



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

August 5, 1969

**Arizona College Seeks
\$125,000 To Avoid Closure**

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--Grand Canyon College, owned and operated by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, must raise \$125,000 in the next 90 days or face possible closure, a joint meeting of the college's trustees and Executive Board of the Arizona convention was told here.

In response, the convention's Executive Board approved an immediate \$140,000 fund campaign among Southern Baptist churches in Arizona to try to save the school.

Grand Canyon College President Arthur K. Tyson outlined to the board the college's financial plight, caused by a lack of operating funds.

The school needs \$50,000 immediately to meet faculty payrolls due between now and Sept. 5; \$11,000 to pay for utilities already owed (in some cases as much as six months in arrears); \$15,000 to pay book suppliers of the college's bookstore in overdue bills; and at least another \$50,000 to pay miscellaneous back bills owed to scores of suppliers, according to Tyson.

The college president added that many of the creditors have refused to make additional shipments of supplies until outstanding accounts are brought current.

Tyson said that the school did not operate in the black for the first 15 years of its 20 year history. He also cited a limited endowment, and said that the support from Arizona churches was relatively small because of the size of the convention.

Tyson added, however, that he felt the convention had gone the limit of its ability to support the college and said college support ranks near the top on a percentage basis of support from the convention.

In addition to approving the \$140,000 fund campaign among Arizona Southern Baptist churches to help save the churches, the convention Executive Board also voted to loan the college \$50,000 to meet its payroll. The board hopes to repay the \$50,000 from funds received in the special fund drive.

The action to loan the college \$50,000 for 90 days came on a substitute motion to a proposal that the convention co-sign a note with a Phoenix bank for \$225,000 to cover an existing revolving loan of \$175,000 plus the \$50,000 in payroll needs.

Arizona Southern Baptist Convention Executive Secretary Charles L. McKay pointed out that the convention was in a position to borrow the funds on a short-term basis and could do so at a more favorable rate than that quoted to the college.

Both actions, to conduct the fund drive and to loan the college \$50,000, were approved without opposition by the board.

During the joint board meeting, Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, was named to coordinate the \$140,000 fund raising campaign for the college. He indicated his church was willing to relieve him of major church duties to free him to lead the fund drive.

Jackson told the boards he could not do the job alone, and stated that at least 50 laymen from his church would go at their own expense to sell the state on Grand Canyon College and raise the needed funds. Jackson said his church would give at least \$10,000 of the \$140,000 goal.

Jackson declared that there are only two choices in the matter for the Southern Baptists of Arizona: either accept the challenge and meet the needs of the college, or "hand the keys to someone else and let them run the school."

Under plans approved by the convention board for the fund drive, the \$140,000 goal was to also include a previously scheduled \$25,000 annual state missions offering that benefit the college, the convention, its children's home, and Paradise Valley Baptist Ranch.

The action called for a guarantee of the portions already scheduled in the annual offering for the home, ranch and convention to be paid from the first monies received

in the drive, with the remainder going to the college. Each of the three are to get \$5,600.

Writing in the Baptist Beacon, official Baptist state paper for Arizona, McKay said that what Grand Canyon College really needs is \$1 million to be debt free. "A million dollars would pay off all the college land. It would pay off the debt on every building. Every bill could be paid; every note and mortgage burned and the college would live within its income," McKay wrote.

McKay said the problem basically was caused because no one has been able to really sell Southern Baptists in Arizona on the value and contribution of the college. He said if the convention could catch the spirit and enthusiasm of North Phoenix Baptist Church, they could do the job in 10 days.

-30-

Fire Ravages Seelig
Home, Arson Suspected

8/5/69

FORT WORTH (BP)--A fire attributed by officials to arsonists ravaged the home and automobile of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Assistant to the President John Earl Seelig here, causing an estimated \$15,000 damage.

The incident occurred while the Seelig family was in Europe. Seelig was leading a tour group in Amsterdam, Holland, when informed of the fire by his brother, a Fort Worth attorney, and seminary officials. They decided to continue the trip.

Both the Fort Worth Chief of Police and Fire Chief attributed the cause of the fire to arson, but they reported very few leads and said the motives remain a mystery.

Officials said that the fire apparently started simultaneously in all three bedroom closets, and that the Seelig's auto was set on fire separately.

Most of the \$15,000 estimated loss is covered by insurance, according to Wayne Evans, the seminary's business manager. "But there are always things in every home that you can't set a price tag for," Evans said.

The kitchen was the only room of the house spared extensive damage by the flames, smoke and water used by firemen.

Friends said that the fire was the third such vandalism to hit the Seelig family in recent years. Their automobile was twice vandalized previously, once painted and once burned.

An informal group of friends and relatives is handling initial plans to restore the home until Seelig's return from Europe. The incident happened two days after the trip began.

Seelig, current president of the Baptist Public Relations Association, is expected to return to the United States Aug. 21. The tour group includes young people from the Dallas-Fort Worth area. They are touring seven European countries.

-30-

Oklahoma, Texas Students
Win Radio-TV Scholarships

8/5/69

FORT WORTH (BP)--Students at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, have been named to receive two annual communications scholarships sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission here.

They are Miss Anita Smith, junior radio and television student at Baylor and native of Dallas; and George English Morgan, junior radio and television major at Oklahoma State University from Midwest, Okla.

Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Morgan of Midwest City, is working as a newscaster at station KVRO in Stillwater. Last year he won the Bill Moyers Scholarship sponsored by the Radio-TV Commission, and repeated the honor for 1969-70.

Miss Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Smith of Dallas, is a staff announcer for KBWB, Baylor's campus radio station. She attended Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, for two years before transferring to Baylor. She receives the Robert Sarnoff Scholarship.

The Sarnoff and Moyers scholarships, including a \$500 stipend, are awarded each year to Southern Baptist students with outstanding academic records who plan careers in radio and television. The scholarship winners can also work during the summer months at the commission's International Communications Center here.

-30-