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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 244-2355
W. C. Fields, *Director*
Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

August 1, 1964

Furman Alumnus Called
Back To Be President

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP)--Gordon W. Blackwell has resigned as president of Fl rida State University here effective Feb. 1, 1965 to become president of Baptist-affiliated Furman University in Greenville, S. C.

J. W. Wood, Anderson, S. C., chairman of Furman trustees, announced the appoint- m nt of Blackwell to succeed John Laney Plyler, who is retiring later this year after 25 years as president of the institution.

Blackwell, 53, has served as president of Florida State University four years. He is a native of South Carolina and the son of a Baptist minister. He said he wanted to return to a church-supported university.

He graduated from Furman and taught sociology there from 1937 to 1941. He declined to say what his salary will be at Furman although it is understood to be in the $25,000 range. His salary at Florida State was $19,300 plus perquisites.

"The decision to leave Florida State University has been a very difficult one for me to make," said Blackwell. "My belief in the university's great potential is undiminished."

"I find an irresistible appeal in this opportunity which has been before me for some time to return to my own undergraduate college. . .as well as the opportunity and challenge of working with the development of a private, church-related college," he continued.

Furman has an enrolment of 1600; during Blackwell's tenure, enrolment increased at Florida State from 9000 to an expected 11,800 this fall. There has been a 25 per cent increase in Florida State faculty, from 517 to 644. Faculty salaries have increased 47 per cent.

The state university budget went up from $18 million to $31 million at the same time. The building program at Tallahassee has totaled $32 million.

Blackwell graduated summa cum laude from Furman in 1932. He received the master of arts degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1933. Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., conferred the doctor of philosophy degree in 1940.

Blackwell was appointed chancellor of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, in 1957 serving until he became Florida State University's president.

The Blackwells have two sons and two daughters. Both sons are graduates of Furman.

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West Texas Couple
Aids Western Work (8-1-64)

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--A retired couple from west Texas has deeded a 320-acre farm to the Northwest Baptist Foundation, an agency of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington.

The irrigated farm, believed to be worth over $100,000, was bought in 1927 by Mr. and Mrs. Homer A. Hyde. It is located near Friona, Tex. Now retired, the Hydes plan to move to Friona to live.

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Their interest in Southern Baptist work in the Pacific Northwest resulted from their son and daughter living in Washington state. The son, Omer E. Hyde, is area missionary for the Oregon-Washington convention at Olympia, Wash.

Their daughter is the wife of Don Kimbrough, pastor of Parkland Baptist Church, Tacoma, Wash.

The money from sale of the Friona farm will be used by the Northwest Baptist Foundation to buy church sites and to make loans for church buildings on those sites. Churches in western Washington, where the son and daughter live, will have preference in use of the funds.

The gift will increase by three or four times the assets of the Northwest Foundation, which were $30,000 before the Hydes' deed.

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Church Groups To Get
Aid By Federal Loans (8-1-64)

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist university is one of 35 colleges and universities applying for federal college housing loans, according to announcement from the Community Facilities Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency. The applications have not been processed.

Furman University, Greenville, S. C., Baptist school, applied for a $600,000 loan. J. L. Plyler is president of the university.

In Pennsylvania, a Baptist church was approved for a similar construction loan for housing for senior citizens. The loan, $2,250,000, went to the Mount Olivet Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

Under the National Housing Act of 1961 loans are made to private nonprofit and public agencies for construction of housing for the aged. The loans may be for as much as 100 per cent of the development cost. They are repayable at low interest over a 50-year period.

Many other church projects for housing senior citizens have been similarly approved in the past.

Included in the schools applying for college housing loans were 10 other church-related schools. These include Methodist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and United Church of Christ. They asked for loans totaling $13,508,000.

Additional announcements from the Community Facilities Administration showed seven other church schools had been approved for such loans, totaling $11,450,000. No Baptist school was among these.

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Holland Named Chairman
At Hardin-Simmons (8-1-64)

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--DeWitte T. Holland, acting chairman of the division of humanities at Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist) here for the past year, has been named chairman of that division and also head of the department of speech and theater.

Holland had previously taught speech and drama at two other Baptist schools--Louisiana College, Pineville, La., and Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C. He is a graduate of Howard College (Baptist), Birmingham; the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

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Four-Pronged Approach
Works For Missionary

By Clarence Duncan

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southern Baptists were almost unknown to the people of the Dominican Republic until Southern Baptist Missionary Howard L. Shoemake brought the two together in a way apparently never tried before.

Shoemake, using a four-pronged approach, has in 18 months started a significant Christian ministry on that Caribbean Island. Haiti and the Dominican Republic make up the island lying just east of Cuba.

Shoemake attributes the success of his evangelistic ministry to (1) personal witnessing, (2) passing out literature, (3) use of radio and (4) television broadcasting.

Before he left the United States two years ago, he realized every available tool would be necessary to start a ministry in a new place.

He planned carefully and patiently. Baptists became so well-known in the Dominican Republic that a Santo Domingo television station HIN-TV, telecast parts of the dedication ceremony for the first Baptist chapel organized in the country for relay to other television stations on the island.

Shoemake's first significant contact with the people of the Dominican Republic was with a radio station employee in Santo Domingo who had a similar hobby--ham radio.

Today eight radio and television stations in the Dominican Republic carry Southern Baptist programs in Spanish--"La Respuesta" ("The Answer"), "Control Central" ("MasterControl"), "Momentos de Meditacion" ("Moments of Meditation"), "Musica Para Recordar" ("Music to Remember") and "La Hora Bautista" ("The Baptist Hour").

All of the programs are produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

Shoemake said the radio and television programs have prompted hundreds of letters which provide contacts for personal witnessing and opportunities for sending religious literature into many homes.

"La Respuesta" ("The Answer") is telecast on Sunday afternoons, and some episodes have been so well received they have been repeated as many as three times. In Santo Domingo, switchboards at the station were tied up with calls from viewers immediately after the program. Theywanted more information about the program.

Shoemake praised the cooperation between the Radio and Television Commission and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for making possible the four-pronged approach in use of radio, television, literature, and personal witnessing.

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Southwestern Profs
On Sabbatical Leave (8-1-64)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Eight professors at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here will be on sabbatical leave during the 1964-65 school year.

Two of the group, Huber L. Drumwright Jr. and H. C. Brown, will tour and study on the European continent. Drumwright teaches New Testament, and Brown is professor of preaching.

Working toward additional degrees through American Association of Theological Schools fellowships will be Milton U. Ferguson, associate professor of philosophy of religion, and William L. Hendricks, associate professor of theology.

Two other professors will teach in the Arab Baptist Seminary, Beirut, Lebanon. They are Franklin M. Segler, professor of pastoral ministry, and R. Othal Feather, professor of educational administration.

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Studying at the University of Indiana under a Lilly Foundation fellowship will be John W. Drakeford, professor of psychology and human relations.

Miss Joe Ann Shelton, assistant professor of voice, will study voice at the University of Texas, Austin.

Returning to Southwestern from a year of sabbatical study will be Ralph L. Smith, professor of Old Testament; L. Jack Gray, professor of missions; Frank D. Stovall, associate professor of voice, and John Woods, associate professor of piano.

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Nat Bettis Again
Heads Extension (8-1-64)

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Nat C. Bettis, extension director for Carson-Newman College (Baptist), Jefferson City, Tenn., has been reelected president of the Southern Baptist Extension Education Association. It held its annual meeting here this year and will meet in Nashville in 1965.

Charles Davis of Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., is association vice-president and Ralph A. Herring of Nashville, director of the Extension Department of Southern Baptist Seminaries, is secretary-treasurer.

Cyril O. Houle of Chicago, dean of the graduate school of the extension division, University of Chicago, was resource leader for the association's annual meeting.

The association has as its members Baptist educators whose work reaches the millions of men and women in the United States engaged in some form of continuing education, Herring explained.

Southern Baptist extension education is carried on in Alabama by denominationally affiliated Howard College here. Mercer carries on the program in Georgia. In Florida, Stetson University, Baptist school at DeLand, operates the program.

Carson-Newman furnishes east Tennessee with such Baptist-led extension education, while Baptist-related University of Richmond does the same in eastern Virginia. In all other areas of the SBC, the Seminary Extension Department, headed by Herring, provides it, he explained.

The Extension Education Association grew out of a need to coordinate these Baptist programs and strengthen extension education work. The association was formed in 1956, according to Herring.

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FROM ATLANTA OFFICE
WALKER L. KNIGHT, REGIONAL EDITOR
161 Spring St., N. W.
Atlanta, Ga., 30303

EDITORS:

Below is a revision of the story on the bottom of page 2 of the July 16 mailing from Baptist Press in Nashville, under the headline, "Indian Appointments Include Thre Couples." Note change in headline.

INDIAN APPOINTMENTS
INCLUDE TWO COUPLES

ATLANTA (BP)--The appointment of eight missionaries for Indian work, Spanish-speaking work, good will center work, and mountain missions brings the total under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to 2,330. Most of the missionaries work in cooperation with state mission boards.

Two couples were appointed to serve among the Indians in New Mexico--Mr. and Mrs. Martin Eugene Elder in Cubero, and Mr. and Mrs. James A. Bowen in Bernallilo. A third couple, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Larry Sloan, were appointed to serve Spanish-speaking people in Grants, N. M.

Miss Jean Fairfax was appointed . . . (Pick up at this paragraph and continu the rest of the story unchanged.)

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(Note corrected spelling of Elder's first name--"Martin" instead of "Maring.")

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention. W. C. Fields, director;
Theo Sommerkamp, assistant director; 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn., 37219

BAPTIST PRESS
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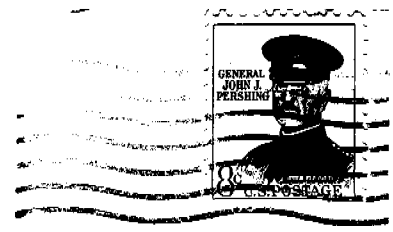

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AIR MAIL

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A BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE
for Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board and Georgia Baptists

FROM ATLANTA OFFICE
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161 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta 3, Georgia
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COURTS REDFORD--MAN OF MISSIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By Walker L. Knight

Baptist Press Regional Editor

The 12-member committee represented the sweep of the geographical area of the Southern Baptist Convention. Gathered in January in the hotel's conference room for their first meeting, they were listening to Samuel Courts Redford.

The Home Mission Board had asked the committee to nominate, by mid-August this year, a successor to Redford, who a month earlier had announced his plans to retire as executive secretary-treasurer.

Redford had come at the committee's request to share his view of the qualifications needed to lead Southern Baptists in their modern task in home missions.

One committee member was to write later, "He shared with us the finest description of the type person we need as ever I have heard. Dr. Redford recognized that he should have qualities that perhaps he himself did not have in a very special way. At the same time, I knew his life reflected a quality of character that would be hard to find in the lives of other men--humility."

Thus, this son of an Oklahoma farmer revealed again the unique combination of leadership and humility which has helped build the mission agency to its strongest position in its 119 years.

Contemporaries--heads of other agencies, members of the Home Mission Board, and staff associates--say these three achievements have been the outstanding ones in the 21 years Redford has served the Board:

1) an improved organization, which includes a competent staff of 47 and an effective missionary force of 2,320.

2) an enlarged church loans service, which now has more than $12½ million in its corpus.

3) the effective expansion of the pioneer missions movement which has placed Southern Baptist churches in all 50 states.

Though these head the list, many others are often mentioned, including his starting of the student summer mission work, strengthening the associational missions program, developing of a stronger city missions program, and growth in chaplaincy, work with National Baptists, evangelism, and language missions. There are now more than 100 specific ministries, only 35 of which were provided in 1942.

Redford was elected the Board's eleventh executive secretary in 1953. He had served 10 years as associate to the resourceful and strong-willed J. B. Lawrence, a man who had been in and out of Redford's life for more than 30 years.

Their first close association came when Lawrence was pastor of First Baptist Church in Shawnee, Okla., and president at the same time of the young and struggling Oklahoma Baptist University. Redford graduated from OBU, secured a master's degree from Missouri University, and in 1921 came back to Shawnee to marry Ruth Ford and to serve as Lawrence's associate at First Church.

Two years later he left Lawrence to teach Bible at OBU, then left Shawnee to work on his doctor's degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. However, Lawrence would not leave him alone; now executive secretary for Missouri Baptists, he pulled Redford to Missouri as Brotherhood and stewardship secretary.

*Co-operative News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention and State Baptist Conventions. National office, Baptist Press, 127 Ninth Ave., No., Nashville 3, Tenn., W. C. Fields, director; Theo Sommerkamp, assistant director.

In 1929 Lawrence moved to Atlanta to head the floundering mission agency in its recovery from the million-dollar Carnes defalcation. In Missouri Redford stepped in to serve as interim executive secretary until Edgar Godbold was elected.

Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar came hunting, and in 1930 took unto itself Courts Redford as its president. "In many ways the 13 years in Bolivar were the happiest years of my ministry," he has reflected. They were years of close association with students, faculty, and with his large family, then grown to nine children.

But once more Lawrence was to seek him out. The huge home mission debt was nearly paid, and an enlargement of personnel and services was planned. Redford recalls the invitation. "He expected to reactivate the evangelism division, start a city missions program, and he was especially anxious that I come and help start a program of rural missions. I would also be superintendent of work with the language groups, including Cuba and Panama."

Redford brought four personal traits with him. They were to characterize him to most of his associates: a love for people, a corresponding love for riding trains, an almost legendary stamina and resiliency, and a spiritual depth that permeated everything he did.

His love for people was best expressed in short, handwritten notes on birthdays, in personal crises, or in times of thankfulness. He used his train riding to write the thousands of notes and letters or the hundreds of articles requested of him.

One associate wrote, "He could travel constantly and work continually. We had been in Alaska two weeks, conferred all day in Anchorage, attended committees until late in Seattle. As soon as our midnight plane rose into the air, he went to sleep and slept until we landed six hours later. After another brief flight to Atlanta, he was ready for work."

He continued and enlarged the expansion of the mission agency. The most difficult part during such expansion, says one associate, was to keep things balanced. This Redford achieved well, as statistics show a uniform growth.

But one problem he did not solve was how to say no, especially to speaking engagements. He sometimes found himself traveling far to speak to small groups. He was to see less and less of his family, as the calls came more often and from farther away.

In maintaining the pace, he overtaxed his heart. In 1963, while in the high altitude of Glorieta, he had a "mild" heart attack. Characteristically, he told no one until he reached Atlanta, where physicians hospitalized him for the first time in his life.

Before the heart attack, as he had neared 65, the Board asked him to serve an additional time as its executive secretary, which he is doing. However, after one more year he felt it was time to step down, not because of the heart attack from which he has recovered, but because he feels the work has reached a period of transition.

The years of the Baptist Jubilee Advance climaxed in 1964, as did the 30,000 Movement in which the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board have given agency leadership. This was the time, Redford thought, for a new program, another five-year effort in missions and evangelism. He did not think it would be wise to change leadership in midstream or to saddle another man with his program.

Also, he is looking to the future and thinking of the Board. He says, "The years immediately ahead may well be the most important and most eventful years the world has known during the Christian era. It is imperative the Home Mission Board take its rightful place in this period of advance."

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NOTE TO THE EDITORS:

This article on Courts Redford, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, was prompted by a request from one of the state papers. We are presenting it at this time, in order that you might publish it previous to the election of his successor in mid-August when the Home Mission Board meets at ridgecrest.

Three photographs which illustrate some of the outstanding accomplishments in home missions during his 21 years of service are enclosed with the story. You were sent earlier by Dr. L. O. Griffith a portrait of Dr. Redford. If there are other pictures or additional information desired, please drop a line or teletype us.

--Walker L. Knight
Baptist Press Regional Editor