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September 5, 1967

750

378

Florida Convention Names  
Bennett Executive Secretary

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--The State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist Convention has elected Harold C. Bennett of Dallas as the convention's new executive secretary-treasurer.

Bennett, who currently is director of the Missions Division for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, assumes the top Florida Baptist position effective Oct. 15.

He will succeed John Maguire, who is retiring effective Dec. 31 after 22 years as executive secretary-treasurer. Maguire will become "emeritus" status on Oct. 31, but will work with Bennett in the position through Dec. 31.

In other actions, the Florida State Missions Board voted to recommend the largest budget in its history and honored Maguire for his service to the convention.

The budget, to be recommended to the state convention at Sarasota, Fla., in November, was set at \$3.6 million, an increase of \$300,000 over the 1967 budget.

In honoring Maguire, the board voted to supplement his retirement income, to give him life occupancy of the secretary's home, and to provide him a small office in the convention building.

Bennett assumes the top Florida Baptist position after two years as head of the Texas Baptist missions division, a part of the convention's State Missions Commission.

Previously Bennett was secretary of the Metropolitan Missions Department for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, (1962-65), and superintendent of new work for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville (1960-62).

He is the former pastor of Baptist churches in Texarkana, Ark.; Shreveport, La.; Wake Forest, N.C.; and chaplain of the Kentucky State Reformatory, LaGrange, Ky.

A native of Asheville, N.C., Bennett is a graduate of Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

In other major actions, the Florida Baptist board authorized a study of the convention's present programs of work and authorized a six-member panel of Baptist leaders from outside the state to conduct the study.

The study will be headed by Albert McClellan, program planning secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The board also voted to name a new auditorium chapel at Lake Yale Assembly in honor of John Maguire.

If approved by the state convention, the proposed 1968 budget would provide 55 per cent of the overall budget for Florida Baptist work, and 45 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

The \$3.6 million would be divided with \$1.98 million to be used in Florida and \$1.62 million for SBC causes.

750

September 5, 1967

2

Baptist Press

Phelps Named Regional Head  
Of War On Poverty Efforts

751

308

ATLANTA (BP)--Ralph A. Phelps Jr., president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., has been named southeast regional director of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) with offices here, effective Sept. 5.

The announcement of the Baptist administrator's appointment was made in Washington by Sargent Shriver, director of the War on Poverty programs.

In Atlanta, Phelps said he was taking a year's leave of absence (a sabbatical) from the Baptist school to accept the poverty position.

He said the poverty program is a "very logical extension of the Christian ethics of concern for one's fellow man. It is a practical implementation on the government level of the things that Jesus talked about in Matthew 25."

He said the War on Poverty is vitally related "to our total Christian thrust the world around," and that he felt that he would be "serving the Lord for this year in this post."

Phelps has been president of Ouachita since 1953. Since then the enrollment of the school (currently 2,035) has tripled. In 1960 he was "Arkansas Man of the Year."

A native of Dallas, Phelps is a graduate of Baylor University, and has earned the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He was director of publicity, and director of men for Baylor University following graduation, and served one year as associate pastor of Seventh and James Baptist Church, Waco, near the Baylor campus.

He also has been pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church, Waco, Tex.; First Baptist Church, Plano, Tex.; and associate professor of social ethics at Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth.

In his new position, Phelps will coordinate the total program of the Office of Economic Opportunity for six states in the Southeast Region--Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

Another well-known Baptist leader, Ross Coggins, is serving as regional administrator of Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), one of several War on Poverty programs which will come under Phelps's direction in Atlanta.

-30-

Mississippi Negro Baptists  
To Preach In Brazil Effort

752

9/5/67

126

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Nine Negro Baptist pastors from Mississippi will participate in an evangelistic crusade in Brazil during September, marking the first time that a group of Negro Baptist pastors from Mississippi has participated in an overseas preaching mission.

The invitation came from Brazilian Baptists through the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

All nine of the Negro ministers are products of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary which maintains 22 centers in the state. Wm. P. Davis, secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention department of Negro work will accompany the group.

The venture is being sponsored by the seminary, the convention's Negro work department, and the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention board.

-30-

751-752

September 5, 1967

3

Baptist Press

Southwestern Seminary Names  
John Kiwiet New Professor

753

140

FORT WORTH (BP)--A professor of historical theology at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Chicago, John J. Kiwiet, has been elected professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Born in the Netherlands, Kiwiet is a graduate of the University of Utrecht, the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and holds the doctor of theology degree from the University of Zurich. He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, for one year.

Before joining the Northern Seminary faculty in 1962, Kiwiet was a teaching fellow at the seminary in Ruschlikon and was teacher and vice principal of the Dutch Baptist Seminary in his homeland.

He speaks four languages and has reading knowledge of seven others. He and his wife and five children will move to the seminary here in January.

-30-

Two Southern Profs Begin  
Sabbaticals, Nine Return

754

9/5/67

182

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Two Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professors will be on sabbatical leaves for the coming school year in the seminary's continuing program of in-service training for its faculty.

Frank Stagg, professor of New Testament interpretation, will spend his year of leave at the University of Tubingen, Germany.

Lucien E. Coleman Jr., assistant professor of religious education, will spend one semester working toward a master of communications degree at the University of Kentucky.

Nine professors are returning to Southern Seminary after completing sabbatical leaves.

The professors, their fields of teaching, and where they have studied are: E. Glenn Hinson (church history), E. Jerry Vardaman (Biblical archaeology), and Marvin E. Tate (Old Testament interpretation), all who studied at Oxford University, England; John W. Carlton (preaching), W. Peyton Thurman (dean of students), and Ronald F. Derring (research librarian), who studied at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University in New York; Walter R. Delamarter (social work), at the University of Pennsylvania; Ernest J. Loessner (religious education) at the University of California; and Harold S. Songer (New Testament interpretation) at the University of Tubingen, Germany.

-30-

753-754