

December 3, 1965

**Texas Board Elects  
Officers, Staffers**

DALLAS (BP)--The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas elected a new chairman and named three full-time staff associates during a quarterly business session here.

New chairman of the board is W. M. Shamburger, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tyler, Tex. He succeeds J. Carroll Chadwick, pastor from Center, Tex., who was elected convention president in November.

Elected vice-chairman was Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Tex.

In other action, the board elected three men as staff associates for the convention.

W. F. Vanderburg, associate in the convention's Crusade for Christian Education effort to raise \$28 million for ten Baptist schools, was named associate in the convention's endowment and capital giving department. The crusade ends Dec. 31.

Bert Tucker, a copy editor for the New Orleans Times-Picayune and student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, was elected press representative in the convention's public relations office. He succeeds Jim Newton of Nashville, new assistant director of Baptist Press.

Abe B. Smith, pastor of Eastside Baptist Mission in Freeport, Tex., and a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, was elected as an associate in the convention's language missions department.

Both Smith and Tucker will begin work for the convention in January following graduation from the seminary.

The board also authorized High Plains Baptist Hospital of Amarillo, Tex., to negotiate a loan for construction of the new, proposed hospital. The loan would not exceed 21 per cent of the property value.

Construction of the hospital, financed by the loan and a fund campaign headed by the Amarillo Area Foundation Inc., would begin in March of 1966. First phase of the plan calls for a unit of 240 beds, easily expandable to 440 beds.

The 192-member board also approved making 1966-1967 a year of family life emphasis for Texas Baptists.

The board asked its State Missions Commission to conduct a study on the relationship of Boy Scout programs to the convention.

In other action, the board filled vacancies in its membership, elected trustees for Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio, and Valley Baptist Academy in Harlingen, Tex., and filed expired terms and vacancies on key Baptist state committees and commissions.

-30-

**Kentucky Board Elects  
Stewardship Leader**

12-8-65

BAGDAD, Ky. (BP)--The Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting near here promoted Mike L. Speer of Louisville as secretary of the board's stewardship and promotion department and discussed a special convention to be held in 1966 to deal with the financial needs of its schools.

Speer, an associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Training Union department for nearly two years, becomes stewardship-promotion secretary on Dec. 15, succeeding Robert Hastings, now pastor of University Baptist Church in Carbondale, Ill.

-more-

A native of Missouri, Speer was director of administration for Carver School of Missions and Social Work, 1959-62, before the school merged with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southern Seminary, Louisville.

The board also elected Clarence M. Penn Jr., of Henderson, Ky., as associate in the Baptist state Sunday School department. Penn has been minister of education for Immanuel Baptist Temple in Henderson since 1962. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southern Seminary, and is a native of Washington, D. C.

Elected as chairman of the influential Christian education committee of the board was Harold Wainscott, pastor of Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky.

His committee will initiate a study of the means of financial support for Kentucky Baptist schools, and will report to the board and to special session of the convention within eight months. Included in the study will be the convention's policy on allowing or rejecting federal grants and/or loans for state Baptist institutions.

The board in other action voted to "respectfully request" the convention's committee on order of business to reconsider the time and purpose of youth night at the state convention meeting. For four years the convention has closed with a giant youth rally.

Two committees of the board were instructed to conduct other studies on the structure of the executive board, and on the method of nominating board members for election by the Baptist state convention.

The meeting at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly near here ended with reports of the programs of each department and agency of the convention.

Next regular meeting of the board is slated here May 2-3, 1966, although called sessions may be necessary in preparation for the special convention within eight months.

-30-

Baptist Colleges Use  
Baptist Prof's Text

12-8-65

CLINTON, Miss. (BP)--A Mississippi College (Baptist) Bible and Greek professor has released a new textbook on Christian doctrines that is now being used in a number of Baptist colleges throughout the country.

Author of the book is William W. Stevens. His book, "The Doctrines of the Christian Religion," is currently in mimeographed form but will be published later in hard-back form.

Baptist schools using the text or planning to use it next year include Mississippi College here, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.; Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz.; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.; St. Louis Extension Center of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Missouri; Clarke Memorial College in Newton, Miss.; William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.; Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex.; and Houston Baptist College.

Stevens said that the colleges would use the book in temporary form for a year and offer constructive criticism, so that the book could be revised before publishing in permanent form.

-30-

Deacon Dies In Plane  
Crash After Preaching

12-8-65

NEW HARMONY, Utah (BP)--A Baptist deacon from Phoenix, Ariz., flying a single engine plane home after speaking at the First Baptist Mission of Milford, Utah, was killed when the aircraft crashed into a hillside.

Dead is Melvin J. Owens, a member of University Baptist Church in Phoenix, and a member of a group called "Wings for Christ" which flies across the Western states to speak in churches and do evangelistic work.

Owen's body was found in a kneeling position near the wreckage of the plane. A Bible, with his name engraved in gold letters, was on the ground between him and the wreckage.

-more-

Owens, an experienced pilot, apparently was attempting a 180-degree turn when the plane nicked a 200-foot hill. A rain storm had covered the area about the time the plane crashed, reports said.

Owens was a deacon at the Phoenix church, chairman of the budget committee and building committee, a Sunday School teacher, an active Training Union worker, and a lay preacher who often spoke at Phoenix Rescue Mission.

He had joined the Wings for Christ group last spring, and was enroute to pick up other members of the group for the return trip to Phoenix when the crash occurred.

Danny, the 20-year-old son of the crash victim, has dedicated his life to follow his father in this work as a pilot, friends said. Danny wants to make it possible for ministers to be able to reach the out-of-way places where the gospel needs to be preached, they said.

Born in Point Cedar, Ark., Owens moved to Bisbee, Ariz., 24 years ago, and to Phoenix seven years ago. He is a graduate of Grand Canyon College, (Baptist) in Phoenix.

The crash was the first accident involving any of the five Wings for Christ planes which have been flown about 500,000 miles.

-30-

Southern Seminary Foundation  
Sets \$5,000,000 Endowment Goal

12-8-65

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A program to secure \$5 million in endowment funds for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was announced by the directors of the seminary's foundation at their annual meeting here.

Projects to be underwritten by the fund include the Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism, other chairs of instruction, scholarships and student aid.

"The plan of approach in securing this endowment fund," said the Foundation's Executive Director Paul G. Kirkland, "will be personal contact with key individuals throughout the nation who are concerned about theological education and have the means to underwrite its future."

Starting point in the long-range program will be the \$500,000 endowment campaign for the Billy Graham Chair.

Funds in the total endowment program will provide the future income necessary for continuing excellence in theological education.

Gordon Ford, senior partner in the Louisville accounting firm of Yeager, Ford and Warren, was elected chairman of the foundation's board for the coming year. He succeeds Clarence Manning of Richmond, Va., who is chairman of Reynolds Metals Company.

The foundation is also directing the seminary's Mullins Hall renovation campaign to modernize the 40-year-old dormitory for single students.