

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 14, 1969

**BUREAU**BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,  
Telephone (615) 254-1631**Norman College Cuts Deficit  
In Half, Votes To Continue**

NORMAN PARK, Ga. (BP)--Trustees of Norman College here committed themselves to the continuance of the Southwest Georgia Baptist school, and expressed a unanimous decision that the school will remain open.

In semi-annual session, the trustees formally recognized that the institution's leadership had reduced its anticipated deficit of more than \$200,000 to \$110,000.

They further pledged themselves "to be responsible for a proportionate share of the remaining debt, to be raised as soon as possible."

The trustees also took steps to "remove the myth" that the institution might close by emphasizing that "Norman will continue in operation without question."

In comments after the meeting, Thomas G. Renfro, president of the Baptist school, said the resolution should resolve all apprehension about the future of Norman (Junior) College.

"The trustees have taken the action that was expected of them and have assumed financial responsibility for Norman," Renfro said. "As president it feels great to have the trustees 100 per cent behind me.

"I believe this will encourage churches and individuals to support Norman spiritually, financially, and with students," he added.

Renfro said that the faculty, staff and administration are "determined that we shall do all we can individually, and that the people of Southwest Georgia now realize the problems and promise of Norman.

The trustee action came in the midst of a campaign to raise funds to eliminate a current operating deficit. The Georgia Baptist Convention last November recognized the school's plight and allowed open solicitation of aid from Baptist churches and associations for one year.

Norman College has raised more than \$56,000 from churches and individuals since July 1, 1969. The figure compares with \$4,000 from the same sources during the previous year.

The acting academic dean at Norman College, Alfred J. Clark, said that the faculty "is relieved that we will remain open and they have decided to stay."

The board meeting, with much discussion by individual trustees, lasted 2½ hours. The final motion which was adopted was brought by Jimmy Carter of Plains, Ga., a former candidate for governor.

Meanwhile, the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington announced that \$68,929 had been approved for financing Norman College's Project Upward Bound for the summer.

This will be the third summer for Upward Bound programs at Norman. The amount for 1969 is \$7,000 less than Norman received for Upward Bound in 1968.

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New Broadman Books Manager  
Named, Expansion Planned

(4-14-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Ras B. Robinson Jr., has been named manager of the Broadman Books department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Robinson assumed his position April 1. He previously was marketing planning coordinator of the board's publishing division.

When asked about future plans for Broadman Press, Robinson said, "Our aim is to make Broadman Press a household name in the religious book publishing world. We plan to take an aggressive interest in serving religious book needs."

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Broadman Press publications will be slanted "to reach the cutting edge of the religious book publishing world," added Robinson. "Broadman plans to publish for a broader scope of the market. In addition to a broad scope of publications, materials specifically related to the curriculum and programs of Southern Baptists will be published."

A native of Mississippi, Robinson is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, with bachelor's and master's degrees in marketing. He joined the board staff in 1960 as research analyst in the research and statistics department. He also has served as systems analyst and systems supervisor in the office of management services and as marketing analyst in the publishing division office.

Robinson replaced William J. Fallis, who has been named to the newly-created position of senior editor, general religious books, in the Broadman Books department.

According to Herman L. King, director of the board's publishing division, "plans are already in process for selling Broadman publications in chain stores, supermarkets and department stores, in addition to religious and general books stores already outlets for Broadman."

Broadman Press is the general book publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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William Clemmons Joins  
Sunday School Board

(4-14-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--William Preston Clemmons, former missionary to Italy, has joined the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as supervisor of the vocational guidance section in the church training department.

The program of vocational guidance functions to assist churches in educating persons in the Christian meaning of vocation, provides occupational information and offers guidance with emphasis on church-related vocations.

A native of Nashville, Clemmons holds the bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of South Carolina. He earned the bachelor of divinity and the master of religious education degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Clemmons has also studied in Italy where he was under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Richmond, from 1959-69.

He has served as pastor and minister of education for churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, and South Carolina.

Clemmons is currently a member of the radio and television committee of the Baptist World Alliance.

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Sullivan Urges Church  
Exemption Tax Reforms

(4-14-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, James L. Sullivan, has called for a five-point program for tax reform.

Sullivan outlined the five-point program recently in a speech to the downtown Lions Club in Nashville. His five points were:

1. Communicate to the public the facts concerning the reasons for tax exemptions to churches, the current laws, the dimensions of the problem of which churches and church institutions are only a very small part, and the dilemma of the cities' role of those who seek a valid answer.

2. Develop a philosophy to revise the current hodge-podge of tax laws according to a scientific, equitable approach to taxation and tax exemption.

3. Revise laws to protect church and state by:

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- Being more discerning in granting charters for tax-free institutions;
  - Developing a system of periodic reporting to make sure that tax-free institutions remain true to their original charter purposes;
  - Seeking more and better ways of developing indirect tax plans in which tax-free institutions can participate without putting their existence in jeopardy;
  - Providing a legal system whereby a tax assessor is given authority to negotiate with tax-free institutions if and when they want to make payments in lieu of taxes, or when a part of their operations becomes commercial and competitive;
  - Considering another base for taxation rather than property; or when considering the Scandinavian system of rewarding those who make maximum use and improvement of their properties through reduction of taxes;
  - And keeping churches and church-related institutions tax-free to preserve religious freedom, but developing a system whereby partial taxes can be paid at local and national levels if they engage in strictly business enterprises not tax-exempt according to their charter purposes.
4. Administer the laws without fear of favoritism with as much equity as is humanly possible.
  5. Urge self-discipline on the part of churches and religious bodies and institutions where tax problems are involved.

"As citizens," concluded Sullivan, "we would do well to address ourselves to study and improvement in this area on a rational basis, or in time all tax exemptions might go by the board through default."



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