

August 26, 1964

**Alaska Elects First  
Layman President**

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (BP)--The Alaska Baptist Convention has elected its first layman president. He is James Whisenant, College, Alaska, a junior high school coach.

The 1964 convention, in session here, also--through its executive board--called C. S. Hodge of Waynesville, N. C., to fill its new position as educational missionary.

Hodge is retiring Sept. 30 as education director of First Baptist Church, Waynesville. He will begin his association with the Alaska work next Feb. 1.

As educational missionary, Hodge will work with individual Alaskan Baptist churches for two or three months each, helping them to improve their education ministry.

The convention voted a total budget for 1965 of \$160,056, which is \$6000 more than the current budget. The convention will raise \$50,212 through collections from churches. The rest comes from allocations from the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School and Home Mission Boards for jointly sponsored education and mission work.

For its 1965 meeting, the convention voted to go to College, Alaska. Its 20th session will be held there Aug. 10-12.

The convention also acted "to promote an aggressive missions program," including a request to its cooperating churches that they set goals to establish new missions and preaching points.

Four new churches recognized at the 1964 convention bring to 34 the number of cooperating churches in the 49th state. These churches sponsor 14 missions.

The number of converts baptized during the past year showed a decline over the previous year's report. The number reported was 424, compared with 459 the year before and 507 two years ago.

On the other hand, Cooperative Program budget receipts showed a "significant increase," convention leaders said. During the first six months of 1964, despite the devastating earthquake, they have increased 11.9 per cent over the same period in 1963.

Sunday school enrolment passed the 5000 mark during the year.

Wayne Dehoney, Jackson, Tenn., president of the SBC, spoke to the convention. It was the first time an SBC president in office had been to a meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention.

Lay President Whisenant, who has been filling the unexpired term of Aubrey Short, elected in 1963 but killed in an airplane accident earlier this year, called on Alaska's preachers and laymen to identify themselves with the state they are living in.

It is hard, he said, for laymen to understand pastors who claim to follow the will of God in coming to Alaska, then remain only a brief time. He also said laymen must take part in building their communities in Alaska.

The convention elected Whisenant by acclamation to a regular term as its president.

Southeastern Seminary  
Names Business Manager

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Wilbur N. Todd, a native of Yadkinville, N. C., has been selected as business manager of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here, assuming responsibilities with the fall school term.

Todd, presently serving on the staff of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

He is a graduate of Wake Forest College (Baptist), Winston-Salem, N. C., and Southeastern Seminary. During the Korean conflict, he served in the U. S. Air Force. He has been pastor of the St. John's Baptist Church in Princess Anne, Va.

-30-

Fusselle Elected  
College President

(8-26-64)

CLEVELAND, Ga. (BP)--Warner Earle Fusselle, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Ga., for almost 10 years, has been elected president of Truett-McConnell College (Baptist) here effective with the new academic year.

He succeeds Joe H. Miller, who resigned in July after a dispute between the administration and faculty and students. Miller had been president 14 years. Vice-president H. G. Jarrard served as acting president of the junior college.

Fusselle once was pastor of churches in Lynchburg, Va., and in Fort Thomas and Taylorsville, both in Kentucky. He is a graduate of the University of Florida, Gainesville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has a doctor of theology degree.

-30-

Seminary Music School  
Names Acting Dean

(8-26-64)

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--William L. Hooper has been named acting dean of the school of church music at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here.

A member of the New Orleans music faculty in the field of choral arranging since 1962, Hooper has published more than 30 compositions, including a new Christmas cantata released lately by Broadman Press. He is also author of a Broadman Book, "Church Music in Transition."

A native of Missouri, Hooper was formerly professor of music at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., and minister of music and education at First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, Tenn.

Training in the area of church music has been a primary function of New Orleans Seminary from its establishment in 1919, Seminary President H. Leo Eddleman said. Professional music degrees were added in 1952, and more than 80 students are now enrolled in the music degree program.

In his new position, Hooper succeeds Kenneth R. Hartley who was named professor and chairman of the department of fine arts at Belmont College (Baptist), Nashville, Tenn.

-30-

**BAPTIST PRESS**

460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

**Davis C. Woolley**  
Historical Commission  
127 Ninth Ave., No.  
Nashville, Tennessee

519

**NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**  
**WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE**