

September 15, 1962

5 Seminaries Still
To Use Bible Tests

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Bible knowledge tests for incoming ministerial students, used by six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries last year, were to be used again this fall by five seminaries.

Only Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, will not administer the tests in 1962, according to a report on the testing program by W. C. Strickland, professor of New Testament at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The tests, developed through the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, were designed not only to correlate the courses between seminaries and colleges, but also to help correlate courses among Baptist colleges.

The committee working with the tests reported that results obtained from the first year's use of the examinations indicate they need to be revised. The association has set up a committee to work on the revision.

Roy L. Honeycutt, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., heads the committee. It will also draw up a statement of the purposes and objectives of the tests.

Each seminary uses the tests in its own way, without suggestions from the association.

Another committee, headed by Furman University Professor Joe King, Greenville, S. C., was to administer the tests. It is also investigating the use of a professional testing agency.

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Texas Native Edits
Arizona Newspaper

(9-15-62)

PHOENIX (BP)--J. Dee Gates, who has held pastorates in Texas and Arizona, is the new editor of the Baptist Beacon. The weekly newspaper is published here by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

Gates was elected by the convention's executive board, to succeed James R. Staples, who accepted a position with Grand Canyon College (Baptist).

Since March of this year, Gates has been field promotion secretary for the convention. For several weeks, he has also been interim editor of the paper. In assuming full editorship, he ends his work as field promotion secretary.

Born Nov. 17, 1914 at Memphis, Tex., Gates graduated from Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist) in Abilene, Tex. He also has a doctor of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He served churches in Sweetwater, Malone, Fort Worth and Texarkana, Tex., before moving to Arizona in 1958. He was pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, Phoenix, when he accepted the field promotion work earlier in 1962.

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Georgia Group Deplores
Negro Church Burnings

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention's executive committee expressed "regrets" over violence which has resulted in the burning of three Negro churches in the Albany area during the racial controversy there.

The committee's expression came during the session which elected a Training Union secretary to replace Gainer E. Bryan Sr., retiring Jan. 1 after a quarter-century of service, and adoption of a Cooperative Program budget of \$3,386,500 for 1963.

Two Negro churches were burned last weekend and one last month. All had been used in campaigns for Negro vote registration while city officials and Negroes in Albany have argued about integration of public facilities.

The committee's action expressed "our regrets in the violence evidenced in the burning" of the churches. An attempt in the committee to give financial assistance bogged down when it was pointed out that neither federal nor local law officials had settled the argument as to who set the fires.

Garnie A. Brand, veteran Georgia pastor and for five years pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fitzgerald, was elected to succeed Bryan as Training Union secretary.

The proposed Cooperative Program budget, which goes to the convention for approval in November, with its total of \$3,386,500, is an increase of \$68,900. After deduction of \$399,500 for administration, promotion and denominational retirement plans, the budget provides \$1,493,500 for the Southern Baptist Convention and a similar amount for Georgia institutions and agencies. Each of the two is increased by \$25,000.

Mercer University was authorized to borrow \$1,250,000 from the Housing and Home Finance Agency (federal government) for two dormitories and Brewton-Parker Junior College was authorized to borrow \$350,000. Both schools are Baptist.

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Ben Fisher Elected
To Education Post

(9-15-62)

RALEIGH (BP)--Ben C. Fisher of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary will become executive secretary of the council on Christian education for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The general board of the convention elected Fisher to the post effective Nov. 1. He is presently administrative assistant and public relations officer for the seminary in nearby Wake Forest.

A native of Webster, N. C., Fisher graduated from Wake Forest College (Baptist) in North Carolina and Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Mass.

He's held education positions with Kentucky Baptists and the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. In public relations, he formerly served Gardner-Webb College (Baptist) in Boiling Springs, N. C., and as chairman of the Public Relations Advisory Committee of the SBC.

He is also chairman of the directors of the Baptist weekly paper in North Carolina, the Biblical Recorder.

Fisher has written "A Public Relations Manual for Church-Related Colleges" and contributes a column on college public relations to the Southern Baptist Educator, published by the SBC Education Commission.

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