



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593

DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

February 7, 1967

Baptist From Texas
Heads VISTA Program

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WASHINGTON (BP)--President Lyndon B. Johnson has nominated William H. Crook, a former Baptist pastor from Texas and former president of a Baptist preparatory school, for a top-level job in the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

Crook will head the program of Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA), as part of the War on Poverty efforts administered by the OEO. He will also be assistant director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Sargent Shriver, director of the OEO, appointed Crook to the position on a temporary basis in December. Confirmation is now pending in the Senate.

As head of VISTA, Crook will direct the War on Poverty program through which Americans 18 years or older work and live for a year with families in poverty-infested areas.

The 5,000 VISTA volunteers seek to improve the health, education and welfare of such groups as migratory workers, Indians living on reservations and persons who live in metropolitan area slums.

Crook came to his new post from Austin, Tex., where he had been regional director of the Office of Economic Opportunity since July 1965.

From 1960-65 Crook was president of San Marcos Baptist Academy, a preparatory school in San Marcos, Tex. Prior to this he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Nacogdoches, Tex.

He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where he earned his doctor's degree. He also did graduate study at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

His wife is the former Margaret Eleanor Butt of Corpus Christi. They have three children: William, Jr., 10; Mary Elizabeth, 7; and Noel Eileen, 3.

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Baylor Rates High
In Careers Survey

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WACO, Tex. (BP)--A high percentage of Baylor University freshmen here plan careers that will "help people", a recent national survey by the American Council on Education shows.

President Abner V. McCall reported to the Baptist school's trustees that the survey of 206,865 current freshmen in 252 colleges and universities showed 79.5 per cent of Baylor freshmen were motivated by a desire to "help others in difficulty." The national university norm was 66.5 per cent.

McCall told the trustees that he considered the service motivation of Baylor students compared to the "get rich" drive of others on the national average as significant.

"This is true because they feel what we have to offer here in Christian education would help them achieve their life aims," McCall said.

The survey revealed that 31.9 per cent of Baylor's freshmen male students plan to become medical doctors and 9.2 per cent of the girls plan to be nurses. The national university norm for freshmen males planning to become physicians is 10.3 per cent. The national university norm for freshmen girls who plan to become nurses is 6.8 per cent.

Males planning careers as ministers make up 6.5 per cent of Baylor's freshman class--the national university norm is 0.5 per cent.

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Committee of Concern
Rebuilds Baptist Church

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JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Committee of Concern, which has been instrumental in rebuilding 42 burned Negro churches in Mississippi during the past two years, has again responded to a burned Negro Baptist church.

The committee will allocate the last \$300 in its treasury to the Shady Oak Baptist Church, which was burned to the ground on the night of Jan. 20.

Wm. P. Davis, secretary of the department of Negro work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and chairman of the committee during the past two years, said that the extent of damage was \$25,000 to \$30,000, with insurance coverage of only \$8,000. He said the church had an indebtedness of \$6,000.

Bishop John M. Allin of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, new chairman of the committee, issued a plea for more donations, saying that the need was much greater than the \$300 allocation left in their treasury.

Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, Miss., is treasurer of the Committee of Concern.

The brick veneer church building, located about 10 miles east of Collins, Miss., on Highway 84, was constructed in 1947. L. R. Barnes is pastor of the church.

Davis said the Committee of Concern had raised and spent \$128,000 in cash on the 42 burned churches during the past two years, and an additional \$200,000 worth of labor and \$120,000 worth of furniture, fixtures and equipment has been donated through the committee in the past two years.

Their announcement to help the church did not state why the church was burned or indicate who might have been responsible.

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Baptist Camp Managers
Hold Second Conference

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TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP)--The second annual Southern Baptist Assembly and Camp Managers Conference met here at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly and formally organized with the adoption of bylaws.

The group held its first organizational meeting last year in Texas, and is composed of managers and certain other personnel for Southern Baptist encampments and assemblies.

Elected president of the organization was Arlis Hinson, manager of Rockridge Baptist Assembly, Franklin, Ga.

Other officers are C. L. Martin, Palacios Baptist Encampment, Palacios, Tex., as vice president; and Mrs. Marvin Byrdwell, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad, Ky., as secretary-treasurer.

Next meeting of the conference will be at Windermere Baptist Assembly, Roach, Mo., Jan. 29-Feb. 1, 1968.

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Former Oklahoma WMU
Executive Secretary Dies

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OKALHOMA CITY (BP)--Miss Margaret Hutchison, who formerly served 15 years as executive secretary-treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union of Oklahoma Baptists, died here Feb. 6.

Before coming to Oklahoma in 1948, Miss Hutchison was Young People's secretary for the WMU of Arkansas for 17 years. She later worked two years with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's schools of missions section of the department of missionary education.

A native of Little Rock, Ark., Miss Hutchison was a graduate of Louisiana College, (Baptist Pineville, La., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Despite the fact that she had been a diabetic for the last 33 years of her life, she had visited numerous home and foreign mission fields. She was 67.

She was the granddaughter of the late William E. Paxton, Louisiana Baptist historian and pioneer Baptist preacher.

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Seminary Advisory Council
Elects Oilman As Chairman

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FORT WORTH (BP)--Rancher-oilman R. Ray Perkins of Olney, Tex., was elected chairman of the Advisory Council for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during their annual meeting here.

The council, which advises the seminary in planning, promoting and building, is an executive group of advisors from Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and North Carolina.

Agenda for the meeting included reports on campus activities, development, reports on building projects, and a "state of the seminary" address by President Robert Naylor.

Elected vice chairman of the advisory council was Berul Godfrey, an attorney from Fort Worth. Wayne Evans, seminary business manager, is secretary.

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College Names Building
For Early Baptist Leader

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WASHINGTON (BP)--George Washington University has named its new eight-story administration building Luther Rice Hall in honor of the school's founder and one of the first Baptist missionaries of America.

Luther Rice helped to found the university, which opened in 1821 as Columbian College, an institution of the General Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States of America.

Rice (1783-1836), and Adoniram Judson (1788-1850) were among the first Baptist foreign missionaries, and Rice is considered to be the "father of American Baptist foreign missions."

After founding the university in 1821, the convention was embroiled in a controversy resulting from opposition to a strong centralized organization, and the convention in 1826 rejected the college as an agency of the denomination. Rice lost his place of responsibility as financial agent for the college and the convention.

He devoted the remaining ten years of his life to Columbian College (now George Washington University) and to missionary efforts of the convention, giving about \$3,500 of his personal funds to help save the college.

In addition to the university's new administration building, many other memorials honor the life and work of Luther Rice, according to Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission in Nashville.

Other such memorials include the Luther Rice Memorial Church in Washington, the Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla., the Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church in Northboro, Mass., Rice Hall on the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and the Luther Rice Scholarship at Southern Seminary.

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Seminary Names Chaplain
As Counselor For Negroes

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--A retired Army chaplain from Georgia has been named by the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here to counsel with Negro young people about the challenge of the Christian ministry.

Lt. Col. Robert B. Herndon of Atlanta, in accepting the special appointment, noted that "the Negro ministry is not reproducing itself at a critical time when Negro Baptist churches are making increased educational demands upon their pastors and leaders."

Seminary officials revealed statistics indicating that only about 325 Negro students are enrolled in accredited seminaries in the United States, but that Negro Baptist churches are in need of perhaps 10,000 trained ministers to work with 20 million people.

"In the light of the severe shortage of ministerial students among Negro youth and in the interest of the quality and quantity of the Baptist ministry, the Southern Seminary board of trustees called for the appointment of an informed seminary representative who would attempt to challenge qualified young people with the needs and opportunities of their churches' work," said Southern Seminary President Duke K. McCall.

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In planning the new program, seminary officials consulted leaders of the SBC Home Mission Board and state convention workers with National (Negro) Baptists, who expressed interest and support for the project.

The new seminary representative's interest in Negro education is not recent. In his 1935 application to Southern Seminary, he listed "work with Negroes in the south" as his vocational objective. Now, 32 years later, he will have the opportunity to do just that.

Herndon is a graduate of Furman University (Baptist) in Greenville, S. C., the University of Georgia, Athens, and Southern Seminary.

Although Herndon will be employed by Southern Seminary, his first responsibility is to the Negro Baptist ministry, seminary officials said. He will advise students on the basis of their individual goals and abilities and may recommend other schools or seminaries which would more nearly meet students' needs.

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Golden Gate Seminary
Changes Degree Name

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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here has changed the name of its basic theological degree, the bachelor of divinity degree, to the master of divinity degree.

Seminary trustees voted to change the degree name in accordance with recommendations from the American Association of Theological Schools.

All but two of the six seminaries operated by the Southern Baptist Convention have announced similar plans to change the name of the divinity degree to reflect the master's degree level.

A new curriculum structure at Golden Gate Seminary designed for the new degree will allow each student to concentrate his studies in the area of his particular interest.

The master of divinity degree will require three years of study beyond the bachelor's degree from a college or university with required liberal arts credits, and will be the foundation for further graduate work at the seminary.

Also featured in the new curriculum will be a concentrated study of Greek each summer to prepare students for beginning Greek. Four hours of classroom and laboratory work will be offered daily during the five week course.

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