



BAPTIST PRESS

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September 29, 1966

**Social Workers Urged to
Lead Pioneer Ministries**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist social workers from throughout the nation were urged here to lead the denomination to launch exciting new experimental ministries to the poor, the needy, and the downtrodden.

William M. Dyal Jr., director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, outlined an agenda for Southern Baptist social work in the future during the closing address to the Southern Baptist Social Service Association.

"The agenda for the future demands pioneering experimental and demonstration programs of social work involving the inner-city, juvenile rehabilitation, rehabilitation of the criminal centers for treatment of alcoholics and narcotics addicts, poverty programs, literacy opportunities, and family ministry to mention only a few," said Dyal.

He called for "team ministries in decaying or problem-ridden communities involving, for example, a minister, a social worker, a lawyer, a doctor, a nurse, a home economics specialist, ~~teacher~~-trainers in manual arts and other job potentials."

"Let your concerned imagination run wild," Dyal urged about 50 social workers attending the meeting held in conjunction with the annual Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference here. "The needs and opportunities are limitless."

Reminding them that the Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Protestant body in the nation, Dyal said that Baptists "ought to be the religious pioneers in the field, not the stragglers."

Earlier, Dyal said that "social concern and social welfare raise the hackles of a large percentage of Southern Baptists, still fighting a 'social gospel' long ago dead and buried."

"In theology, frankly we are schizophrenic," Dyal said. "We have divorced theology and ethics. We are dualists, dividing man into body and spirit."

"Consequently, evangelism and social action are seen by too many as enemies rather than as partners. It is this basic heresy we practice which must be attacked if Southern Baptists are to come of age and be used in our time by the Lord of history," Dyal said.

"A tragic by-product of all these factors," he added, "is our growing loss of many creative young people. It will take 25 years for the consequence to be felt--but it shall be felt!"

"Nevertheless, the genius of Baptists," said Dyal, "is unity through diversity. A great deal of dialogue is going on now between divergent points of view. Many churches are caught up in a relevant search for renewal and contemporary ministry. Some of our denomination's agencies and boards are creatively exploring new frontiers."

"The age itself is exciting," he said. "For the first time in history the world's agenda for action calls for massive attacks on illiteracy, poverty, disease, and tyranny."

Calling for realistic social justice that will hit both the causes and the symptoms, Dyal urged the social workers to give "creative thought, and perhaps some blood, sweat and tears" to the hard task of welding together both love and justice in their ministries to human need.

"The dilemma for the church is that Christian love, expressed in abstraction, has not issued in specific healing and justice," he said.

As an example, he told of a front-row church member who nodded his head in assent to his pastor's sermon quoting scriptures that chided those who oppress the poor, while this same man "habitually collected his weekly rents from sub-standard slum housing while exempt to church."

Dyal urged a wider concept of church responsibility in Christian social work, the need for more trained personnel in the field, closer cooperation between Baptist helping ministries, better administration of current programs with an emphasis on research and consultation, pioneering in imaginative new programs, and preparation of Christian social workers for community economic and social change.

"We shall forfeit the consequences if we leave this necessary work to others who have no Christian orientation nor motivation," he said.

"This is a crossroads time for Southern Baptists," he concluded. "Let us be realists: responsible social concern will not come by evolutionary process, but by the revolutionary roles you and I must play. But the human dilemma surrounding us can stimulate us to action to awaken this sleeping giant of a denomination."

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Edens, Brister To Head
SBC Counseling, Guidance

9/29/66

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Counseling and Guidance Conference here elected C. W. Brister of Fort Worth, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, as president-elect, and passed the gavel to David Edens of San Antonio who becomes the current year president.

Edens, minister of counseling at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, will serve until Brister takes over as president Sept. 27, 1967, following the next annual meeting of the group

About 200 Baptist social workers, pastors, hospital chaplains, seminary teachers, marriage counselors, and workers in benevolent homes attended the annual conference. Theme for the meeting was "Worship, Ministry, and Group Processes."

Four general sessions, with major addresses by Robert C. Leslie of the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Calif., were held with the bigger conference dividing into five smaller groups for five other sessions.

During one of the sessions, the Association of Clinical Pastoral Educators paid tribute to Gaines S. Dobbins, professor emeritus at both Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. The association composed of many who studied under Dr. Dobbins, presented him with a gift during a dinner meeting in his honor.

Each of the smaller groups and associations delved into problems and issues of special concern to their work, and elected officers or chairmen to preside over next year's sessions and coordinate the organizations' work during the coming year.

The Southern Baptist Social Service Association elected Gene Thompson, associate minister at Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, as president-elect; while Miss Kathryn Bigham, professor of social work at the University of Georgia, took over as president for the forthcoming year.

Re-elected as chairman of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Educators was E. A. Verdery, director of the department of pastoral services for Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta.

The Southern Baptist Association for Pastoral Care, a third group meeting during the conference, elected Bill Mahaney, minister of pastoral care for First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., as its chairman.

Two other groups meeting during the week elected chairmen. The Vocational Guidance group elected Lee Garner of the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, as chairman; and the Church and Family group re-elected Grady Randolph, superintendent of missions for Elkhorn Baptist Association, Lexington, Ky., as chairman.

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Baptist College Honors
Community Publisher

9/29/66

BELTON, Tex. (BP)--James H. Russell, editor and publisher of the Belton Journal here, was recipient of the first Community-College Award by Mary Hardin-Baylor College at the Baptist school's fall convocation.

Russell, editor of the paper for 19 years, was cited for "distinguished service" to both his community and college, said Leonard L. Holloway, president of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Holloway said the award will be given annually to some outstanding citizen of the community who has rendered distinguished service to the college.

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Luck To Head Music
Accreditation Group

BELTON, Tex. (BP)--James T. Luck, chairman of the music department at Mary Hardin-Baylor College (Baptist) here, has been notified to assume the duties of president of the Southwestern Division of the National Association of Schools of Music, a national accreditation agency in all music degree curricula.

Luck, who has been serving as vice president of the division since his election in Chicago last year, was asked to assume the responsibilities of the office due to the inability of Joseph Carlucci of Northwestern State College of Louisiana to fulfill the term.

The southwestern division is comprised of 46 schools in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Luck will be in charge of the program for the regional convention in Dallas on Nov. 21-22 and will correlate regional activities with the national association.

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Five SBC Presidents
From Tennessee Honored

9/29/66

NASHVILLE (BP)--Five Tennesseans who have served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention were honored here at a banquet sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Framed certificates were presented to the five men who served as SBC presidents, and corsages were given each first lady.

Honored were:

R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus of the Bellvue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., who was president of the SBC from 1949 to 1951.

J. W. Storer, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Foundation, Nashville, and president of the SBC from 1954-55 when he was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Ramsey Pollard, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and a former pastor of the First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., who was president in 1960 and 1961.

W. Wayne Dehoney, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn., and immediate past president of the SBC, serving from 1964-1965.

And H. Franklin Paxchall, current SBC President and pastor of the First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Tribute was also paid to the late F. F. Brown, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Knoxville, who was president of the convention in 1932 and 1933.

The president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, G. Allen West of Nashville, was master of ceremonies at the banquet. Presentation of the certificates was made by Paul Turner of Nashville, chairman of the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board.

Gov. Frank Clement of Nashville brought greetings to nearly 100 guests, and made presentations to Storer and to Pollard, making them honorary colonels on the staff of the governor of Tennessee.

Major address for the evening was delivered by Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, who paid tribute to the five SBC presidents present, and listed five other SBC presidents, all now deceased, who at one time or another lived in Tennessee.

Each of the five presidents present told the group of humorous incidents that happened to them during their term of office as president of the convention.

Although two states, Texas and Georgia, have also had five native sons who served as president of the convention, the banquet in Tennessee is believed to be the first time that five SBC presidents from the same state, all living, have been honored by the state in which they served.

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Photo to be mailed to state Baptist papers.

Tennessee Board Approves
Purchase of Building Site

NASHVILLE (BP)--The first step towards construction of a new office building for the Tennessee Baptist Convention was taken here by the convention's Executive Board.

The board voted to purchase property adjacent to Belmont College (Baptist) here for \$125,000, provided the Nashville zoning commission approves it for an office building.

Acting on a recommendation from the board's long range planning committee, the board also voted to hire an architect to design the new office building as soon as purchase plans are finalized.

In other major action, the board voted to recommend a state Cooperative Program goal of \$4.6 million for consideration by the Tennessee Baptist Convention when it meets in November.

The new budget would be an increase of \$250,000 over the 1966 advance budget goal. One third of the \$4.6 million budget would go to support Southern Baptist Convention causes through the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget, and all surplus receipts over the total goal would be divided on a 50-50 basis between the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the SBC.

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University of Georgia
Student Center Opened

9/29/66

ATHENS, Ga. (BP)--A debt-free \$350,000 Baptist student center was dedicated here at the University of Georgia recently with an open house and dedication ceremonies.

The 15,000 square-foot building is located in the heart of the university campus on land owned by the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The building contains offices for the minister to the university and staff, a chapel, a conference room, a guest room, an apartment for persons in charge of the building, a kitchen and dining room, recreational and other facilities.

Special state missions offerings, sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Sunday School and Woman's Missionary Union, plus funds from the capital needs section of the Georgia Baptist Convention budget, financed the building, enabling it to open free of debt.

Dedication ceremonies were led by Aubrey L. Hawkins, Georgia Baptist secretary of student work, and by Searcy S. Garrison, the convention's executive secretary-treasurer.

Greetings were brought by the president of the University of Georgia, O. C. Aderhold, and by elected officials of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Hawkins said there are about 5,100 Baptist students among the 14,000 students enrolled this year at the University of Georgia.

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Former Midwestern
Land Owner Dies

9/29/66

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Mrs. Sheffa Vivion Foster of Kansas City, who sold 99 acres of prime property to Southern Baptists in 1957 as the campus site for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, died after a lengthy illness.

She had been living on the family estate, which reverts to the seminary following her death.

Mrs. Foster sold the property to the seminary for \$252,500, a price far below that offered by commercial interests, because (as she said) "the Lord has been good to me and I want to do something for him."

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