

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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November 30, 1962

Harris Says Baptist Colleges Threatened

DALLAS (BP)--The president of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., predicted here that church-related colleges will not survive another decade if present education trends continue and financial support does not improve.

Mercer President Rufus C. Harris, in a major address at the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools meeting here, said that Baptist schools must not follow the trends of state schools towards bigness, secularization, or else they are doomed to destruction.

The hope for the survival of the church-related college lies in strengthening the liberal arts education program and being distinctly "Christian" in its purpose and task, he said.

"The adequacy of education at a Christian college is determined by the available physical resources and the competency of the faculty," Harris said.

The best teachers are going to state-supported schools where salaries are higher, he said, and the crisis is getting worse, not better.

"This requires so much more money than Baptist colleges have and can get that it poses a terrific problem," Harris told the educators. He asked where they should turn for the needed funds, but posed no answer.

"Some have suggested," he said, "that church-related colleges should surrender to the state and let the state do everything in education. But this would be tragic."

Citing the tasks of a church-related college, Harris said that Baptist schools must help the denomination keep in focus the center of Baptist faith. "Scholars must be allowed the freedom to investigate and publish."

The Georgia college president called for a closer relationship between Baptist colleges and the denomination. "The college and church are ancient allies in the educational process and their alliance should strengthen both," he said.

A Baptist school must support and encourage the denomination, he said, but it must not be a mimic, echoing the denomination and providing nothing creative,"

Other tasks of the distinctively "Christian" college are to provide high-quality education to those who seek it, regardless of the color of their skin; to educate with relevance to prepare students for the world of today; and to develop the students' spiritual, moral and social maturity, Harris said.

In another address, Gilbert L. Guffin, dean of religion at Howard College in Birmingham, Ala., said it is a great struggle for Baptist colleges to be distinctively "Christian" in purpose.

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A college is not "Christian," said Guffin, "just because it has the word "Baptist" in its name, has required Bible courses and required chapel, has a set of Pharisaical rules, and has extra-curricular religious activities.

He challenged the school administrators to employ every means possible to carry out the school's distinctively "Christian" purposes and said that every Baptist college needs a dean of religion to coordinate the school's entire religion program.

The next meeting of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools will be held at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, June 18-20, 1963, said Ralph Noonkester, association president and head of William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss.

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Hardin-Simmons To Grant
Aid to Future Professors

(11-30-62)

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--A plan granting financial aid to help prospective teachers to earn their master's degree has been approved by the Board of Development for Hardin-Simmons University here.

Outstanding Hardin-Simmons graduates interested in teaching in the Baptist school here will be able to apply for fellowships or other financial assistance to obtain their master's degree.

The student would be required to sign an agreement stating he would teach at Hardin-Simmons after he has earned his master's degree. If he later decides against teaching here, he would be required to repay the college for the aid he received.

The Hardin-Simmons Board of Development endorsed the idea and pledged an effort to get the proposed program operating by the fall of 1963.

Hardin-Simmons Executive Vice President George L. Graham said the fellowship plan would help to solve difficulties in seeking qualified faculty members by "growing our own."

The plan would compliment a similar fellowship program set up last year by the Baptist General Convention which grants aid to faculty members who already have earned the master's degree, but need help in obtaining their doctorate.

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Baylor Medical College
Awarded Federal Grant

(11-30-62)

HOUSTON (BP)--Baylor University's College of Medicine here has been awarded a five-year federal grant of \$2.32 million by the U. S. Department of Health Education and Welfare for research and rehabilitation work.

The funds will be used to expand research at a chronic disease hospital operated as a part of the Texas Medical Center which treats such handicaps as injuries of the central nervous system, paralytic polio, muscular dystrophy, and other infections resulting in paralysis.

The initial grant this year totals about \$320,000. Annual grants for the next four years will amount to \$500,000 a year, with congressional approval of funds required each year.

Dr. William A. Spenser, director of the research project, said funds from the federal grant must be matched by Baylor and the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research. The \$200,000 needed this year will come from various philanthropic sources, Dr. Spenser said.

The Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research is staffed by physicians at Baylor's College of Medicine. Both the hospital and the Baylor medical school are located within the vast Texas Medical Center complex.

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H-SU Cowboy Band To Go To Japan For Crusade

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--The Hardin-Simmons University Cowboy Band has accepted an invitation from the Japan Baptist Convention to participate in the Japan Baptist New Life Movement next spring.

Hardin-Simmons Executive Vice President George Graham said the Cowboy Band will definitely take part in the vast nationwide evangelistic crusade, although details such as how long the band would stay and how the trip would be financed are yet to be worked out.

Japan Baptist Convention leaders, who visited in Abilene last January and were greeted at the airport with a welcome from the Cowboy Band, sent a special request for the band to come to Japan "because of the unique nature of the Cowboy Band."

The band has made three overseas tours in Europe and has traveled more than a million miles since it was organized in 1923.

The colorful band is distinctly "Texan," dressed in gold cowboy shirts, faded Levis, cowboy boots and hats, purple neckerchiefs, and scarred leather chaps.

Frank Gillham, Southern Baptist Missionary to Japan, issued the invitation to the band on behalf of the Japanese Baptists. Gillham, in the states on furlough, is helping to coordinate plans between the Japanese Baptists and Southern Baptists.

The evangelistic crusade, aimed at reaching the entire 94 million population of Japan with the Gospel message, is sponsored jointly by the Japan Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Evangelist Billy Graham and about 600 Baptist pastors and laymen from the United States are expected to speak in revivals during the movement. Five central crusades are slated in major Japan population centers and about 150 revivals will be held in other Japan cities.

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Home Board Extends Trust Fund Coverage

(11-30-62)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has extended the provisions of its \$250,000 funded reserve to include church loans as well as church bonds.

The trust, established last year with the First National Bank of Atlanta as trustee, was created to provide an extra margin of security to investors purchasing church bonds from the Mission Board.

The board has authority to use the \$250,000 funded reserve for security for as much as \$2,500,000 in bonds and loans, or a ratio of one to ten. Under the plan, the board buys bonds from the churches, then sells them to investors.

The funded reserve has backed the sale of \$1,276,950 in church bonds within 14 months, all returning six per cent interest to investors. Now the trust may be used to secure church loans which the board has made and will sell to other investors.

"Before an investor could suffer a loss on a defaulted church bond or church loan sold by the Home Mission Board, the guaranty fund must have first been exhausted," said G. Frank Garrison of Atlanta, "and the investor must have refused to accept a substitute bond or loan in current condition."

Garrison, director of the division of church loans for the board, reports his division made loans or handled bonds for 385 churches during the past 12 months for a total of \$4,080,667.

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This was the largest amount in the history of the Mission Board, which has been in the church loan business since the end of the nineteenth century. The corpus of loan funds handled by Garrison's division totals more than \$10 million.

The promotion of the bond sales and the contact with the investors has been handled by Leland H. Waters of Atlanta, executive assistant at the board.

Both he and Garrison expect an even greater volume of bond sales and church loans next year.

The demand for church loans has been intensified by the expansion of the Southern Baptist Convention into all of the states within the past twenty years, plus a program of church extension which has resulted in the starting of more than 15,000 new churches and missions since 1956.

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