

October 28, 1964

**First Canadian
President Elected**

MADRAS, Ore. (BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington has, for the first time, elected the pastor of a church in Canada as president of the convention.

The new president is Jack W. McKay. He is pastor of Westwood Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta. The Oregon-Washington convention has cooperating churches in the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia as well as in the two states of the United States.

The convention also heard from the governor of Oregon and from the president of the American Baptist Convention.

Gov. Mark O. Hatfield (Rep.) spoke to the messengers on "Christian Citizenship." Hatfield is a member of the First Baptist Church, Salem, Ore., affiliated with the Conservative Baptist Association.

J. Lester Harnish, pastor, First Baptist Church, Portland, Ore., brought fraternal greetings. He is president of the American Baptist Convention.

The convention adopted a Cooperative Program 1965 goal of \$211,200. It voted to forward 19 per cent of these receipts from churches to the Southern Baptist Convention. During 1964, the SBC share of Cooperative Program receipts is 18 per cent.

The convention's total budget, including money from other sources, is \$318,624 for next year.

The Southern Baptist Convention was issued another invitation to meet in the Pacific northwest--either at Portland or at Seattle, Wash. The latest invitation is for the 1970 session. An effort earlier to secure the 1968 Convention was unsuccessful.

Subject to approval by the Evergreen Baptist Association of churches, which covers the Seattle area, the Oregon-Washington convention voted to buy a building for a Baptist student center next to the University of Washington campus in Seattle.

A former fraternity house, the convention has an option to buy it for \$100,000 and will use its Bible center fund to pay for it. A chair of Bible program is expected to be part of the Baptist student center operation.

A former president of Southern Baptist work in California, Robert N. Stapp, directs Baptist student work at the Seattle campus. He is taking graduate studies at the university.

Permission was granted the Northwest Baptist Foundation, an agency of the two-state convention, to campaign next year for \$100,000 to build up its assets. If the \$100,000 is raised, assets will increase to \$270,000.

The 1965 convention will meet in Spokane, Wash. The Oregon-Washington convention has 185 cooperating churches. Total membership of these churches and their 40 missions is 27,000.

National Magazine
Views Church Union

By the Baptist Press

Two Baptist ministers in Lexington, Ky., jointly prepared an article published Oct. 24 in the Saturday Evening Post. The title of the article--"The Ecumenical Movement Threatens Protestantism."

The authors are Henry A. Buchanan, chaplain, Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington, and Bob W. Brown, pastor of the city's Trinity Baptist Church.

In the conclusion of their article, Buchanan and Brown say:

"What we need is not more uniformity but more diversity in which the unlimited grace of God can find additional channels to reach the needs of men. Instead of one church under one human and mortal head, we need many churches." (BP)

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Baylor Trustees Vote
To Preserve Landmarks

10-28-64

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Trustees of Baylor University here voted unanimously to repair and refurbish three of the school's oldest buildings in an effort to keep the historic landmarks in service for an undetermined period.

The action came after ex-students had protested razing the three old buildings to make way for a modern new library. Opponents claimed the buildings were long-recognized symbols of the university.

The buildings--Old Main, Burleson Hall and Harrington Hall--had been declared "structurally safe" by consultant architects and engineers who called them "strong as pyramids."

Trustees said their decision had no relation to where the proposed \$2.8 million library would be located. Final decision on locating the library was, in effect, postponed until after further study.

In other major action, Baylor trustees voted to raise the Texas Baptist school's tuition from \$20 to \$25 per semester hour effective next September.

Purpose of the tuition hike, they said, is to maintain higher educational standards, including better salaries for teachers. Trustees were told Baylor's tuition, which averages \$600 annually per student, is now lower than that of 13 smaller Baptist colleges.

Baylor President Abner McCall told the board the school would break ground on the proposed new library in 1966 regardless of where it is located. The Moody Foundation has already given Baylor \$1 million for the library, and McCall said the school's library needs are daily becoming more acute.

McCall said the major problem relating to the suggested demolition of the three old buildings was what to do with offices and classrooms now housed there.

A committee reported it would cost \$83,000 to \$600,000 to renovate the three buildings. The larger amount would include complete air-conditioning.

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\$47,000 Bequest
Helps Buy Organ

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A \$46,903 bequest from the estate of Mrs. Daisy Deen Wright of New Orleans has been received by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here to purchase a pipe organ for the institution's Leavell Chapel.

Mrs. Wright's will stipulated a \$25,000 gift to the seminary at her death in June, 1962. The additional amount was given the seminary recently when her estate was settled.

The entire amount of \$71,903, plus an additional \$30,000 to be subscribed from donations, will be used to buy the organ. It will be named as a memorial for Mrs. Wright.

A long-time resident of New Orleans, Mrs. Wright was a close friend of New Orleans Seminary's late President Roland Q. Leavell. She was an active member of this city's St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church.

A music school faculty committee is now completing plans for the organ's purchase.

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Seminary Committee
Approves Financing

10-28-64

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Financing for a \$500,000 student apartment building, a master plan for campus growth and engineering work for a campus drainage system have been approved by the executive committee of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Trustees.

The new apartment unit will be for students with larger families requiring three or four small bedrooms. Several students who have returned to the seminary to complete theological educations after pastoring for several years have four or more children.

The solid masonry building will be three floors and have 20 units. It will be largely financed by Providence Housing, Inc., an organization formed to build self-liquidating living units on the seminary campus.

A Nashville firm was employed to prepare a plot design for adding new buildings to the campus. These structures will include the student apartment, a wing to the current library and a School of Theology building. The master campus design will be coordinated with current renovations now being done with a \$1,600,000 cooperative program grant to be spent over the next four years.

Engineering for a campus drainage system was also approved by the committee. The drainage system is part of the renovations program.

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Yearby Returns
To Alabama Work

10-28-64

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--A former evangelism secretary for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, who has been in Southern Baptist Conventionwide evangelism work for six years, returns to the Alabama convention Nov. 15 in another capacity.

He is Vernon Yearby of Dallas, who has been with the division of evangelism of the SBC Home Mission Board there.

His new capacity with the Alabama work will be as associate executive secretary of the Baptist Foundation of Alabama. Yearby will have primary responsibility of working with district associations of churches and of making contacts with potential individual donors, according to Carl G. Campbell, Montgomery, Foundation executive secretary.

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Yearby, a native of Virginia, is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist), Abilene, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He completed his second round-the-world mission tour last year and has assisted evangelistic crusades in Australia, Asia, Africa and South America.

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Doss Receives Texas
Baptist Press Award

10-28-64

DALLAS (BP)--The religion editor of the Dallas Times Herald, Stewart M. Doss, has been named to receive the annual Texas Baptist Press Award for "outstanding contributions to Christianity through journalism."

Doss was chosen to receive a plaque and engraved watch during sessions of the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting in Corpus Christi.

The 49-year-old reporter has covered more state and Southern Baptist Conventions than probably any other daily newspaper reporter in Texas.

The Texas Baptist Press Award is the third major news reporting honor to come to Doss in the last year-and-a-half. He received the national Supple Award of the Religious Newswriters Association in 1963 for "the greatest degree of excellence in religious news reporting in the secular press." He has received two awards from his paper this year.

Doss got his first reporting job, going to work at no pay, as a teen-ager for the Eastland (Tex.) Telegram. He later became the paper's editor.

Doss is a correspondent or writer for Religious News Service, Presbyterian News Service, the Living Church (national Episcopal weekly magazine), the Christian Herald and Editor and Publisher. He is columnist for the Episcopal Churchman at Dallas.

A Methodist and former Baptist, Doss says he tries to understand and appreciate the views of all faiths and that his personal beliefs combine a little of them all.

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Mississippi Pastor
Leaves 21-Year Post

10-28-64

BELZONI, Miss. (BP)--After 21 years as pastor, Chester A. Molpus has resigned from Belzoni's First Baptist Church, evidently because of a difference of opinion with the church membership over racial attitudes.

By resigning, Molpus averted a vote to oust him as pastor. This was to be presented to the church as a recommendation by its deacons.

Molpus said he resigned before the ouster vote was taken "to prevent any hurt which might come to the church by the taking of a vote on the recommendation."

S. N. Brown, county superintendent of education and chairman of the deacons, told the Baptist Press the differences of opinion with Molpus had been building up for some years. Brown declined to go into detail over the difference of opinion.

He praised Molpus as "a wonderful man and a wonderful pastor. He said there was "no animosity" and "no explosive issue."

The chairman also said of Molpus, "His laborious and prayerful study has produced sermons for this church that are unexcelled by any preacher in any pulpit."

Other than a pastorate in Kentucky during his student days at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the Belzoni pastorate has been the only one for Molpus. He and Mrs. Molpus are natives of Mississippi. Molpus graduated from Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton, before going to Southern.

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Molpus is presently a trustee of Southern Seminary. He has an 18-year-old son taking pre-medical work at Mississippi College.

One of the points of tension between Molpus and the church membership appears to have come to light in the columns of the church bulletin for Aug. 21, 1963.

Belzoni, a community of 4500 in the delta country, has a large Negro population and a large part of its economy comes from agriculture. The deacons of the church presented, and the church of 460 resident members, in August 1963, adopted a policy on the race issue.

The church "endorsed the practice of racial segregation in its worship services" and also endorsed "no teaching or preaching advocating integration of the races in any of its services."

In the same church bulletin, Molpus said, "I have arrived at the place where I, for my part, will not deny to a Negro who desires it the privilege of worshipping in the same church building with me. I cannot, for the life of me, imagine Jesus standing on the Church steps and turning a man away because of the color of his skin."

There was, Molpus said further, no great desire apparent among the Negroes of Belzoni to worship at the church.

Molpus said he had no immediate future plans. After his statement of resignation, chairman of deacons Brown recommended the church continue Molpus' salary to April 1 and let him use the parsonage to Feb. 1. The resignation was to take effect Oct. 31.

Molpus said he wanted to remain in the pastoral ministry but said he doubted it could be in Mississippi.

He said he had offered his resignation once before, about three years ago, but it was not accepted at that time. This time, Molpus said, he urged the church to unanimously accept his resignation.

Friends of Molpus said he has long held his viewpoint on race but that racial tensions of recent years apparently aggravated the difference between his viewpoint and that of others in the church.

Mississippi Baptist Press
October 28, 1964
Belzoni, Mississippi
Molpus Resignation



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