

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 30, 1966

**Stetson Gets Two
Government Grants**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Stetson University, a Baptist school in DeLand, Fla., has received two federal grants under the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, according to announcement from the U. S. Office of Education.

Under Title I of the Act, which provides grants to undergraduate institutions, Stetson received \$557,696 for construction of a science building.

Under the Title II provision for graduate schools, the university received a \$286,861 grant for construction of Law School buildings at the St. Petersburg campus.

Stetson was one of 34 church-related institutions receiving grants and loans totaling \$14,188,321 under the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963.

Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga., received a \$212,228 grant for a multipurpose complex, and Ricker College, Houlton, Me., received a \$292,000 loan for a library. Both are affiliated with the American Baptist Convention.

Earlier this year Stetson University trustees voted to accept a government grant of \$501,926 for the science building project. The grant, to be channeled through the Florida Commission of Higher Education providing funds under the federal program, would be used to reduce an already approved federal loan of \$1.2 million.

J. Ollie Edmunds, president of the school, said he did not feel that accepting the grant involved any violation of the principle of separation of church and state.

He said that actually the school would not receive the money under the grant but that a bookkeeping entry would be made to reduce the amount of the previously approved federal loan.

The increase in the grant was explained by an Office of Education spokesman as "end of the fiscal year" additional funds. The state commission attempts to bring the grant up to the 33 1/3 per cent participation which the government may have in the total cost.

The new figure of \$557,696 is the full one-third government participation for the Stetson project.

Stetson had made no previous public announcement of the \$286,696 grant for the law school buildings, and the announcement from the Office of Education was apparently the first official notice that the Baptist school was getting the grant.

Stetson's announced intention of accepting the science building grant set off controversy in the Florida Baptist Convention. The Convention's State Board of Missions in April requested the university to delay accepting the grant until after completion of a state Baptist study on separation of church and state.

Early in June the trustees turned down the request, saying that postponing the decision "would have caused the university to lose more than \$850,000 in gift money."

Stetson is a private Baptist institution with a self-perpetuating board of trustees. It is not owned by the Florida Baptist Convention but it does receive about \$400,000 per year through the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget plan.

John Maguire, executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention, earlier said that 60 Baptist churches in the state had written instructing him to withhold their mission gifts to Stetson because of the decision to accept the federal grant.

Baptists Urged: Don't
Ignore Ecumenical Move

FORT WORTH (BP)--"Baptists can no longer afford to ignore the ecumenical movement," the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary annual Pastors' Conference was told here.

W. Barry Garrett of Washington said new attitudes taken by Roman Catholics in the Vatican Council II meeting make it necessary for Southern Baptists to find "effective ways and means . . . to communicate with their fellow Christians of all faiths."

Garrett, associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said "the day of an isolated Christian and of an isolated Christianity is at an end."

Garrett emphasized, however, that he was not advocating any union of Southern Baptists with other denominations.

The Baptist leader, who attended the Vatican meetings as a reporter for the Baptist Press, said he thought it was tragic that many Baptist pastors have been so indifferent and unaware of the significance of the meetings in Rome.

The Catholic meetings have brought on "a new day of conversation between Catholics and Baptists," he said.

Garrett said he asked one Catholic leader at the meetings what he would like to say to Southern Baptists. The official answered: "Give us credit for having good, sincere motivations."

"Tell Baptists to give consideration to the fact that what is happening in Rome may be the work of the Holy Spirit."

Garrett said the Catholics almost completely reversed their previous stand on religious liberty and declared that each individual has a right to his own beliefs.

"These new attitudes of Roman Catholics could well mean developments of new attitudes of Baptists toward Catholics," Garrett said.

The Baptist leader said that if the Catholic Church can "throw off its medievalism," other churches will find it hard to compete.

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Baptist Schools Set
Desegregation Institutes

6/30/66

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two Baptist schools will receive grants for summer institutes to train teachers, supervisors and counselors in dealing with school desegregation problems, according to the U. S. Office of Education here.

Grants totaling \$1.9 million, authorized under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, were announced for 35 such summer institutes. Ten of these would be in church-related schools.

The Baptist schools participating are Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

Ouachita Baptist University is owned and operated by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. It received a \$35,599 grant for the institute program.

Stetson University, a private Baptist institution in Florida, received a \$40,000 grant.

Each institute focuses on specific educational problems in school desegregation. Such problems include improvement of elementary school curriculum for desegregated schools, problems of faculty and staff desegregation, increasing skills in educational and vocational guidance of disadvantaged children, and problems involved in teaching classes consisting of Indian, Negro, Mexican-American and white students.

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Roberts Elected Oklahoma
Missions Department Head

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--J. T. Roberts of Oklahoma City has been elected secretary of the department of missions of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, an office in which he has been an associate since 1960.

As associate in the department, Roberts has directed the state convention's work with National (Negro) Baptists. He will assume his new responsibilities on Jan. 1, 1967.

His election came in a mail balloting by the 50 members of the state convention's board of directors.

Roberts, 50, succeeds Sam W. Scantlan, who will retire at the end of this year as head of the department.

Scantlan will continue his services with the state convention on a retirement basis as buildings and grounds supervisor at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly near Davis, Okla.

As state missions secretary, Roberts will also serve as business manager for Falls Creek.

A native of Howe, Okla., Roberts is a graduate of Northeastern State College at Tahlequah, Okla.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.; and holds an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Langston University, Langston, Okla.

Before coming to his present position, he was pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; First Baptist Church, Anadarko, Okla.; and Dickson Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

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Seminary Names Two
New Music Instructors

6/30/66

FORT WORTH (BP)--Two new instructors have been added to the faculty of the school of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Scotty Wayne Gray will be instructor of music theory and Miss Rennie Sanderson will be teaching ministry of music and graded choir work.

Gray, who will receive the second doctor of church music degree ever awarded by the seminary in July, has been a teaching fellow in the school.

Miss Sanderson, who will be home on furlough as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Japan, has been teaching at the Seinan-Gaikuin Baptist College, Fukuoka, Japan, appointed in 1961.

-30-

McCall, James Debate
Federal Aid Question

6/30/66

FORT WORTH (BP)--Two outspoken Texas Baptist leaders took opposite stands here on federal aid to Baptist institutions, one criticizing "extremists who preach of a complete separation of church and state" and the other chiding Baptist college presidents who yield to the temptation to accept federal funds.

The debate came during addresses at the annual Pastors' Conference at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Abner V. McCall, president of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., rapped/advocates of complete separation of church and state, calling them "a great threat to the continued existence of a free church in a free society."

In rebuttal, E. S. James, editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas, charged that Baptist college presidents have yielded to the federal government's temptation and have gotten "gold dust in their eyes."

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The editor's address was punctuated by frequent "amens." During a discussion period following the address, there were no questions, but one remark came from the floor saying: "We agree with you."

McCall, who spoke first to the pastors' conference, has frequently advocated allowing Baptist schools to accept federal aid. He said that the American brand of democracy and religion are closely related.

Some "professional church and state separationists" would like to do away with the longstanding policies of allowing church property to be tax exempt, McCall said.

Based on statistics showing church properties in the Southern Baptist Convention valued at more than \$3 billion, McCall said that if the tax exemption is taken away, the churches would be pushed toward bankruptcy.

Although not labeling it as extreme, McCall took a few gibes at the Baptist Standard, which James edits, saying that the weekly Texas Baptist newspaper takes "a direct subsidy" of about \$1 million a year in the form of a second class mailing privilege.

He added that the Baptist Standard and other Baptist publications could not exist without the subsidy of the second class mailing privilege.

McCall said the great danger of "a complete separation of church and state" would be to possibly wreck America's democratic brand of government.

The original United States political system was unique, he said, because it was "an implementation of the religious beliefs of the people."

In a later address to the pastors, the Baptist Standard editor said that Baptist college presidents are very sincere in their motivation to build better Baptist schools, and that church members have brought up the question of accepting federal assistance because of lack of financial support of the schools.

He said that some Baptist institutions may cease to exist if they are not allowed to take federal money.

"On the other hand," James said, "if we let them take it we are going to lose them ultimately anyway. In doing so, we will have lost some things we can never recover---our heritage, our spiritual influence, and our self respect."

James said the battle to retain separation of church and state is still undecided. Six state Baptist conventions, including Texas, have special study committees now dealing with the question of federal loans or grants to Baptist institutions.

"Frankly, some of us are scared about the outcome (of the federal aid question), but we are not afraid of the conflict," James said.

"We may finally go down for the count of 10, but let us not be so timid as to toss in the towel so long as we are still on our feet."

James contended that there were no breaches in the wall of separation of church and state 35 years ago, but since then there have been 115 breaches in the wall.

He mentioned eight of them in his address, listing the GI Bill of Rights, the war surplus program, the dormitory loan program, the Hill-Burton Act of 1958, the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, the Economic Opportunity Act and the Education Act of 1965.

Baptists and others who had been guarding against use of federal money to aid church causes were caught napping in 1963 when the Higher Education Act was passed, he said.

When the bill was approved allowing church schools to receive grants for building and equipment, "the wall of separation was shaken to its very foundation," James said.

The 10th pastors' conference at Southwestern Seminary included four addresses by authorities on what the conference director, Dean Jesse Northcutt, called "the most sharply debated issue among Baptists today"---federal aid to Baptist institutions.

Other addresses were delivered by W. Barry Garrett, associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington; and Leon McBeth, professor at the seminary.

Adams Named Professor
At Arkansas Polytechnic

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (BP)--Travis M. Adams of Nashville, assistant executive secretary of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been named assistant professor and assistant to the dean at Arkansas Polytechnic College in Russellville, Ark.

Adams will return to his native state of Arkansas, effective September 1. His appointment to the faculty was announced here by J. W. Hull, president of Arkansas Polytechnic College.

He has served on the staff of the SBC Education Commission for the past two years, and is nearing completion of his work toward the doctor of philosophy degree in history at Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Rabun L. Brantley, executive secretary of the Education Commission, praised Adams for rendering "distinguished service in all areas of his work." Brantley said he regrets Adams' resignation but that "our best wishes go with him,"

Adams has been deeply involved in the groundwork for the Baptist Education Study Task (BEST), a two-year study on Baptist higher education programs now at the midway point, Brantley said.

Adams also has served on the board of directors of the Cooperative College Registry, a joint placement operation sponsored by nine Protestant denominations; and as a member of the SBC '70 Onward steering committee, the BEST steering committee, and the coordinating committee of the SBC Inter-Agency Council.

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Dallas Baptist College
Star Joins Far East Tour

6/30/66

DALLAS, Tex. (BP)--Wendel Hart may well be the best traveled sophomore basketball player in the world.

Hart, a Negro sophomore at Dallas Baptist College, already has displayed his cage talents throughout half the world, and he will add the other half before school starts in September.

The flashy guard will join the Venture for Victory Basketball Tour of the Far East in mid-July. The tour is a part of the Overseas Crusades, Inc.

Hart's basketball travels began before he came to Dallas Baptist College when he was in the Air Force. He was a member of the Air Force All Stars which played throughout Europe.

He averaged 23 points per game during his service career and was selected for the Air Force All-America team as well as to the All-France first team.

Hart was the sparkplug for Dallas Baptist College's team this past season. The school advanced as high as number two in the nation, won regional honors, and competed in the National Junior College championships.

Hart will join other members of the touring team in Palo Alto, Calif., and will open the Far East tour in Tokyo on July 18.

From Japan the team will travel to Korea, Formosa, Hong Kong, and Viet Nam. The tour will end with a month of games with Australia and New Zealand national teams.

-30-

CORRECTION: Please correct typographical error, page 2, June 29 BP Mailing, story on Kentucky Baptist Convention special session. Graph 7 of page 2 (graph 23 of the story) should begin: "The convention called on the 2,200 Baptist churches in the state".... rather than"...1,200 churches..." as sent. Thanks.

--Baptist Press