

May 21, 1965

**Garmon To Direct  
Ex-Prisoner Study**

ATLANTA (BP)--William S. Garmon, a seminary professor, will direct a 12-month study to determine needs and guidelines for a national ministry by Southern Baptists to the ex-prisoner.

The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention asked Garmon, who is an associate professor of social ethics at the New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, to make the \$8,500 study.

Garmon will spend his sabbatical year on the study, plus other study at the University of Chicago Divinity School, and the Chicago Theological Seminary, both in Illinois. He will live in Chicago.

Interviews, questionnaires and group conferences will be used in making the study.

He said he would interview inmates of a state prison and people with experience in the area, such as chaplains and others working with prisoners and with ex-prisoners.

Objectives of the study will be to discover the needs of the offender and his family, his attitudes and relationships to the church, and church attitudes toward the offender.

The study will determine the most effective ways the churches and associations can assist in the rehabilitation of the offender.

Garmon, a native of Cherokee County, Ala., graduated from Howard College (Baptist) in Birmingham, secured a master of arts degree from Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, then earned bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

He also studied social science methods at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

Cooperating in the study at the mission agency are the division of chaplaincy, and the juvenile rehabilitation and mission center ministries in the missions division.

-30-

**Howard Payne Gives  
Two Honorary Degrees**

5-21-65

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP)--Howard Payne College (Baptist) here is awarding two honorary doctor of laws degrees during spring commencement exercises. A Dallas insurance executive and a Houston attorney were selected.

Receiving the degrees are Carr P. Collins Jr. of Dallas, vice-president of the Fidelity Union Life Insurance Co., and Willard L. Russell of Houston, attorney-at-law.

-30-

**Gospel Methods Must  
Meet Changing Times**

5-21-65

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Methods of presenting the gospel must meet the changing image and status of today's John Q. Public, more than 250 church leaders were told here at a public relations conference.

"Southern Baptists must develop new techniques to deal with problems of overmotivation, materialism, middle age disillusionment and the trend toward 'moonlighting jobs,'" warned A. Donald Bell, professor of psychology and human relations at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

-more-

May 21, 1965

2

Baptist Press

The setting was the annual Oklahoma Baptist Public Relations Conference.

W. C. Fields, Nashville, public relations secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, also spoke. He advocated that Baptist writers and church leaders set aside a time for creative thinking.

"Too often we spend a little time thinking and a lot of time struggling with the writing process," he said.

To meet the problems of limited time and confused family status, Bell suggested that churches "put more emphasis on the quality of programs and activities."

-30-

3800 Ideas Discussed  
In Post-70 Planning

5-21-65

By Albert McClellan  
For Baptist Press

Three days of very hard work have climaxed 12 months of grass-roots planning and thinking in the denomination's program for the years 1970 onward.

The chairmen of 40 study groups, conducted last December and February, met in Nashville to discuss the 3800 ideas submitted by the study groups. They came forth with a six-page report that will become the basis for the Southern Baptist Convention's long-range planning for the work of the churches as soon as it is evaluated by approximately 3000 people.

Divided into three parts, the report will be submitted to the 625 members of the study groups, to 29 selected churches, to 29 selected associations, to SBC agency executives, and to the state convention secretaries for preliminary evaluation. The report will be released sometime in early summer following this preliminary evaluation.

The final evaluation will be done by 2000 selected churches on a query basis. Following this final evaluation, the '70 Onward Committee will formulate a suggested program for the years 1970 and following, for approval by the Convention in 1966 and 1967.

The period of emphasis for which planning is being done may cover the whole decade of 1970-80.

Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary, SBC Executive Committee, in a communication to the '70 Onward Committee and to the Inter-Agency Council's coordinating committee, pointed out that in 1970 the Convention will celebrate its 125th anniversary. He said it seems desirable that the Convention make 1970-80 a decade of great growing strength for Southern Baptists.

The 40 chairmen who spent three days in Nashville discussing the reports were enthusiastic in their approval of the conversational process that involved so many people in laying a foundation for the next era of progress.

Speaking for the chairman, Dot M. Nelson Jr., a pastor in Birmingham, Ala., said: "We commend the denominational agencies for the Bible-centered program which they continue to provide to all churches, large and small, rural and urban, near and far, and we commend the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist leadership for constructive and effective programming which is vitally related to the basic needs of the spiritual life of our Baptist people."

He also said, "We commend the SBC Executive Committee for its sensitivity to the wishes of the church that a more practical, person-centered, and spiritual program be continued."

-30-

## New Associate Professor

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Philip H. Briggs has been elected associate professor in the department of religious education at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here. He came to the seminary from Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, where he has been director of education and church administration.

-30-

New Evangelism Effort  
Ups Lubbock Baptisms

5-21-65

LUBBOCK, Tex. (BP)--The test phase of what Texas Baptist leaders call a new step in evangelism closed here with an estimated 800 professions of faith in local church revivals and an area-wide crusade.

The new program, called "Evangelism in Depth," was used in what is considered the largest evangelistic effort by Baptists in west Texas history. The crusade was sponsored by 84 churches of the Lubbock Baptist Association, assisted by the Texas Baptist evangelism division.

An area-wide crusade in Lubbock's Municipal Coliseum climaxed several months of preparation, including soul-winning training clinics, prayer meetings, evangelistic rallies and local church revivals.

Results of the week-long area crusade were 84 professions of faith and 237 total decisions for Christ. Average nightly attendance was about 4,500. At one service, more than 200 young people announced their commitment to vocational Christian service.

Evangelist for the weeklong area crusade was T. A. Patterson, Dallas, executive secretary, Baptist General Convention of Texas

Christian celebrities participated, speaking, singing, or giving testimonies. Included in the list were news commentator Paul Harvey; nuclear scientist Ralph Overman of Oak Ridge, Tenn.; professional football player Buddy Dial of the Dallas Cowboys; actress-singer Kimberly Birk; and Linda Loftis, Miss Texas of 1961.

In local church revivals held just before the Coliseum crusade, 26 churches reported 342 professions of faith and 1,246 total decisions. An additional 37 churches conducted revivals but were yet to report at the close of the area crusade.

W. M. Turner, superintendent of missions for Lubbock Baptist Association, predicted the area's Baptist churches would experience a record number of baptisms this year as a result of the crusade.

The 8,000-member First Baptist Church of Lubbock had already baptized 103 persons this year, compared to 117 for the entire year of 1964.

Other churches with marked gains included MacKenzie Terrace of Lubbock with 35 baptisms this year compared to 12 last year; Southcrest of Lubbock which has baptized 80 this year compared to 36 last year; and First Baptist Church of Abernathy, near Lubbock, which had only 16 baptisms last year has already baptized 50 this year.

-30-

Maryland Sells Site,  
Moves To Lutherville

5-21-65

BALTIMORE (BP)--The tiered red-brick Maryland Baptist Building at 100 East 23rd St. in Baltimore has been sold to the Baltimore chapter of the American National Red Cross for \$65,000.

Simultaneously with this announcement by Roy D. Gresham, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Maryland, came the news that all Baptist state offices would move almost immediately into their new building at 1313 York Rd., Lutherville, Md. The new telephone number there will be 823-8555.

The Baptist Book Store, now located at 323 Park Ave., planned to move to the new Lutherville location a few weeks later, according Miss Nellie Higgins, manager.

-more-

The new building is located adjacent to Valley Baptist Church in Lutherville, a suburban community 10 miles north of Baltimore and just a few minutes drive from the Baltimore Beltway.

The old building was placed on the market more than two years ago when the state mission board voted to erect a new building.

The Baptist Convention of Maryland purchased the 23rd St. building in 1952 for \$60,000 from the widow of Dr. Harvey G. Beck, who operated a diagnostic clinic until his death in late 1951. The state mission board offices moved in on March 14, 1952.

-30-

Wichita Church Plans  
Full SBC Affiliation

5-21-65

WICHITA, Kans. (BP)--Metropolitan Baptist Church, entering its new 15-story tower in downtown Wichita, has voted to affiliate at all levels with the Southern Baptist Convention, its pastor reported.

The Metropolitan Church has 2000 members and an annual budget of nearly \$400,000, according to W. E. Thorn, who succeeded his father as pastor of the church.

In 1960, the members of Wichita's First Baptist Church voted 1145 to 294 to withdraw from local and national ties with the American Baptist Convention, Thorn said. It was in protest of the American Convention's affiliation with the National Council of Churches.

His father, F. B. Thorn, since retired, was pastor of the First Baptist Church.

The minority group favoring continued connection with the American Baptist Convention won its court fight to retain the \$2-1/2 million property of First Baptist Church after two years of legal battling.

The majority then pulled out and formed the Metropolitan Baptist Church. It has been meeting in Southeast High School at Wichita while building its own \$2 million plant, W. E. Thorn said.

The present pastor came to Wichita after a 10-year pastorate at Calvary Baptist Church, Lubbock. He is a former vice-president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

-30-

Advice to Editors:

5-21-65

President Lyndon B. Johnson has tentatively accepted an invitation to address the commencement at Baylor University in Waco May 28. Trustees also voted unanimously to give the President an honorary doctorate. Baptist Press realizes the fact many of you can not print a story in advance of May 28. BP will of course provide follow up coverage and perhaps photos as well.

-30-