

December 15, 1965

Mars Hill College
Names New President

MARS HILLS, N. C. (BP)--Fred Blake Bentley, a 30-year-old assistant dean and assistant professor of education at the University of Louisville, has been named president of Mars Hill College here effective July 1.

He will succeed Hoyt Blackwell, 75, who will retire after 28 years as head of the Baptist college.

The youthful administrator was elected unanimously by the school's board of trustees on the recommendation of a special trustee committee appointed in May of 1964 when Blackwell announced plans to retire.

Bentley is a 1958 graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he received the master of religious education degree.

While studying at the seminary, he became interested in higher education administration, and later entered the University of Indiana where he received the doctor of education degree in higher education and educational philosophy.

For two years following receipt of his doctorate, Bentley served on the government faculty at the University of Indiana, and in 1964 joined the staff of the University of Louisville as assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and as assistant professor of education.

Blackwell, who became president of Mars Hill College in 1938, said of his successor: "He is an extremely well-qualified young man, and I believe he will do a great job."

Blackwell and his wife are building a new home and plan to live here in retirement.

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Louisville Pastor Dies

12-15-65

LOUISVILLE, Ky, (BP)--W. R. Pettigrew, former first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church here for 19 years, died Dec. 12 following a coronary thrombosis.

Funeral services were held at the church where he had been pastor on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Pettigrew was a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the SBC Foreign Mission Board. He also had served as a trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and three Baptist schools--Furman University in Greenville, S. C., Georgetown College in Georgetown, Ky., and Union University, Jackson, Tenn. He was first vice-president of the convention in 1959.

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Church Role Changes
With Cuban Refugees

MIAMI (BP)--The role of the individual church in resettling the present influx of Cuban refugees into the United States has changed.

"The church is no longer dominant--the burden now rests on the friend or relative," said Baptist Missionary Hubert O. Hurt of Miami.

He was explaining what the Baptist refugee center here does to help some of the more than 500 Cubans entering the country each week.

Hurt, now a general missionary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to language groups in Florida, served in Cuba for four years before transferring to Panama in 1961. He came to Florida this year.

"What changed the situation from that of four years ago," he explained, "is the governments (both Cuban and U. S.) have restricted the immigration to those with friends or relatives who assure them of resettlement."

The new refugee hardly gets a look at Miami before he is shuttled off to another city, and less than 20 per cent of the refugees stay in the Miami area. These have relatives and friends here.

Hurt said the flights out of Cuba average carrying 90 refugees a day, and they do not fly on Saturday or Sunday.

Once in Miami the government processes them for health and political purposes, then releases to friends those staying in Miami and flies the others out within a day or two.

Hurt said the Baptist center was helping with dossiers for many of these cases, notifying state Baptist chairmen of Cuban relief and resettlement of their coming.

These state chairmen then contact pastors and churches who will help the new families. Hurt suggested to churches who have resettled Cubans that they contact their families to learn how many they may be expecting.

"The burden of assistance will fall on those churches which have resettled refugee families earlier," Hurt said.

He added that the situation could change during any week and immediate notice would be given churches for help if needed.

"Our people also should be notified that there is nothing at all we can do here in Miami to help get people out of Cuba," Hurt said, indicating he had had a number of contacts for such help.

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Church Talking To Self,
Mission Leader Says

12-15-65

ATLANTA (BP)--Christian churches are so absorbed in talking to themselves they are not meeting the challenge of their mission.

Thus a Baptist missions leader characterized a primary problem of the Christian mission.

"Churches are largely absorbed in talking to themselves, while the secular world struggles to master the vast forces and dangers unleashed by today's technology," Hugo Culpepper of Atlanta said.

Culpepper, missions division director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board was speaking to state Baptist executive secretaries during an annual meeting they hold with the mission agency.

Culpepper noted the increasing separation of many aspects of modern life from the residential neighborhood where congregations have been formed for centuries.

"This separation raises in acute form the question as to what new concepts of mission of the congregation and what new forms of congregation are now needed to witness in the neighborhoods," he asked.

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"Does the very structure of the present congregation in many ways contradict the missionary calling of the church?" he asked.

"If ministerial training and discipline concentrate upon a pastoral function in relation to those who already are Christian; if the congregational structures are designed exclusively for conservation--nurture and education--rather than for the mission to the world and to the religious or secularized non-Christians, then the congregation has only 'come-structures' and we can only invite people to 'come to church,'" he warned.

Culpepper, a former missionary to China and Chile, stressed the fact that missionary work today recognizes the home base as being worldwide, that the starting point is everywhere the church is and the end is where men are without Christ.

The former seminary professor also asked for missions "in depth" to cross cultural frontiers of social, economic, political and other barriers.

"It is the clergy and the theologians, not the laity, who tend to be out of touch with the real issues of life in the world," he said.

"But the layman is a tiny unit in a vast complex, neither wise enough nor strong enough to work through the perplexities of his own situation alone."

Culpepper then said sermons do not meet the layman's need, because they are monologues when he needs dialogue, "the give and take of serious searching together in the intimate fellowship of small groups."

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Tennessee Board OKs
Loans, Construction

12-15-65

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved expansion programs at several of its institutions, and voted to purchase, restore and preserve an historic old church located east of Johnson City, Tenn.

The board appropriated \$5,000 to the Sinking Creek Baptist Church Historical Society, Inc., for the purchase, restoration, and preservation of the original Sinking Creek Baptist Church building near Johnson City.

The historical society claims the church is the oldest Baptist church in the state, founded in 1783. Historians have long debated whether the Sinking Creek church or the Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church is the state's oldest. Both were organized about the same time.

In other actions, the board gave permission to Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour, Tenn., for a loan of an undetermined amount for construction of a new boys' dormitory. Construction would begin in January with completion by Sept. 1, 1966.

The board also gave permission to Belmont College (Baptist) here to raise its current debt ceiling to \$1 million in order to provide funds to build and furnish an auditorium and fine arts building, and to incorporate all present indebtedness into one loan.

Purchase of a lot in Columbia, Tenn., was approved to provide the site for a future Baptist student center adjacent to South Central College, a new state school which plans to open in the fall of 1966.

The board also voted to divide any receipts over its 1965 budget to give \$20,000 to the state Baptist children's home for capital needs, and \$90,323 to the four Tennessee Baptist educational institutions for capital needs.

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Flexibility Asked Toward Federal Aid

ATLANTA (BP)--A Baptist leader from Washington asked state executive leadership here to make use of the flexibility in church and state relationship which the U. S. Constitution provides.

C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said that to assume the Constitution "represents spiritual directives for the church of Christ is to make the church one with the state."

He called for a spiritual base as the source of spiritual power. "To deny the Biblical basis of religious liberty is to deny its roots in God's plans, and to subject it fully to the whims of constitutional moods and conventions."

Carlson was addressing the annual meeting of state Baptist executive secretaries at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here.

He cited higher education as one of the most difficult areas needing rethinking and perhaps re-programming.

Causing this has been technological expansion, scientific competition, dominance of the practical arts, heavy federal support, a shrinking world, and the population explosion.

Carlson spent some time on the meaning of separation of church and state, first citing what it was not.

He says it does not mean a negative attitude toward organized society, nor a commitment to statism, or a lack of interest in human welfare. Also it is not a device for blocking Roman Catholic power nor for intercreedal conflict.

Positively, he said it was recognition of the different levels of kingdom and kingship given by God, as well as a concern that religious experience be a response to God and not merely to the purposes and the desires of men. It is an awareness of God's way of calling men to himself.

He summarized church and state separation as being a "means to religious liberty."

After a citing of how government and church had penetrated the programs of each other he listed the concerns the government has for its programs, and the delineations church institutions needed to make.

The government expresses concern, he said, that (1) responsibility for administration be public, (2) there be no establishment of religion by means of public funds for religious purposes, (3) there be a just opportunity or availability of public welfare services without discrimination because of religion; and (4) the public treasury gets its money's worth.

Church institutions, on the other hand, must see, (1) that the "public program" is "public" in fact and not used for religious goals; (2) that the public awareness is of the public program rather than of the channeling institution;

(3) that institutional policy makes services available to the whole public, and (4) that its public sector does not invalidate the private sector which is the institution's reason-for-being, (5) that the institution does not grow around the public interest, and (6) that proper distinctions are made between long-range plans and emergency or temporary crises.

"Cooperation is possible without compromise," he suggested. "Religious liberty and religious institutions can be compatible. We do not have to either give up our emphasis on religious liberty or give up our institutions."

Alabama Board Elects
Officers, New Worker

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--The Alabama State Baptist Executive Board elected new officers, named a new employee, and allocated funds dealing with the Baptist state mission program in Alabama during its winter session here.

New chairman of the board is W. J. Johnson, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Decatur, Ala.

Other officers named for 1966 were Tilford Junkins of Athens, Ala., vice-chairman; Norman Clapp of Mobile, recording secretary. Both are pastors.

Elected as head of the ministers retirement department for Alabama Baptists was Earl E. Trent, now secretary of missions for the Colbert-Lauderdale Baptist Association with offices in Florence.

Trent will assume the new position in February of 1966. Ministers retirement programs are now being handled by Claude T. Ammerman, assistant to the executive secretary, in addition to his other duties.

Major emphasis of the meeting was devoted to allocating funds of the state missions program.

A total of nearly \$1 million went to college center work, educational and promotional services for the churches, and missions work in the state.

The board voted to give \$25,000 to aid in the purchase of lots for churches in growing areas of Alabama, and earmarked another \$10,000 for Selma University, a Negro Baptist school operated by the National Baptists of Alabama.

Mobile College, a Baptist school now in its third year of operation, will receive an additional \$100,000 in operating funds for this coming year, and the Baptist Student Center at Florence State College was given \$40,000 for construction of a new building adjoining the campus.

Shoco Springs Baptist Assembly, located near Talladega, Ala., was given the go-ahead for a new year-around hotel to accomodate 80 people. A total of \$40,000 was allocated for the construction, with the balance for the \$120,000 structure coming from capital funds of the convention.

Budgets were also approved for the various departments of work of the board.

Next meeting of the board was set for July 26, 1966.

24 Seminars Planned
On Education Crisis

NASHVILLE (BP)--Plans have been mapped here for 24 seminars throughout the nation in January to deal with crises being faced by Baptist schools.

The seminars are being held as part of the Baptist Education Study Task (BEST) a two-year investigation being conducted on the higher education programs of Southern Baptists.

Plans for the seminars were outlined here by chairmen responsible for conducting the meetings in 16 states.

Three seminars each will be ^{held in} Texas, Tennessee, and North Carolina; two in Georgia; and one each in Alabama, South Carolina, Kentucky, Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma, Arizona, Maryland, Missouri, California, Louisiana, and Virginia.

Twenty laymen, ministers, and women will be invited to each seminar. Those attending the meeting will discuss in detail the problems of Christian higher education and Baptist schools, and report their findings to a BEST findings committee.

A national study conference will be held in Nashville June 13-16, 1966 for about 500 educators as a follow-up to the 24 regional conferences. Similar regional and national conferences are planned in 1967.

Purpose of the regional conferences is to get grass-roots opinions on how to solve the problems facing Baptist higher education, said Herbert C. Gabhart, president of Belmont College here and member of the BEST steering committee.

During the meeting for seminar chairmen, the coordinator for the comprehensive, two-year study program, Doak S. Campbell, outlined what he considered the major crises facing Baptist schools.

"Perhaps the crisis that first comes to mind relates to the lack of financial support," said Campbell, president emeritus of Florida State University in Tallahassee.

"Practically all of our institutions find themselves in some measure of distress in this regard," he remarked.

Campbell said that sources of income are not yielding enough funds to provide "for even a reasonably limited program of instruction." He added that income from Baptist state conventions does not increase as rapidly as the cost of operation increases.

Another crisis is the lack of understanding of the needs of Baptist institutions, he said.

Campbell said that the Baptist Education Study Task could help in this regard by coming up with a badly needed clear and concise statement of the nature, scope, objective and purpose of Christian higher education.

"There is critical need for exploration of possible better ways of organizing and executing more effective educational programs," he said.

"Critical study and analysis is called for to indicate the extent of the effectiveness of our institutions in meeting the objectives of Christian education," he said. "Just what is the difference between a Baptist college and another college?"

Another crisis faced by Baptist schools is the critical shortage of competent professional manpower, including faculty and administration, Campbell stated.

"The supply of qualified teachers is limited," he said. "Most of our institutions, because of the low salaries they can pay, are in an unfavorable position in the highly competitive market for professional talent."

In the redefinition of purposes and objectives, Campbell said that the many institutions need to examine the whole question of the kinds of students they propose to serve.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in many Baptist colleges so many students who enter fail to graduate," Campbell said, citing a college dropout problem as another crisis.

"In most of the Baptist institutions the physical plant needs are critical," he said. "We are in a weak competitive position in the midst of highly impressive physical plants of the tax-supported institutions."

Another speaker at the meeting, professor John R. Killinger of Vanderbilt University here, said that the problem of academic freedom could pose still an even greater crisis at Baptist schools within the next decade.

"I predict we will have a crisis in the biology departments of Baptist schools if scientists are able to create a living cell in the test tube. What will this do to the Baptist college teacher's approach?"

"The old ghost of evolution still rears its head in some Baptist schools," said the former dean at Kentucky Southern College (Baptist) in Louisville, Ky.

The BEST study will seek to delve into these, and other areas where clear thinking and planning is needed for the total educational program of the denomination, said Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Education Commission which is sponsoring the study.

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EDITORS: You may want to add a paragraph following graph 4 stating when and where the seminar in your state will be held. Here is the list of dates, places, and chairmen for each seminar.

DATE	CITY	PLACE	CHAIRMAN
Jan. 6	Raleigh, N. C.	Baptist Building	John T. Bunn, Campbell College
Jan. 8	Inglewood, Calif.	First S. Baptist Church	Paul Brooks Leath, Fresno,
Jan. 10	Jackson, Miss.	Baptist Building	Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, Miss.
Jan. 11	Macon, Ga.	Mercer University	Allen B. Comish, Columbus, Ga.
Jan. 11	Oklahoma City	Baptist Building	Richard T. Hopper, Ardmore,
Jan. 13	Memphis, Tenn.	Brotherhood Building	Fred M. Wood, Memphis
Jan. 13	Knoxville, Tenn.	East Tenn. Baptist Hospital	Wake Darby, Jefferson City
Jan. 14	Houston, Tex.	First Baptist Church	C. C. Colvert, Austin
Jan. 14	Greenville, S. C.	First Baptist Church	Charles A. Arrington, Clemson
Jan. 14	Atlanta, Ga.	Baptist Building	Paul Carroll, Statesboro, Ga.
Jan. 15	Abilene, Tex.	Hardin-Simmons University	Robert G. Collmer, Plainview
Jan. 17	Phoenix, Ariz.	No. Phoenix Bapt. Church	Edmond J. Packwood, Phoenix
Jan. 17	Dallas, Tex.	Baptist Building	James N. Morgan, Fort Worth
Jan. 18	Jefferson City, Mo.	Baptist Building	Norman Shands, Kansas City, Mo.
Jan. 18	Asheville, N. C.	First Baptist Church	G. Maurice Hill, Drexel, N. C.
Jan. 18	Winston-Salem, N. C.	First Baptist Church	W. Randall Lolley, Winston-Salem
Jan. 18	Lutherville, Md.	Baptist Building	James Windham, Silver Spring
Jan. 18	Little Rock, Ark.	Baptist Building	Kendall Berry, Blytheville,
Jan. 18	Jacksonville, Fla.	Riverside Baptist Church	E. Earl Cooper, Jacksonville
Jan. 18	Middletown, Ky.	Baptist Building	Robert L. Mills, Georgetown
Jan. 18	Alexandria, La	Baptist Building	James T. Horton, Monroe
Jan. 18	Richmond, Va.	State Baptist Building	Charles Ryland, Warsaw, Va.
Jan. 20	Birmingham, Ala.	B'ham Baptist Association	Darold Morgan, Birmingham
Jan. 20	Nashville, Tenn.	SBC Building	Howard Kirksey, Murfreesboro

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