

March 16, 1965

Extension Educators
Seek City Center Key

NASHVILLE (BP)-- What is considered one of the most successful extension education programs carried on by Southern Baptists is located in the mountains of western North Carolina.

The denomination's seminary and college extension educators, in their annual meeting here, were seeking the recipe for a program that would prove as successful in large cities.

The Southern Baptist Extension Education Association admits one of its toughest obstacles is penetrating metropolitan areas. The problem is that city people are so busy.

The ministers and church staff members, whose services as teachers are needed at extension centers, have their hands full with their own large-scale local church program, a spokesman for the association pointed out. They have no time to teach or to enlist students.

Student enlistment is a problem for the same reason--the prospective students for a city extension center have little or no time left for studying and attending classes.

However, in the Smoky Mountains, away from the urban bustle, extension education has been going great, the spokesman said. It has attracted whites, Negroes and Indians of western North Carolina. The work has been sponsored jointly by the North Carolina Baptist missions department, the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board and the Extension Department of Southern Baptist Seminaries.

The center in the Carolina mountains has taught seminary subjects on a non-credit basis and on an academic level lower than courses on campus. These subjects include Bible, church doctrine, religious education, evangelism and missions, and church music.

The western Carolina centers, to meet the educational needs of adults there, have offered also literacy courses and English courses to help people read and write better.

The Extension Education Association includes staff members of the Extension Department of Southern Baptist Seminaries and extension educators from several state Baptist colleges--Mercer University in Macon, Ga.; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.; the University of Richmond in the Virginia capital; Howard College, Birmingham, and Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

In practice, the Extension Department of Southern Baptist Seminaries sponsors no centers in the regional areas served by these colleges.

The association, however, noted the difference in the type of courses offered by the Seminary Extension Department and by the college extension departments. Seminary extension is limited to subjects in a seminary curriculum.

College extension courses may cover liberal arts and social sciences as well as religious subjects. The common denominator is that both seminary and college extension is Baptist-sponsored and it reaches adult students with non-credit courses, the association spokesman explained.

On the average, over half the students in seminary and college extension centers are lay people, both men and women. Usually the courses are taught at night. Centers usually meet in church buildings and employ staff members of local churches, who are academically qualified and have experience, as teachers.

The Southern Baptist Extension Education Association elected J. Aubrey Estes of Mercer University, Macon, as president; Paul R. Jakes, Clinton, Miss., of the Extension Department of Southern Baptist Seminaries as vice-president, and Ralph A. Herring, director of the same department, Nashville, as secretary-treasurer.

Nat C. Bettis of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., will be in charge of program arrangements when the association meets at Carson-Newman for its next session, March 9-10, 1966.

William Carey College
Grants Honorary Degrees

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (BP)--Chester Eugene Swor will be granted a Doctor of Literature degree by William Carey College (Baptist) here. According to J. Ralph Noonkester, president, the honorary degree will be conferred in spring commencement exercises.

Swor, a Baptist youth leader and counselor, resides in Jackson, Miss.

Mrs. Sarah Allman Rouse, Clinton, Miss., will also receive the honorary Doctor of Literature degree from Carey College in May. Mrs. Rouse is dean of women at Mississippi College (Baptist).

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Selma Activity Draws
Variety Of Reaction

3-16-65

By the Baptist Press

Negro voter registration demonstrations and clashes with law enforcement officers in Selma, Ala., have received a variety of responses from Southern Baptist leaders in three states.

In Montgomery, the executive secretary of Southern Baptist work in Alabama issued a statement on the Selma events. In Asheville, N. C., and Shawnee, Okla., Baptist leaders prayed for Negroes in Selma.

The group in Shawnee from Oklahoma Baptist University sent telegrams to Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, to the Alabama Baptist executive secretary, to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, to the SBC Christian Life Commission and to Negro Baptist minister Martin Luther King Jr.

George E. Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, the white statewide Baptist body in Alabama, had this statement:

"We deplore violence, and deeply regret the death of the Unitarian minister. No one can defend this murderous assault.

"However, it should be remembered that every community in America has a small element who are not Christians and who are uncontrollable and who can be led to such actions by one stimulus or another.

"It is our prayer that a spirit of Christian love and understanding might prevail," Bagley continued, "and that differences will be worked out within the framework of law and order. This is the desire of the responsible, respected leaders of both groups involved.

"We hope that Baptists everywhere will pray with us in Alabama for an early solution to these problems, and that they will exercise Christian patience and restraint in reaching hasty conclusions on the basis of distortions of some sensation-seeking reporters," the Alabama Baptist executive concluded.

A group of Baptist pastors in Asheville, N. C., held a prayer meeting for Selma Negroes. The meeting was suggested and directed by W. Perry Crouch, Raleigh, general secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the white Baptist statewide group.

The five telegrams from Shawnee, Okla., were signed "Members of Oklahoma Baptist University faculty; James Ralph Scales, president; William E. Neptune, dean."

However, they did not represent action taken at an official faculty meeting, Neptune explained. They were the expressions of a group of faculty and administration which met the day after a major clash occurred in Selma between state police and voting registration demonstrators.

In addition, over \$300 was taken in a collection at Shawnee. Part of the money was contributed during an associationwide mass revival service led by Evangelist Buckner Fanning in the Oklahoma Baptist University chapel. Attendance included area residents as well as the campus participants.

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The collection is "for the people of Alabama suffering because of participating in civil rights demonstrations," Neptune said.

The telegram to Gov. George C. Wallace stated:

"Abhor the inhuman and unlawful treatment of Negro citizens in your state yesterday (the day of clashes between police and marchers), and the irresponsibility of public officials. Call upon you to maintain fundamental rights of all citizens."

The telegram to Alabama Baptist executive secretary Bagley read:

"Horried over yesterday's brutality. Prayer meeting on campus. . .for oppressed people of Selma and for divine guidance for you who must work for justice and peace."

The telegram to Martin Luther King Jr., Baptist minister and one of the demonstration leaders, declared:

"Express our basic agreement with your goals and the methods for the citizens of Selma, Alabama. Tonight (the night after the clash) we shall in prayer as a group ask for divine help and comfort to the oppressed citizens of Selma."

Identical messages from Shawnee were wired to SBC President Wayne Dehoney in Jackson, Tenn., and to the office of the SBC Christian Life Commission in Nashville:

"Express concern over yesterday's violation of citizens' rights in Alabama. Believe Southern Baptist leaders should protest brutality and support efforts to secure voter rights. Meeting tonight on campus to pray for peace and justice."

In Montgomery, Roland L. Jarrard, administrative assistant to Baptist Executive Secretary Bagley, is a former pastor of First Baptist Church, Selma. Jarrard said the question being asked by some in Selma is, "Are the continuing demonstrations merely vindictive, or are they designed to aid radical Negro organizations in national fund-raising efforts?"

Jarrard met with LeRoy Collins, federal mediator and representative of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Another staff member of the Baptist state office in Montgomery, H. O. Hester, has been meeting with Negro leaders in Selma in an effort to maintain communications between the races, Bagley reported. Hester directs Southern Baptist work with Negro Baptists in Alabama.

A biracial meeting at the Baptist Building in Montgomery was reported, at which white and Negro leaders discussed ways of giving "effective Christian leadership to the state in these times," a spokesman said afterward.

Bagley reported white Baptists, through the Alabama Baptist State Convention, continue to work with Negro Baptists in a number of ways--offering some financial support to Negro Baptist colleges, conducting extension centers and holding leadership training clinics.

Two public officials in Selma, often in the recent news there, are Baptists. They are Mayor Joe Smitherman and the director of public safety, Wilson Baker. (BP)

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SBC Hospital Agency
Creates Foundation

3-16-65

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The Bethesda Foundation has been established here as a new non-profit organization to support the charitable and educational programs of Southern Baptist Hospitals, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Charles E. Blackmon of Baton Rouge, La., has been named director of the foundation and assistant to the executive director of the SBC agency, T. Sloane Guy Jr. of New Orleans.

According to Guy, the use of the name Bethesda, meaning "house of mercy," and taken from the Bible, will underscore the work of the foundation of behalf of the church-related hospitals.

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Southern Baptist Hospitals operates two institutions, one here and another in Jacksonville, Fla. The Bethesda Foundation is expected to undergird three basic programs of these two hospitals, Guy reported.

The programs are (1) hospital and medical services to the indigent, (2) education--medical, nursing and paramedical, and (3) provision for the future capital needs of the two hospitals, including equipment and buildings.

"The establishment of the Bethesda Foundation will place the development of gifts and bequests on a systematically organized basis, with a fulltime director available to counsel with attorneys, trust officers and individuals," Guy commented.

Charles E. Blackmon, the new foundation's first director, has been pastor of Goodwood Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, for nine years. He held previous pastorates in two other Louisiana communities. The foundation's office will be located here.

The director of the foundation is a native of Marshall, Tex., and a graduate of Louisiana College (Baptist), Pineville. He also graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, before undertaking graduate work at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Blackmon is a member of the executive board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, a trustee of Baton Rouge General Hospital (Baptist) and a trustee of the Baptist Message, weekly magazine of the Louisiana Convention.

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Jewell Employs Barth

(3-16-65)

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--Named director of public relations and alumni affairs effective April 1 at William Jewell College (Baptist) here is John Barth, a native of Kansas City and pastor of the Lamar, Mo., First Baptist Church since May, 1960. The new director graduated from William Jewell in 1953. He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, where he received a bachelor of divinity degree in 1956.

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