

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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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) 254-1631SBC Seminary Enrollment
Remains At 1969 Level

NASHVILLE (BP)--Fall enrollments at the six Southern Baptist Convention-owned theological seminaries stayed at virtually the same level it was one year ago, a report prepared by the Southern Baptist Education Commission disclosed here.

Enrollment of regular full-time students at the six accredited seminaries was three students more during the fall of 1969 than it was one year earlier.

Net enrollment of regular full-time students at the six seminaries was 4,578 this fall, compared to 4,575 in the fall of 1968, the Southern Baptist Education Commission reported.

All but the two largest seminaries reported slight decreases in fall enrollments.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, reported an increase of 56 students, from 1,735 to 1,791 students during the fall semester.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, the second largest seminary, listed its 1969 fall enrollment as 1,132, up 55 students from the 1,077 fall enrollment of 1968.

The increase of more than 100 students at the two largest SBC seminaries was enough to offset enrollment decreases at each of the other four accredited Southern Baptist seminaries.

The biggest decrease came at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, which reported a drop of 81 regular students. This fall, regular student enrollment was 613 compared to 694 students last fall.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., dropped 12 students, from an enrollment of 582 students last fall to 570 students this fall.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., reported 14 students less this fall than last, dropping from 284 last year to 270 this fall.

In addition to the reports from the six accredited theological seminaries, the SBC Education Commission also reported a slight decrease in regular enrollment at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, a school jointly sponsored by the SBC and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

Enrollment at the American Baptist Seminary and Bible College decreased by five students this fall, with 80 students last year and a current enrollment of 75.

American Seminary led all the others in the number of extension, non-credit, and correspondence classes, with 942 students enrolled in such courses.

In their enrollment reports, only three other seminaries listed students in the extension, non-credit, and correspondence categories.

Southern Seminary, Louisville, reported 111 students in these categories, bringing their total enrollment to 1,243. Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, reported 35 such students, with a total enrollment of 237. Golden Gate Seminary reported nine such students, with 279 as their total enrollment.

The statistics were based on official enrollment reports from the registrars at the seminaries, as filed with the Southern Baptist Education Commission here, which compiles the annual report.

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Southern Baptist Professor
Teaches Baptism in Rome

12/1/69

ROME, Italy (BP)--A Southern Baptist professor is teaching a course here this semester at the world's leading Catholic university.

Dale Moody, professor of Christian theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., was invited by Catholic officials to teach a seminar on "Baptism and Christian Unity" at the Pontificia Universita Gregoriana. He is on sabbatical

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leave from the seminary faculty during the current school year.

Moody is the second Protestant to be invited to teach at the Gregorian University. The first Protestant was J. Robert Nelson of Boston University who taught here during the 1968-69 school year.

A graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., with the bachelor of arts degree, and Southern Seminary with the master and doctor of theology degrees, Moody received the doctor of philosophy degree from Oxford University in England in 1965. He is also the author of several scholarly books.

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Tennessee Board Upholds
Publishing Firms Taxation

12/1/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Tennessee State Board of Equalization has upheld previous rulings by the Metropolitan Nashville tax assessor and the Metropolitan Board of Equalization to the effect that the major portion of about \$35 million worth of the property of seven Nashville based religious publishing houses is subject to taxation. Property of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board is included in the ruling.

The legal opinion of the state board is as follows:

"The State Board of Equalization finds that all properties owned by the appellants and utilized for printing operations shall be subject to assessment. Properties, that portion of properties, or that prorated use of property used for publication of non-religious materials or used for administrative activities not directly related to a religious purpose, shall be subject to assessment.

"The Board bases its opinion on a determination that the properties found to be assessable are secular in nature and are not being used 'exclusively' and 'purely' for religious purposes in that the activities for which they are being used are only incidental to their stated religious purposes, are in competition with private business and are being operated for profit."

In commenting on the opinion, James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School Board, stated, "We can agree with the premise stated in the opinion. This has all along been our philosophy and practice. The Sunday School Board does not own a printing operation. All of the properties for which we claim tax exemptions are used for publication and administration of activities related to our charter religious purposes. We willingly have paid and shall continue to pay taxes on properties we own which do not contribute directly to our charter purposes.

"There is obviously a difference of opinion as to what constitutes use of property purely and exclusively for religious purposes," Sullivan said. "In its discussion of the case the state board seems to feel that Convention Press products would be exclusively religious in nature, while Broadman Press materials would not. We can agree that certain Broadman Supply items such as chalkboards might not be 'exclusively religious,' but most Broadman Press items in our opinion are exclusively religious in nature."

Sullivan said additional study will have to be done on the decision before possible further action by the Sunday School Board is considered. The right of appeal to the courts is expressly granted in the opinion.

New assessments placed on the Sunday School Board by the Metropolitan tax assessor amounted to \$5,861,100. This amount covers all of the Board's Nashville property and includes merchants' ad valorem taxes.

According to the opinion of the state board, not all the property is taxable. The state opinion left the matter of identification of properties to be taxed to the local board of equalization and the Metropolitan tax assessor if appeal is not taken to the courts by the publishing houses.

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Death Takes John B. Lane

12/1/69

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--John B. Lane, retired Baptist Training Union Secretary for South Carolina, passed away Nov. 29.

Lane worked for the General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention from 1944 until his retirement Dec. 31, 1968. He was 68 years of age.

Burial was at New Bern, N.C.

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