

October 22, 1965

**Cheavens Honored
By Texas Baptists**

DALLAS (BP)--David A. Cheavens, director of public relations and journalism chairman for Baylor University in Waco, Tex., has been named to receive the Texas Baptist public relations award for "outstanding contributions to Christianity through journalism."

Cheavens, who for 20 years was chief of the Associated Press capitol bureau in Austin, Tex., was slated to receive the award during the annual Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting in Houston.

He is the first Baptist public relations man ever to receive the award, formerly called the "Texas Baptist Press Award" and given only to news reporters and editors.

The award was expanded this year to include those outside the newspaper field, and given to Cheavens by the public relations advisory committee of the Texas convention.

Cheavens was instrumental in organizing the committee and was a member until rotating off about the time he left the Associated Press to become Baylor's public relations man.

He is also a member of the Baptist Standard board of directors, and president of the Texas Baptist Public Relations Association.

At Baylor, the largest Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated school, Cheavens has upgraded the journalism program and has set up a religious journalism sequence. He also has worked to improve Baylor's public relations.

"No newsman is more deserving of this award than Dave Cheavens," said R. T. McCartney, Dallas, public relations director for Texas Baptists.

For 20 years, Cheavens covered both Texas politics and Baptist conventions as chief of the Austin bureau for the Associated Press. He took a leave of absence from the wire service in 1961 to become public relations consultant for Baylor, and was named to the combination public relations-journalism department post at Baylor in 1962.

His parents were Baptist missionaries to Mexico until 1914 when his father joined the staff of the Spanish Baptist Publishing House in El Paso, Tex. It was there that Cheavens' interest in religious journalism was stimulated and there that he learned to run a press and set type.

Not only is Cheavens an outstanding writer, but his wife, too, is widely acclaimed for her writing. Mrs. Cheavens is the daughter of Dr. J. M. Dawson, who was the first director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and an authority on church-state separation. Together they wrote the book, "As Love Knows How."

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Home Mission Board
Appointments Now 2531

10-22-65

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention appointed here five missionaries. These missionaries, along with four associate missionaries, brought the total under appointment to 2,531.

Raymond Langlois was appointed by the metropolitan missions department as an area missionary to Cleveland, Ohio. A native of Nashville, Tenn., Langlois was graduated from Belmont College (Baptist), Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Prior to his appointment, he held pastorates in Columbus, Ohio, and Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The rural-urban missions department appointed four missionaries, making 54 under appointment by that department. Jesse F. Dittmar became the pastoral-superintendent of missions in Lafayette, Ind.

The following became superintendents of missions: Frank Wheeler at Alamogordo, N. M.; Weldon Foster at Claremore, Okla., and L. M. Norwood at Wewoka, Okla.

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Dittmar, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, was born in Idana, Kan. He previously served as a district missionary in Osage, Okla.

Wheeler, a Chectaw, Okla., native, was graduated from two Texas schools--East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He has served as a pastor in Estancia, N.M., and Diboll, Tex.

Foster, a Texan from Point, was graduated from Texas schools also--the University of Corpus Christi, (Baptist) Corpus Christi, and Southwestern Seminary. Prior to his appointment, he held pastorates in Delaware, Okla., and Aquilla, Tex.

Norwood, born in Bokchito, Okla., has served as a pastor in Bakersfield, Calif., and in Ardmore, Okla. He earned degrees from East Central State College, Ada, Okla., and Oklahoma University, Norman.

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Church Disfellowshipped
Over Baptism Question

10-22-65

By Erwin L. McDonald

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (BP) --A headon collision of church autonomy has found the Dardanelle-Russellville Baptist Association overwhelmingly voting to withdraw fellowship from the First Baptist Church at Russellville.

The meeting at which the vote was taken was held in the auditorium of the Russellville church. A few minutes later, women of the Russellville church went ahead with serving the noon meal to association messengers with whom they no longer had "fellowship."

Although Russellville First Church is no longer a part of the association, it continues to be in good standing with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and nationally with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The remaining churches of the Dardanelle-Russellville Association, which has never found it easy to raise enough money to carry on the association program, must dig deeper to come up with more than \$1300 to replace the yearly contribution by the Russellville church to the association.

After the vote to withdraw fellowship from the Russellville church was taken, the pastor and other messengers of the affected church walked out of the association session rather than remain as visitors. The association held its afternoon meeting elsewhere.

The showdown between the Russellville church and the association had been brewing for several months. It all started when some of the leaders of the association took exception to a "statement of faith" adopted and practiced by the Russellville church, concerning baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The association disagreed with the Russellville church's policy on receiving new members and on observing the Lord's Supper.

Both groups--church and association--used the term "autonomy" to defend their rights to act as they did.

The principal dispute was over baptism and rebaptism.

The Russellville church had admitted into membership some applicants from other denominations, who had been baptized by immersion. After examining these candidates about their beliefs, the Russellville church did not reimmerse them.

Arguments that neither the Arkansas state convention nor the Southern Baptist Convention have any restriction of fellowship of the sort in the Russellville-Dardanelle Association constitution carried no weight. The association, it was declared, is an autonomous body.

Perhaps some hope for an early healing of the wounds was reflected by a subsequent action by the association. It said by withdrawing fellowship from the Russellville church, it "did in no way censure them in our Baptist work."

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It further recognized "that we differ in Baptist practice," affirmed the self-governing nature of the church, and resolved to "pray and work to establish a reconciliation."

The Russellville church is the home church of former Southern Baptist Convention President Brooks Hays, now a White House consultant. Hays is not presently a member of the Russellville church, however.

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Maryland 1966 Budget
Provides New Department

10-22-65

BALTIMORE (BP)--Provision for a new department of Baptist Student Union work and church music is the chief new feature of the 1966 Cooperative Program budget recommended here for approval by the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

The \$725,000 budget was adopted by the state mission board for further action by the Convention. It compares with a goal of \$665,000 for the current year.

The recommended 1966 Cooperative Program fixed amount is \$714,000, which compares with \$657,000 in the current budget. Southern Baptist causes would receive \$285,600 of this amount and Maryland causes, \$428,400, continuing the present 40-60 percentage basis of division.

All receipts above the fixed amount would be divided according to the present formula, 33-1/3 per cent each for SBC causes, Maryland capital needs, and Maryland Baptist College.

The 1966 fixed amount is based on an anticipated increase of 7 percent in receipts over the amount originally anticipated for 1965. However, church offerings through the Cooperative Program are running slightly higher than anticipated.

The new department of BSU-church music, budgeted at \$32,480, will actually increase the budget by only \$14,000. The net cost will be reduced, first by a Sunday School Board of SBC appropriation of \$12,450, and second by a reduction in the outlay of the Training Union and Brotherhood departments, out of which the new department comes.

Training Union will have the added responsibility of church-related vocations. Brotherhood will continue to direct Royal Ambassadors. These program changes were approved by the state mission board at an earlier meeting.

The board rejoiced over an announcement that trustees of the Baptist Home of Maryland had voted to make the home an institution of the state convention, rather than remain independent. This means that the convention will now elect the trustees of the home, beginning in 1966.

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Catholic, Presbyterian
Give To Baptist College

10-22-65

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. (BP)--Can you top this--a Catholic and a Presbyterian trying to see who can give the most to a Baptist college neither had heard of or seen.

Who started it? A Lutheran!

The Lutheran is Charles Mauney of Kings Mountain, N.C., area chairman for the \$1,125,000 fund drive for Gardner-Webb College at Boiling Springs, N.C.

Jokingly, Mauney approached Harold R. Domenico, a Catholic and Richard R. Hawkins, a Presbyterian, both management consultants with a New Jersey firm. To his amazement, each agreed to give \$150.

Then Domenico thought about the Presbyterian's gift being equal to his and upped his pledge to \$500. Learning of this, the Presbyterian raised his to \$501.

The name of Hawkins' brother, William, who was killed in World War II, will be memorialized on a bronze plaque at the college.

Gardner-Webb President Eugene Poston has offered to give the donors a personal guided tour of the campus they have never seen.

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Baptist Press

Billy Graham Delays
Houston Crusade Again

HOUSTON (BP) -- For the second time, Evangelist Billy Graham has been forced to postpone his Houston evangelistic crusade because of surgery recovery.

The Houston Crusade, first scheduled Oct. 8-17 and later delayed until Oct. 15-24, is now scheduled Nov. 19-28 in Houston's Astrodome.

Physicians for the ailing Baptist evangelist said he was recovering normally after a prostrate operation, but would not be well enough to conduct the strenuous 10-day schedule.

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Cuba Missionary Release
Premature, Official Says

10-22-65

ATLANTA (BP)--A Baptist missions official here called "premature" radio reports that the Cuban government would release imprisoned missionaries as part of the relaxation of restrictions against emigration.

The radio report, which originated in Havana and was monitored in the United States, indicated political prisoners would be released to enter the United States.

Two missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, Herbert Caudill and David Fite, were arrested April 8 and sentenced to 10 and six-year prison terms, respectively.

Loyd Corder of Atlanta, secretary of the language missions department of the Home Mission Board of the SBC and director of Cuban missions, said he had talked with the U.S. State Department.

Corder said the U.S. government had asked the Cuban government to release the political prisoners as part of the agreement, but so far nothing had been worked out.

He thought these reports were overly optimistic and the result of speculations.

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3 Associations Created
In Wisconsin-Minnesota

10-22-65

MILWAUKEE, Wisc. (BP)--The Wisconsin-Minnesota Baptist Association affiliated with Texas Baptists for nine years, disbanded here to organize three new associations in the two-state area.

Two associations, Lakeland and Central Baptist Associations, were organized for churches in Wisconsin, and Northland Baptist Association was constituted for churches in Minnesota.

Even though all three associations were organized in one church in Wisconsin, the Northland Association for Minnesota churches was technically constituted on "Minnesota" soil.

Superintendent of Missions Frank Burress who serves the two states brought a bucket of Minnesota soil to the Northwest Baptist Church in Milwaukee and had poured the soil into a shallow box on the church's floor.

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Kenneth King, pastor from Green Bay, Wisc., who was presiding over the constitution ceremonies as the last moderator of the Wisconsin-Minnesota Association, asked the moderator pro tem for the new Minnesota association to stand in the box so he would be on "Minnesota soil" for the association's organization.

"It's good to be on holy ground," quipped Warren Littleford, pastor from Minneapolis who later was elected moderator of the new Northland Association in Minnesota.

The crowd roared with laughter.

Later, however, most of the 150 who attended were in a more serious mood, for it was a solemn occasion. The Wisconsin-Minnesota Association was no more.

Nine years ago the two-state association was organized with seven churches and 410 members.

Just before the association was dissolved to organize the three new ones, reports were presented from the churches indicating a total or more than 1,600 Baptisms (conversions) during the past nine years.

There are 21 churches, six chapels, and nearly 3,000 Southern Baptists making up the three new associations.

Ten of the churches and chapels in Minnesota comprise the new Northland Baptist Association.

The Lakeland Baptist Association includes eight churches and chapels in the Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha area along Wisconsin's western shores of Lake Michigan. Vern E. Baird, pastor from Kenosha, is the newly elected moderator.

Wisconsin's central Association includes nine churches and chapels in the Madison, Beloit and Green Bay areas. F. Samuel Hunt, pastor from Madison, is the new moderator.

The three associations will continue affiliation with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Burrell will continue as superintendent of missions for the entire two-state area.

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