

December 13, 1962

Home Mission Board
Commissions Six

ATLANTA (BP)--New missionaries to western, midwestern and southern states were officially commissioned by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in a service at the board's December meeting.

New Mexico will be the field of service for four, while Kansas and Mississippi will be areas of work for the others.

Commissioned were C. Gus Bogan as associational missionary to Magdalena, N. M.; Thomas B. Brown as National Baptist teacher-missionary, Jackson, Miss.; Lester D. Cochran for associational missions work in Deming, M. M.; Mr. and Mrs. Fred V. Ellis for language mission work in El Rito, N. M., and Grover A. Garrett as associational missionary to Dodge City, Kan.

Bogan, a native of Muskogee, Okla., was educated at John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Ark.; Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and West Texas State College in Canyon. He has served as a pastor in Texas and New Mexico.

Brown, a native of Brookhaven, Miss., holds degrees from Jackson State College in Mississippi; Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as a pastor and as a high school principal in Mississippi.

He now becomes a teacher in Mississippi Baptist Seminary and pastor of Mount Helm Baptist Church, both in Jackson.

Cochran, originally from East Bernard, Tex., was educated at Howard Payne College (Baptist), Brownwood, Tex.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and the Harvard University Chaplain's School. He is married and has one son.

In the past, Cochran has served as a pastor in several New Mexico churches and as an Army chaplain.

Ellis, a native of Mitchell County, N. C., was educated at Mars Hill College (Baptist), Mars Hill, N. C.; Carson-Newman College (Baptist), Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

He has served as a pastor in four North Carolina churches and will work with Spanish-speaking people in language missions.

Mrs. Ellis, the former Dorothy Winkley, was born in Lenoir, N. C., and was educated at Mars Hill College. They have three children.

Garrett, native of Tucumcari, N. M., received his education from Grand Canyon College (Baptist), Phoenix, Ariz., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. He is married. He has been pastor in Missouri and Kansas prior to this appointment.

3 More Cities Join
Baptist Wire Service

NASHVILLE (BP)--Three new cities will join the Southern Baptist Convention Teletype Network on Jan. 1, Director W. C. Fields announced here.

They are Columbia and Greenville, S. C., and Middletown, Ky.

Represented in the new cities are the offices of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; the Baptist Courier, South Carolina's weekly denominational paper; the Kentucky Baptist Convention offices, and the Western Recorder, Kentucky's weekly Baptist paper.

According to Fields, this will increase the number of cities on the network to 18, the number of machines in operation to 23 and the number of states and SBC agencies taking part to 24.

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Tennessee Announces
Call Of Patterson

(12-13-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--From a Southern Baptist Convention agency to a position with a state Baptist convention--this is the change of service made by Robert B. (Bob) Patterson of Nashville.

He has been elected Sunday school secretary for the Tennessee Baptist Convention here. Previously, Patterson has been superintendent of associational organization for the Sunday school department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, also in Nashville.

Patterson, 37, is a graduate of Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has held pastorates in Tennessee and Mississippi before joining the SBC agency in 1959.

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Indiana Building Plan
Clears Zoning Board

(12-13-62)

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--A zoning board decision here removed the next to the last obstacle to construction of new offices for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

The convention, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, hopes to move from Plainfield, Ind., to suburban Indianapolis.

The county zoning board approved rezoning of a 3.67-acre tract on the western edge of Indianapolis on which the Baptists would build their new offices. It is located at the intersection of Interstate Highway 465 and 10th St.

Frontage road access has been assured by the Indiana Highway Commission. This is the only contingent item remaining to complete the purchase of the building site.

The Indiana convention will start construction as soon as possible.

Executive Secretary E. H. Moore of Plainfield announced that, almost a month early, the convention had met its full \$128,500 Cooperative Program budget for 1962. This compares to the \$114,510 received in 1961.

The state convention, now in its fourth year as such, has 172 cooperating churches and 49 missions, with more than 30,000 members.

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Elliott Dismissal
No. 1 Story Of 1962

For Release: December 20, 1962

NASHVILLE (BP)--No question about it--the dismissal of Professor Ralph H. Elliott was the No. 1 news story in the Southern Baptist Convention in 1962.

In the annual Baptist Press news service poll, the Elliott story outranked church-state issues such as the Supreme Court ruling on school prayers, public aid to sectarian schools and Baptists borrowing money from the government.

A related doctrinal story came in second to the Elliott dismissal. This was the appointment of a special committee by the 1962 Convention to restudy a statement of faith and message adopted at the 1925 Convention.

The Elliott story, voted on by Baptist Press editors from coast to coast, claimed 23 first-place votes and four second-place votes in running up a total of 285 points.

The appointment of a committee composed of state Baptist convention presidents to restudy Baptist doctrine secured four first-place votes and enough lesser-balloted positions to amass 234 points.

The Baptist defense of the U. S. Supreme Court ruling on school prayers mustered three first-place votes and considerable support for other positions and won 219 points.

Every one of the 30 editors voting marked the Elliott story, the committee appointment and the reaction to the Supreme Court decision as among the top 10 stories in Southern Baptist life in 1962.

The editors were asked to rate in declining order, 1 through 10, their choice of the 10 major SBC stories of the year. A first-place vote was good for 10 points, a second-place vote for nine points, third-place for eight, 10th place for one point.

None of the other possible choices for top stories was marked unanimously. None of the others claimed a first-place vote either.

Elliott, the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary author and teacher, was dismissed following a controversy raging over his interpretations in the book, "The Message of Genesis."

Trustees of the Kansas City, Mo., school let him go after he declined to voluntarily withhold the book from a second printing after the first one had sold out.

The committee of state presidents will report to the 1963 Convention on their restudy of the 1925 statement on faith and message. The appointment of the committee was an indirect result of the Elliott controversy.

With some exceptions, Southern Baptists generally defended the Supreme Court ruling outlawing schoolroom prayers prescribed by public school boards.

Fourth in the list of major stories was that of Baptists being credited (or blamed) with defeat of public aid to sectarian colleges, when Congress faced the issue in September. It received 173 points.

In No. 5 spot came the announcement in October that the number of SBC foreign missionaries had passed the 1600 mark. It rated 114 points.

Sixth place, with 109 points, went to debates in several state Baptist annual conventions in the fall of 1962 over whether Baptist colleges ought to receive government loans.

101 points went to the rejection of Baptists worldwide of any bid to send an official observer to the Second Vatican Council. Southern Baptists participated in the Baptist World Alliance debate at Oslo, Norway. Because of the divided feeling of Baptists from various countries on the matter, no bid was sought.

Declining enrolment totals of the six SBC seminaries was marked for eighth-place story. It got 100 points. Although one seminary reported an increase, the total for the six seminaries was down over the year before.

December 13, 1962

4

Baptist Press

The slow but continuing increase in Cooperative Program gifts to Baptist agencies ranked as the ninth-place story with 86 points. Close behind it in 10th place was the 75th anniversary celebration of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the SBC. This anniversary story had 85 points.

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Top 10 S B C Stories of 1962, as voted by Baptist Press editors

Story (first place votes)	Total Points
Ralph Elliott dismissed at Midwestern Seminary (23)	285
SBC committee studies Baptist faith and message (4)	234
Supreme Court prayer ruling generally defended by Baptists (3)	219
Baptists credited (or blamed) with college public aid defeat	173
Foreign missionaries pass 1600	114
States debate Baptist loans from government	109
Rejection of bid to send observer to Vatican Council II	101
Seminary enrolment shows further decline	100
Cooperative Program receipts continue to increase	86
Woman's Missionary Union marks 75th anniversary	85

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Hold for release on Dec. 20, 1962. Please note.