



# BAPTIST PRESS

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April 19, 1966

### Baptist Chaplain Awarded Silver Star For Bravery

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BINH DINH PROVINCE, Viet Nam (BP)--A Southern Baptist Chaplain who made nearly a dozen trips carrying wounded soldiers under enemy fire to an evacuation point here has been awarded the Silver Star for bravery.

He is Chaplain Billy R. Lord, a native of New Iberia, La., and a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I'm not a fighting man, but I want to be where my men are when they're in a fight," said Lord, a 1963 bachelor of divinity graduate of the New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

When the Viet Cong ambushed A Company of the U. S. First Air Cavalry Division in Binh Dinh Province on Oct. 12, Lord was at a nearby first aid station.

He rushed to the ambush site and began helping the wounded. When the company withdrew under fire across a river, Lord made nearly a dozen trips back and forth carrying wounded to the evacuation point.

Heavy sniper fire kept the Americans hugging the earth. Then Lord noticed that the A Company medic was missing.

Lord then made one more trip across the river, found the wounded medic, and carried him back.

Men of the First Brigade, U. S. Air Cavalry Division, describe Lord as "a helluva good man."

Lord likes to be where the action is. "I try to take every chance of being with my troops, if I can be of help," he said.

"When the men are wounded, it sometimes takes a long time to get them to an area where they can be evacuated. I like to be there to help get them out," he explained.

"I'm able to administer first aid, and spiritual aid. I can do this, and I want to do this," he added.

"In battle, we're all afraid. I tell the men not to be ashamed of being afraid and not to be ashamed of being religious when they are afraid.

Lord spent four years as an enlisted man, and after his discharge graduated from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is a former pastor of the Arkadelphia Baptist Church in Bailey, Miss.

Lord is looking forward to going back to Louisiana to see his wife and three children at the end of this tour of duty. But he added: "I expect to be back in Viet Nam and with the First Cavalry. It's the best outfit in the world."

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SBC Sessions In Miami,  
New Orleans, Switched

4-19-66 252

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee has voted by mail ballot to switch the meeting sites of the 1967 and 1968 conventions because a new auditorium facility in New Orleans will not be ready in time.

The 1967 convention will meet in Miami Beach, and the 1968 convention will be held in New Orleans, by action of the Executive Committee.

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Dates for the conventions adopted by the Executive Committee will be May 30-June 2, 1967 in Miami Beach; and June 11-14, 1968, in New Orleans.

New Orleans had withdrawn its invitation to host the 1967 convention because they feared their new auditorium will not be finished.

Herman J. Penn of the Port of New Orleans Exhibition and Convention Center, recently renamed The Rivergate, wrote SBC officials here saying the the new auditorium apparently will not be ready for occupancy prior to August or September of 1967.

Rather than seek a new site completely, SBC leaders suggested simply changing the dates and keeping the already-approved locations.

The SBC constitution authorizes the Executive Committee to change the time and place of the meeting if the entertaining city withdraws its invitation or is unable to fulfill its commitments.

The chairman of the committee, W. Douglas Hudgins, and the executive secretary, Porter W. Routh, felt that the situation created an emergency and that a decision should be made immediately. They polled members of the Executive Committee on the proposed changes.

Dates when both hotel and motel accommodations and auditorium facilities were available were determined and presented in the ballot.

Members of the Executive Committee answering the poll voted unanimously in favor of switching the dates and sites for the convention sessions.

Previously, the conventions had been scheduled in New Orleans, May 23-26, 1967; and in Miami Beach, May 21-24, 1968.

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#### Colleges Get Notice of Civil Rights Failure

4-19-66

490

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist College has been notified by the U. S. Office of Education that it has opportunity for a hearing concerning its failure to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Mississippi College, Clinton, last year refused to sign an assurance of compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI bars federal financial assistance to any program or activity that discriminates on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

Mississippi College is the largest and oldest institution of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. R. A. McLemore is president.

Four other colleges received similar notices: Marion Institute, Marion, Ala.; Bob Jones University, Greenville S. C.; Freewill Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tenn.; and Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va.

These were the first such notifications to be sent out by the U. S. Office of Education. Regulations for Title VI of the Civil Rights Act became effective in January 1965.

At issue is the student loan program under the National Defense Education Act of 1958. This involves (1) eligibility of the institutions to receive funds for which they have applied this fiscal year, and (2) the right of the schools to make loans to students from funds carried over from previous years and to retain federal money received under this program in previous years.

Funds in question for Mississippi College are \$605,155 received prior to implementation of the Civil Rights Act, and \$165,780 applied for during fiscal 1966.

Trustees of the school recognized when the decision was made last year that failure to sign the assurance of compliance would make the institution ineligible for some \$200,000 in annual NDEA loans to students.

The chairman of the board of trustees said the decision not to sign the compliance was reached after "deep and prayerful consideration." He expressed concern for finding means of replacing the funds available to students under NDEA.

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"Mississippi Baptists have always believed in separation of church and state and the board didn't feel that it could conscientiously depart from this lifelong commitment."

McLemore said that the Mississippi Baptist Convention is currently in the midst of a study on separation of church and state, and that the convention last year asked the colleges to take no federal aid of any kind until after the study is completed next November.

"I've been trying to persuade the board of trustees and the convention to remove the restrictions, but this is a slow process," McLemore said.

In 1959, 1960 and 1961 Mississippi College received a total of \$1,375,000 in college housing loans from the housing and home finance agency for three projects. Such funds are available for construction of dormitories, student union buildings, dining halls, etc. These funds also come under the Civil Rights Act.

The five schools receiving the Office of Education notices were assured that if they were able to provide the necessary assurances of compliance they would receive the funds they applied for, according to Peter Muirhead, associate commissioner for higher education.

The schools have 20 days to reply to the notices. Then the "hearing examiners" will determine when hearings will be held for those institutions requesting them.

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Baptist Pastor Killed  
In Car-Train Crash

4-19-66

196

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)-- Simeon B. Nichols, pastor of the Tyler Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif., was killed instantly when his car was struck by a passenger train traveling about 70 miles per hour.

The train drug the car for nearly half a mile.

Nichols apparently was unable to see the train on a second track because of a line of box cars and other equipment on a track on either side of the intersection.

Funeral services were held April 12 in Riverside, with Earl Crawford, a Baptist associational missionary, and two fellow pastors, Walter Pegg and Stanley Polk of Riverside, officiating.

Nichols was believed to have been on his way to visit a church member when the tragic accident occurred.

He is survived by his wife and eight children. Two of his brothers are Baptist preachers--Herman Nichols, now retired and living in Amarillo, Tex.; and Buford L. Nichols, a Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia and president of a Baptist seminary in Semarang, Indonesia.

Nichols, a former pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Dumas, Tex., has been pastor of the church in Riverside since 1963.

A Baptist preacher for 38 years, he previously was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Marse, Tex., and Exell, Tex.; and of the First Baptist Churches of Hennessy, Waynoka, Cheyenne, Cleveland, and Balko, all in Oklahoma.

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Florida Baptist Church  
Admits Negro Members

4-19-66

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ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)--Two Negro ladies who presented themselves for membership at the Tangelo Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., on Easter Sunday, have been accepted as members by unanimous vote of the church.

The church's pastor, R. L. Jones, said it was the first time a Southern Baptist church in his area of the state had admitted Negro members, "and as far as I know, a first for the state.

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There was no opposition; not even any discussion during the church's regular business session during which time the church traditionally acts on all membership requests.

"This is not to say all has been easy," said the pastor, "but we have come a long way and we feel most of our trouble is behind us."

Jones, said that during the past year, the church had lost two or three families because the church had enrolled several Negro children in Sunday School.

In June of 1965, when a new Air Force outfit moved into Orlando, several Negro families moved into the community, but there was no real trouble in the community, said Jones.

"Several deacons and I visited these families just like we did any other newcomer," the pastor added. "Within a month or two, several (Negro) children enrolled in the Sunday School. We only lost two or three families as a result of this."

Jones said that the two new Negro members, Mrs. Carrie Seale and Mrs. Doris Toomer, had been attending the church for three months.

"They joined our church because our folks have shown a Christian attitude," he said. "It was a joy to see folks who a year ago were hard-core segregationists to go forward and welcome these people."

Mrs. Seale was accepted by transfer of membership from a National Baptist church in Jacksonville, Fla., and Mrs. Toomer was received "by baptism from a Methodist church," reported Jones.

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Indiana Baptist Board  
Hires Worker with Boys

4-19-66

210

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptist in Indiana voted to employ a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to work with the Royal Ambassador program for boys on a state-wide level.

The new worker is Steven Combs; who will work full time during the summer months and part time the remainder of the year.

Combs salary and expenses will be shared jointly by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and the state convention here.

A native of Virginia, Combs' father was an Army chaplain. He is a graduate of the University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. and is in his first year at Southern Seminary.

The board also heard a report on negotiation for purchase of property for a state Baptist encampment, and authorized a study on when to hold its quarterly meetings.

The encampment committee reported that the present owner of property near Turkey Run State Park had balked at three points the committee considered necessary. The board asked the committee to look elsewhere if the problems could not be solved.

In other action, the board approved creation of a five-member committee to gather history information of the state convention and to publish it in book form to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the convention in 1968.

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Retired Pastors Sought  
For Pioneer Service

4-19-66 224

ATLANTA, (BP)--A Baptist missions leader here is asking retired ministers to give a year of their time for mission service in pioneer states.

M. Wendell Belew of Atlanta says there are immediate needs in more than nine states for the experience that retired men would bring.

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Belew, program secretary for the pioneer missions department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board says that these men provide a resource that is not available from any other source.

Southern Baptists classify as "pioneer" those states where they do not have organized state Baptist conventions, or where the state convention has less than 25,000 members.

Belew lists the states where retired men are needed immediately as Hawaii, Utah, Idaho, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, and some New England states.

Other states which will need retired men for their young congregations are Alaska, Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota, Nevada, Nebraska, New Jersey and Delaware.

"The Annuity Board of the SBC has agreed to permit a year's service in these states without relinquishing their Annuity payments," Belew said.

The Annuity Board asks that the churches be less than a year old and that within six months they join the retirement program.

Belew indicates assistance may be given to help locate the ministers on the mission fields, as well as adequate provision of expenses during the year.

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Home Board Sponsors  
Communication Meeting

4-19-66

420

ATLANTA (BP)--"Whatever we can do in this country to build strong Christian foundations is not an investment in this country alone--it is an investment in the world," Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said during a Communication Conference here.

"Out of the churches we now have, or will have in the future, will come the missionaries, the prayer support, and the finances for a world wide missions task," he said.

Outlining the Home Mission Board's cooperative approach to missions, Rutledge pinpointed the board's three major responsibilities, in order of action:

1. "First, we seek to help discover the needs and develop ways of meeting those missions needs;
2. "Then, we provide assistance to churches, associations, and state conventions in meeting these needs, through program guidance and informational services as well as with finances;
3. "In cooperation with state conventions and other concerned bodies, we appoint missionaries to fill needs for missions personnel."

"The missionary is not our first approach but our last," Rutledge said. "It has long been a Southern Baptist principle that no agency ought to do for a church what it can do for itself. So we begin at the point of helping churches do it themselves."

The leadership group attending the Communication Conference included more than 60 state Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, and Missions leaders.

They were invited here by the board's division of communication, headed by L. O. Griffith, for a two fold purpose: To learn more of what the Home Mission Board is trying to communicate in the way of home missions concepts, plans, opportunities, trends, and available services; to contribute their own ideas on how this information can be communicated effectively at the grass roots level.

During brainstorming study group sessions, the leadership group offered these suggested techniques for communicating the story of home missions:

Television programs and spot announcements; full-length, high-quality movies on Home Missions work; upgrading of mission magazines to a level that will compete with secular publications; plays, especially adaptable to Girl's Auxiliary and Roayl Ambassador organizations;

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distribution of all new material to state WMJ, Brotherhood, and mission leaders; stronger and more frequent use of the Baptist Bulletin Service; encouragement to churches to subscribe to "Home Missions" magazine as resource material; regular communication conferences, initiated by state missions secretaries.

Other suggestions, for the board's division of communication to implement, centered mostly around the need for leadership in WMJ, Brotherhood, and state missions work to have current home missions information. The suggestion included distribution of extra copies of "Home Missions" magazine for promotion use, an album of home missionaries, and distribution of home mission news to leadership.

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Student Affairs Director  
Appointed to West Point

252  
4-19-66

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has appointed the first director of Baptist student affairs to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, N. Y.

Acting in cooperation with the Sunday School Board and the Baptist Convention of Maryland, the SBC Chaplains Commission selected Caby E. Byrne, currently director of the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi State University in Starksville.

Officially, Byrne will begin work in July as director, military personnel and Baptist student ministries at the academy. He also will allot time to the U. S. Coast Guard Academy in Groton, Conn., and the U. S. Maritime Academy in King's Point, N. Y.

Byrne, a native of Mississippi, was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Harvey, La., from 1956-1958 before joining Mississippi College (Baptist) in Clinton, Miss., as director of religious activities. Later he was BSU director at Clemson University in Clemson, S. C.

Byrne is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and is a chaplain in the U. S. Army Reserve.

The Home Mission Board also approved in April the appointment of George D. Brent as superintendent of missions for the Rio Grande and Southwestern Baptist Associations of New Mexico. His headquarters will be in Las Cruces, N. M.

Brent, currently pastor of the Jackson Avenue Baptist Church in Lovington, N. M., and former pastor of the Buena Vista Baptist Church in Borger, Tex., is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

William H. Major of Atlanta was elected to handle the board's legal duties. Major, a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta and Atlanta Law School, is with the law firm of Edenfield, Heyman, and Sizemore.

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