

February 8, 1964

**Furman President
Says He Will Retire**

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--John Laney Plyler, president of Furman University here since Jan. 1, 1939, says he intends to retire as soon as the university's trustees select a new president. Plyler has asked them to approve his retirement.

"Having passed the age of retirement, I request to be relieved of my duties as president of Furman University," he said.

"As soon as a successor is chosen, I shall sever my present relations with Furman. I should hope that this may be done on or before the last of August, which is the end of our fiscal year. . . .

"I shall always be in readiness to serve in any way I can the interests of Furman University and the great cause of Christian education." Furman is a school of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Plyler is the seventh president in the history of the university, established in Edgefield, S. C., in 1826. His tenure of over 25 years is longer than that of any of his predecessors.

Regarded generally as the most significant event during Plyler's administration was the moving of the university from two downtown campuses to the present new campus.

With approval of the trustees--at the same meeting at which he announced his retirement--Plyler appointed three men as vice-presidents of Furman, for three major phases of university operation.

Named to the posts are George A. Christenberry, vice-president for development; Francis W. Bonner, vice-president and dean of the university, and Paul K. Nance, vice-president and treasurer.

Christenberry moves up from administrative director at Furman, which he has been since 1958. He is former president of Shorter College (Baptist), Rome, Ga.

Nance comes to Furman from Washington, where he served as a specialist for business administration with the U. S. Office of Higher Education. He is a former vice-president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

Bonner has been university dean since 1961. He came to Furman as associate professor of English in 1949.

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Alabama Associate

(2-8-64)

MONTGOMERY (BP)--Alfred A. Price Jr., pastor, Brent Baptist Church, Brent, Ala., has been named associate in the Training Union department of the Alabama Baptist State Convention executive board office here.

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Graham Not Interested
In Presidential Race

HOUSTON (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham denied any interest in running for United States President in a statement issued here.

Graham, a Southern Baptist, said he would "rather be a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ than to hold any political office in the world."

The Houston Press, daily newspaper, in a copyrighted story, said Graham was considering accepting a draft for the Republican presidential nomination.

Graham called a news conference the next day to squelch the rumors. "I have no intentions of entering politics," he said.

The 45-year-old evangelist said he had been under "considerable pressure from some of my friends and certain political leaders to give consideration to running for high political office."

Graham told the press he had no intentions of giving "the slightest encouragement to my friends who want me to run."

"The greatest service I can render to God and to the world in this critical period of history," said Graham, "is to continue preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and winning as many as I can to the kingdom of God."

"Long ago God called me to preach the gospel, and I have no intention of changing my vocation," said Graham in a prepared statement.

"For me to enter politics, the Lord would have to tell me to as clearly as he did Moses with the burning bush," the Baptist evangelist said.

Graham was in Houston for a Layman's Leadership Institute. He delivered the final address to the layman's meeting.

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Fuller Resigns, Takes
Dallas Church Position

(2-8-64)

DALLAS (BP)--The secretary of the Texas Baptist state missions commission, J. Woodrow Fuller, has resigned to become associate pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, the world's largest Southern Baptist congregation.

Fuller, who has held top administrative positions with the Baptist General Convention of Texas for the past 11 years, will assume the Dallas church post effective March 1.

Before being named state missions secretary in 1959, Fuller was associate executive secretary for the Texas convention, and was earlier assistant executive secretary and director of the stewardship and direct missions department.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of the 13,000-member church, said he was "thrilled" at Fuller's acceptance, and praised the Baptist leader for "incomparable work" for the state Baptist convention.

Texas Baptist Executive Secretary T. A. Patterson said he deeply regreted Fuller's resignation. "I know that the same organizational genius he has manifested here will be wonderfully effective in this field of service," Patterson said.

A native of Tennessee, Fuller served as pastor of Baptist churches in Corbin, Ky., and Fulton, Ky., before World War II. He was major in the U. S. Air Force and flew bombing missions during the war.

He was pastor of Diamond Hill Baptist Church in Fort Worth, 1947-50; and served as superintendent of missions for Tarrant Baptist Association (Fort Worth) before being named to the Texas convention staff in 1953.

Fuller is a graduate of Union University, (Baptist) Jackson, Tenn., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Church-State Issue
Raised In Tax Bill

WASHINGTON (BP)--Use of federal funds for church-related colleges was a point of lengthy debate in Senate consideration of a proposed amendment to the administration's tax bill.

The amendment, sponsored by Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff (D., Conn.), provided a tax credit for parents or students for college expenses. It was defeated in a 48-45 vote.

The proposal based the tax credit on the first \$1500 of tuition, fees, books and supplies for students in institutions of higher education. Amount of the credit provided was 75 per cent of the first \$200, 25 per cent of the next \$300, and 10 per cent of the next \$1000, with a maximum credit of \$325.

Proponents of the measure argued one of its strong points was it avoided the religious controversy and the constitutional question of aid to religious institutions.

Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre (D., N. H.) stated one of the problems facing institutions of higher education "has been that public funds are not generally available to private schools." The tax credit proposal benefits, he said, "would be available equally, to private and public schools alike, to parochial schools, military colleges, other sectarian institutions" now at a "constitutional disadvantage."

Sen. John G. Tower (R., Tex.) said a tax credit would offer the solution to the constitutional question of aid to private and church-related colleges and would "completely eliminate" the church-state issue.

"Such tax credits would offer an acceptable means of channeling greatly enlarged new funds into education, tax-supported or privately supported, state-controlled or independent, secular or religious--and within the framework of a policy long established by the Congress of giving incentive to taxpayers to make voluntary contributions for the support of educational services..." Tower said.

These arguments were challenged by Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.), chairman of the Senate subcommittee on education. He said it was not clear whether the amendment would provide a financial break for parents or a means of channeling money into institutions of higher education, especially private institutions. He called the proposal a "federal-aid-to-education bill under the guise of a tax credit."

Morse made it clear he favored aid to church-related and private colleges "within the Constitution of the United States" but said he preferred to meet the issue "by amended legislation, not by tax indirection."

The Oregon senator said a tax credit given to parents who finance the education of their children in church-related schools would "be given to the Catholic schools or the Presbyterian schools or the Baptist schools." He said tax credit dollars are "public dollars" which would go "indirectly" to church schools from the U. S. treasury.

Referring to the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, Morse pointed out this act provides "categorical-use grants" for religion affiliated schools. The tax credit amendment, he said, would give parents the choice of deciding how taxpayers' money would be spent.

"In many instances the public money would be spent in aiding Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopalian, and Lutheran or other denominational or church-related institutions of higher education over which there is no restraint or check in regard to the expenditure of the public money," Morse said.

He stated many administrators of religious colleges favored the tax credit proposal because it was an "opportunity to obtain substantial financial aid... they could not get any other way."

The Senate also rejected an amendment which would have provided tax exemptions toward tuition costs for students who work while in college.

Baylor Dedicates Modern
New Science Building

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Dedication services for a new \$2 million physical sciences building were observed at Baylor University here, the world's largest Baptist school.

The new Marrs McLean science building houses laboratories, libraries, classrooms, research facilities and an auditorium, plus two large lecture rooms with seats for 272 and 100 students.

The red-brick, three-story structure is the first major classroom building constructed on land purchased for Baylor expansion from an urban renewal project by the Baylor Waco Foundation.

The building is a gift to Baylor from Mrs. Verna Hooks McLean in memory of her husband, the late Marrs McLean of San Antonio, Tex. Mrs. McLean was an honored guest at the dedication ceremonies.

Hilton E. Howell of Waco, chairman of Baylor trustees, pointed to Mrs. McLean and her family as outstanding examples of support needed by private universities.

The principal speaker for the dedication, W. O. Milligan, called for the discovery of new scientific truths "through private support of private universities" in his address.

Milligan, vice chancellor for research at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, said "countless advances" have come from the private educational system where "the possibility of outside control is reduced to a minimum."

The ceremonies came on the 119th birthday of the Baptist school, founded in 1845. President Abner V. McCall presided.

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Radio-TV Commission
Starts Spanish Magazine

(2-8-64)

FORT WORTH (BP)--A new quarterly religious radio and television publication is being issued by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

The 36-page magazine, called "Senales," is the Spanish language counterpart of the commission's monthly magazine, "The Beam." In Spanish, "Senales" means "signal" or "beam."

Purpose of the new quarterly is to extend the ministry of four Spanish radio and television programs produced for Latin American stations by the Radio-TV Commission.

Written and produced by staff members of the commission here, the first issue is being mailed to about 2,500 missionaries and listeners in 15 countries.

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President Proposes
Memorial To God

(2-8-64)

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the annual presidential prayer breakfast here, suggested there should be a memorial to God in the nation's capital.

The President said Washington is the symbol of "a great nation and a greater cause of human liberty" to the people of America and of other lands. This capital city has monuments to Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and to many statesmen, he said, "but at this seat of government, there must be a fitting memorial to the God who made us all."

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Such a memorial should not be built or sponsored by the government but should be a center of prayer open to all faiths, he said. To the more than 1000 attending the prayer breakfast the President said, "I would like to suggest to this group. . .that it undertake the mission of bringing together the faiths and the religions of America to support jointly such a memorial. . . ."

The President spoke of how prayer had helped him bear the burden of his office "too great to be borne by anyone alone." Yet he said those who hold public office "are enjoined by our Constitution against enacting laws to tell the people when and where or how to pray." All experience and knowledge proves "that injunction is good," he stated.

"For, if government could ordain the people's prayers," he continued, "the government could also ordain its own worship--and that must never be."

"The separation of church and state has served our freedom well because men f state have not separated themselves from church and faith and prayer," the President said.

The Presidential prayer breakfast started 12 years ago as an offspring of the regular prayer meetings held by groups of representatives and senators. Evangelist Billy Graham was the main speaker at the breakfast.

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Jay P. Chance Joins
Ambassador Staff

(2-8-64)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Jay Paul Chance, 29-year-old minister of youth education at San Angelo, Tex., has been named leadership training representative for Royal Ambassadors.

The appointment of Chance to the Royal Ambassador department of the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission here was announced by George W. Schroeder, executive secretary.

Chance replaces Norman Godfrey who has been promoted to director of the young men's department, still in the research stage.

As leadership training representative, Chance will work with state and associational Brotherhood leaders in training leaders for boys.

Chance, who was born in Chickasha, Okla., received his bachelor of science degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, in 1956 and his master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, in 1961.

Chance has directed youth education at San Angelo's First Baptist Church since 1961.

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Italian Missionary
To Study In Italy

ATLANTA (BP)--Armando Silverio of Tampa, Fla., will be the first Southern Baptist home missionary to leave the United States to study the Italian language.

On April 1 he will leave for Perugia, Italy, where he will engage in six months of intensive language study at the Italian university for foreigners.

This is part of a special project of language study undertaken by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in view of the need for giving language instruction to English-speaking personnel.

Spanish-language instruction for nine missionaries will begin in San Antonio, Tex., this month. One missionary will study Russian in Middleburg, Vt., and a couple is studying Portuguese in Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Gerald Palmer of Atlanta, associate secretary of the language missions department, said when Silverio returns he will be assigned by the Home Mission Board to spearhead the mission work among the people of Italian background in the United States. He will major on starting new missions and churches and leading the established churches to minister in their language to those who speak Italian.

Since July, 1961, Silverio has served under the Home Mission Board as pastor of the Armenia Avenue Baptist Church, Tampa.

Of his work in the Armenia Avenue Church, Palmer said, "Not only has he led the church in an aggressive program of activities, but he also has led in establishing a Spanish-speaking department in the church."

Born of Italian immigrants in a coal mining town in western Pennsylvania, he was reared a Roman Catholic. It was through the witness of his Baptist wife he was converted and became a Baptist.

Prior to his appointment as a home missionary Silverio was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, St. Augustine, Fla. To answer God's call to preach, Silverio gave up a promising insurance career.

His family will remain in the States during his six months abroad. His wife is the former Geneva Baker of Palatka, Fla. They one daughter and two sons.