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January 20, 1967

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~~28~~ Robert Hastings Is
New Illinois Editor (40)

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--Robert J. Hastings, pastor of the University Baptist Church here, is the newly-elected editor of The Illinois Baptist, state paper of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Hastings, who begins his duties about March 1, succeeds L. H. Moore, who resigned to become editor of the Ohio Baptist.

A native of Marion, Ill., he received the A. B. degree with honors from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, the B. D. and the Th.D. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

For five years the new Illinois editor was associate to Merrill D. Moore, then the Stewardship Promotion Secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn. From 1960-1965, Hastings was Secretary of Stewardship Promotion for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown.

He has conducted stewardship conferences throughout the Southern Baptist Convention and in Canada, Mexico, Latin America and England. Hastings assisted in the development of the Forward Program of Church Finance and simplified materials for publication in Portuguese and Spanish.

In addition to being the author of six books, the new editor is the author of more than a thousand magazine articles, features, and curriculum studies.

Hastings is married to the former Bessie Ruth Emling of Butler, Ill. They have three children. Ruth, 19, is a student at William Jewell College. Nancy, 14, and Tim, 13, are at home.

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(Note to Baptist State paper editors: A picture of Robert J. Hastings is being mailed from Nashville.)

Professor Gets Award
For Translation Work (41)

(1-20-67) 98

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--John Edward Steely, Professor of Historical Theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary recently received an award of \$750 from the Christian Research Foundation for his "distinguished translation" from German into English of "The Office of the Apostle in the Early Church" by Walter Schmithals.

This translation was chosen from the 1965-1966 competition of worthy translations into English of "important or significant modern works in foreign languages on the subject of early Christian History and Literature," according to Ralph Lazzaro, secretary for the Christian Research Foundation.

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CORRECTIONS on BP dated January 18, 1967:

Page 1, "James H. Smith Elected New Illinois Executive," Graph 3 should read "Memphis, Texas" instead of "Memphis, Tenn."

Page 3, "Wake Forest, N. C. Baptist Relations Erupt Again," byline should read Toby Druin.

40-41

Community Involvement
Urged For Rural Churches

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ATLANTA (BP)--An increased involvement in community life, including new government programs, was urged here for rural Baptist churches.

Making the suggestion were members of the Long-range Rural Church Committee, an advisory group to the Rural-Urban Missions Department of the SBC's Home Mission Board.

The committee wants pastors and church leaders to inform themselves about governmental programs such as the War on Poverty, Vocational Retraining, and the Rural Areas Development.

Churches should then offer their facilities for community improvement use; leaders should serve on committees, and church members need to be involved in the implementing of community improvement programs.

C. Wilson Brumley of Atlanta, secretary of the Rural-Urban Department, reported the committee, which meets annually, stressed again the need for rural churches to establish joint fields, where one minister can serve two or more churches.

This strengthens churches by providing stronger leadership, allowing them to promote many joint projects like vacation Bible schools and surveys, even to having joint budget planning, deacons' meetings, and training schools.

He pointed out that the number of rural churches decreased by 478 in the SBC over the past 10 years, although membership increased. The denomination has 23,071 churches with 4,428,927 members in communities of less than 2,500.

The committee also reevaluated its long-range goals for rural churches, finding some are not as relevant as when adopted in 1954. For example, one goal asked that all churches have pastors living in the community and giving all their time to the field.

In fact, Brumley said the Home Mission Board may disband the committee because of recent changes within the denomination.

He said the committee served as an inter-agency group which brought representatives from all agencies together for a concerted emphasis on the rural church.

Now the denomination has an inter-agency council where this type of cooperation can be secured, and there has also been a defining of program assignment, including relationships between agencies.

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California Executive
Reports Fiscal Progress

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(1-20-67) 266

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The California Baptist Foundation is making progress in straightening out its shaky financial situation, according to a report from Cecil Pearson, executive secretary of the Foundation.

Pearson had announced in December that the Foundation faced a deficit of \$100,000 by the end of the year in current operating funds.

This has now changed, he reports, due to the completion of one transaction which put \$50,000 cash back in the Foundation's operating fund, thus removing the threat of the possible loss of \$100,000.

In an earlier story in The California Southern Baptist, editor Terry Young stated the dilemmas faced by the California Baptist agency. He reported that 42.5 per cent of the church loans held by the Foundation were delinquent to the amount of \$240,420.

In addition, Young said, the Foundation had to redeem \$255,000 worth of church notes from the lay-away plan when purchasers defaulted in payment.

"A vigorous program to bring these to a current condition is being successful," editor Young now reports.

In the first two weeks of the year, according to Pearson's recent statement, the California Plan of Church Finance, operated by the California Baptist Foundation, has received orders to issue approximately a half million dollars in debenture notes for churches.

The outlook for the Foundation is also much brighter, Pearson said, because of a reduction in operating costs brought about by a shift to IBM data processing for accounting. Pearson estimates that the shift to automated accounting will save the foundation between \$15,000 and \$20,000 annually.

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~~44~~ Ouachita Professor,
Finley M. Chu, Dies

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ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Finley M. Chu, chairman of the division of business and economics at Ouachita Baptist University, died January 17 from stomach cancer.

Funeral services were held here January 18 in the First Baptist Church. Officiating at the memorial service were Sam Reeves, pastor; Ralph Phelps, president of Ouachita University; and J. T. Roberts, Department of Missions of the Oklahoma State Baptist Convention.

Before coming to Ouachita University in 1963, Professor Chu taught economics and business administration at Oklahoma Baptist University. He was also department head and director of the evening college at OBU.

A native of Pingtu, China, he earned a B. A. from Central Institute of Political Sciences in Nanking, China. Chu also earned M. A. and Ph.D degrees from the University of Wisconsin and M. R. E. and D. R. E. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, Rosemary, and a daughter, Jane, 9 years old.

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~~45~~ Ouachita University
Plans Major Expansion

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(1-20-67) 210

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Ralph A. Phelps, president of Ouachita Baptist University, has outlined an \$8 million program of expansion for the Arkansas Baptist school here. The long-range program is expected to culminate in 1980.

According to plans, seven new dormitories, two for women and five for men, will be built.

Other facilities to be constructed are a new auditorium and infirmary, a second dining hall and a major classroom and office building.

Additions are planned for the science hall, administration building, student center and other campus structures. Construction is already underway for enlargement of the library.

Phelps revealed that financial arrangements have been completed and that work will begin shortly on a \$1 million men's dormitory.

A center for speech and drama, costing \$250,000, is nearing completion. A \$1 million three-story women's dormitory was recently completed.

The Arkansas State Baptist Convention approved Ouachita's proposal to sell up to \$2 million worth of debenture bonds to provide construction of the first phase of the over-all program. Phelps said the program will be carried out in three phases: 1966-70; 1970-75; and 1975-80.

The Ouachita University program was planned by Robert Rucker, a campus designer, of Norman, Okla. He began the plan three years ago. Landscaping has been in progress for several years.

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~~46~~ Golden Gate Professor
Named Visiting Teacher

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(1-20-67) 98

BERKELEY, Calif. (BP)--Leroy Moore, Jr., formerly of the faculty of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies for the spring term at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif.

A native of Tennessee, Moore is a graduate of Baylor University and the Golden Gate Theological Seminary where he earned the B. A. and B. D. degrees, respectively. He has a Ph.D. degree from Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, Calif.

Moore, his wife, and two daughters, now live in Richmond, Calif.

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CUTLINES with story mailed 1-20-67 Baptist Press Photo

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NEW ILLINOIS EDITOR--Robert J. Hastings, pastor of the University Baptist Church, Carbondale, Ill., will assume his new duties as editor of the Illinois Baptist about March 1. (BP PHOTO)