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Southern Baptist Elect
First Negro Staff Member

ATLANTA (BP)--Emmanuel L. McCall, the first Negro ever to hold a professional staff position with a Southern Baptist agency, already has singled out his primary target: "The lack of honest Christian dialogue between the races."

McCall was elected as an associate in the department of work with National Baptists of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here in the May meeting of the agency's board of directors.

Currently serving as pastor of the 28th Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., a congregation affiliated with the Progressive National Baptist Convention, McCall will come to Atlanta July 1.

"Pressure for merger between Negro and white Baptist groups should be minimized not," McCall said, because of "fear and suspicion on both sides."

"The approach now is to find ways of cooperating and of working in ways that complement each others' efforts."

In the new position, McCall will be planning and promoting cooperative encounters between Southern and National Baptists.

Fellowship between pastors is the starting point, the young pastor said -- "Then pulpit exchanges, congregational exchanges, brotherhood exchanges, and so on, can follow."

McCall, who for two years was president of the interracial Louisville Baptist Ministers Conference, said he was "amazed at the amount of ignorance whites and blacks have about one another."

One of the real surprises that cooperation and people-to-people exchanges can provide, however, is that Negro and white Baptists are not as far apart as some might think, he said.

McCall will have particular responsibility in communicating with Negro youth through religious vocational conferences, scholarship programs and efforts at recruiting Negro students for summer missions.

He said a "creative fellowship" is essential if the church is to influence today's youth. "Some of the young militants are saying that the church is outmoded, not needed," he revealed.

"They've even picked up the Marxist phrase and called religion the 'opiate of the people.' If we don't somehow get together to make a witness of fellowship, we will not be able to say much in the future."

McCall said he felt there had been confusion among white Baptists at the point of stepping forward and being counted in the church's struggle with the racial matters.

"But I believe this is a real concern on the part of many Baptists," he said.

McCall is a graduate of the University of Louisville and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, holding the bachelor of divinity, master of religious education and master of divinity degrees.

He is the former associate pastor of the Joshua Tabernacle Baptist Church in Louisville and a part-time teacher at Simmons Bible College in Louisville.

Southern Baptists Boost
Youth and Study Programs

ATLANTA (BP)--In addition to electing the first Negro professional staff member of any Southern Baptist Convention agency, directors of the denomination's Home Mission Board here also elected three men to strengthen the outreach to youth and a fourth to assist in surveys and special studies.

Travis Lipscomb of Fresno, Calif. will direct the expanding family service role of the juvenile rehabilitation ministry.

Nathan Porter, presently an associate in the department of missionary personnel, will direct evangelism to academic communities; and Ed Seabough of Nashville, Tenn., will fill the vacancy in missionary personnel, working with students below seminary level who are interested in missions.

Tommy Coy was elected to the department of survey and special studies from Fort Worth.

The first Negro professional staff member is Emmanuel L. McCall, current pastor of the 20th Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., elected as an associate in the board's department of work with National Baptists, effective July 1.

Appointed a year ago as the Home Mission Board's first field consultant in juvenile rehabilitation in the Western U. S., Lipscomb will fill a newly-created position--consultant in Baptist child care and youth ministry, within the department of Christian social ministries.

According to L. William Crews, assistant secretary in the social ministries department, pending the approval of Southern Baptist child care executives, Lipscomb will act as liaison between these executives and the board.

Also, he will serve as a resource person for other board programs, Crews said, spending about one week a month in Washington D. C., investigating new government programs and regulations in fields of social work.

Porter, who has worked eight years with students as a representative of missionary personnel, will be a resource person for college campuses, state and national conferences and other youth meetings in addition to directing the campus evangelistic thrust in general.

Seabough comes to Atlanta from the student department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

"His 12 years in student work and his creative abilities eminently qualify him for leading the Baptist young people of our nation into challenging mission opportunities," said Glendon McCullough, secretary of the department of missionary personnel.

Coy, who is just completing work on a doctor of theology degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, will be assisting in special studies which primarily will be related to the religious and socio-economic development of urban society.

According to Leonard Irwin, department head, Coy, who is a registered civil engineer, is "well qualified" because of experience "both in the physical as well as behavioral sciences, and has experience as a pastor and church worker."

Coy is a graduate of the University of Arizona and has attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. He operated a farm in Arizona before he was called into the ministry in 1959.

A graduate of Baylor University (Baptist) in Waco, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Lipscomb earned a master of social work degree at Fresno, (Calif.) college.

In Fresno, he served as director of juvenile rehabilitation for the Baptist association and as pastor of Butler Park Baptist Church.

Before coming to the board in 1960, Porter was pastor of Lakeview Heights Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Seminary.

Listed in the 1966 Outstanding Young Men in America volume, Seabough is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State College in Springfield and Southwestern Seminary. Before going to the Sunday School Board, he had been a youth director, minister of education and state student worker.