator of the New Orleans Baptist Association.

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Seminary Takes First
Carver Merger Step

(7-15-62)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here will begin Aug. 1 to operate the dormitory and chapel building at neighboring Carver School of Missions and Social Work.

This, seminary officials say, is the first phase of the merger of the two Southern Baptist Convention schools. The 1962 Convention session at San Francisco approved the merger.

The missions and social work institution was originally Woman's Missionary Union Training School. The building for students has 65 dormitory rooms. These will house women students for Carver and the seminary during the next year, about 15 enrolled at Carver and 52 from the seminary.

The building also has administration offices and a museum.

Louise Foreman Blount, seminary director of women's activities here, will move her offices into the Carver building. Mrs. Mary Crouch, member of the Carver staff, will continue as house director for the next academic year, according to the seminary.

Trustees for Carver and Southern Seminary each approved the merger before the SBC took action on the plan. Lack of accreditation for Carver was reported to be a major factor leading to the proposed merger.

Carver students will continue to receive their academic courses at the school of missions and social work during the school year beginning in September, 1962.

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Committee On Faith
Determines Its Task

NASHVILLE (BP)--The special Committee to Study Baptist Faith and Message defined its scope of responsibility during its first meeting here.

Appointed by the 1962 Southern Baptist Convention, the committee found this to be its responsibility, according to Chairman H. H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City:

"It was agreed by the committee that the task delegated to it by the Convention was to make a study of the 1925 (Convention) Statement of Baptist Faith and Message and to bring a report of its findings to the 1963 session...

"The responsibility relates only to a study of this Statement of Faith without any direct reference to any individual institution or agency."

The committee, he said, had 23 of its 24 members present. The committee consists of Hobbs as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the current presidents of 23 Baptist state conventions.

"We believe this is the first time that the president of the SBC and the presidents of the state conventions have met together in any official capacity," Hobbs noted.

W. Douglas Hudgins of Jackson, Miss., president of Mississippi Baptist Convention, was elected vice-chairman and Dick H. Hall Jr. of Decatur, president of Georgia Baptist Convention, was elected secretary.

The committee voted for the chairman to appoint a subcommittee of five members to make "a thorough preliminary study of the 1925 Statement and to draw up an initial draft of a proposed recommendation," Hobbs said.

"In so doing, the subcommittee was instructed to employ the counsel and help of any persons--whether seminary professors, pastors, editors, or country Sunday school teachers--within the Southern Baptist Convention that it felt could aid in making this study," he continued.

Sometime early in the fall, the subcommittee--which will have Hobbs as a sixth member and as its chairman also--will bring its draft to the full committee.

Hobbs did not immediately appoint the five members of the subcommittee but said he will announce them soon.

"It is the purpose of the committee to comply with the instructions of the Convention to release to the Baptist Press its full report by March 1, 1963," according to Hobbs. "In the meantime, progress reports will be given from time to time for the information of our Southern Baptist people."

Hobbs said a "marvelous spirit of unanimity prevailed throughout the meeting" although in discussion several proposed courses of action were studied before arriving at the appointment of a subcommittee.

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Knight Outlines Plan
Of Seminary Trustees

(7-15-62)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., will have a special meeting in the near future to consider action of the 1962 Southern Baptist Convention, the president of the trustees announced here.

Malcolm B. Knight, pastor, Southside Baptist Church, Jacksonville, said the purpose of the special meeting of the full board "will be to try to determine just what the Convention at San Francisco did say, and to make plans to carry that out."

Knight reported an informal meeting has already taken place with H. H. Hobbs, Oklahoma City, SBC president; Millard J. Berquist, seminary president; Ralph H. Elliott, Midwestern professor, and Knight attending.

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This informal meeting in Kansas City was one of two to prepare the way for the full board meeting later, according to Knight. He said Elliott was invited since he was identified on the floor of the 1962 Convention during controversy over Elliott's book "The Message of Genesis."

The second preliminary meeting will be that of the trustee executive committee, Knight added. This committee will work on material to present at the full board meeting to discuss the Convention's action.

Knight said he convened the first informal meeting at Kansas City, at which it was decided to call the trustee executive committee into session before having the full board come together.

"We want to let the people know that we are not ignoring the action of the Convention, but are trying to determine what the seminary trustees should do to implement its action," Knight said.

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Folks and Facts.....

(7-15-62)

....."Charity and Children," published by Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, observed its 75th anniversary on July 12. John E. Roberts of Thomasville, N. C., is editor. The paper has a circulation of about 55,000. (BP)

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Baptist Press cutlines

July 15, 1962

CHAIRMAN--John A. Fincher, dean of Howard College (Baptist), Birmingham, is new chairman of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

(BP) Photo