

March 6, 1965

Kentucky Pastor Heads
Christian Life Agency

NASHVILLE (BP)--John R. Claypool, pastor, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, has been elected chairman of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He succeeds layman Orba Lee Malone, an attorney from El Paso, Tex., who will rotate off the commission membership this year.

Elected commission vice-chairman was Jack P. Lowndes, pastor, First Baptist Church, Brunswick, Ga. Harold O. Marsh, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gallup, N. M., will serve as secretary.

Foy Valentine, Nashville, commission executive secretary, also fills the treasurer's post.

Commissioners holding their annual meeting here voted to conduct summer Christian Life Conferences in 1966 at Glorieta, N. M., and Ridgecrest, N. C., under the theme, "Toward A Christian Interpretation of Sex."

The 1965 themes were already adopted. The Glorieta conference will discuss gambling and the Ridgecrest conference the problem of alcoholism. Valentine reported that conference speeches and papers at each assembly will form the nucleus for books on gambling and alcoholism.

Commissioners also decided to make no recommendations for messenger voting when the Christian Life Commission makes its report to the 1965 Convention session at Dallas in June.

Valentine reported the SBC Executive Committee is recommending to the Dallas Convention a Cooperative Program budget for 1966 which includes \$90,000 for the Christian Life Commission. He said this is the most the SBC has ever allocated the commission from its budget.

"The Christian Life Commission is trying to help Southern Baptists carry the message of Jesus Christ into every area of life. Most of our work is in Christian morality development," he told the commission.

He said four state Baptist conventions have authorized new groups during the past year whose work statewide will parallel that of the SBC commission. Not all will be called Christian life commissions, however. The states are Kentucky, Mississippi, Illinois and Arkansas.

Ross Coggins, Nashville, the commission's director of communications, said "gambling is a nationwide organized force. Half of Americans gamble with some regularity."

He said the book which is to be developed from the conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly on gambling problems apparently will be the first one published by Southern Baptists on this subject.

The commission adopted bylaws providing for three committees. The committees will counsel with the staff in producing literature, planning assembly conferences and developing other major phases of the commissions's programs.

House Unit Clears
Education Bill

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House Education and Labor Committee gave final approval to the President's elementary and secondary education aid bill. It kept revisions made earlier by the education subcommittee which eliminated most of the church-state problems.

During hearings on the bill, suggestions were made by religious and educational groups to assure that aids were publicly controlled and administered. Many of these suggestions were written into the bill before it was sent to the full committee.

Criticism of the original proposal had come on the way aids were provided for children in private schools. The objection was that these seemed to be aids to the schools under the guise of aids to children. In the revised bill it is provided that aids to all children shall be given through public agencies and under public control.

The bill would make library resources, textbooks and other instructional materials available to school children and teachers. Specific provisions are made to assure that title, control and administration of the use of such aids be kept in a public agency.

It is made clear that materials made available for the use of children and teachers in any school are to be limited to those materials approved by an appropriate state or local educational authority or agency.

A spokesman in the education subcommittee office said some "cleaning up" of the language in the bill had been done to further clarify that aids are to children and not to schools. As approved by the full committee, he said, the bill further strengthens the concept of public control and administration of the education aids.

The measure provides (1) aid to public schools for the education of children of low-income families; (2) grants for school library resources, and printed and published instructional materials, including textbooks; (3) grants for establishing supplementary educational centers and services available to the entire community; (4) grants to universities and colleges, and to other public and private agencies, institutions, organizations and to individuals for educational research and training; and (5) financial aid to strengthen state departments of education.

The bill must now be cleared by the House Rules Committee for debate on the floor of the House of Representatives. It could be altered on the floor of the house. The Senate version of the bill has not yet been completed.

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Woman's Missionary
Union Theme Stated

3-6-65

By the Baptist Press

The Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, has announced its annual meeting May 31-June 1 in Dallas will have as its theme, "Except the Lord Build. . ." The scripture basis for the theme is Psalm 127:1a.

Appearances by foreign and home missionaries and by the officers of the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards will form the major part of the program.

The first session will open at 9:30 a.m. May 31 and the final session opens at 1:30 p.m. June 1. The Southern Baptist Convention itself opens in the same auditorium on Tuesday evening, June 1.

A major address will close each of the five sessions of the Woman's Missionary Union meeting. J. P. Allen, pastor, Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, closes the Monday morning session, speaking on "The Church's One Foundation."

Armando Silverio, Turtle Creek, Pa., a home missionary, climaxes the Monday afternoon session with a message entitled, "One Lord, One Faith, One Birth."

"God's Word For A New Age" is topic of the address to be brought by James Z. Nettinga of New York City to end the Monday evening session. Nettinga is a staff secretary with the American Bible Society.

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SBC President Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn., delivers the message at the close of the Tuesday morning session. His topic, "The Church Victorious."

Mrs. Robert Fling, Cleburne, Tex., president of Woman's Missionary Union, brings the president's address, "The Vision Glorious," closing the 1965 meeting Tuesday afternoon. (BP)

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Stewardship Items
Have Record Appeal

3-6-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission announced here it sold and distributed 17,635,691 items of stewardship materials to Southern Baptist churches in 1964.

It set a new record, exceeding the previous year by almost two million pieces, according to Merrill D. Moore, executive director of the agency.

SBC Stewardship Services, a subsidiary operation of the Stewardship Commission, handles all salable materials.

Largest seller was pledge cards used by church members to record their financial commitments to their churches. The number of pledge cards circulated was 2,743,067. Next in best-selling came stewardship inserts for church bulletins, with 2,126,000.

Stewardship lesson leaflets for Sunday school use followed in third place with 1,248,277. Tracts purchased by state Baptist conventions and distributed free to churches accounted for sales of 4,220,700. The total included 50 titles of tracts.

Two stewardship guidebooks, "Forward Program of Christian Stewardship" and "Growth In Christian Stewardship," sold a total of 21,819 copies.

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American Convention
Team Tours South

3-6-65

By the Baptist Press

A team of five staff persons from the American Baptist Convention has visited several Southern cities to meet with pastors and laymen from churches related to the American Convention or interested in closer ties.

The six cities in the South visited are Lynchburg, Va.; Richmond; Memphis; Baton Rouge; Dallas, and San Antonio, Tex.

"With the exception of one congregation in St. Petersburg, Fla., the 40 churches in the South affiliated with the American Convention made the overtures themselves," a spokesman for the Convention visiting team said.

At Lynchburg, the American Convention team assembled at Peakland Baptist Church, a church which contributes money to the Baptist General Association of Virginia (Southern Baptist) but is not affiliated with the district association of Southern Baptist churches in Lynchburg.

At Richmond, Ebenezer Baptist Church, a Negro Baptist church, was meeting place.

In Memphis, a First Baptist Church was listed as meeting place. This is not the First Baptist Church related to the Southern Baptist Convention. There are five other churches in Memphis called First Baptist Church, apparently all Negro churches.

Fellowship Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., was another meeting site. This church is not listed in Judson Baptist Association in the Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual where names of Southern Baptist-affiliated churches in Baton Rouge are normally found.

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New Hope Baptist Church, site of the Dallas gathering, is jointly affiliated with the American Convention and with the National Baptist (Negro) Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

Second Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., another place the American Convention team visited, also is a dually aligned church--with the American Convention and with the National Baptist Convention of America, a Negro Baptist body.

In each location, the team reported interested parties from other churches and cities attended the discussions.

"We found the churches eager to know how American Baptist agencies operate and how they might identify more fully with them. Several of the churches which we visited were experimenting with new kinds of ministries," a spokesman added.

Contributions from American Baptist Convention churches in the South toward the Convention's unified budget amounted to \$16,000 during the past year, a "substantial increase over the preceding year," it was reported by the team.

Dually aligned churches were reported as wanting to equalize their missionary giving to both Conventions with which they have ties. (BP)

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Seminary Dedicates New Student Center

3-6-65

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in a week-long series of activities, dedicated its new \$1.2 million student center designed to add "a new dimension in the community life of the seminary students."

The three-story building of colonial architecture houses all seminary food services, recreation facilities, lounges, post office, book and student stores, and meeting and banquet rooms.

During the dedicatory address, the top executive of the Southern Baptist Convention called the new center "a monument to the concern of Southern Baptists as expressed through the Cooperative Program."

Nearly a million dollars of Cooperative Program capital needs funds were used for the building.

Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, said theological education should be just as concerned for "the wholeness of man" as it is for "the holiness of man."

The student center is designed to help establish a "dynamic seminary community life that will involve all students and their families," seminary officials said.

Main entrance to the buff-brick center features stately columns, an hour-glass shaped marble staircase and two imported brass chandeliers which light both upper and main foyer and hang from a single chain.

The upper floor is entirely carpeted and features banquet, conference and meeting rooms.

Main and lower floors house the cafeteria, book store, student store, game room, kitchen, lounges, offices, snackery, a movie theater, reading room, and a room for commuting students with showers and lockers.

Richard (Dick) Norton, Baptist pastor and former Baptist Student Union director at East Texas State College, in Commerce, Tex., has been named director of student activities for the seminary's new student center. His wife will serve as associate director.

About 500 persons attended the dedication ceremonies which highlighted the weeklong dedication activities.

Held also as a part of the week were meetings of the seminary's board of trustees and advisory council, a banquet, several luncheons and receptions, an autograph party, chapel messages and a barbecue.

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At the end of the week's activities was the 16th annual College Student Missions Conference expected to attract more than 1,500 college students from 20 states to the seminary campus.

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(BP Photo being mailed to state Baptist Papers.)

Seminary Trustees Okay
Campus Development Plan

3-6-65

FORT WORTH (BP)--Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary voted to change the name of its doctor of religious education degree and approved a committee study which will recommend a 10-year campus development program here.

The trustees voted to appoint an endowment and capital giving committee which would study future campus growth and make plans for financial undergirding for the 10-year development program.

Trustees also changed the name of the doctor of religious education degree to call the same degree plan "doctor of education." The requirements and accreditation would remain the same, even though the degree name is changed.

The action came during trustee meetings scheduled as a part of dedication week for a new \$1.2 million student center at the seminary here.

The student center is the first in a series of 12 building projects part of a development program scheduled for completion in 1966. The proposed 10-year development plan would supposedly be even bigger than the program slated to end in 1966.

Trustees also voted to use \$5,300 received from undesignated amounts willed to the seminary in student aid for scholarships.

They gave promotions from assistant to ~~associate~~ professor to Jack H. Coldiron, James Williams, William Pinson, and Thomas Urrey, and promoted to full professor from associate professor C. W. Brister, Milton Ferguson and William Hendricks.

The 10-year development plan proposal was also approved by the seminary Advisory Council, a group of businessmen from the Southwest which advises trustees on development programs.

Elected chairman of the advisory council, which has no official connection with the Southern Baptist Convention, was Edgar Perry III, a Baptist manufacturer from Austin, Tex.; and named vice-chairman was T. R. Perkins, a rancher from Olney, Tex.

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