

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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Houston Church Plans Honduras Inoculation

HOUSTON, Tex. (BP)--The River Oaks Baptist Church here will sponsor next summer an attempt to inoculate the entire population of Honduras, 2 million people, against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus.

About 100 Houston youths and 15 medical doctors will spend 10 weeks in the Central America country beginning next June in the people-to-people demonstration of Christian compassion.

In addition, the group will also give the Honduran people small pox vaccinations and an oral drug to fight parasitic worms.

The church-sponsored project has gained the wholehearted approval of the United States department of state, and the Honduras government. No federal funds, however, are involved.

It is the brainchild of Guy Bevil Jr., minister of youth for the 1,800-member church who visited Honduras last year at his own expense and came to know and appreciate the people there.

Bevil first approached the Honduras health officials about a possible smallpox inoculation program, but was told the other diseases were a greater threat. He later received a formal petition from the Honduras secretary of state requesting the program.

Bevil said the project will not only help prevent disease and suffering in a climate where bacteria thrive, it will also help the young people who participate by giving them an opportunity to demonstrate the love and compassion of Christ.

"I've seen the boundless enthusiasm of our youth, and we want to offer them a real challenge," he said. "Perhaps some of them go off to Florida and get drunk because we don't challenge them as we should.

"Too often we invite them to a tiddlywinks game when we should ask them to a bear hunt," Bevil said.

A committee of teachers, ministers and counselors will select the 100 high school and college-age students who participate. Half of the group will be members of the River Oaks Baptist Church and the others will represent a cross-section of the community.

All who go must be Christians, and must have excelled in a training program which will include Spanish lessons, instruction in the use of medical equipment, lectures on Honduras, and the projects' Christian motivation. Theme for the January training session will be "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

The volunteers selected will tour Honduras in teams, giving the vaccine with pistol-like instruments which painlessly shoot a stream of serum into the body at a speed of 750 miles-per-hour.

The equipment will be provided at no cost by the U. S. Aid for International Development, which has endorsed the project enthusiastically. Medical staff members from the U. S. Health Service will train the youth in use of the equipment.

Members of the church are underwriting the \$20,000 budget for the project, and Bevil is seeking some additional donations, including drugs, from individuals. Most of the young people will pay their own travel expenses.

Following a recent visit to Honduras to make arrangements for the project, Bevil said that Baptist missionaries there and government officials were enthusiastic about the idea. The Roman Catholic Archbishop was very favorable, saying he would cooperate in every way in fulfillment of action by the Vatican Council in Rome, said Bevil.

The project has also gained the support of the Honduras government, news media in Honduras, the U. S. Embassy at the capital city of Tegucigalpa, and the U. S. Alliance for Progress, U. S. Public Health Service, U. S. State Department, and U. S. Agency for International Development.

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Baptists Announce
Apartment Projects

(12-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--A Southern Baptist mission leader announced plans here for pilot projects in high-rise apartments in Atlanta, Chicago, and Dallas.

Harold C. Bennett of Atlanta said present approaches and efforts of churches are attracting so few who live in high-rise apartment communities a special effort is made to penetrate them.

The metropolitan missions secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board made the announcement to the annual meeting of the state Baptist executive secretaries and their associates with the mission agency.

The mission leaders also heard one of their own group, Fred W. Kendall of Nashville, executive secretary for Tennessee Baptists, speak on the need for a Christian America.

Kendall cited the responsibility of American Christians in the modern world, especially in the light of the position America holds as a world power and free world leader.

"The world respects America, especially for the good things which are the direct fruit of the Christian faith and philosophy," he said.

"They are evaluating Christianity in the light of its expression in America," he said. "They judge America by all that is non-Christian as well."

He listed the changes in America which make difficult the task of making the nation Christian, such as population growth, increased crime, materialism, and racial problems.

Bennett told of the pilot projects in the high-rise apartments as part of a strategy for America's cities. He said these projects would be church sponsored, with a minister and his wife placed in an apartment complex, and space for a chapel and library rented.

He also announced that a special conference on apartment life may be held this year in Washington, and that other conferences dealing with the problem would be held at Baptist assemblies.

In addition to this effort, Bennett said the mission agency would stress studies of changes in city life, the need for establishing missions and churches to minister to smaller groups, and development of specialized mission ministries within the big cities.

He also cited the need for correlation of mission programs of associations in a single metropolitan area. For example, Atlanta has nine associations within its metropolitan boundary.

Other emphases will help formerly rural churches adjust to becoming city churches, and detailed planning and aggressive approaches to establishing churches in suburbia.

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Asheville Church
Keeps Member Policy

ASHEVILLE, N. C. (BP)--The First Baptist Church of Asheville, located in the Blue Ridge Mountain resort area of western North Carolina, has voted to leave intact a policy that requires a unanimous vote in receiving new members into fellowship.

A Negro woman privately inquired about joining the 3000-member church, third largest among Southern Baptist churches in the state.

Cecil E. Sherman, who recently came to Asheville as pastor after being in denominational work among Texas Baptists, asked the church to change its policy requiring unanimous vote for admittance to membership.

Proposed as a substitute for the policy was one by which a 75 per cent vote could afford membership status. To change the policy, a three-fourths majority had to favor such change. The majority vote of 408 to 250 in favor of the change (62 per cent) was not enough to carry it.

The First Church of Asheville is apparently the only Southern Baptist church in Asheville so far to face a possible racial test of its membership policy. Sherman, who preached on the situation confronting the church, said members knew what they were voting on and why, when they voted on the proposal to change membership policy.

The woman who privately sought out the church's feeling is Miss Carol Chaney, a music teacher in Allen High School, a Methodist boarding school for Negro girls in Asheville.

Refusal to change the policy does not bar her from seeking membership in the church. Miss Chaney, however, did not immediately indicate whether she would present herself and hope to gain unanimous approval.

Under the ministry of the previous pastor, W. Perry Crouch -- now general secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina -- began seating Negro worshippers, and they have continued to attend as visitors since then.

Sherman explained Miss Chaney "has not tried to pressure the church to accept her as a member, and has demonstrated a Christian spirit and attitude throughout the entire matter."

He said he was disappointed personally over the church's refusing to change its membership policy.

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Mission Leader Asks Second
Language For Church Staff

(12-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--A Southern Baptist mission leader asked churches to include the requirement of a second language in job descriptions for many staff members.

Loyd Corder of Atlanta said associate pastors, education directors, or church visitors with a second language in many cases would make the church's ministry effective to the entire community.

The secretary of the language missions department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board praised churches for "doing" language mission work, rather than just praying and paying for it to be done.

"Paid missionaries cannot be placed everywhere language people live, but a Southern Baptist church can be there," he said.

Corder was speaking to the annual meeting of state Baptist executive secretaries and state mission directors with the staff of the mission agency.

He said there are now 40 million language people in the United States, Cuba, Panama, and Puerto Rico (including those who may speak English well but who hold the concepts and ideas from their original nationality.)

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Southern Baptist mission boards and churches, according to Corder, spent \$4 million in 1964 on missions work with these people. His department's budget for 1965 is \$1,695,800 to support 1,200 missionaries in cooperation with the state mission boards.

"Southern Baptists are more mature," he said. "In breaking out of their southern homeland they discovered the rest of the nation and the world.

"Southern Baptists are ceasing to be so much a language or ethnic group and are becoming the world-aware denomination that God would have them be.

"Contributing to this maturity," Corder said, "have been the factors of a stronger economy, industrialization, better education, military service, and the struggle of the Negro for civil rights.

"The same direct loving and concerned approach we use in winning our own people to Christ and to Christian growth works even better with many language people," he said, "because they want acceptance and equal treatment."

He cited ways in which churches minister to language people through interpreting devices, Sunday School classes, separate missions and churches, and with special services.

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Georgia Committee Organizes

(12-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--Alvin H. Brackett, pastor of the Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., is the new chairman of the Georgia Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

He succeeds Joe S. Holliday of Milledgeville, Ga., who retired from the committee (called the state convention "executive board" in many states).

The committee in its annual organizational session called upon the Georgia legislature to repeal the one-year-old local option law which permits municipalities to legalize mixed drinks.

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Right Theology Needed For Racial Tensions

(12-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--Mission philosophy must be undergirded with theology, not culture, anthropology, or a way of life, Victor T. Glass of Atlanta told state Baptist executive secretaries and state mission directors.

Glass, secretary of the department of work with National Baptists for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, spoke on missionary implications of racial tensions.

"The Negro is a human being and God loves him and wants for him the abundant life for which he made him," he said. "To stand in the way of the Negro achieving all that he is capable of achieving, is to oppose God in His plan for every life."

The occasion for the remarks was the annual meeting of the executive secretaries and mission and evangelism associates with the mission agency. Most of the 2,369 missionaries of the Home Mission Board are jointly employed and directed by state mission boards.

The states and the mission agency employ 78 workers with National Baptists, and 59,976 students attended schools and institutes directed by the workers in 1963. Also 147 scholarships were given Negro youth. For this work, mission forces spent more than \$400,000.

Glass also asked for a changed definition of man. "Color, race, national origin, or other physical classification is too low an estimate and beneath the Christian teaching that man is a soul and made in the likeness of God."

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He said a "representative" strategy is insufficient, that every means is needed to win all people to Christ.

"National Baptists are our allies, not our enemies," he stated, citing the potential of joint effort in a world missionary program. "Kinship of spirit must outweigh other differences."

"Southern Baptists are no longer a regional group, but are now located in every state," he indicated. "We must also recognize that we are not alone in the battle for righteousness over rights.

"Civil rights can be taken from one man and given to another man by men, but only God can make a man righteous."

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Missouri Building
Studies Authorized

(12-18-64)

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Preliminary architectural studies for a new Missouri Baptist Building here, to be ready in mid-1965, have been authorized by the executive board of Missouri Baptist Convention.

Unofficial estimates of the cost of the new office building run as high as \$1.5 million. The convention already owns a site of 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres on a four-lane highway south of the city.

On another construction project, the board okayed a loan for another new dormitory at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.

The dorm will cost \$500,000. The school is moving from junior college to senior status by 1966.

A committee of the executive board was also authorized to organize the convention's bond-financing program for churches and institutions in Missouri. The program is similar to plans already being used by several Baptist groups in other states.

Also adopted was a resolution urging churches and members "to use every contact and influence toward a worldwide understanding of the nature and principles of religious liberty as the right of people individually and in voluntary organizations."

The resolution, patterned after one suggested by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, reaffirmed the convention's "commitment to the religious liberty provisions for the first amendment to the constitution and to their practice as national policy for the United States."

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Cone Leaves Texas Baptists

(12-18-64)

DALLAS (BP)--Harles E. Cone, associate in the division of student work for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has been named associate pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas.

Cone, 29, will be in charge of the 4,200-member congregation's pastoral ministries and will work with college students and career single adults.

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Preacher Has Problem:
Church-State Separation

(12-18-64)

CLARKSVILLE, Tex. (BP)--The congregation at the First Baptist Church here faithfully gathered for the morning service.

Between pastors at the moment, they were to hear a visiting preacher, Cecil Sutley of Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark. When church time came the preacher didn't show up.

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And if the folks in Clarksville, Tex., were surprised, you can imagine how Sutley felt when he showed up at the First Baptist Church in Clarksville, Ark.

Right church. Wrong state.

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Baptists Asked To Build
On 30,000 Successes

(12-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--"Southern Baptists need to build upon the accomplishments of the 30,000 Movement to produce a mission consciousness in all our churches," M. Wendell Belew of Atlanta said here.

The secretary of the church extension department for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board was speaking to the state Baptist executive secretaries and their associates during their annual meeting with the mission agency.

Sharing the program with Belew was C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., director of the 30,000 Movement which closed in 1964 a nine-year emphasis on starting new churches and missions.

"Southern Baptists have probably never been so successful with anything as they have with the 30,000 Movement," Belew said.

"In addition to starting more than 23,000 missions and churches, new concepts of missions have been gained. The widespread distribution and acceptance of these concepts may yet prove to be the greatest success of the movement."

With Warren's retirement January 1, the Home Mission Board has assigned to Belew's department the responsibility for the program of church extension.

Belew indicated the projection of the program would continue to be in cooperation with other Southern Baptist agencies and with state and association mission workers as in the 30,000 Movement.

"A major part of the projection would be through association and church mission committees, conferences, clinics, and Southern Baptist literature," he said.

Warren indicated his activities in retirement would center in church extension efforts, through engagements, writing, and conferences.

Belew said his department would make use of Warren's offer of his services next year with some travel and other expenses being provided.

Warren said an immediate task he has undertaken is securing documents and other material related to the 30,000 Movement to deposit with the Southern Baptist Historical Commission for a permanent record on the effort.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story is being sent at this time for those who may have closing deadlines before additional information is secured. Corrections as to the time and place of arrival of Miss Christine Garnett in the United States will be sent as soon as received.

Baptist Missionary
Leaves Cuba, In Mexico

(12-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--Missionary Christine Garnett, a 78-year-old native of Sylvania, Ga., arrived Dec. 16 in Mexico City after spending 47 years in Cuba. She was on her way to Georgia.

Loyd Corder of Atlanta, Southern Baptist Mission leader, made the announcement here following a telephone call from Miss Garnett.

The secretary of the HMB language missions department who directs Baptist mission work in western Cuba, said his impression was that Miss Garnett left because of growing tensions with certain public officials in Cuba.

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The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board first appointed Miss Garnett as a missionary to Cuba in 1918, where she served until retirement in 1952.

However, even in retirement she remained on the island to continue in Christian work.

"Evidently the time had come when her actions were so circumscribed that she could not accomplish anything by staying," Corder said.

The mission official expected Miss Garnett to return to Georgia, but he did not know the city. She was born in 1886 in Sylvania, but moved to Savannah in 1892.

Following college, she taught school in rural areas for 12 years, then attended the Woman's Missionary Union training school at Louisville, Ky. On graduation she was appointed to Cuba.

In Cuba she started a training school for girls, served as director of the orphan's home and old folk's home and was president and treasurer for the WMU of Cuba.

Corder said she lived at Cienfuegos in Cuba, where she served in the Baptist church there and also assisted with a number of missions.

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Baylor Prof Performs
Surgery on Ex-King

(12-18-64)

HOUSTON, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University Professor Michael DeBakey has the distinction of performing surgery on a former king of England -- the Duke of Windsor.

The 70-year-old duke underwent surgery at Methodist Hospital here by the chief surgery professor at a Baptist medical school -- Baylor University College of Medicine.

DeBakey and a team of five physicians removed a section of the Duke's aorta artery which had ballooned to the size of a small canteloupe or large grapefruit.

The 67-minute operation was successful. DeBakey and his associates removed the aneurysm, and substituted in its place a four-inch section of dacron tubing.

Queen Elizabeth of England was kept informed on the Duke's progress by telephone. The Duchess waited in the couple's six-room hospital suite.

The Duke of Windsor, formerly King Edward VIII of England, abdicated the throne in 1936 to marry the former Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson, an American divorcee.

When the announcement was made that DeBakey would operate on the Duke, reporters asked an aide why Methodist Hospital and DeBakey had been chosen.

"It's very simple," the aide replied. "The number one man in the field (of cardiovascular surgery) is Dr. DeBakey, and he wants to operate in his own hospital with his own team."

Look magazine had earlier this year featured DeBakey in an eight-page cover story.

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Evangelism Opportunity
Called "Greatest" Now

(12-18-64)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists are more than keeping pace with the population explosion in the United States in winning people to Christ, their denominationwide evangelism leader reported here.

C. E. Autrey of Dallas said Southern Baptists should have baptized 763,000 converts in 1961, 1962 and 1963 to match the proportionate increase in the nation's population.

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"We baptized 1,145,000 people those three years," Autrey added. "This is what our critics forget," the director of evangelism for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention said.

He told several hundred top level state Baptist and Southern Baptist Convention officials here "evangelism's greatest opportunity is now at our door.

"Southern Baptists can win America and much of the world to Christ if we don't mind who gets the credit," he said. "Teamwork is essential."

The people he spoke to made up the "teamwork" to which he referred. They included SBC agency heads, executive secretaries of state Baptist work, professional staff of the Sunday School Board -- sponsor of the series of meetings here, and others.

Among the department secretaries from the states were those in five areas in which the Sunday School Board makes financial contributions to state Baptist groups to aid in jointly promoted work. These are in the fields of Sunday School, Training Union, church music, student work and church architecture.

Other state representatives included secretaries of evangelism and Woman's Missionary Union.

The group, which the Sunday School Board invites annually, discussed a five-month emphasis in the first part of 1966 on personal witnessing. This will be emphasized in literature, church music, revivals and other church and denominational activities then.

Autrey said teamwork of Baptists in various specialized phases of work has been evidenced all along but "there has never been a time when we have worked together as we are doing here."

Earlier, W. L. Howse, Nashville, told the denominational leaders "while many denominations are trying to get their strength from merging with other denominations and building cooperative organizations, Southern Baptists are seeking to strengthen their individual churches."

Howse is director of the education division, Sunday School Board.

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Booklet Prepared
For Military Youth

(12-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--A Baptist leader in the Southern Baptist division of chaplaincy announced release here of a booklet for youth entering military service.

Willis A. Brown of Atlanta, secretary of the ministries to military personnel for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said the booklet will assist in moral and spiritual preparation of youth for military service.

Brown, author of the material in the booklet, said he hopes churches will present it to the approximately 57,000 Baptist youth who annually enter the military.

"As long as we can meet the demand, the booklet will be free to churches, but we ask they request only a supply to meet immediate needs," he said.

Brown served both as a chaplain and as a pastor before taking his present work with the division of chaplaincy, and he presently holds the rank of Lt. Col. in the army reserve.

The booklet is designed for presentation to the young person by the church before or immediately following induction.

"I hope this booklet will assist the Christian youth to decide before hand or early in his career not only to resist evil, but to be positively Christian throughout his service experience," Brown added.

The 52-page booklet is written in question-answer form, and answers such questions as why am I here?, Who's boss now?, Why should I witness for Christ?

A church identification card also has been released to accompany the booklet. Brown suggests churches have an appropriate recognition service prior to the youth's departure to present the booklet, card, and a Bible.

He said the organization to sponsor the recognition service would be the military personnel committee or the young people away department of the Sunday School.

The new booklet will be a companion to the pamphlet, "Spiritually Prepared," which seeks to present the ministry of the church to its pre-induction, service-related, and post-service youth.

All of these materials are available from the Division of Chaplaincy, Home Mission Board, 161 Spring Street, N. W., Atlanta, Ga., 30303.

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Baptist Calls "Tongue
Speaking" A Summons

(12-18-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--A Southern Baptist seminary professor told the denomination's evangelism leaders here that "speaking in tongues" or glossolalia is a summons for a renewed emphasis on the Holy Spirit.

John P. Newport of Fort Worth, Tex. said, "God is using the Pentecostal movement and the so-called neo-Pentecostal or charismatic revival to summon us not to quench the spirit and to earnestly desire and appropriate the spiritual gifts."

He was addressing the Baptist state secretaries of evangelism in their annual meeting with the division of evangelism of the Home Mission Board.

"One of the greatest needs of our day, if not the greatest need is a rediscovery of the resources of the Holy Spirit," Newport said. "We need the excitement, the joy, and the vigor of the spirit's presence."

He warned that the formal, routine, intellectualized middle class protestant churches "are not adequate vehicles for expressing the total personality commitment in worship for many people."

Newport, who is professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, added, "this contemporary revival of emphasis on the spirit should have the effect of summoning us to inner growth and outward service and evangelism."

The statements were part of a lengthy paper delivered by Newport on "Speaking With Tongues."

In the paper he presented a study of the New Testament practice of speaking with tongues. He said the apostle Paul states that tongue-speaking may not be forbidden but must be minimized and strickly controlled.

Newport said a central doctrine cannot be made out of something which has so little about it in the New Testament.

"In our churches today tongues would not be objectionable if they were controlled," he said. "Pentecostals err when they conclude that evangelicals in rejecting a major emphasis on tongues reject the fact of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit."

"We know the Holy Spirit is active and powerful. We look for the Holy Spirit to manifest himself in our worship service. We look for him primarily to manifest himself, not in spectacular physical demonstrations, but in the Christian graces."

Newport warned that tongue-speech is often accompanied by unattractive actions. Because the experience is so meaningful for some, they feel everyone should experience it.

He said many over-emphasize the gift, which Paul calls a minor gift, and it often leads to "religious and psychological disaster."

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Hull Says Gospel
Must Have Relevance

LOUISVILLE (BP)--William E. Hull, associate professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has called on Southern Baptists to make their own distinctive contribution to the study and interpretation of the New Testament.

Hull made the point during his inaugural address on "The Relevance of the New Testament" delivered before a convocation of seminary professors and students.

The professor said that New Testament scholars have attempted during the past few years as never before to clarify the message of the Gospel and let it speak to the modern mind.

However, he warned Southern Baptists of the danger of accepting the wholesale conclusions of scholars whose backgrounds and purposes may differ radically from their own. For example, the free-church tradition and cultural setting of Southern Baptist churches call for an application of the New Testament quite different from the emphases of some European scholars who are members of a sophisticated state-church society, he said.

Southern Baptists must know both the Biblical setting and their own contemporary problems, Hull continued, if the best in New Testament scholarship is to be applied to their situation, and if the ancient Gospel is to speak with clarity to their needs.

He suggested Baptists determine basic needs by conducting studies of the emerging "new south" and the dynamics of Southern Baptist denominational life.

The professor declared the most pressing task facing Biblical scholars is how to make the ancient message of the Gospel relevant to the 20th century.

The inaugural address is a "once in a lifetime" event for a seminary professor. Only one or two inaugural addresses are given at Southern Seminary each year.

Southern has three occasions a year calling for formal convocations, when the faculty wears academic regalia. These are Founder's Day, graduation and an Inaugural address.

Only a professor with tenure delivers an inaugural address. He does not necessarily have the ranking of a full professor. Sometimes inaugural addresses are delivered several years after someone joins the faculty, as with Hull, who began teaching here in 1958.

The inaugural address is considered a time when the professor demonstrates to his fellow faculty and to the students his academic scholarship.

Hull received his bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Seminary. He did his undergraduate work at Howard College (Baptist) in Birmingham, Ala.

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