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Baptist Standard Board
Names John Hurt Editor

DALLAS (BP)--John Jeter Hurt Jr., editor of the Christian Index in Atlanta, Ga., for 19 years, was elected here editor of the Baptist Standard by the Texas Baptist weekly newspaper's board of directors.

When the new editor takes over the office Nov. 1, he will be the first layman and professional journalist to fill the post since the Baptist General Convention of Texas assumed ownership of the paper in 1914.

The Baptist Standard, with a circulation of 370,000, is the largest of the 29 Baptist state-wide newspapers in the nation. The Christian Index, which Hurt edits, is the third largest, with a circulation of 131,000.

Unanimous election of the new editor was announced here by the chairman of the publication's board, C. E. Colton of Dallas, and the chairman of the board's nominating committee, J. T. Ayers of Brownwood, Tex. Simultaneously, his resignation was announced at the Christian Index in Atlanta.

Hurt, 57, will succeed E. S. James, editor of the Standard for 12 years, who is retiring Oct. 31.

The editor-elect says he plans to move to Dallas about Oct. 1 to acquaint himself with the operation of the Texas paper before assuming the editorship upon retirement of the present editor.

James appraised Hurt as "one of the most capable newsmen in the nation," and as "one of the most dedicated Christian laymen in the Southern Baptist Convention." He added that "there is no man in the Southern Baptist life more capable of doing the job well."

For 11 years before becoming editor of the Christian Index in Georgia, Hurt served with the Associated Press as a reporter, editor, and bureau chief.

He began his career in journalism in 1931 as reporter and later news editor for the Jackson (Tenn.) Sun. He later became an Associated Press staff writer in Nashville, Tenn. and was chief of Associated Press bureaus in Chattanooga and Memphis, Tenn.

During his 11 years with the wire service, Hurt was also editor on the general news desk in New York for the AP, and later moved to the Atlanta bureau.

He was elected editor of the Christian Index, official publication of the Georgia Baptist Convention, in 1947. His resignation came 19 years and six days after becoming editor, the longest editorship in the Georgia convention's history.

Hurt, a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by Mercer University (Baptist), Macon, Ga., in 1955.

Like Editor James in Texas, Hurt has been outspoken in his editorials in Georgia, especially on separation of church and state, and race relations. Both editors are famed for the cutting edge on words chosen to answer letters to the editor in their publications.

Hurt's election, which came as a surprise to many, drew praise from both the outgoing editor of the Standard, and from the executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, T. A. Patterson of Dallas.

Patterson said Hurt's "wide experience with the news media has given him an understanding of modern methods of communication. He will have the prayers of Texas Baptists as he comes to this important post of leadership."

James said that Hurt "is a very influential voice in the state of Georgia. He holds very definite convictions about what is right, and he has the courage to voice them anywhere, anytime."

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Hurt is a former president of the Baptist Press Association, composed of the editors of the state Baptist papers. His wife, Doris, is a member of the SBC Home Mission Board, and a vice president of the Georgia Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

They have two sons, John Jeter III who will leave soon for France to do graduate study on a Fulbright scholarship, and Lt. Robert H. Hurt, who is in the U. S. Airborne school and is a volunteer for Viet Nam.

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Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers.

North Carolina Board
Approves Reorganization

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MURFREESBORO, N. C. (BP)--The General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved here a reorganization of its mission division, shifting several staff members to new positions.

Two new departments were created, one replaced, and one new staff member was employed. Three current staff members were shifted to new responsibilities.

A pioneer project in juvenile rehabilitation was approved for the Winston-Salem, N.C., area, and Marice Briggs of Winston-Salem was named to direct the new juvenile rehabilitation program.

The new program will be jointly sponsored by the Baptist state convention, the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association, the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, and the school of pastoral care at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

The board also voted to create a new department of city and metropolitan missions to replace the current church development department of the state convention's missions division.

Named to head the new department was Ernest C. Upchurch, who is currently serving as secretary of the church development department.

A new town and country and seminary extension department was also created by the board, which named Roy Smith of Silver, N.C., to head the new department. Smith is shifting to the position after serving as director of seminary extension work in Western North Carolina.

In connection with the missions division reorganization, the board noted the upcoming retirement on Dec. 31 of E. L. Spivey of Raleigh, N.C., who has been director of the division for more than 23 years. The board recommended that appropriate recognition be planned in connection with his retirement.

In other staff changes, the board voted to promote Edwin Bullock of Raleigh, from associate in the Brotherhood department to secretary of the department, succeeding Clyde Davis who resigned recently to join the SBC Brotherhood Commission staff, Memphis, Tenn.

The board also gave the green light to later employment of a director of the church program division, an associate in the church music department, and a young people's director in the Training Union department.

In other action, the 108-member board gave initial approval for a \$600,000 self-liquidating loan from private sources to Wingate College, Wingate, N. C.

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YUGOSLAVIAN SEMINARY, CHURCH BREAK GROUND: The president of the Baptist World Alliance, William R. Tolbert of Liberia (left) shakes hands with Stjepan Orcic, pastor of the Baptist Church in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, as they break ground for the new church building and seminary in that city. Behind Orcic, with raincoat and briefcase, is A. Lehotski, president of the seminary, and seen between Tolbert and Orcic is Josip Horak, president of Yugoslavian Baptists. (Photo by European Baptist Press)

FROM ARIZONA TO ALASKA: New Executive Secretary of the Alaska Baptist Convention is E. W. Hunke Jr., assistant executive secretary and missions superintendent for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, Phoenix. He becomes the third top Executive for Alaska Baptists, effective Sept. 1. (BP PHOTO)

DANISH SUNDAY SCHOOL DEMONSTRATION: Three members of a Girl Scout troupe at a Baptist Church in Denmark helped stage a "Sunday School Protest" during the 1966 meeting of the Danish Baptist Union. Their signs say, (translated into English) "We Want more Sunday Schools," "Why Can't Our Children Go to Sunday School," and "No Church Without Sunday School." Their "protest march" and other promotion techniques resulted in 12 more Sunday School teachers being enlisted from among the 350 delegates and visitors attending. (PHOTO BY EUROPEAN BAPTIST PRESS)