

October 25, 1963

Magazine Lists Known
U. S. Diploma Mills

NASHVILLE (BP)--A feature article in the November issue of Baptist Program magazine lists known diploma mills in the United States and says "some prominent names in Southern Baptist life" are their "alumni."

The writer is Jack Gullledge, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Tucson, Ariz.

Gullledge says his curiosity was aroused by seeing an "array of degrees hanging on the dining room wall of (a) country parsonage" in the South.

"I suspected the school granting (the) degrees to be a degree mill," he adds. A letter to the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare office in Washington, brought back a list of known degree mills, according to the author.

Gullledge urges pulpit committees to "be informed concerning this spurious system of fraudulent degrees." He advises Baptist church pastors and workers to "double check the school's accreditation and background" when taking correspondence study.

"Alumni" of one "college and seminary" located at the foot of Pike's Peak in Colorado are 23 per cent Baptists. "This 'college and seminary' advertised its summer graduation exercises to be held in a nearby First Southern Baptist Church auditorium," Gullledge observes.

"The bogus college degrees are up for grabs, in bargain basement style, with all kinds of gimmicks to ensnare the status-seeker," the article reports.

Copying from the government listing of these diploma mills, the Baptist Program, a magazine for pastors and denominational workers issued by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, names active mills as:

American Bible School, Chicago; American Divinity School, Pineland, Fla.; Belin Memorial University, Manassas, Va.; Blackstone School of Law, Chicago; Burton College and Seminary, Manitou Springs, Colo.

Central School of Religion, Indianapolis; College of Divine Metaphysics, Indianapolis; College of Universal Truth, Chicago; Four States Cooperative University, Jefferson, Tex.; Institute of Metaphysics, Birmingham; Kondora Theosophical Seminary, Chicago.

McKinley-Roosevelt Inc., Chicago; Mid-Western University Inc., Chicago; Neotarian Fellowship, Kansas City, Mo.; Pioneer Theological Seminary, Rockford, Ill.

Texas Theological University, Fort Worth; Trinity College, Indianapolis; University Extension Conservatory, Chicago; Washington National University, Chicago.

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College And Seminary
Day Scheduled Feb. 16

(10-25-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--"Christian Learning for Liberty and Light" is the theme for the 11th annual emphasis on Christian higher education and Baptist colleges which will get under way in February in the churches.

The emphasis is sponsored by the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, with offices here.

The theme is designed to fit into the Baptist Jubilee Year with its concern for liberty and light.

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Early in January, all pastors and ministers of education in the Convention will receive a sample kit of materials suggesting ways of observing the emphasis, especially among the Intermediates and Young People, the commission reported.

"Preparation for college and choosing a college are getting to be big business among young people today, with as high as 10 per cent of the resident membership of some Baptist churches actually enrolled in college," according to Rabun L. Brantley, Nashville, executive secretary of the Education Commission.

"Choosing a life's work is also an inseparable part of the whole business of college choice," he said. "Our churches now generally realize the need for offering every possible assistance to our young people in making these important decisions."

Baptist College and Seminary Day will be observed Feb. 16. Materials will be available to assist pastors who wish to preach on the subject of Christian education that day, Brantley continued.

The commission publishes "College and Career" 10 times a year to aid Intermediates and Young People in their planning. Many churches buy bulk subscriptions for their youth at 75 cents each, if 10 or more copies are ordered, Brantley noted.

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Gambling Stamp Sales
Decline In Georgia

(10-25-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Christian Index crusade against gambling machines in Georgia is beginning to pay dividends.

The current issue of the Georgia Baptist weekly publication lists 366 holders of federal tax stamps for coin-operated gaming machines. This compares with 702 machines last year.

Ministerial groups and several newspapers used the Index list last year to demand local law enforcement officers eliminate the machines as in violation of state gambling laws.

The Index gave six pages to listing the 366 holders of the federal tax stamps. They were grouped by post office addresses. None was listed for Atlanta, the state's largest city. Macon had 102 machines last year but only 29 for the new federal fiscal year.

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Southeastern Names
Durham Acting Dean

(10-25-63)

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--A visiting professor of Old Testament, John I. Durham, has been named acting dean at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The office of dean has been vacant since Olin T. Binkley, selected as dean in 1958, assumed the role of president Aug. 1. Professor Durham has taught at Meredith College (Baptist), Southeastern Seminary and Oxford University, England.

The acting academic dean will administer academic affairs of the seminary. He will supervise admission of students, act as director of the summer school and evaluate progress toward achieving academic goals.

The new academic dean is a magna cum laude graduate of Wake Forest College (Baptist), formerly located here. He received his bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees at Southeastern and has recently completed requirements for the doctorate in England.

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Binkley Presents His
Theological Viewpoint

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--In his inaugural address as new president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here, Olin T. Binkley emphasized the importance of theological education.

"The most imperative need for trained talent in the United States at this moment," he said, "is in the Christian ministry. Theological education deserves more attention than it receives in the homes, schools and churches."

Binkley promised a continuation of the policies and practices shaped by S. L. Stealey, first president of Southeastern Seminary and the man whom Binkley succeeded.

"At the outset I affirm the intention to maintain a creative continuity in the administrative leadership of this school," said Binkley, who was dean at the seminary under Stealey's administration.

The new president discussed the relationship between faith and the Bible.

"It is not our intention to claim too much or too little for the Bible," he announced, "but we have a firm conviction that it contains trustworthy knowledge of the real nature of God which is to be had nowhere else."

He continued, "In the perspective of the truth about God available in the Bible we undertake to prepare thoughtful, courageous and faithful ministers for the churches of today and tomorrow."

Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, told the audience at the inaugural service,

"The Christian minister today must be able to answer the sincere questions of young minds sharpened by the educational disciplines of secular education; he must face the questions of liberal humanism on one side, and the influence of science on the other."

He named two responsibilities of the Christian ministry as it seeks to make the Christian faith relevant to the world today.

Declared Routh, "Be sure the new statement of your theology is as evangelistic as the old." He also called for an awareness "that every new concept of faith must be tested in the arenas of contemporary life."

President K. Owen White of the SBC, which operates Southeastern and five other seminaries, added this counsel,

"Our times call for strong convictions and commitments...Whenever we take the message of the Bible and follow wherever it leads, preaching will bear fruit."

The Houston pastor also pointed out ministers are called by God to deliver a "definite message to a world that has lost its way."

"How this school conceives its task" is the most important question this seminary now faces, according to Jesse H. Ziegler, associate director of the American Association of Theological Schools, which accredits seminaries.

"It could emphasize the teaching of skills and become a trade school," he pointed out. "It could emphasize the classical subjects and be well nigh irrelevant."

"It can choose to teach men the great functions of the ministry," Ziegler continued, "to develop true men of God, to make this school a center of intellectual ferment."

He concluded, "If it works diligently at this latter course it will serve the Lord well and maintain its own place in a noble company of service."