

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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May 1, 1964

Alma Mater To Honor
Crusading Minister

By the Baptist Press

A minister who helped lead efforts in his community to get rid of organized vice is being acclaimed by his alma mater, which will confer an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

The minister is Dudley Pomeroy, pastor, First Baptist Church, Newport, Ky. This city, located across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, was notorious for its vice operations.

Georgetown College, a senior-level Southern Baptist College in the Kentucky town of the same name, is granting the degree. College officials describe Pomeroy as "one of Kentucky's most courageous spiritual leaders of this generation."

Georgetown plans to grant three other honorary degrees at its May 28 commencement, all doctor of laws degrees and all to alumni. Those receiving them are:

Joe Stewart Stone, Atlanta, vice-president of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co. and a Baptist layman;

Victor Anderville Bradley Sr., Georgetown, one-time president of the Kentucky Bar Association, who graduated in 1903; and

James Jefferson Rucker Bristow, Dunedin, Fla., chemical engineer who has worked with the Florida citrus industry in processing concentrated frozen fruit juices.

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Herbert Hoover To Get
Baptist Honor Degree

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--Herbert Hoover, thirty-first president of the United States, will be awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree by California Baptist College at its 11th annual commencement exercises, May 25.

Herbert Hoover III of Los Angeles will accept the honor for his grandfather who is unable to make the trip to Riverside from his New York residence.

Loyed R. Simmons, president of the college, will recognize the former chief executive for "his lifelong interest in and contributions to small colleges, especially in the early days of the Council for the Advancement of Small Colleges."

Alfred I. Hill, executive secretary of the council, which has headquarters in Washington, D. C., will give the commencement address.

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Annuity Board Okays New Life Benefits

DALLAS (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board here have approved benefits to be offered in a new life insurance plan to be inaugurated not later than Jan. 1, 1965.

R. Alton Reed, executive secretary of the Annuity Board, said the life benefits plan will provide low-cost group term protection against death in active service, disability or age retirement.

The life benefit plan will be open to any Baptist minister, church, or denominational employee.

Life benefits will range from \$10,000 to \$30,000, with maximum coverage to age 45. After age 45, benefits are scaled progressively downward to retirement.

Upon retirement the member may have \$1,000 in paid-up benefits, but not more than an amount equal to his total contributions paid in his behalf, provided he has participated continuously in the plan from his initial entry and for at least 10 years, Reed said.

The plan also calls for double benefits to be paid in case of accidental death before retirement. Under another clause, if a participant becomes disabled, his coverage will continue without cost to him.

Reed said the plan would cost between \$40 and \$120 a year, depending on the participant's annual salary. Dues are one per cent of the salary. (Minimum salary is \$4,000 per year; maximum is \$12,000. Persons making less than \$4,000 a year may participate on the \$4,000 minimum.)

In calculating the salary basis, income which may be counted includes cash salary, housing or allowance, utilities allowance, car expense, retirement dues that the church pays, and miscellaneous income from church.

The new life benefits plan is the first in a series of life and health plans offered by the Annuity Board. Future plans will include health benefits such as hospitalization and major medical coverage, Reed said.

The group life and health benefits program is under the direction of Baynard F. Fox, formerly the annuity secretary in Kentucky and Tennessee.

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Indiana Begins Fund For Camp Property

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--The state missions offering taken among Southern Baptists in Indiana in September will begin a fund with which to buy property for camping and a future assembly site.

The executive board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana voted here to strive for \$8,000 in the annual state missions offering. It would be divided equally between the camping fund and the mission rental fund.

The mission rental fund aids churches in starting new missions.

Executive Secretary E. Harmon Moore told the board that statewide Cooperative Program income for the first three months of the year exceeded by \$235 the \$40,625 needed to meet the quarterly budget. After the first three months a year ago, receipts were lagging \$3,000 behind budget requirements.

He told the board the Indiana Baptist, which he edits, has increased its frequency of publication. It now comes out twice a month instead of monthly. The issues remain at eight pages each, in effect doubling the amount of space each month in which to report Baptist events.

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Seminary President
Gets Awards Twice

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has been honored for his civic and religious leadership by two separate awards presented in Louisville.

Louisville Mayor William O. Cowger presented McCall with a recognition award, saying the "city of Louisville is most appreciative of the community service that you have rendered over the years."

The Southern Seminary president has been a panelist on a Louisville radio program called "The Moral Side Of The News" since 1952. He is also a trustee of the Louisville Medical Foundation and a member of the board of directors of the Community Chest and Louisville Fund.

McCall and two other Kentucky clergymen were presented with brotherhood awards at a recent awards dinner in Louisville. McCall was cited for his "distinction as an educator, clergyman and statesman of human affairs, whose wisdom and leadership have made of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary a center of learning and brotherly goodwill."

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New Mexico Alters
Date For Offering

5-1-64

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., (BP)--The state mission board for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico has voted to change the annual children's home offering from Thanksgiving to Mother's Day.

Effective in 1965, the schedule change will reduce the number of special offerings which fall in the final months of the year, state Baptist leaders said.

Two major offerings taken during the last four months of the year are the state missions offering and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions.

In another matter coming to its attention, the board heard a progress report on the editing of the "History Of New Mexico Baptists." Lewis A. Myers of Albuquerque, retired former editor of the state newspaper, Baptist New Mexican, has written the history.

The board also approved borrowing enough funds to complete a camp for Royal Ambassadors at Cloudcroft. The camp would be used from four to six weeks each summer and would accommodate 128 boys and 32 staff members each week.

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K. O. White Declines SBC
Presidency Renomination

5-1-64

HOUSTON (BP)--K. Owen White, current president of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced here he would decline any efforts to place his name on the ballot for re-election as president of the 10 million-member denomination.

White, who described the presidency as a job "so demanding" that he is not sure any man should try to carry the responsibility for more than one year, gave reasons of health for his decision.

The 62-year-old pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church had been forced to cancel all engagements during the month of December when he was hospitalized for observation and rest.

White said his doctor firmly told him that th illness was a warning to slow down, and he was forced to cancel a trip to Russia and do little but rest for a long period.

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The announcement throws the field wide-open for electing a successor to the theologically conservative pastor as president of the nation's largest Protestant denomination during Convention sessions May 19-22 in Atlantic City.

No names have yet been mentioned as possible presidential candidates. Most Baptists had expected White to be re-nominated.

In a statement to the Baptist Press, White said:

"It has been a high privilege to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention this year. Recently several pastors have suggested that they would like to re-nominate me for another term.

"After very prayerful and thorough consideration, I feel that for reasons of health and also in the best interests of our beloved First Baptist Church of Houston, it is imperative that I decline the nomination.

"I would call upon Southern Baptists to pray for divine guidance in the choice of my successor," the statement said.

He also told the Baptist Press that the work of the convention was so tremendous and the job of the presidency so demanding that he simply could not continue another year as its president.

The decision had been in the making for more than a month, he said, and it was not made until after much prayer, counsel with friends, and thoughtful self-examination, he said.

His announcement is almost certain to make election of a new convention president a major issue at the Southern Baptist Convention during sessions May 19-22 in Atlantic City, N. J.

White was elected president of the convention during sessions last year in Kansas City after carrying the banner for theological conservatives in a controversy over symbolic interpretation of the Bible.

The small, booming voice pastor had for several years been a key figure in efforts to strike liberalism from Baptist seminaries and agencies, and to uphold the Bible as the infallible, authoritative word of God.

He has been pastor of the 3,600-member First Baptist Church of Houston for the past 11 years, and was president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas when elected as Southern Baptist Convention president last year.

Previously he was pastor of Baptist churches in Little Rock, Ark.; Washington, D. C.; Atlanta, Ga.; and Gainesville, Ga.

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Second Week
Witnesses Clash Over
Required Religion

5-1-64

By Nona Saturday

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Roman Catholic Bishop, a national lottery advocate, and a states rights pro-segregationist have lined up together in support of a constitutional "prayer amendment." On the other side, Baptist, Presbyterian and Jewish representatives maintained that the public school should not be the "governmental arm of the church."

In the second week of hearings before the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, witnesses testified both for and against proposed constitutional amendments to overturn the U. S. Supreme Court's rulings against required prayer and Bible reading in the public schools.

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The committee also heard Rep. Frank Becker (R., N. Y.) chief sponsor of an amendment, protest the "lengthy" hearings. He said most of the members already "have an opinion." When he thinks the matter has been in committee "too long," Becker said he will again press the discharge petition to take it directly to the House floor. Attempts to stampede the committee into action have come from members of Congress and from public witnesses.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, auxiliary bishop of New York; Rep. Paul A. Fino (R. N.Y.); and Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama, were among those opposing the Supreme Court decision and favoring an amendment.

Edwin H. Tuller, general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Leo Pfeffer, a New York Attorney, and others opposed any attempt to amend the constitution to change the meaning of the first amendment.

"Baptists have long opposed any compulsion to conformity in religious belief or in the practice of religion," Tuller stated. He said the Baptist viewpoint influenced the writing of the Bill of Rights and resulted in the first amendment.

Tuller testified for the National Council of Churches and the American Baptist Convention. He included in his testimony a resolution adopted by the American Baptist Convention in 1963 stating that "religion should not be a matter of compulsion and that prayers and religious practices should not be prescribed by law or by a teacher or public school official."

Blake held that a state prescribed form of religion would either be a "ritual that is meaningless" or a form of "indoctrination."

"The kind of indoctrination we fear...is a blending of religiosity by the state that in effect becomes a state religion and establishment."

Arguments supporting a "prayer amendment" were emotionally pitched and set on the false charge that the court ruled that a school child cannot pray or read the Bible. They favor "permitting" or "allowing" prayer and the Bible in the public schools.

Pfeffer, a recognized constitutional lawyer, attacked such arguments as being "fiction" or "fallacies." He said that nothing in the decisions could be interpreted as "forbidding" the children to pray or read the Bible in public schools.

Bishop Sheen claimed to speak only for himself as an American citizen. He said the court decisions were founded upon the "myth of separation of church and state." He said he knew of no protestant church or Catholic church which wants the "establishment of church and state in the United States."

"Since there is no one in the United States that wants the establishment of church and state," Sheen continued, "it seems as if the decision of the Supreme Court has been attacking a myth and not an established fact."

Sheen struck at the Supreme Court as going "outside its competency" in ruling in the matter of prayer.

Rep. Fino also struck at the court decisions. He said he would favor any measure that would "make it clear that prayer may be offered in the classroom." He said the purpose is to "assure a more lasting union under God."

Fino has consistently proposed a national lottery for the United States as being a source of additional revenue and a means of "satisfying the natural urge" of the people to gamble.

Alabama's Gov. Wallace alleged that the right to "permit" children to pray at the beginning of the school day was "nullified" by the Supreme Court.

"This decision," he said, "is a part of the deliberate design to subordinate the American people, their faith, their customs and their religious traditions to a Godless state." Some members of malignant form," the governor charged.

He accused the court of "legal and juridical gymnastics" and said many of its decisions "give aid and comfort to agitators, to anarchists, to atheists."

Bishop Sheen said he did not favor any particular amendment and that one might not be necessary if proper emphasis were given to the first amendment. He suggested that a satisfactory prayer to all would be, "In God we trust."

Pfeffer said there has been "too ready" a tendency to "equate opposition to these amendments with opposition to religion or opposition to the Bible or to prayer."

He cited six points of argument as being "fiction" and not facts in the matter, these "fictions" are, he said:

- (1) Opposition to public school prayer and Bible reading is a recent occurrence, when in fact it is ancient and widespread;
- (2) It makes no difference which version of the Bible or what form of prayer is used, when in fact no controversy in history has caused more persecution, oppression and bloodshed;
- (3) Because a child is "excused" from participation there can be no valid objection to the practice, when in fact this is "the delusion of voluntariness";
- (4) That only "atheists and secularists" oppose an amendment; when many religious groups are opposed;
- (5) That the court has forbidden the "mention of God," or the Bible or religion in public schools, when in fact it said that government may not "promote or establish" religious exercises;
- (6) The court has forbidden children to pray or to read the Bible in public schools, when in fact it said the state may not require it.

"All the supreme court said is that the state, through its agencies, cannot promote or establish the reading of the Bible or prayer in the public school, Pfeffer said.

Hitting the argument that the school is the only place some children are exposed to religious ideas or the Bible, Tuller said, "that is the responsibility of the church and the church should not depend on the state to do the church's work."

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Georgia Endorses
First Amendment

5-1-64

(Advance for use in publications of Tuesday afternoon, May 5)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention's public affairs committee reaffirmed "confidence in the First Amendment" and by implication rejected efforts in Congress for any change.

The committee's statement said:

"Along with other Americans, Georgia Baptists are concerned with the preservation and enrichment of the religious heritage of our nation. Efforts to destroy the moral and spiritual foundations upon which American society has developed must be resisted, but resistance must be in harmony with the heritage which is being defended.

"The Georgia Baptist Convention's committee on public affairs reaffirms the right of all people to religious liberty, and confidence in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States as a safeguard to religious freedom. Any effort to breach the historic wall separating church and state is to be resisted as a dangerous threat to the perpetuation of religious freedom for all Americans."

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Historical Commission
Changes Meeting Date

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Historical Commission has changed the dates for its annual meeting.

It will meet here June 22-23 instead of Aug. 3-4. Executive Secretary Davis C. Woolley said the change was made so Chairman C. Penrose St. Amant of Louisville could preside over the meeting.

St. Amant, dean of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, begins a study leave July 1 and will be away from the United States for six months.

The Southern Baptist Historical Society, an auxiliary which meets yearly immediately following the commission, moved forward its meeting date to June 24, also at Nashville.

Richard N. Owen of Nashville is society president.

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New Baptist Award
Slated For NBC Man

5-1-64

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has established a new award for outstanding contributions in the field of communications, and has named Robert W. Sarnoff of the National Broadcasting Company as the first recipient.

Sarnoff, chairman of the board for the broadcasting network, was chosen "for 25 years of pioneering leadership in the broadcasting industry, and for the spirit of cooperation he has fostered with the nation's religious denominations," said SBC Radio-TV Commission Director Paul M. Stevens.

The "distinguished communications medal" will be presented to Sarnoff during the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlantic City, N. J., on May 22.

Sarnoff will address the convention following the presentation as part of the Radio-TV Commission's report to the convention.

Stevens said that the medal will not necessarily be awarded annually. It will be presented only to individuals who have made an obvious and lasting contribution to radio and television communications, he said.

The medal itself will feature the sculptured hands taken from Michelangelo's famous "creation of man" painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome which depicts the hand of God reaching out toward the hand of Adam.

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Baptist School Approves
Big Development Program

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Trustees of Hardin-Simmons University here approved an immediate start on a 10-year development program that will include \$2 million in capital improvements and \$5 million for improving the Baptist university's academic standing.

The trustees also set a goal of increasing the university's endowment to \$8 million by 1966, the school's diamond anniversary year; to \$10 million by 1970; and to \$20 or \$25 million by 1975.

The extensive development program was proposed by Hardin-Simmons President James H. Landes in his first annual report to the board. He suggested:

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---A new \$1 million science building and new library facilities totaling \$1 million;

---Six named professorships at a cost of \$1.8 million, and graduate fellowships and research assistantships set up at a cost of \$25,000 annually (totaling \$250,000 in 10 years);

---Library acquisitions totaling \$250,000 in the 10 year period; new teaching and research equipment totaling \$3000,000; and a sustaining fund for cultural activities totaling \$2000,000;

---plus unrestricted funds to help support deserving students, and for similar purposes, with a \$750,000 goal.

The board of trustees authorized President Landes and Lee Hemphill, vice president for development, to start immediately in seeking to attain the goals.

Trustees also adopted a \$2.5 million budget for 1964-65. The new budget will be nearly \$200,000 less than the outlay for the current year.

The budget cut was attained by dropping intercollegiate football from the school's program, and by reducing administrative costs, general expenses, plant maintenance outlays, and miscellaneous items, Landes said.

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Three To Get Honorary
Degrees At Texas School

5-1-64

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Three honorary degrees will be conferred at Hardin-Simmons University's spring commencement exercises here.

To be honored are George H. Mahon of Lubbock, Tex., representative of the 19th Congressional District; Shuichi Matsumura, Japanese Baptist leader; and Douglas Carver, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pampa, Tex.

The Baptist school's trustees authorized the honorary degrees one day after the Hardin-Simmons faculty voted to award the doctorates.

Both Rep. Mahon and the Rev. Carver are graduates of Hardin-Simmons.

Matsumura was director of the Japan Baptist New Life Movement, in which numerous Hardin-Simmons Cowboy Band participated last year.

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Southeastern Secures
Raymond B. Brown

5-1-64

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here has announced that Raymond B. Brown will join the faculty this fall as professor of New Testament.

Brown has been associate professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, since 1960. He is former pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., and one-time assistant professor of Bible and religion at the University of Richmond (Baptist).

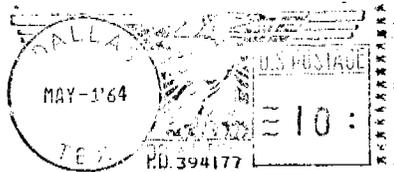
A native of Louisiana, Brown is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Yale Divinity School and Southern Seminary.

In presenting Brown to the faculty of Southeastern, President Olin T. Binkley said, "He is one of our leading New Testament scholars. We are very happy and most fortunate to have him join us in our common task of educating ministers for Christian service in a difficult age."

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