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October 5, 1967 840

Stephenson Nominated To
Virginia Executive Post

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Richard M. Stephenson of Falls Church, Va., has been nominated by the executive board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia as its new executive secretary.

The board's unanimous recommendation will be acted on by the state General Association at its annual meeting, November 14-16, in Alexandria, Va.

Stephenson, age 45, is a native of Virginia, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has been pastor of the Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, for seventeen years.

Lucius M. Polhill retires December 31st as the present executive secretary, having served in the position 13 years.

In other actions, the board reconfirmed for recommendation to the General Association a 1968 budget worked out in June at a special board meeting.

The proposed Cooperative Program (central budget) goal is \$4,650,000, an increase of \$100,000 over the 1967 budget. Officials state that most of the recommended increase is for capital needs of Baptist schools in the state.

The new budget calls for 66½ per cent of all Cooperative Program (undesignated) receipts to be retained for Virginia causes, an increase of 4½ per cent over 1967. The remaining 33½ per cent would go to Southern Baptist Convention causes, a reduction of 4½ per cent.

The financial needs of the Baptist colleges require that more Cooperative Program funds be kept in Virginia, officials said. There are eight Baptist schools in the state.

The board acted to request the General Association to appoint a committee of 24, composed of 12 laymen and 12 pastors, to make a comprehensive study of the body's financial needs and their relationships to the Cooperative Program.

The board approved a request from the University of Richmond (Baptist) that the school be allowed to borrow up to \$1 million for dormitory construction. These funds will not come from government sources, a spokesman for the board said.

In a related action the board recommended that Baptist churches of the state observe April 28, 1968 as "Baptist Seminaries, Colleges and Schools Day."

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Financier Heads Hospital 841
Drive For \$5½ Million

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Edward Ball, Florida financier and philanthropist, has accepted the honorary chairmanship of a \$5,500,000 fund raising effort by Baptist Memorial Hospital here.

The fund drive is part of the initial phase of a \$27,000,000 development and expansion program for the hospital.

A 16-story Medical Tower and other facilities will be constructed adjacent to the present hospital buildings on the banks of the St. Johns River.

In announcing Ball's acceptance, Jewel A. Davis, president of the hospital's board of trustees, said, "In a project of this magnitude, our committee sought the strongest leadership available in Jacksonville, indeed in the state of Florida."

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Ball is a trustee of the estate of Alfred I. duPont; director of the Nemours Foundation; president of the St. Joe Paper Company; coordinator of the Florida National Group of Banks; chairman of the board of Florida East Coast Railway Company.

He is president of Wakulla Silver Springs Company, Jacksonville Properties, Inc., Apalachicola Northern Railroad Company, St. Joseph Telephone and Telegraph Company, and the St. Joseph Land and Development Company.

Ball termed the hospital's expansion program "the greatest challenge of this nature that Jacksonville has ever faced."

Ground breaking for the new facilities is tentatively scheduled for around the first of the year. A new power plant will be the first project in the construction program.

Six floors of the 16-story Medical Tower will be left unfinished in this first phase of construction, officials said. First phase plans require \$20,000,000.

Most of the financing of the expansion program will be provided through long-term loans based on present and future assets, revenues, bequests, depreciation funds, and savings in operating costs as a result of the new mechanized hospital operation.

The additional \$5,500,000 to be raised in the current fund drive is expected to come from individuals, business, industry, and foundations.

The Baptist Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville, and the Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, are the only hospitals owned by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Forty-three other hospitals are owned and operated by Baptist state conventions and other Baptist regional organizations affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Baptists Urged To Help
Dispel Apathy In Slums 842

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WASHINGTON (BP)--An official of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) urged a group of Baptists meeting here to help dispel the apathy that exists among slum dwellers in the nation's cities.

H. Ralph Taylor, an assistant secretary for HUD, told the annual Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs that they are in a "key position" to work to dispel the apathy and alienation so prevalent among slum dwellers.

Church and community leaders need to understand the cynicism and skepticism that lead people to give up once they are trapped in the ghettos, he stressed.

A factor involved in this is helping people believe in the "importance and inevitability of change," Taylor said.

The HUD spokesman described the government's Model Cities Program of grants for planning and urban renewal and reported that 70 cities are now involved. He urged the Baptist conferees to work for greater involvement of residents in planning and carrying out these programs.

Taylor emphasized that the government did not have a particular program or blueprint that each city must follow to qualify for Model Cities funds. But, he added, HUD has the "tools" to assess community needs.

"How well you use those tools, what kind of innovative programs you develop to help solve your slum problems, and the extent to which you can achieve coordinative action from the various agencies and organizations in your city--that is the task that you and your fellow citizens must assume and accomplish," he said.

Taylor described the government's role in the Model Cities Program as an effort to pull together the many fragments of projects to make a concerted attack on basic problems in the cities.

"We are trying to discover a way of curing--not putting a cosmetic powder on--the cities' problems," Taylor said as he asked for the help of Baptists.

Two hundred Baptists from seven Baptist groups in the United States and Canada registered for the 11th annual Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Public Affairs Committee.

The program theme for the three-day meeting was "The Role of the Christian Through Church and State in Human Welfare."

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Ten Per Cent Rise In
September Mission Gifts

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Financial support for Southern Baptist Convention mission causes for September was 10.46 per cent higher than for the same month last year.

Gifts totaled \$2,553,260.34.

This brings the denomination's nine month mission receipts to \$38,117,347.26.

Cooperative Program (unified budget) contributions for the January-September period totaled \$18,799,916.75, an increase of 7.34 per cent, according to officials here.

Designations for the same period were \$19,317,430.51, an increase of 4.97 per cent.

During September \$2,155,274.15 was contributed (undesignated) through the Cooperative Program, with an additional \$395,986.19 earmarked by contributors and churches for specific causes.

Cooperative Program gifts by states for the nine months ranged all the way from \$6,650.09 for Utah-Idaho, the newest and smallest of the Baptist "state" conventions, to Texas, the largest Baptist state convention, with \$3,157,538.62.

The Utah-Idaho gifts were up a fraction of a per cent over the same period in 1966. The Texas Cooperative Program gifts were up 6.44 per cent. There are 29 SBC state conventions.

Thus far during the year Southern Baptists have given through their Foreign Mission Board to overseas missions \$24,115,134.35. A total of \$8,139,055.22 has gone through their Home Mission Board to missionary enterprises in the homeland.

The SBC Executive Committee receives and disburses funds for the national body. Porter Routh is executive secretary-treasurer.

The above figures do not include amounts given by the churches to support local and state Baptist causes.