



**REGIONAL OFFICES**

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March 14, 1968

**Phelps Decides Against  
Arkansas Governor Race**

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Ralph A. Phelps Jr., president of Ouachita Baptist University here just returned after six month's battle in the War on Poverty, has decided against running for governor of Arkansas.

"A survey of the situation since I returned has revealed no shortage of possible candidates for governor," Phelps said here.

The Baptist school president had served for the past six months as regional director for the Southeast Office of Economic Opportunity in Atlanta, coordinating all War on Poverty programs in six states--Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, and Florida.

When he resigned the poverty war position, Phelps said there was "an outside possibility" that he might run as a Democratic candidate against Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller of Arkansas, but added "no firm plans" had been made. March 30 was the deadline for filing.

His decision against running for the high office came two weeks after he had resigned from the poverty position, which he held for six months on leave of absence from Ouachita.

"After a six month's leave of absence, I returned to the state to be president of Ouachita, not to run for office," Phelps said in announcing his decision.

Although he expressed appreciation to those who had urged him to run for governor, Phelps said a large stockpile of work existed at the Baptist school, and he planned to devote all his energies to "the pressing work of higher education."

In his resignation statement to the press from the poverty position, Phelps lashed out at bureaucracy, saying "If a government bureaucracy is the hope of the world, then the world is without hope."

He added that "our sick society has no chance of getting well apart from the moral and spiritual values taught by our churches and by a school like Ouachita."

When Phelps announced his decision against running for governor, he said public conjecture about his possible political involvement had arisen with elements of the press in Atlanta as they sought an explanation for his resignation from OEO.

"Nobody seemed to want to believe that I was voluntarily leaving a high-paying government post to return to a Baptist college presidency, but that was the truth," he stated.

Phelps said he hoped "that speculation on the possibility (of running for governor) will now cease so that I can devote all my energies to the pressing work of higher education."

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**Richardson Returns  
To Hardin-Simmons**

3/14/68

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Charles R. Richardson, press representative for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will return to Hardin-Simmons University here April 1 as director of public information.

He held the Hardin-Simmons post for two years before assuming the Texas Baptist position last summer.

In a reorganization of university relations division, Elwin L. Skiles, president, said Martha Ueckert, director of public information since Richardson's departure, will become director of university publications.

Both Richardson and Miss Ueckert are active in Texas and Southern Baptist public relations associations, both serving as officers of the Texas Baptist Public Relations Association.

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Home Mission Board Votes  
Building, Ghetto Priority

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will move this summer to a new, larger building to keep pace with a staff that has grown from 40 to 78.

The board of directors, acting in annual spring session here, approved a recommendation that the mission agency lease a near-completed seven-story building on the fringe of downtown Atlanta.

Representatives of the Home Mission Board and the builders have agreed to a 10-year lease, with option to purchase in three years for about \$1.8 million.

In other action, the 64-member board of directors approved the addition of two new staff members in the church loans division, voted funds for Bible distribution through the agency's 12 programs of work and endorsed a resolution that pledged renewed efforts in the nation's strife-torn inner cities.

Responding to the President's Commission on Civil Disorders report calling for mammoth efforts in big-city ghettos, a Christian social ministries subcommittee urged the agency to channel every possible ministry into the troubled areas of metropolitan America.

The report, which was approved unanimously, read in part:

"No mammoth venture of the Crusade of the Americas nor of Project 500 can atone for our unwillingness or inability to be alerted sufficiently, distressed or repentant to relate redemptively to these hundreds of thousands of our neighbors who are all but bereft of human dignity and hope."

Edwin Perry, pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., said the report was not intended to squelch activity in the two projects, but to say "that we can't do one and ignore the other."

"God will not hold us guiltless," he said, "if we don't make some attempts out of the ordinary to deal with this critical problem."

The subcommittee's recommendations did not include a request for special appropriations, but urged that current programs be focused on urban centers, with particular regard to Baptist centers--mission points often placed in inner-city areas and that major on providing weekday activities.

One recommendation urged immediate communication "with all persons and responsible groups at the local level, with the immediate purpose of preventing needless hurt, bloodshed, loss of property, and further agony of many thousands of persons."

Current program budgets include more than \$1 million to be spent in inner-city areas.

The directors also voted \$8,500 for the purchase of 40,000 copies of the Good News for Modern Man translation of the New Testament, which will be distributed through the agency's programs of work.

L. O. Griffith, director of the communication division, said this action marked the beginning of a plan through which program leaders will utilize portions of scripture designed for special use by the American Bible Society, such as one being prepared now specifically for inner-city work.

"We do not have the imaginations to conceive what would happen if all of us put forth the faith and effort to use the Word of God with all the people we minister to," Griffith told the board members.

"Communicating the gospel with God's Word is the best way for us to fulfill our mission."

Board member Guy Rutland Jr. of Atlanta gave \$1,500 earlier in the year, with the request that the money be used for Bible distribution, Griffith said. These funds will be added to the \$8,500 voted by the directors.

Referring to the need for the new building, executive secretary Arthur B. Rutledge said the current office space does not dictate an immediate move, but he said that by 1970 space would begin to be a critical problem.

"This opportunity appeared as such an attractive possibility financially and otherwise that we felt we had to take advantage of it," Rutledge said.

Rutledge said the fast expansion of the Atlanta-based staff of the agency was due primarily to increased Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong mission gifts, which have made it possible for the agency to increase the number of missionaries on the field by about 50 percent since 1960.

Currently, about 2,270 missionaries are on the field in the U. S., Panama and Puerto Rico.

"Another major factor in the staff increase," Rutledge said, "has been the increasing awareness of the agency's role as resource and consultant for local church ministries that do not involve Home Mission Board appointees or funds."

In other action, the board of directors reelected J. Don Aderhold of Atlanta as president of the board. York Chambless of Smyrna, Ga., was elected as second vice president. Reelected were Lester B. Collins of Dallas, first vice president; Miss Marie Cooper of Atlanta, recording secretary and Mrs. Robert R. Hallman of Atlanta, assistant recording secretary.

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Home Missions Leader  
Named College Professor

3/14/68

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--Lewis W. Newman of Atlanta, director of business services for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been named professor of religion at the University of Corpus Christi and chairman of the division of religion.

Newman resigned his position with the Home Mission Board during the board's quarterly meeting of directors, effective Aug. 15. His resignation marks the end of an eight-year career with the Home Mission Board.

A native of Corpus Christi, Newman was on the faculty of the University of Corpus Christi before moving to Atlanta in 1960 to serve in the missions division as associate secretary of associational missions until 1963 when he became secretary of the urban rural missions department.

He became the first director of the business services division in 1966. He has directed the reorganization of this division's services including most recently the updating of data processing.

He is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He also has served as pastor of several Texas churches.

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Career Missionaries Join  
Social, State Ministries

3/14/68

ATLANTA (BP)--In the annual spring meeting of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's directors, homeland mission ranks blossomed in the areas of Christian social ministries and state missions.

Appointed were Harry Elsworth Woodall of Taylorsville, Ky., as director of Christian social ministries in Hot Springs, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Miller Wilson of Lamar County, Ala., as director(s) of Emmanuel Weekday Ministries in Montgomery, Ala.; Robert Edward Lambert of Pueblo, Colo., as state director of missions for Colorado; and Richard Rex Lindsay of Oklahoma City as superintendent of missions in Omaha, Neb.

Woodall is the former pastor of Little Union Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Ky. He also has been pastor of Brooks (Ky.) Baptist Church and of Jessieville (Ark.) Baptist Church.

Former missionary for the Lamar (Ala.) Baptist Association, Wilson also has been a pastor in Brooklyn, Ala. His wife is the former Jerry Ann Cothorn of New Orleans.

A native Texan, Lambert has served as pastor of several Texas churches and once was an area missionary headquartered in Mineral Wells, Tex. He is the immediate former pastor of Belmont Baptist Church in Pueblo, Colo.

Lindsay, a native of Oklahoma City, has served as a pastor in Kansas and Nebraska churches.

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Scientist, Negro Legislator  
Key WMU Convention Speakers

HOUSTON (BP)--A scientist who coined the word "theonetics" meaning the study of God in change, and a physician who crashed race and sex barriers to be seated in the Tennessee legislature, will be the major speakers at the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Convention here June 3-4.

The headline speakers are Edward B. Lindaman, a manager of Apollo programs at North American Aviation, Inc., in California, and Dr. Dorothy Brown, the first Negro woman legislator at the Tennessee Capitol in Nashville.

The list of speakers, and the theme, "Hope of the World", were announced by Mrs. Robert Fling of Cleburne, Tex., president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Auxiliary.

The women's convention meets Monday morning, June 3, through Tuesday afternoon, June 4, at the Civic Center Music Hall adjacent to the Sam Houston Memorial Coliseum where the Southern Baptist Convention meets June 4-7.

The opening session bridges between the 1968 denominational emphasis on ministry and the upcoming year of world missions and evangelism, said Mrs. Fling.

Mrs. Robert Brannon, housewife from Freeport, Tex., will tell the story of her volunteer ministry to victims of the Alaska flood. Charles McLaughlin, secretary of the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission, Dallas, will describe ministries during Hurricane Beulah. These two speakers will be backdropped by flashing news photographs of the disaster areas.

A prologue to 1969 will be a report on the use of the birthplace of modern missions pioneer Luther Rice as a Southern Baptist church site. Wendell Belew, secretary for pioneer missions at the SBC Home Mission Board, will also report on other home missions work through Project 500, a plan to establish 500 new churches and church-type missions in strategic locations.

The Monday afternoon session focuses on retired missionaries. John A. Abernathy, Hot Springs, Ark., emeritus missionary to China and Korea and current second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be song leader.

Other missionaries will deliver testimonies on the theme, "Underneath Are the Everlasting Arms." They are Miss Lucy Wright, China and Korea, currently of Greenville, S. C.; Miss Blanche Groves, China, Hawaii, and Hong Kong, currently of Bridgeport, Tex.; I. N. Patterson, Nigeria, currently of Wake Forest, N.C.; and Mrs. Helen Bagby Harrison, Brazil, currently of Waco, Tex.

Jesse Fletcher, missionary personnel secretary for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will speak on "A Continued Story."

Lindaman will speak during the Monday evening session. Past national president of United Presbyterian Men, he has urged dialogue between church leaders and change-makers of the nation in Theonetics Symposiums.

With a background of 20 major addresses during the past year on the significance of technological advances, he will address the WUM audience on the subject, "In an Age Without Precedent."

Tuesday morning's session will present women exclusively, emphasizing the role of women in the 1970's.

Dr. Dorothy Brown's address, "A Dream in My Heart," will reveal how she conquered poverty and prejudice to become professor of surgery at Meharry Medical College and chief of surgery at Riverside Hospital, Nashville.

The first Negro woman to be elected to the Tennessee legislature, she is the author of a recent controversial abortion bill, which bogged down in committee in the Tennessee legislature this spring.

Sharing the session with Dr. Brown will be Mrs. Milton Cunningham, missionary to Zambia, and Miss Alma Hunt, executive secretary of Southern Baptist WMU, Birmingham, Ala. Miss Hunt's address, "WMU Geared to Change," will point up new WMU ways to involve women in missions.

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Baptist Press

Final session will be devoted to the Crusade of the Americas. Main feature will be a dramatized presentation of the possible implications of the Crusade. The drama will be staged in cooperation with the church recreation department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, directed by Cecil McGee and Robert Oldenburg.

William Ichter, missionary to Brazil who wrote the crusade theme song "Christ Is the Only Hope" will teach the song to the women present.

Soloist for all sessions will be Virginia Babikian, artist in residence at Houston Baptist College. Students and faculty from the college will serve as accompanists, coordinated by Paul Green.

Meditations for all sessions will stem from the hymn, "Hope of the World."

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March 14, 1968

**WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION CONVENTION**

Civic Center Music Hall

Houston, Texas

June 3-4, 1968

THEME: Hope for the World

Monday Morning, 9:30

Call to Worship

Song Service -- Paul Green, head of music department, Houston Baptist College, Houston, Texas

Organization

Recognition of Hostess Committees

Catapulted into the Year of Ministry, 1968

The Alaska Flood -- Mrs. Robert Brannen, housewife, Freeport, Texas

The Beulah Hurricane -- Charles McLaughlin, secretary, State Missions Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas

Solo -- Virginia Babikian, artist in residence, Houston Baptist College, Houston, Texas

Prologue to the Year of World Missions and Evangelism, 1969

The Contemporary Luther Rice Story -- Wendell Belew, secretary, department of pioneer missions, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia

Meditation -- "Hope of the World"

Adjournment

Monday Afternoon, 2:00

Call to Worship

Song Service -- John A. Abernathy, emeritus missionary to China and Korea, second vice president, Southern Baptist Convention, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Underneath Are the Everlasting Arms

Through Forty-Two Years in China and Korea -- Miss Lucy Wright, emeritus missionary to China and Korea; Greenville, South Carolina

Through Thirty-Nine Years in China, Hawaii, Hong Kong -- Blanche Groves, emeritus missionary to China, Hawaii, Hong Kong; Bridgeport, Texas

Through Forty-One Years in Nigeria -- I. N. Patterson, emeritus missionary to Nigeria; now at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina

Through a Lifetime in Brazil -- Helen Bagby Harrison retiring missionary to Brazil; Waco, Texas

Solo -- Virginia Babikian

A Continued Story -- Jesse Fletcher, secretary for missionary personnel, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Virginia

Meditation -- "Hope of the World"

Adjournment

Monday Evening, 7:30

Call to Worship

Song Service -- Thad Roberts, minister of music, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas  
 Address: In an Age Without Precedent -- Edward B. Lindaman, manager in Apollo contracts of North American Aviation, Inc., Fullerton, California

Solo -- Virginia Babikian

Adjournment

Tuesday Morning, 9:30

Call to Worship

Song Service

Business

Election of Officers

Dreams...Bridge to the Future

Tomorrow in Africa -- Mrs. Milton Cunningham, missionary to Zambia, on furlough in Fort Worth, Texas

WMU Geared to Change -- Alma Hunt, Executive Secretary, Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Alabama

Solo -- Virginia Babikian

A Dream in My Heart -- Dr. Dorothy Brown, clinical professor of surgery, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, and first Negro woman in the Tennessee Legislature

Meditation -- "Hope of the World"

Adjournment

Tuesday Afternoon, 2:00

Call to Worship

Song Service -- William Ichter, missionary to Brazil, on furlough in Minden, Louisiana

Crusade of the Americas -- A Dramatic Presentation Directed by Cecil McGee and Bob Oldenburg, Church Recreation Department, Baptist Sunday School Board

Adjournment