

February 17, 1963

Binkley To Succeed
Sydnor L. Stealey

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Olin T. Binkley has been elected president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here succeeding Sydnor L. Stealey.

Dr. Stealey told the seminary trustees he will retire July 31. He had planned to retire last year when he became 65 but trustees asked him to remain another year.

The president-elect has been dean of faculty of Southeastern Seminary since 1958. He has been on the faculty of the school since 1952.

Southeastern Seminary began operating in 1951. Stealey is the only president it has had. Binkley is the first dean of faculty.

Binkley, 54, was born in Harmony, N. C. He attended Wake Forest College, when it was located here. The seminary now uses the campus Wake Forest College (Baptist) vacated in moving to Winston-Salem, N. C.

Binkley graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and received the doctor of philosophy degree from Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

He was ordained at Harmony in 1928 to preach the gospel. He was pastor in Chapel Hill, N. C., then headed the department of religion at Wake Forest College.

Before coming to Southeastern, Binkley was professor of Christian ethics and sociology at Southern Seminary. He has been a college or seminary teacher since 1938.

He has been a trustee of Meredith College (Baptist), Raleigh, N. C., and a member of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a letter to Trustee Chairman Emery B. Denny of Raleigh, President Stealey said:

"I consider my energies now inadequate for the steadily demanding and expanding duties of the office. I believe a younger and more vigorous man can better meet the challenge of thought and action now before us."

The retiring president praised the choice of Binkley. He added, "I shall work as happily with him as with my own brother." Stealey, elected president emeritus, did not immediately say what he would do after retiring.

Stealey has been on the faculties of William Jewell College (Baptist), Liberty, Mo., and Southern Seminary. He also served as pastor of churches in Bloomington, Ind.; Richmond, Va., and Raleigh.

He was professor of church history at Southern Seminary before being picked as first president of Southeastern Seminary.

Southeastern trustees also elected a new chairman during their 1963 annual meeting, to succeed Denny. He is J. Glenn Blackburn, Winston-Salem.

Peacock Says He Quits
Over Elliott Dismissal

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Heber F. Peacock, chairman of the New Testament department at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has resigned.

He said it was due to "a situation which does not offer an opportunity to speak the truth."

His criticism of trustee action in the firing of Professor Ralph H. Elliott from the same faculty brought a reply from Seminary President Millard J. Berquist.

Berquist said, "We propose to continue to build a learning fellowship that shall seek to fulfill its responsibility to the truth which is in Christ and to the denomination of which we are a part."

Peacock said he resigned because of the controversy over Elliott's dismissal. Elliott, who was professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, wrote a book "The Message of Genesis." It created a furore around the Southern Baptist Convention, which operates Midwestern Seminary.

Peacock termed Elliott's firing by the trustees "an intolerable act."

He said he will leave the faculty July 31, when school ends.

Saying he would not stay on at a seminary where the trustees exercise censorship, he called attention to the trustee request that Elliott not authorize a second printing of the book on Genesis.

Peacock said he decided to quit after observing the "terrible unrest" which continues among students and faculty on campus. He came to Midwestern two years ago from the faculty of Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex. He also taught once at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Berquist said he knew Peacock felt strongly about the Elliott firing. He said, however, that Peacock had talked about an offer to work with the American Bible Society in Africa.

Peacock did not mention this future work in his statement.

Berquist also said, "The board of trustees has very clearly indicated its acknowledgement of the validity of the historical-critical approach to the Scripture.

"There is no intention to circumscribe our faculty in its use of this approach followed rather generally in our seminaries today. Our emphasis upon a progressive-conservative theological position has not been altered."

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"Blest Be The
Tie That Binds...."

Baptist Feature

By Herschel H. Hobbs
President, Southern Baptist Convention

Within a few days the report of the SBC Committee on the Baptist Faith and Message will be released to the Baptist Press. Perhaps you will be interested in an inside view of the experience of 23 state convention presidents, plus the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, as they worked together in producing this report. I wish every Southern Baptist could have entered into this experience. Perhaps you can through your state "president."

In a subsequent article we shall deal with an analysis of the report itself. For the present let us look in on the committee at work.

First, consider the committee itself. It was composed of men who were close to the people. Each member was there because he had so enjoyed the confidence of the people of his state as to be elected their president in 1961. And he was ever conscious of the needs and wishes of those who had placed him in that position. At the same time, while the committee was composed of competent men, they were aware of their own limitations. Thus repeatedly help was sought from others who could make contributions to the task at hand.

Never have we seen a group of men take more seriously a responsibility which was placed upon them. In two of the meetings of the full committee only one of the 24 men was absent; the absence was due to previous and unchangeable commitments. In the third meeting only two were absent, both due to illness. In one meeting of a subcommittee only two were absent, also due to illness. In the other meeting of this subcommittee all members were present. In all of these sessions these men spent almost uncounted hours in prayerful consideration of the issues at hand.

Second, note the theological unity within the committee. When the committee first assembled an air of uncertainty was evident. Men had gathered from such far-removed places as North Carolina and California, Maryland and Texas, Florida and Kansas, Arizona, Illinois, Ohio. One could almost hear the questions ringing in men's minds. What does he believe? How can there ever be a meeting of minds in such a group?

But as the discussion progressed as to the nature of our responsibility and the various problems involved, the tension passed, and a spirit of unity was soon in evidence. And while individuals might reflect the particular slant of the areas from which they came, there was always a meeting of minds as to what Baptists believe.

At one stage in the deliberations, a man from a western state said to me, "I am so glad that I have come to know Brother ---- (from an eastern state). His beliefs are the same as mine." Not 15 minutes later this same eastern brother said to me of this same western brother, "You know, I am glad that I have come to know Brother ----. There is no basic difference in what we believe."

Many times in the discussions a man from the West would side with a man from the East against someone from the West, and vice versa. In matters affecting a peculiar emphasis on faith in one section, those from other areas were cognizant of this fact and sought a meeting of minds agreeable to all. Yet in no case was any man asked to compromise his own beliefs.

Throughout the entire study there arose no major difference in theology. There were problems as to procedure; there were discussions as to phraseology, but these were resolved in a spirit of Christian love. Even in matters of technique, after full and free discussion there were few votes that were not unanimous. Not a single note of discord was sounded throughout the entire procedure.

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Third, consider the spirit of brotherhood which resulted from this study. Men who in many cases scarcely knew one another at the beginning were fast friends at the close. In the third meeting of the committee the remark was often heard as to the privilege we had enjoyed in working on this committee, one which probably no other group will have in our lifetime.

We adjourned to meet briefly in Kansas City (where the committee will report in May), to wrap up any loose ends, perhaps. But most of all to have a moment of fellowship in the Lord.

At the moment of adjournment in Nashville, the youngest member of the group said to me, "This has been the greatest and richest experience of my life." I believe that he spoke for all. For as we prepared to leave one man suggested that we join hands in a circle of prayer. We joined both hands and hearts as together we sang "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

And, then, after a prayer we were gone. Back to our respective states. And we went thankful that we are Baptists, specifically Southern Baptists.

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**Southern Baptist Religious Education Association
Meeting at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Kansas City, Missouri, May 6-7, 1963**

**Allen W. Graves, Kentucky, president
Mark Short, Tennessee, church group vice-president
Howard Halsell, Tennessee, denomination field work vice-president
Clifford Ingle, Missouri, seminary-college group vice-president
Miss Gracie Knowlton, Texas, secretary-treasurer**

Theme: "Religious Education Assisting The Churches in Achieving Their Purposes"

**Monday Afternoon, May 6
Allen W. Graves, Presiding
WORSHIP**

**1:30 Registration
2:00 Worship
 Hymn
 The Bible Speaks
2:20 Announcements and Appointment of Committees
2:25 The Lost Chord of Worship, John R. Claypool, Kentucky
2:50 Music
3:00 Education for Worship, R. Hooper Dilday, Texas
3:25 Panel Discussion - What We can do to Improve Worship, Alva G. Parks, Alabama
 Convener
 1. Worship for children - Miss Mary C. Johnson, Oklahoma
 2. Worship Through Music
4:15 Adjourn**

**Monday Night
Mark Short, Presiding
PROCLAMATION**

**7:15 Worship
 Hymn
 The Bible Speaks
7:35 Religious Education, Hope of World Missions - G. S. Dobbins, California
8:00 American Cities, Our New Frontier - Arthur B. Rutledge, Georgia
8:25 Music
8:30 Laborers for the Harvest - Lloyd T. Householder, Tennessee
8:50 Personal Proclamation Through Religious Education - S. C. Ray, North Carolina
9:15 Discussion
9:30 Adjourn**

**Tuesday Morning, May 7
Howard Halsell, Presiding
EDUCATION**

**9:00 Worship
 Hymn
 The Bible Speaks
9:20 The Challenge of Religious Illiteracy, John T. Sisemore, Tennessee
9:45 Group Meetings - "Providing New Dynamics for Southern Baptist Growth"
 Church Education Workers, Mark Short, Chairman
 Denominational Field Workers, Howard Halsell, Chairman
 College and Seminary Teachers, Clifford Ingle, Chairman
10:45 Recess
11:00 Recommendations from Gr up Meetings and General Discussion
11:30 Educational Leadership for the Teaching Church - E. J. Lessner, Kentucky**

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Tuesday Afternoon
Clifford Ingle, Presiding
MINISTRY

2:00 Worship
 Hymn
 The Bible Speaks
2:20 The Ministry of the Man in the Pew - James M. Sapp, Tennessee
2:45 Ministering in the Home - Ellis M. Bush, Tennessee
3:10 Music
3:15 Business Session
3:30 "Equipping the Saints" (Ephesians 4:12) - John M. Tubbs, Maryland

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Religious Ed Group
Meets At Midwestern

(3-1-63)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association will hold its 1963 meeting May 6-7 at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

It is one of several conferences just ahead of the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

President Allen W. Graves announced the theme as "Religious Education Assisting the Churches in Achieving Their Purposes." Graves is dean of the school of religious education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Speakers include church directors of religious education, seminary and college teachers, Southern Baptist Convention field workers, and state Baptist workers in religious education.

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