



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 17, 1966

Gaines S. Dobbins, 80,
Retires A Second Time

By Erwin L. McDonald
Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

MILL VALLEY, Calif.--For the second time in ten years Gaines S. Dobbins, widely known Southern Baptist writer, teacher, and preacher, is retiring.

At the age of 80, Dr. Dobbins is surrendering the post of Distinguished Professor of Church Administration at Golden Gate Theological Seminary here to move, with Mrs. Dobbins, to Birmingham, Ala. Their address in Birmingham effective June 1 will be 1113 South Shadesview Terrace.

Including four years he served as a young man on the editorial staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Dr. Dobbins has now rounded out an even half century of denominational service.

For 36 years Dr. Dobbins was a member of the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Beginning there as "a young professor with nothing but a fertile brain and a mimeograph machine," he finished, in 1956, as the dean of the school of Religious Education.

At the time Dr. Dobbins began his teaching career, not much progress had been made in seminaries in general in the field of religious education. Called to the Basil Manly chair of Sunday School Pedagogy, at Louisville, Dr. Dobbins made it his goal to lift church school education to a level of sound educational principles and methods. How well he succeeded is common knowledge among Baptist leaders, many of whom have themselves sat in his classes or have had him in their churches for special weeks of training and inspiration.

The department title was changed to Religious Education and Church Efficiency, and, later, to the present title, Religious Education and Church Administration.

Dr. Dobbins served with distinction as acting president of Southern Seminary for more than a year, between the administrations of the late Dr. Ellis A. Fuller and that of Dr. Duke K. McCall, the Seminary's present chief executive.

Dr. Dobbins is a native of Lagsdale, Miss., where he was born on July 29, 1886, to Charles Wesley and Letitia Gaines Dobbins. As the father's name would imply, he was from a Methodist home. His father was a life-long Methodist. Dr. Dobbins' mother was a staunch Baptist. A Sunday School teacher who was to serve for nearly 70 years, she had a great spiritual influence on the life of Dr. Dobbins.

Dr. Dobbins earned the B.A. degree from Mississippi College, which has since conferred upon him two honorary degrees: the D. D. and the LL.D. He has the M.A. degree from Columbia University and the Th.D. degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville.

Mrs. Dobbins is the former Miss May Virginia Riley, daughter of Captain and Mrs. Franklin Riley, of Newhebron, Miss. They have a son, Dr. Gaines Stanley Dobbins, Jr., who has been a member of the faculty of Howard College (now Samford University), Birmingham, for many years.

A prolific writer, Dr. Dobbins has been a regular contributor to Sunday School and Training Union publications across the years and has authored more than two dozen books, the most of which are still in wide circulation.

During their ten years at Golden Gate Seminary, Dr. and Mrs. Dobbins have traveled widely, including one trip around the world. Dr. Dobbins has worked extensively as a committee chairman for the Baptist World Alliance, setting up procedures for improving church education in many different countries. He has had the joy and satisfaction of seeing the Golden Gate Seminary develop into a strong Southern Baptist institution in the challenging field of the West.

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BP Feature

A year ago Southern Seminary created what is to be known as "The Gaines S. Dobbins Chair of Religious Education," in honor of the venerable leader. The chair is to be endowed on a permanent basis.

Dr. Dobbins continues to have excellent health but has been influenced to retire at this time by the failing health of Mrs. Dobbins. His travels necessarily will be greatly curtailed. But those of us who know him best predict that his fertile mind will keep his dictation equipment humming as he "talks out" no telling how many additional books and articles. For as the good Doctor himself said ten years ago, upon the occasion of his first retirement: "Retirement to inactivity has little appeal to a healthy man habituated to work."

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May 17, 1966

National Baptist
Appointments Okayed

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has approved the appointment of three missionary personnel by the department of work with National Baptists.

Benjamin F. Daniels of Norfolk, Va., has been named center director of the Baptist Fellowship Center in Winston-Salem, N.C. Jacob W. Deering has been appointed to the same position at the Baptist Fellowship Center in Tampa, Fla.

Daniels, most recently dean of men at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., is a graduate of Virginia State College, Petersburg, and Shaw University's Divinity School in Raleigh.

Deering is a graduate of Jackson State College, Jackson, Miss., and holds a master of education degree from Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala. A native of Mobile, Ala., Deering previously was dean of Natchez Junior College (Baptist) in Natchez, Miss.

Mrs. Johnny P. Coffey, a caseworker with the Grady County Department of Public Welfare in Chickasha, Okla., was approved by the board for appointment as executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union (National Baptist) in Oklahoma.

Other May appointments approved by the board:

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dan Grubb were named by the metropolitan missions department to serve temporarily on the staff of the Clark Howell-Techwood Baptist Center in Atlanta. Grubb holds a bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana College (Baptist), Pineville, La., and master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Mrs. Grubb, who worked a year for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, is a graduate of William Carey College (Baptist), Hattiesburg, Miss., with a bachelor of arts degree.

William M. Osborne was picked by the metropolitan missions department to serve as Superintendent of Missions of the Metropolitan Peoria Association in Peoria, Ill. For the past nine years, Osborne, a graduate of the University of Missouri, Columbia, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, has been superintendent of missions for the Concord and Lamine Associations in Missouri, working out of California, Mo.

One missionary couple, who were appointed earlier in the year, have received their assignment. Mr. and Mrs. C. Ballard White will serve under the direction of the language missions department among Indians in Pierre, and Eagle Butte, S.D.

White, a graduate of Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex., has just graduated from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. Previously, he served two years as pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow, Mont. Mrs. White, a native of Dew, Tex., also is a graduate of Baylor University.

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Missions Journal Cited by
Evangelical Press Group

5-17-66

LOS ANGELES (BP)--The Commission, monthly publication of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, received an award for excellence at the 18th annual convention of the Evangelical Press Association here.

First place award in the missionary magazine category went to the publication.

Floyd H. North is editor.

This is the second consecutive year that the magazine has been honored by the press group.

Approximately 125 journalists were present for the meeting.

Joe Odle, editor of The Baptist Record, journal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was one of the convention speakers.

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Baptist Press

Engineers Give Baylor
Ministerial Scholarship

WACO (BP)--The Texas Society of Professional Engineers, noting a need for the spiritual as well as technical development of man's abilities, has presented a check for \$500 to Baylor University to provide a ministerial scholarship.

Wayne Dickens, president of the Central Texas chapter of professional engineers, made the presentation on behalf of the state organization. He said the money is evidence of the Society's concern for continuing ministerial education and further development of man's spiritual attributes.

The society has provided the scholarship funds for the past eight years. The money is given to the University with the only stipulation that it go to a worthy ministerial student.

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