

February 20, 1965

Kendall Heads Group  
Of State Executives

BILOXI, Miss. (BP)--W. Fred Kendall of Nashville is the new president of the association of executive secretaries of state Baptist conventions.

The group, meeting here, includes the executive secretaries of 29 state conventions cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention on national and world missions.

Kendall succeeds Lucius M. Polhill of Richmond. Polhill is with the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and Kendall is with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Roy D. Gresham, Baltimore, is the group's vice-president. He is from the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

Fred D. Hubbs, Detroit, Baptist State Convention of Michigan executive, continues as secretary of the association.

The group held its annual meeting here simultaneously with the Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Press Association  
Takes Stand on Race

2-20-65

BILOXI, Miss. (BP)--Editors of Southern Baptist periodicals adopted a resolution here urging "each Southern Baptist to take immediate steps to assist all citizens to attain full privileges of U. S. citizenship."

The resolution on race relations also asks Baptists "to accept personally their responsibility for a Christian witness to every man regardless of race."

The race issue was mentioned several times during the annual session of the Southern Baptist Press Association. The association includes the editors of 29 weekly Baptist state papers and the editors of mission journals and several other publications.

Speaking at a joint meeting of the editors with the executive secretaries of state Baptist bodies, Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., declared that the host state "is making progress in the problem of race."

Cooper, a layman who is president of two chemical companies, said the turning point has come in Mississippi on race. The Mississippi Baptist Convention statement on race at its 1964 session last November helped bring this about.

Of every 100 Mississippians, Cooper said 46 are Negroes. This, the Baptist layman said, points up why race is "a greater problem" in Mississippi.

Joe T. Odle, Jackson, editor of the Baptist Record, told fellow editors communications continue to exist between whites and Negroes in Mississippi.

He pleaded with people outside Mississippi to be more understanding of Mississippi's race problems.

Odle also described the work of an interdenominational Committee of Concern which is collecting funds to assist Negro churches whose buildings have been burned during the race crisis. Baptists have played a major role in the committee's work, he said.

The Southern Baptist Press Association acknowledged its awareness of the committee's work with Negro churches as a sign of "progress in race relations involving Southern Baptists." Editors commended Mississippi for "recent progress" in racial matters.

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Its race resolution also referred to the Mississippi Baptist Convention statement cited earlier by Cooper. The Convention statement recognized "the gravity of the race problem," deplored violence and called for a Christian solution to the issue.

The resolution also said the editors "recognized the right of every citizen to the full privileges of U. S. citizenship." This was an apparent reference to registration of Negroes to vote.

In a church-state resolution, the press association voted to "support the policy that public funds be spent by public agencies, for publically approved projects and materials." It said "ownership and administrative controls must also be retained in public hands."

A third resolution pertained to missionary opportunities at home and overseas. It sought a "spiritual revival" and increased Christian commitment, especially by young people.

Purser Hewitt, executive editor of the Clarion-Ledger, Jackson morning newspaper, addressed the denominational editors on professional topics. A Baptist lay leader, Hewitt discussed the responsibilities of the editor of a Baptist periodical.

H. H. Hobbs, Oklahoma City, former Southern Baptist Convention president, said Baptist papers stand out in service in three ways. They (1) provide unity in the faith, (2) help make possible cooperative Baptist endeavor & (3) channel information to Baptist church members on vital issues.

Wayne Dehoney, Jackson, Tenn., current SBC president discussed recommendations of the SBC Committee on North American Baptist Fellowship whose report had been released a short time before. He spoke for passage of the committee report by messengers voting on it in Dallas in May when the 1965 Convention is in session.

The press association elected Erwin L. McDonald of Little Rock, Ark., president and Lynn M. Davis of Columbus, Ohio, vice-president. It reelected Gainer E. Bryan Jr. of Baltimore secretary-treasurer.

McDonald edits the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Davis the Ohio Baptist Messenger, and Bryan the Maryland Baptist.

The 1966 press association will convene at Athens, Ga. Journalism professors at the University of Georgia will conduct an editorial workshop for the Baptist editors.

W. Barry Garrett of Washington, D. C., and John J. Hurt Jr. of Atlanta discussed what happened at Vatican Council II in the fall of 1964. Garrett attended on behalf of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs of which he is associate director. Hurt, editor of the Christian Index, represented Protestants and Other Americans, an organization which works in the area of church-state relations.

Garrett said the council's document on religious liberty "seems to be clear cut, positive statement." Hurt was less optimistic. "They will come out this year with a statement on tolerance," he said, "but I don't think it is freedom. There are too many qualifying phrases."

Hurt said Baptists lost their best friend among Roman Catholic hierarchy "when Pope John died." Both Barrett and Hurt agreed the council is bringing about reforms in the Roman Catholic Church, even though they disagreed on how far the reforms would go.

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Four Appointed For  
Home Mission Work

2-20-65

ATLANTA (BP)--The appointment here of a mountain missionary, a pastoral-superintendent of missions, a rescue mission worker and a superintendent of missions brings the total number of missionaries under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to 2,409.

Most of the missionaries work in cooperation with state mission boards.

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David C. Bandy, a native of Walnut Ridge, Ark., was appointed superintendent of missions for Chico, Calif., under the urban-rural missions department. He attended Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Prior to his appointment he was pastor of the Castlewood Baptist Church in Vallejo, Calif. He is married to Nova Dee Land Bandy. They have five children.

Herbert Hughes, appointed as a mountain missionary to Ely, Nev., under the urban-rural missions department, is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau; the University of Missouri, Columbia, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Previous to this appointment, he was pastor at Azusa and Escalon, Calif. He is married to the former Pearl Mae Allen. They have two children.

Delbert Lee Penrod, also serving under the urban-rural missions department, will begin work as a pastoral-superintendent of missions in Nebo, Ill. He has held pastorates in three Illinois cities--Pickneyville, Georgetown and Raleigh.

Penrod, a native of Raleigh, is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. The Penrods have three children.

David Matthews, a native of Chamberlin, La., was appointed as a rescue mission worker in New Iberia, La., under the department of work with National (Negro) Baptists. He received his education from Leland College, Baker, La.; United Theological Seminary, Monroe, La., and Central School of Religion, Indianapolis.

Prior to his appointment, he was pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church in Shreveport. He and his wife, Leola Mae, have three children.

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Race Relations Resolution by Southern Baptist Press Association, Biloxi, Feb. 17, 1965

Whereas, we note progress in race relations in areas involving Southern Baptists, especially such actions in Mississippi as (1) the Baptist-initiated Committee of Concern in rebuilding Negro churches, (2) the recent resolution by the Mississippi Baptist Convention recognizing the gravity of the race problem, deploring violence, and calling for a Christian solution, and (3) the contribution to a total Christian witness in the state by the Mississippi Baptist Department of Negro Work, and

Whereas, we recognize the right of every citizen to the full privileges of U. S. citizenship, and

Whereas, every soul is precious in the sight of God and the Bible sets forth an individual responsibility for the soul of every person regardless of race, and

Whereas, the problem of race relations, while nationwide, is especially critical in those areas where Southern Baptists are strongest numerically,

Therefore, be it resolved by the members of the Southern Baptist Press Association in annual session at Biloxi, Miss., Feb. 17, 1965,

First, that we commend all concerned citizens, and Mississippi Baptists in particular, for recent progress toward solving problems of race, and

Second, that we urge each Southern Baptist to take immediate steps to assist all citizens to attain full privileges of U. S. citizenship and to accept personally their responsibility for a Christian witness to every man regardless of race.

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2 Midwestern Profs  
Given Fellowships

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Two professors at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here have been awarded fellowships by the American Association of Theological Schools. They are J. Morris Ashcraft, professor of theology, and G. Hugh Wamble, professor of church history.

This is the first year any Midwestern faculty member has been eligible for such an award because the seminary was admitted to membership in the association only last year.

Ashcraft received the maximum scholarship available and will study at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. His main subject will be contemporary European theology with emphasis on the matter of biblical interpretation.

He said he will also lecture for three weeks this summer at the Baptist seminary near Zurich. Ashcraft will leave for Zurich in June, 1965 and return to the seminary in August, 1966.

Wamble plans to study at the University of Missouri where he will concentrate on secular and cultural history, particularly American culture, he said. "This will provide me with a broader context for interpreting religion's role in culture," he added.

Wamble also pointed out it will be the first time for him to study on a state-related campus and he hopes to study the role of the tax-supported college in the educational system. Wamble, who is finishing his sixth year with the seminary, will take his study in the 1965-66 academic year.

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Southeastern Trustees  
Review 'Problem' There

2-20-65

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here have adopted a lengthy statement "in an effort to give a true version of a complex issue which has troubled" Southeastern.

It traces the events at the seminary since "a problem" emerged in 1960. It tells about a conference in the fall of 1964 at which, according to the trustees, Professor R. C. Briggs informed Seminary President Olin T. Binkley he (Briggs) "had decided to resign provided satisfactory adjustments could be made."

The statement also discusses "the decision of the trustees to pay Dr. Briggs' salary through 1966" and the basis for this decision.

The full text of the seminary trustee statement follows:

In its annual meeting the board of trustees unanimously adopted the following statement:

In an effort to give a true version of a complex issue which has troubled the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, the trustees in their annual meeting on February 18, 1965 approved the following statement for release by the administration.

In 1960 a problem emerged in the life of the school. The theological dimension of the difficulty was related to the interpretation of the New Testament. Disavowing any desire to interfere with the freedom and tenure of colleagues, some members of the faculty strongly opposed the predominance of one point of view in the interpretation of the New Testament, a point of view associated with the exegetical method and conclusions of Rudolf Bultmann concerning the nature and message of the New Testament. The faculty was divided and theological communication broke down between the groups. After attempts to resolve the problem had failed, and after he had informed the faculty of his intention, President S. L. Stealey appealed to the trustees for help.

The committee on instruction of the board of trustees spent May 15-17, 1961 on the campus and interviewed members of the faculty. These interviews revealed that interpersonal relations within the faculty had been damaged by earlier conversations regarding trends in New Testament studies and fractured by the decision of a few professors not to discuss theology with their colleagues.

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The committee made no formal charge against any member of the faculty but it reported concern about faculty morale and the doctrinal presuppositions of certain members of the instructional staff to the board of trustees.

Upon the recommendation of the committee on instruction, the board of trustees in its annual meeting on February 15, 1962 authorized procedures aimed at clarification of issues through consultations, including a process of inquiry and counsel with some members of the faculty. It was agreed that the committee on instruction should complete this assignment by February 18, 1965.

In the search for a constructive solution of the exceptionally complicated problem, the trustees and administration have exercised restraint, forbearance, and fairness. They have made no formal charge of deviation from the abstract of principles against any member of the instructional staff and no professor has been requested to resign, nor has any member of the faculty been pressured to do so.

As an alternative to a continuation of his participation in the process of inquiry and counsel authorized by the board of trustees, Dr. R. C. Briggs preferred to resign. On October 19, 1964 he arranged a conference with the president and informed him that he had decided to resign provided satisfactory adjustments could be made. He stated that he preferred to terminate his service at the end of the 1964 fall semester.

After a series of consultations with trustees, including the president of the board and the chairman of the committee on instruction, and after allowing ample time for Dr. Briggs to rethink his decision, the president drafted a statement which included Dr. Briggs' stipulations and which was approved by him on December 15, 1964.

The proposal set forth in this statement provided (1) that Dr. R. C. Briggs be permitted to terminate his membership on the faculty by resignation effective January 2, 1965; (2) that the provision in the policy regarding sabbatical leave that a professor must return to the service of the seminary for at least one year after the completion of a leave or return one-third of the salary paid him during his leave be waived in this instance; and (3) that his salary plus a sum equivalent to what the seminary would have expended during the period involved for his fringe benefits be paid through December 31, 1966.

The proposal was recommended unanimously by the committee on instruction and approved unanimously by the executive committee of the board of trustees, meeting in executive session, on December 17, 1964.

This action of the committees was reported by telephone to the other members of the board and in the conversations by telephone the trustees expressed approval of the proposal adopted by the executive committee.

The decision of the trustees to pay Dr. Briggs' salary through 1966 was based upon several considerations: (1) Dr. Briggs' resignation was conditioned upon the payment of salary through December 31, 1966; (2) he was a full professor with tenure and had no plans for immediate employment, and (3) the trustees and the administration desired to be just and generous.

In harmony with the instruction of the trustees, the administration announced on December 29, 1964 that the resignation of Dr. R. C. Briggs as professor of New Testament had been accepted with regret by the executive committee.

The trustees are profoundly grateful for the devotion and faithful work of the able and dedicated teachers who comprise the faculty and regret the excessive and unwarranted criticisms which have been made of them.

Throughout his career Dr. Olin T. Binkley has placed high value upon academic excellence in the education of ministers. The trustees have unqualified confidence in his personal integrity and professional competence. They will support him and the teachers and students who cooperate with him in the advancement of theological studies at the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The administration and trustees from the beginning have observed with utmost care the principle of responsible academic freedom. The requirement regarding the theological covenant outlined in the abstract of principles and signed by each member of the faculty is fully compatible with the document on academic freedom and tenure which was adopted as an advisory norm by the American Association of Theological Schools in 1960 and which explicitly states that a theological institution may expect its faculty to subscribe to a confessional or doctrinal standard.

This is a Southern Baptist seminary, established and maintained by the Southern Baptist Convention, and it is the responsibility of the trustees to formulate policies in harmony with the nature and purpose of the school. The faculty and students are encouraged to participate in creative theological inquiry and to make effective use of the resources of this school which is thorough in scholarship, sound in Christian theology, and vitally related to the churches.

Approved and adopted unanimously by the board of trustees of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, February 18, 1965. (end statement of seminary "problem.")

At the same meeting of the board, two instructors were elected to the faculty effective Aug. 1: Ben S. Johnson, special instructor of music, was made associate professor of music, and H. Max Smith, organist and artist in residence, also became an associate professor of music.

Two professors were granted sabbatical leaves for the academic year 1965-1966: Stewart A. Newman to study in Rochester, N. Y., and George H. Shriver Jr., to study in Geneva, Switzerland.

Claud B. Bowen, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N. C., was reelected president of the board.