

September 8, 1962

**Guffin Defines Dean
Of Religion's Role**

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--The job of a dean of religion at a Christian college is to help see that it doesn't stray from its original purpose of being a Christian college.

So said Gilbert L. Guffin, Birmingham, dean of religion at Howard College (Baptist), in a paper presented to the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion here.

"There seems to be a serious and growingly crucial need of some person in the leadership of church-related colleges and universities who can give his full time (full time italicized) to the study of the school's relationship to its Christian purpose, who can endeavor constantly to interpret within the school the meaning of that purpose and who can call attention to ways by which this purpose can be steadily and more fully realized throughout the life of the institution," Guffin declared.

"The position of dean of religion...is equal in status to the academic dean and reports directly to the president," Guffin added. He has certain administrative rights which even the chaplain or dean of the chapel, by title, do not, he explained.

"The person doing (this)...should have a direct relationship to the total religious life and program of the school," he said.

Guffin cited former denominational colleges which have become private colleges and which, he said, "have become totally silent...about the Christian purpose of the institution." He used this as justification for Baptist colleges employing deans of religion to help forestall any such future losses.

Another speaker, Eugene Poston, defined a Christian college as "one characterized by Christian convictions in the mind and hearts of the faculty and the staff of the college."

But Poston, president of Gardner-Webb College (Baptist) at Boiling Springs, N. C., evidently does not agree that Baptist colleges must employ only Baptists on the faculty. For he said:

"I am happy that we have different Christian denominations represented on our faculty and staff. I believe each person here at Gardner-Webb is a Christian individual."

He noted, however, "There is no place on the staff of the faculty...for a person who does not possess Christian convictions."

The association elected W. W. Stevens of Clinton, Miss., as its new president. It voted to meet Aug. 29-30, 1963 for its next session, site to be selected later.

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SRC Gifts Run 8.05
Per Cent Above 1961

(9-8-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Cooperative Program receipts for Southern Baptist Convention agencies now are running 8.05 per cent ahead of an eight month period in 1961. The total through Aug. 31 is \$12,340,372.

At the end of July, on a seven-month comparison, receipts reported by Convention Treasurer Porter Routh here were only 7.09 per cent above those of a year ago.

Income through the Cooperative Program for August amounted to \$1,515,415, compared with \$1,548,418 in July and \$1,312,064 in August, 1961.

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Not included is Cooperative Program support kept by state Baptist conventions to maintain their agencies. Nor do any of the figures represent total church offering plate collections.

Designated funds reaching Southern Baptist Convention agencies came to \$198,727 in August, making the total for the year to date \$13,091,653. This is 11.85 per cent greater than the January to August income of the year before.

Of the August Cooperative Program income, the Foreign Mission Board got \$694,969, largest of any SBC agency. It also received \$106,659 by designations during the month. So far in 1962, its total receipts by both forms of giving have climbed to \$10,134,082.

In second place with total 1962 income among agencies is the Home Mission Board with \$2,934,631, including \$244,436 in August Cooperative Program gifts and \$90,378 by designations.

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Layman's Day Gets New
Name After Oct. 14

(9-8-62)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Southern Baptists will observe Layman's Day for the last time Oct. 14, but they won't stop honoring the men.

Layman's Day is getting a new name--Baptist Men's Day--after 29 years, and a new date--the fourth Sunday in January.

Why?

Southern Baptists wanted a more appropriate name and date for the occasion, explained George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Convention's Brotherhood Commission, sponsor of this annual event.

Layman's Day isn't exclusive enough, he said. Southern Baptists want to recognize all of the men for their service, both laymen and pastors.

The date was moved from the second Sunday in October to the fourth Sunday in January for several reasons, Schroeder said.

The October date is so near the beginning of the church year that newly elected Brotherhood officers haven't time to prepare an appropriate program. Brotherhood Week, observed by other denominations, also is an annual October event.

Southern Baptists voted in 1961 at their Convention in St. Louis to start observing Baptists Men's Day Jan. 27, 1963.

This special day is normally observed in more than 18,000 Southern Baptist churches each year.

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Bible Teachers Protest
Curtailement Of Book

(9-8-62)

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--College and seminary Bible teachers meeting here protested the Baptist Sunday School Board's "refusal to reprint the book of Dr. Ralph Elliott."

The book is "The Message of Genesis" by Ralph H. Elliott, professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. Objection to its content helped to create a doctrinal issue at the 1962 session of the Southern Baptist Convention in San Francisco.

The board, an SBC agency, printed over 4000 copies of Elliott's book and had sold out. Customer orders for additional copies would have required a second printing, which the Sunday School Board at its summer meeting failed to authorize.

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The group meeting here, which drafted the protest, was the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion. An officer of the group reported the resolution of protest passed unanimously and that professors from 13 Baptist seminaries and colleges attended the association's annual meeting.

The text of the association's resolution:

"Be it resolved that in the midst of current Southern Baptist tension the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion strongly reaffirms its conviction that the historic Baptist principle of freedom of inquiry, belief, and expression is essential to the quest for truth within the denominational institutions as well as on the level of the local church; and in the light of the stated policy of the Sunday School Board to publish through the Broadman Press books representative of various points of view within the Convention without necessarily accepting or rejecting the opinions of the books, we of the association express our surprise and register our protest at the board's refusal to reprint the book of Dr. Ralph Elliott."