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February 24, 1967

Stetson President Edmunds  
Resigns, To Be Chancellor

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DeLAND, Fla. (BP)--The president of Stetson University here, J. Ollie Edmunds, has submitted his resignation after 20 years as top executive of the private Baptist university.

The Stetson board of trustees almost immediately created the position of chancellor of the university, and asked Edmunds to fill the post when a new president is selected.

His resignation as president would be effective when a new president of the university is elected and installed by the board of trustees.

In a letter of resignation to the chairman of the board, Edmunds cited the challenge of the future in higher education, saying that Stetson must have administrative leadership that can devote uninterrupted attention to every available opportunity of service and all sources of support.

"Unfortunately, I cannot continue to offer that sort of aggressive leadership," Edmunds said in the letter of resignation to board chairman Doyle E. Carlton, former governor of Florida.

Edmunds also said he needed to spend more time in the management of timber holdings in California, in fairness to the families of two business associates who have looked after his business affairs in California while he devoted his time to college affairs in Florida.

Edmunds did not mention the recent controversy between Stetson and the Florida Baptist Convention which developed last year when Stetson accepted two government grants for building construction.

Although the school is not owned by the convention but rather is controlled by a private self-perpetuating board nominated by the convention, many Florida Baptists strongly opposed the federal grants.

At the convention in November, Stetson's budget allocation was reduced, and a motion was adopted saying all budget support would be dropped from any Baptist institution which accepted federal grants in the future.

Edmunds, in speeches and in articles, has been a strong advocate of federal aid to Baptist colleges and universities, maintaining it does not violate the Baptist view of the principle of separation of church and state.

The board of trustees, during the meeting when Edmunds' resignation was accepted, resolved "to see that the school is forever maintained as an independent institution, free of all government and political controls."

Trustees also re-affirmed their desire to provide quality education in a school that "will not hesitate to emphasize moral and religious truths; a school that will be profoundly Christian but not sectarian."

The trustees appointed a five-member committee to select a new president, with Charles W. Campbell, former chairman of the Florida Development Commission, selected as chairman.

In his resignation statement, Edmunds said he would continue as president until his successor arrives, and "I shall be available to assist him in any way that I can."

Edmunds' responsibilities as chancellor would be "to promote and foster the best interests of the university, in Florida and throughout the United States." He would serve in such additional responsibilities as might be assigned to him by the trustees and the new president.

"If the new president will permit me, I hope to prove that this love and concern for my foster mother (Stetson) continues real and genuine," Edmunds said.

Before becoming president of Stetson 20 years ago, Edmunds was an attorney in California.

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Arkansas Convention To Get  
New Headquarters Building

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--A new headquarters building for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will be built in downtown Little Rock this summer.

The Executive Board of the convention, in a special called session here, voted unanimously to purchase property at 425 W. Capitol Ave., within one block of the city's Post Office and one block west of the present Baptist Building.

The board voted to purchase the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, and to remodel and renovate the two-story building throughout, including external beautification.

Purchase price of the steel and re-enforced concrete structure, along with a 104-car capacity parking lot, is \$471,000. Estimated cost of remodeling will be another \$400,000.

The new building would nearly double the amount of floor space in the current Baptist Building, located at 401 W. Capitol.

The board voted to sell the property it now owns, including both the Baptist Building, a four-acre tract in Western Little Rock, and 170 acres of land in North Little Rock. The Baptist Building will not be sold until the new building has been completed.

The new property will be available July 1, and it is hoped construction of the new building can get underway soon afterward, said S. A. Whitlow, executive secretary of the convention.

Whitlow said the new location, just five blocks West of the center of downtown Little Rock, will be ideally situated for super highways leading into the downtown area.

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Baptist Radio Program  
On Veterans Wins Award

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FORT WORTH (BP)--A thirty-minute special radio program dedicated to veterans of American wars has been awarded a George Washington honor medal by the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pa.

The winning program is "MasterControl"\* a weekly public-service radio program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

The "Veteran's Day, 1965" special was cited for outstanding contribution toward understanding and propagation of the American way of life.

Interviews with Marine, Navy and Army veterans, each describing their wartime experiences, were featured on the award-winning "MasterControl"\* program.

Paul M. Stevens, executive director of the SBC Radio-TV Commission, closed the program with a brief vignette. Service songs were used as a musical accompaniment.

Thirty top-ranking awards were granted by the Freedoms Foundations, with about 1,200 other awards. No Baptist group or individual was among the 30 top award winners.

Purpose of the awards, said an official of the Freedom's Foundation, is to honor citizens for outstanding efforts to improve public understanding and appreciation of the basic constitutional rights, freedoms, and responsibilities of the American way of life.

It is the second time that a "MasterControl"\* program has won a Freedom's Foundation award. The Veteran's Day special program is one of 52 "MasterControl"\* programs produced each year by the SBC Radio-TV Commission.

The weekly program is broadcast over more than 480 radio stations in the United States and 20 foreign countries. An estimated audience of 44 million hears the program weekly.

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Miami Church Switches Roles  
Becomes Spanish Mission

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MIAMI, Fla. (BP)--A 45-year old English-speaking congregation which for years has maintained a Spanish-language department has switched the two roles.

Calvary Baptist Church here now has become a Spanish-language mission with an English-language department.

The \$125,000 property, which includes a 350-seat sanctuary and 35 classrooms, were turned over to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention during a special ceremony here.

"I think this is the first situation of this kind anywhere in the denomination," said James F. Brooks, who has been pastor of the 250-member English-speaking congregation.

Armando Ginard, who has headed the church's Spanish department, has become pastor of the Spanish mission. Brooks, the former pastor, has become associate pastor.

The two congregations held a joint service led by Ginard in which the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was observed.

Deed for the property was later presented to L. D. Wood of the SBC Home Mission Board language missions department.

More than 20 English-speaking Baptist churches in Miami have Spanish departments, but the Calvary Baptist Church is believed to be the only Spanish Baptist mission with an English department.

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Catholic Editor Favors  
Crusade of Americas

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HUNTINGTON, Ind. (BP)--A Roman Catholic editor has responded favorably, with certain reservations, to an unofficial suggestion that Catholics might participate in the proposed 1969 Crusade of Americas.

"We think it would be good for Catholics to carry on a great evangelism campaign too," said an editorial in Our Sunday Visitor, a Catholic publication.

"Whether it can be done in cooperation with the Baptists is something that would have to be discussed seriously," the editorial said.

The editorial responded to remarks made by Wayne Dehoney, Baptist pastor in Louisville, Ky., and North American coordinator for the Crusade of Americas. Dehoney made the remarks in an interview with the Dallas (Tex.) Times Herald.

No official invitation, however, for Catholic participations in the crusade has been discussed by the Directory Council or the Central Coordinating Committee of the Crusade of Americas, which determines policy and programs for the crusade.

The Crusade of Americas is an evangelistic program for Baptists in North, Central and South America in 1969. Each participating Baptist body is to conduct its own campaigns.

Dehoney, in the interview, said he thought "it would be marvelous for Roman Catholics to take part in this great evangelism activity."

Taking note of the new attitude in Roman Catholic circles since Vatican Council II, Dehoney said, "We are hopeful and happy that a spirit of evangelism and outreach based on the proclamation of the gospel and New Testament faith is breaking lose in the Catholic Church."

Dale Francis, editor of the Operation Understanding edition of Our Sunday Visitor, national Catholic ecumenical weekly, wrote in response to Dehoney's remarks.

"It seems obvious," wrote Francis, "that Catholics couldn't join in with a campaign to proselyte Catholics from their own faith.

"If what Dr. Dehoney is saying, and we hope this is it, is that as Baptists seek to reach their Baptists and the unchurched, they would be glad to have the Catholic church carry on a campaign at the same time to bring Catholics to greater participation in their faith, then certainly Catholics will welcome the invitation."

Francis concluded: "Let the Baptists make clear they do not intend to seek to proselyte, let them make clear to their evangelists that they want Catholics to be approached by Catholics, and what Dr. Dehoney proposes could very well come about.

"That kind of a joint campaign, each seeking to reach their own and the unchurched, would be one that all Christians could join," Francis wrote.

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Baptist Laymen Hear Plans  
For 1968 Evangelism Meeting

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NASHVILLE (BP)--An informal group of influential Baptist laymen interested in the proposed 1969 Crusade of Americas heard plans outlined here for a hemispheric-wide layman's congress in Brazil in 1968.

Tentative plans for the congress, expected to attract about 500 Baptist laymen from North and South America, call for the meeting to be held July 15-19, 1968 in either Rio de Janeiro or Sao Paulo, Brazil.

No official actions concerning plans for the layman's congress were taken by the informal group of laymen meeting here. About 35 Baptist laymen, most of them Southern Baptists, attended the meeting held during the week of the Executive Committee meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Owen Cooper, a Baptist layman from Yazoo City, Miss., called the meeting in order to discuss with the group the question of how to get Baptist laymen from throughout the hemisphere involved in the proposed Crusade of Americas.

Cooper is chairman of a layman's committee created by the 50-member Central Coordinating Committee of the Crusade of Americas during its meeting in Mexico City last December.

Cooper said that the 15-member committee has not been completely appointed, but that it would make the decisions on plans for the 1968 hemispheric-wide meeting in Brazil when it holds its first meeting in Louisville, Ky., July 25-28, 1967.

The Central Coordinating Committee of the crusade and its smaller Directory Council will meet during these same dates in Louisville.

Cooper said that tentative plans call for about 250 laymen from North America to attend and an equal number from South America.

Methods of financing the meeting were also discussed, with a proposal made that the North American's pay a \$250 registration fee, which would be used to defray expenses of the meeting and help with travel expenses for Latin American laymen who would afford to attend only if there is a travel subsidy provided.

Following the four-day congress in Brazil, tentative plans call for teams composed of one North American and one South American to go to Baptist churches throughout South America for a weekend period of lay witnessing and church work.

Cooper said that the laymen would go out to the churches, especially those in Brazil to learn of the "tremendously successful methods used by Brazilian Baptist laymen during their recent evangelistic efforts," as well as to give their witness in the South American churches.

Cooper said that each Baptist body participating in the Crusade of Americas would suggest a group of laymen to be invited to attend the hemispheric-wide layman's congress in Brazil.

The committee responsible for planning the meeting is to be composed of nine laymen and six ministers.

Already invited to serve on the 15-member committee are Cooper, Carl Tiller, president of the American Baptist Convention and a layman from Washington, D. C.; Richard Cushing, a Swedish Baptist laymen; Howard Butt, from Corpus Christi, Tex.; and Maxey Jarman of Nashville, Tenn.

Ministers invited to serve on the committee include Dr. Carlos de la Torre, pastor and medical doctor in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Manuel Calderon, minister from Colombia; Alfredo Lerin of the Spanish Baptist Publishing House in El Paso, Tex., and C. Wade Freeman, director of evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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