

July 16, 1948

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

TEXAS BAPTISTS HAVE BIBLE  
CHAIRS AT 14 STATE COLLEGES

DALLAS, Texas--(BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Texas is sponsoring an active program for the teaching of Bible by Baptist teachers off the campus of Texas state colleges.

Dr. Joseph P. Boone, dean of Bible Chairs for the Convention, has announced that arrangements have been made for a Baptist Chair of Bible in the 14th state college. Classrooms and teachers are furnished by the denomination, but regulations on attendance, examinations and the maintenance of a college level of instruction are governed by college standards.

Regular college credit is given the students when their courses are successfully completed.

The movement was started in September 1919 with establishment of a Baptist Chair of Bible at the University of Texas. Only four additional chairs were established during the next 25 year period, but the number has skyrocketed since Dr. Boone was named to head up the work on a full-time basis in 1946. Eight have been established during the last two year period, and another -- for a total of 14 -- will be begun in September. An enrollment of 2,000 for the year will be reached by the close of the summer session.

Dr. Boone declared that "the relationship of the Baptist Chairs of Bible to the colleges is in full accord with our cherished principle of the separation of church and state.

Excepting two women teachers, all the professors are ordained Baptist ministers.

Classes are held in Baptist Student Centers, property owned or leased by Baptists, near the campus. Classrooms, library and office space are provided. The effort, Dr. Boone said, is to reach 15,393 Baptist students in state schools.

Approval for the Bible courses for credit is secured from the executives of the colleges. In each case the teacher is approved, from both educational and personal qualifications, by the president and the dean of the college.

Dr. Boone said that the courses "are Biblical without apology. No student is forced, urged, or embarrassed. The right of every student is recognized and the personal responsibility is imposed to receive or reject the truth. Students of any or no denominational connection are welcome to seek a knowledge of the Bible. A large emphasis is placed upon the truth and the power of the truth to reconstruct one's thinking."

(more)

The teaching of the courses in the Bible Chair "is under the regulations of the college as to class meetings, attendance, examinations, and the maintenance of the college level of instruction for which credit is given," Dr. Boone said. "Our teachers are not expected to sacrifice their convictions, but are required to cooperate fully with the administration for the growth and best interests of the college."

Colleges participating in the program and the Baptist Bible teachers are: University of Texas, Austin, Dr. W. C. Raines; North Texas State College, Denton, Dr. D. B. Lloyd; A.&M. College, College Station, Rev. Arthur M. Smith; Texas State College for Women, Denton, Miss Rowena Strickland; Texas Tech, Lubbock, Dr. Vester E. Wolber; Sam Houston State Teachers, Huntsville, Dr. T. B. Prescott; East Texas State College, Commerce, Dr. Cecil Hyatt; West Texas State College, Canyon, Miss Eula Potter; Texas A.&I. College, Kingsville, Dr. Ralph Smith; Stephen F. Austin State College, Nacogdoches, Rev. W. B. Coble; Sul Ross State College, Alpine, Rev. George Thomason; North Texas Agricultural College, Arlington, Rev. Tom Madden; John Tarlton Agricultural College, Stephenville, Rev. Felix Gresham; and College of Mines and Metallurgy, El Paso, teacher yet to be selected.

In addition to the Chairs of Bible in the state schools, Texas Baptists operate the following Baptist schools: Baylor University at Waco, Dallas, and Houston, Hardin Simmons University at Abilene, East Texas Baptist College at Marshall, Howard Payne College at Brownwood, Mary Hardin-Baylor College at Belton, Decatur Baptist College at Decatur, Wayland College at Plainview, and San Marcos Academy at San Marcos.

---30---

SOUTHERN BAPTIST LEADERS  
CALLED TO DAY OF PRAYER

RIDGECREST, N.C.--(BP)--Representatives of all boards, institutions, and commissions of the Southern Baptist Convention will convene here Saturday, August 28, in a Day of Prayer.

Dr. T. L. Holcomb, executive secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board at Nashville, Tenn., has issued a call for the extraordinary gathering of denominational leadership. He said that Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, will lead the service beginning at 9 a.m.

"The world is going through a destiny-determining period," wrote Dr. Holcomb in his notification message. "Because of our message, our numbers, and our territory at home and abroad, Southern Baptists have a great responsibility. We desperately need and earnestly desire the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit to match the task."

Date for the special prayers was set on the last week-day of the summer program of the Southern Baptist Assembly here. Sunday services on August 29 will close the season which has brought thousands of Baptists here for summer conferences.

Dr. Holcomb said that in addition to the special services here, "friends everywhere are requested to join us in prayer for our churches and for our denomination as we begin the fall's work." ---30---