



BAPTIST PRESS
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March 10, 1969

**Bellamy Suggests Closing
Negro Baptist Seminary**

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--A member of the Southern Baptist Commission for the American Baptist Theological Seminary located in Nashville has called for the closing of the school for Negroes in a written personal report widely circulated among Baptist leaders.

Guy Bellamy, former director of the department of work with National (Negro) Baptists for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said in the personal report that the Negro seminary has served its usefulness, and that the money appropriated to it could be used better for scholarships to accredited schools.

"National (Negro) Baptists are not interested in the seminary as it is now," Bellamy said in the three-page report. "They know that Southern Baptists would not operate this type of school for white students."

Copies of the written personal report were mailed to members of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, and to other denominational leaders, Bellamy said.

The seminary, started in 1924, is operated jointly by the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. Seminary officials reported a current enrollment of 91 at the seminary, with another 929 enrolled in some 40 extension courses--operated by the institution.

In Nashville, the chairman of the SBC Commission on the American Seminary, Herman R. Burns, said that Bellamy was given ample time at the last meeting of the commission in Hot Springs, Jan. 23, to express his views, but at that time he made no motion.

Both Burns, art director for the SBC Sunday School Board, and Rabun L. Brantley, executive secretary of the commission, expressed surprise that Bellamy would circulate a written proposal that the seminary be closed, when he had not made a motion to that effect before the commission of which he is a member.

Burns pointed out that Bellamy himself emphasized that this was his own "personal report." Burns added that as chairman of the commission, he did not feel Bellamy's views were representative of the majority of the commission members.

The president of the seminary, Charles Boddie, recently resigned effective in April, to become professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

In his report, Bellamy wrote: "I am sure the seminary has served its time and served it well...Just because an institution closes or a person retires does not mean they have not rendered a wonderful service."

Bellamy, who directed Southern Baptists' work with National Baptists for more than 15 years, added that the National Baptist Convention ceased its financial support of the seminary as a convention years ago.

Bellamy said that the seminary in recent years has been changed to a College of the Bible, which puts it in competition with National Baptist schools operated by some of the state-wide National Baptist conventions.

"I do not know of a single one of the 13 state directors of work with National Baptists who thinks the College of Bible (seminary) ought to continue," Bellamy said.

The 1969 SBC Cooperative Program allocates \$95,000 to the seminary for operating expenses out of a total scheduled expenditure of \$99,500. Direct gifts from Southern Baptists to the current operations of the seminary have increased \$18,740 in the last three years, according to the 1968 SBC annual.

The seminary is operated under a board of trustees comprised of an equal number of National and Southern Baptists. The Southern Baptists on the board of trustees comprise the membership of the SBC Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary. Brantley, executive secretary of the SBC Education Commission, serves also as the seminary commission's acting executive secretary.

Bellamy argued that if Southern Baptists "would take even half of the money that goes to the seminary and use it for scholarships for National Baptist students to attend accredited schools, we would do far more good with the Lord's money."

He added, however, that the school's extension department is badly needed, and proposed that the extension course operation be taken over by the SBC Home Mission Board, the SBC Seminary Extension Department, and/or the state National Baptist schools.

"This report is personal," Bellamy said, "and comes from one who has given more than 20 years of love and service to National Baptists over the nation."

The report closed with this postscript: "Many other reasons could be given. I feel these mentioned are sufficient."

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Manhattan Church Moves
To Building Near U. N.

3/10/69

NEW YORK (BP)--The Manhattan Baptist Church worshipped for the first time recently at a new location across the street from the United Nations.

At the first service, the congregation heard Interim Pastor Denton Lotz call for Christians as individuals, the church, and citizens in general to bring the peace of Christ to people at home and abroad.

Temporarily, the church is meeting for services in the modern chapel of the Church Center for the U. N.

The building is owned by the United Methodist Church and houses offices of several denominations and Christian groups which endeavor to keep abreast of international developments.

The Church Center for the U. N. is a temporary meeting place for the congregation which started the first Southern Baptist work in New York 11 years ago. A church committee is searching for available sites for a permanent location in midtown Manhattan.

When the rental lease at the old location on 57th Street expired at the end of February, the property owner doubled the rent--a trend throughout New York City in recent times.

At the new location across from the United Nations, the church will have an office, and a Sunday School in addition to its worship service.

Regular Sunday worship in the new location at 44th Street and First Avenue is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Another group uses the chapel earlier.

At the present time, the church, which is without a pastor, plans to carry out many of its ministries in the apartments of its members. New ministries being established include: house churches, ministry to internationals, a book store ministry, prayer and Bible study groups, and music and drama groups.

The first worship service at the new location had a decidedly international flavor. Mrs. Ade Olatunji, a church member from Nigeria, read the Scripture. In the congregation were members and visitors from Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Rhodesia, Colombia, and two new members from Trinidad.

The service was interpreted for the deaf by Dick Nowell, a graduate student at New York University who is studying religious education for the deaf.

Greetings were brought from Carl Soule, director of the Church Center for the U. N., who said he was happy to have a Southern Baptist congregation as a part of the total Christian community in the building.

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70th Anniversary Diplomas
Issued for 1969 Study Courses

3/10/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--Special 70th anniversary diplomas, signed for the first time by the Southern Baptist Convention president, are being distributed to those who complete church study courses during 1969.

The certificates for this last year of the church study course program are imprinted in gold with "70th Anniversary" and include the signature of SBC President W. A. Criswell.

The successor to the church study course will be implemented in January, 1970.

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