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**Radical Change Needed
In Church, Edge Says**

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Declaring that "our kind of church is inadequate for our kind of world today," a Southern Baptist seminary professor here said there must be a radical change in the church if it is to be "God's instrument of redemption in the world."

Findley B. Edge, professor of religious education at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here made the statements in an opening address to a Church Renewal Conference he directed at the seminary.

"If our churches continue in the present pattern in which we now express our life, it is my judgment that our churches will not be able to be the effective instruments of God in the redemption which he is seeking to perform in the world today," Edge said.

He added that he believes the situation is so serious that he felt Christians, and Baptists in particular, could not let sentimentality blind them to the hard facts of reality.

Edge told the Church Renewal Conference he felt the church of today is increasingly irrelevant and selfish--irrelevant to the basic issues which are confronting modern man, and selfish in that it is seeking to build institutional church organizations.

"The church mouths its pious phrases about the revolutionary gospel, but in reality it simply lulls its people to sleep, accepting the status quo," he declared.

As a result, large numbers of young people are leaving the church "because they are looking at the lives of the church as we are living it and they are seeing how phoney it is."

Edge, added however, that he was not an "angry young man" who believed the church is finished. "I believe the church can be saved," but it must be rejuvenated, he added.

"Something of a rather basic and radical nature must happen in the lives of our best members if the church is going to become the kind of church God needs for our time," he declared.

The Baptist professor said he had seen this happen to some churches and individuals. Calling the experience "renewal," Edge said he could not say what it is or how it happens. "I am quite sure it is the work of the Holy Spirit in a unique way."

"These people," he said, "who have met God at one level of their lives have met him at a deeper level of their lives, and in so doing they were completely transformed."

Renewal, he added, is characterized by a deeper longing and searching to know Christ, a deeper commitment to God, and a deeper involvement with God and for God in His work in the world.

In another major address, Southern Baptist Seminary Professor Kenneth Chafin told the 40 conference participants that if they were really serious about church renewal, they must do something about it in their local communities and congregations.

Chafin made two specific suggestions: (1) that about 10 Baptist churches pool their resources, manpower and efforts to minister to the social needs of the community, and (2) that several Baptist churches cooperate with churches of other denominations to establish a top-quality layman's institute which would conduct a continuing, serious program of adult education dealing with Bible content, theology, church history, and contemporary Christian issues.

Such cooperation would "use all the resources of the churches and create a pool of lay leadership and financial support that would allow you to move with a great deal more facility than the Baptist association could ever move, and with a great deal more direction than the whole broad program would take," he observed.

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Chafin said such creative moves would not work in every situation, but he felt they would in such urban centers as Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth, Nashville, and Houston. He added that it would best work in urban situations where "human needs are so overwhelming" that one church cannot do the job alone, and where laymen are willing to tackle the job.

"We Baptists have gotten the idea that if something won't work for all 31,000 of our churches, it won't work," Chafin observed. "But anything which will work for all 31,000 churches doesn't need to be done."

Many Baptists would be opposed to cooperating with churches of other denominations, "but my feeling is that the day has come for us to simply admit that these are brothers in Christ and they are facing basically the same problems we are facing, and that we should join our resources together and see how we can better serve Jesus Christ in today's world."

Another major speaker, Robert Raines of Philadelphia, said that a fundamental crisis which he called the pietist-secularist controversy is dividing congregations across the country without regard to denomination.

Raines, pastor of Germantown Methodist Church in Philadelphia, observed that where the local church is not experiencing this controversy, "then the chances are that it is just sleeping through or trying to resign from the revolution in today's world."

The basic issues, he said, revolves around the question of whether the church is to be involved in the "real, throbbing world where people live--the world of race, sex, politics, and modern life;"--and involved in the struggle for racial justice, peace, the elimination of poverty, black and white power, and the Vietnam war controversy.

He called for Christians with opposing viewpoints on controversial matters to be reconciled to one another and to God, saying "this reconciliation may only come at the foot of a very controversial cross."

Raines, author of several books including *New Life in the Church*, *Creative Brooding*, and *Reshaping the Christian Life*, delivered four lectures to the conference from the manuscript of a new book he is publishing.

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Howse Named To SBC
Christian Life Staff

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission has named William L. Howse III of Dallas as its new director of organization, effective Jan. 1, 1968.

Howse, 31, has been minister of education at the Calvary Baptist Church in Garland, Tex., a suburb of Dallas, for the past three years.

He will succeed Bill Dyal who resigned last spring to become director of the Peace Corps in Colombia, South America.

His primarily responsibility will include work with state Christian Life Commissions and Baptist state conventions, according to SBC Christian Life Commission Secretary Foy Valentine, who announced Howse's election.

He also will serve as the commission's representative in all areas related to human welfare, and will plan, project and carry out numerous meetings, conferences and special observances which are the commission's responsibility, Valentine said.

Valentine added that the appointment greatly strengthens the staff and service of the commission. "Mr. Howse is particularly well equipped by disposition, training, and experience to assume these duties," he said.

"He will lead out in the commission's effort to provide specific organizational help to Southern Baptist churches, associations, and state conventions who are now moving forward as never before in the whole field of applied Christianity," Valentine observed.

Howse is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He has had further studies at North Texas State University in Denton, Tex., and is currently working on a doctor of education degree at Southwestern Seminary.

He is the son of W. L. Howse Jr., director of the Education Division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

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Howse is a former youth director for Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, and case-worker for Buckner Baptist Benevolences in Dallas. He has been a member of the Christian Life Committee of the Dallas Baptist Association for the past three years.

He is married to the former Annette Craddock of Fort Worth. They have one son, William Wesley, 7 months old.

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BP PHOTO mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Baptist Prof at Catholic
School Urges Unity of Love

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FORT WORTH (BP)--A Southern Baptist professor at a Catholic university in California called for Baptists and others to join an ecumenical movement characterized by a "unity through love" concept.

James McClendon, professor at the University of San Francisco (Catholic), stressed in a chapel message at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here the imperative of finding ways "to reach across the lines of denominationalism in love."

"An ecumenical movement is not joining the council of churches," said McClendon, former professor at Golden Gate Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

At the heart of a true ecumenical movement is love, declared McClendon. "It is to unlearn misconceptions and learn what other denominations really believe.

"It won't lead us into other men's churches--that is not the goal," he said. "It is to lead us into obedience to the commands of Christ's prayer for the church that it may be one--as He and God are one."

McClendon warned that Christians must not limit love, or in the process they will limit unity.

He also cautioned that ecumenism is dangerous business, but it requires Christians to recognize the authenticity of the experience of others, and a genuine commitment to Christ in others.

McClendon was professor at Golden Gate Seminary for 12 years before joining the staff of the University of San Francisco. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary here, earning the doctor of theology degree.

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Blind Baptist Pastor
Looses Home In Fire

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MURPHYS, Calif. (BP)--The home of a blind Baptist pastor here was completely destroyed by a fire started by the explosion of a butane heater.

Pastor and Mrs. Dan Lambert and their two small daughters escaped without injury, but the fast-spreading fire prevented their salvaging anything except his Braille Bible.

Included in the loss, which was not covered by insurance, were the blind pastor's tape recorder, all of his tapes used for study, his Braille library and periodicals which he had collected over a period of years.

Lambert is pastor of the Foothills Baptist Church in Angels Camp near Murphys, Calif., and is moderator of the Mother Lode Baptist Association.

He and his wife had only recently moved to the house and had not yet taken out insurance. He estimated the loss at more than \$4,000.

Lambert is also chaplain at the Bret Harte Hospital in Murphys, Calif. The hospital is providing temporary housing for the family for two weeks. Lambert's address is P. O. Box 96, Murphys, Calif., 95247.

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Southeastern Seminary
Revises Curriculum

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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The curriculum at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is being modified to help students better understand the world in which they are to minister and to relate more adequately the biblical message and its implications to this world, according to an announcement by Dean Raymond Bryan Brown.

The faculty, concluding a curriculum study begun in 1964, has (1) reduced from 68 to 50 semester hours the basic courses required of all students in the Master of Divinity program, (2) inaugurated three interdisciplinary courses and (3) instituted a program of honors study.

Under this new curriculum, which will become effective for students entering Southeastern in the autumn of 1968, students will be required to take 16 semester hours of basic work in biblical studies, 10 in historical studies, 12 in theological studies, and 12 hours in studies in ministry.

Ten hours will be devoted to new interdisciplinary courses. During the first year students will enroll in a four hour course, "Christianity and the Contemporary World," in which a team of professors drawn from the various areas of study will examine contemporary culture and its challenge for the Christian faith.

In a two hour interdisciplinary course, "Orientation to Theological Education," students will be introduced to methodology and fields of study.

During their senior year, they will enroll in "Senior Synthesis" and, under the guidance of a team of teachers, will seek to clarify their personal understanding of Christian ministry in the light of their theological study.

Apart from the 50-hour core curriculum and the 10 hours of interdisciplinary work, students will be free to elect 40 semester-hours in any four areas, in keeping with their special interest.

An honors program will be offered exceptional students. This program will be open to students who maintain an average of "B" and meet other basic requirements during their first year of seminary study.

Students in honors will be freed of class attendance requirements and will have access to 28 elective semester hours in independent reading and research.

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Miami Spanish Baptists
Stage Historical Meeting

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MIAMI, Fla. (BP)--For the first time in the history of the 21 Spanish-speaking Baptist congregations here, a city-wide evangelistic crusade was sponsored.

About 6,000 people attended the seven-day series of services at Riverside Baptist Church and 114 professions of faith were recorded.

Adolfo Robleto of First Mexican Baptist Church in El Paso, Tex., was evangelist for the crusade. Guest soloist for the week was Ray Robles of Los Angeles.

Jose Reyes of Stanton Memorial Baptist Church here planned the crusade. Mrs. Daisy Mateu, associational promoter of the Spanish musical program for the Miami Baptist Association, led a combined choir.

The crusade resulted in a new spirit of harmony, unity and evangelistic concern among the Spanish-speaking Baptist congregations here, according to Hubert Hurt, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board director of language missions in Florida.

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BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

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CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION STAFFER: William L. Howse III, currently education director at First Baptist Church in Garland, Tex. (suburb of Dallas), is the newly-elected director of organization for the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission, Nashville. (BP) Photo

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