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February 12, 1968

Norman Cox, SBC
Historian, Dies

MOBILE, Ala. (BP)--Dr. Norman W. Cox, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission in Nashville from 1951-59, died here Feb. 9 after a long illness. He was 79.

Dr. Cox was a noted historian of the Southern Baptist Convention who served as managing editor of The Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists published in 1958.

He had lived in Mobile since retiring in 1959 as head of the SBC Historical Commission. He was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mobile, 1931-32.

Funeral services were held Feb. 12 at the Springhill Avenue Baptist Church here. Officiating were the pastor, Norman W. Clapp; Herbert Gabhart, president of Belmont College in Nashville; and Othell Hand, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga.

Dr. Cox had suffered from a lung ailment for about two years, and had been ill for the last six months. He at times was forced to carry a portable oxygen tank with him.

A native of Georgia, he had been pastor of churches in Mississippi, Georgia, Virginia and West Virginia, and had served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the executive committees of the Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia state conventions.

Before becoming executive secretary of the SBC Historical Commission, Dr. Cox was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Meridian, Miss. He served this church as pastor for two different periods, from 1927-31, and from 1939-51.

He also had been pastor of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Huntington, W. Va.; First Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga.; Court Street Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va.; and First Baptist Church, Barnesville, Ga.

During the 8½ years he was executive secretary of the SBC Historical Commission, his crowning achievement was publication of the two-volume Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, which has been recognized as a classic work of Baptist heritage, history and work.

After his retirement, Dr. Cox served for a brief period as interim pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Mobile. He also assisted several Southern Baptist colleges in development and fund-raising campaigns.

He was born Oct. 28, 1888, in Climax, Ga., where he spent his childhood years and graduated from high school.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and the master of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Mercer awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1928.

Survivors include his wife Osye, and two children, Sara Margaret and Graham Wade Cox, both of Mobile.

Mission Leader Hints
At Lay "Revolution"

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Churches have failed to teach lay people to consider themselves a part of the church while on their jobs in secular employment, a missionary leader said here.

"The primary mission field for any lay person is wherever he spends his working hours," said Warren Woolf, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Christian service corps ministry.

Speaking before about 80 Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood workers, state directors of missions and seminary professors at a communication conference here, Woolf said Baptists have been guilty of what one foreign student described to him as "Coca Cola Religion."

"Many Christians go to church at 11 a.m. on Sundays for the 'Pause that refreshes,' but fail to let their lives reflect their commitment the rest of the week," he said.

Woolf said the relatively new emphasis of Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood on mission action groups could "cause a revolution" if lay people get caught up in what they can do to meet people's needs in their own communities.

Woolf said that suburban churches are beginning to realize that they must become a part of the solution to inner-city problems.

"Some of these suburban churches hopefully will begin to choose out from among them people like Paul and Barnabas to send them as missionaries to the inner city as part of their Christian service from the suburbs," Woolf said.

The mission leader emphasized that laymen and women also must be motivated to go beyond their own locations in Christian service.

"We're seeing the need pointed up in a very dramatic fashion in Project 500," Woolf said.

"The denomination is not depending on paid missionaries alone, but largely on lay people from strong churches in the South who will contribute their time on a short or long term basis to help start missions in the particularly strategic areas."

Small new congregations in pioneer areas need lay pastors, teachers, deacons, choir directors and construction specialists, Woolf said.

The mission leaders met with the Home Mission Board staff in a two-day session here to evaluate mission communication and to "talk back" to the mission agency.

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Irby Named Associate
In Kansas Convention

2/12/68

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)--Galen Francis Irby, superintendent of missions for Northeastern Baptist Association (Ft. Wayne, Ind.) of the Baptist State Convention of Indiana, has been named associate executive secretary-treasurer of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists.

Irby will also serve as director of the departments of missions and stewardship for the Kansas Convention, succeeding Paul Allison who has joined the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board staff.

A native of Cooper, Tex., Irby attended Decatur Baptist College, Decatur, Tex.; Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Before assuming the missions position in Ft. Wayne, Ind., in 1965, Irby was pastor of Statewood Baptist Church (then First Southern Baptist Church) in Ft. Wayne. Previously he was pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Pascagoula, Miss.; Northwest Baptist Church, Ardmore, Okla.; Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla.; and Kemp (Okla.) Baptist Church.

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Tennessee Foundation
Head Dies At Meeting

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (BP)--The executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Henry J. Huey, died in his hotel room here Feb. 8, while attending the annual meeting of the Baptist State Foundation Executive Secretaries Association.

Huey, 67, had been head of the Foundation and church loan organization of the Tennessee Baptist Convention since 1954.

Funeral services were held at both the Immanuel Baptist Church of Nashville and the First Baptist Church of Milan, Tenn.

Huey had been pastor of the church in Milan for 26 years, from 1928-1954 when he accepted the Tennessee Baptist Foundation position.

During this same period, he was also a member of the executive board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, serving as president of the board from 1946-54.

A native of Kentucky, he was the son of a Baptist minister, B. T. Huey. He was a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., which had conferred an honorary doctor of divinity degree upon him, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He was pastor of Baptist churches in Newbern and Bolivar, Tenn., before accepting the Milan, Tenn., pastorate.

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Howard Payne To Grant
Four Honorary Degrees

2/12/68

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP)--Howard Payne College will award honorary degrees in 1968 to a state legislator, a school superintendent and two Dallas ministers, president Guy D. Newman has announced.

Receiving the degrees will be State Representative W. S. Heatly of Paducah, Tex.; J. J. Pearce, superintendent of the Richardson, Tex., school system; Robert W. McGinnis, pastor of the Casa View Baptist Church of Dallas; and Cecil Ray, recently appointed as director of the stewardship division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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