



## BAPTIST PRESS

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January 16, 1970

Southern Seminary Joins  
Five School Consortium

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here has joined with four other seminaries in the Indiana-Kentucky area in developing an educational consortium known as the Theological Education Association of Mid-America, called by its initials TEAM.

Other seminaries in the consortium are Asbury (Methodist) Theological Seminary, Lexington Theological Seminary (Disciples of Christ), Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, and St. Meinrad (Catholic) School of Theology.

The relationship, which has no legally binding structure, will provide each of the participating seminaries with inter-library circulation and research privileges for students and faculty.

Although a continuing exchange of students through allowing a full-time student at one seminary to take courses at another of the seminaries has not yet been worked out, a special month-long session of student and faculty exchange already is in the planning stages, with a proposed target date of January, 1971.

Plans for TEAM have been under development for the past two years. During 1969 there were numerous regularly scheduled meetings of officials in the five schools.

The basic reason for the consortium, said Southern Seminary Administrative Dean Allen W. Graves, was the need for the seminaries to expand without duplicating each other's resources.

Also involved, Graves said, was the fact that the American Association of Theological Schools (AATS) has been advocating that theological schools begin clustering together for their mutual benefit.

"The AATS was advocating moving the entire school, but we sought to be more practical and logical--because moving buildings would be unnecessarily expensive," he said.

Commenting upon the value of the new consortium to Southern Seminary students, Graves said: "Many students come to the seminary from solely Baptist backgrounds. We see TEAM as an acceptable and workable pattern of giving our students a way to become familiar with other denominations."

This need, he said, has been brought about by the fact that we live in a pluralistic society, and for Baptists to ignore other religious traditions is to fail to fully equip our students.

TEAM is the second consortium which Southern Seminary has helped to organize in the past two years. In early 1969 Southern joined with six other schools in the Louisville area in "Kentuckiana Metroversity".

Full-time students at Southern Seminary and other participating schools are privileged to enroll in one or two approved courses in any other institution in the Metroversity without additional tuition. The consortium also provides library and research privileges for the students at all participating educational institutions.

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Western Star Visits City  
"Where The West Begins"

1/16/70

By Jan Wilson

FORT WORTH (BP)--"I hadn't been on a horse since I was seven years old," laughed the "Queen of the Cowgirls" as she addressed a record crowd attending the Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference. "But I was determined to make it in show business."

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Dale Evans Rogers, paragon of western femininity, visited the "city where the West begins" as residents of Fort Worth like to call their home, and recounted her life story before the Baptist crowd, a record audience for the Tarrant County Convention Center.

"I always wanted to be a singer," she related. "But they needed a woman to co-star with the then new face, Roy Rogers. Before I knew it, I had made eight films, and I was type-cast as a western star." Soon afterwards, the famous duo were married.

In summarizing her life as a western movie star, Mrs. Rogers was quick to assert that her strength is in Christ.

"I serve a living Christ who is going to win," she said. "God is not dead. I see him everywhere."

Mrs. Rogers, with a spirit of optimism, added: "I don't believe we (America) are going to be destroyed. This country was founded on Christian principles, and those principles will prevail."

Regarding today's youth, the renowned star said, "I see much promise in the youth of today.

"What we need is quality, not quantity," she continued. "A few dedicated young people can turn the world upside down."

In addition to her career in movies and television, Mrs. Rogers has written several books. The first, Angel Unaware, is the story of Robin, retarded daughter of Roy and Dale Rogers, who died at age two.

"Robin's death nearly finished me," recalled Mrs. Rogers. "If it hadn't been for faith, I wouldn't have gotten through that time of stress.

"God takes care of his own," she smiled.

The famous pair have a large family. In addition to Roy's three daughters and her son, three children have been adopted. Of these, a boy and a girl have met with untimely deaths.

Asked what she is doing currently, Mrs. Rogers replied, "Roy and I make personal appearances and appear in rodeos and western shows as often as we can.

"The important thing to us in these appearances is that we be given an opportunity to give our testimony," she concluded.

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Protests Surround Seminary  
President's Home Construction

1/16/70

FORT WORTH (BP)--Cries of "extravagance" have protested published reports that the trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here have approved plans for construction of a \$125,000 home for the seminary's president.

The protest began after the Baptist Standard, in a report on the seminary's December board meeting, carried one paragraph in a story stating that the trustees had approved construction of a new home for President Robert E. Naylor for a maximum of \$125,000.

Since then, about 60 persons have written letters to the editor of the Standard expressing opposition to the expenditure of that sum, and daily newspapers in Texas have carried front page reports on the protest movement.

The objections have come, not only from Baptist laymen, but from students at the seminary. In a letter to the editor, Southwestern student Wade D. Johnson and pastor of the First Baptist Church, Bynum, Tex., asked: "How are we pastors and students to explain to our people such an extravagant waste as this in the face of so much genuine need."

Meanwhile, trustees of the seminary contend that the president's home is a vital need in carrying on the work of the world's largest evangelical seminary.

J. T. Luther of Fort Worth, chairman of the seminary's board, said the letters represent only a small minority of the 11 million members of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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John Earl Seelig, assistant to the seminary's president, pointed out that much of the criticism was based on "misinformation" that Cooperative Program funds would be used in the building, while actually the Cooperative Program was not involved. (The Cooperative Program is the unified budget plan of the Southern Baptist Convention, whereby undesignated mission gifts are allocated to the agencies of the denomination.)

Seelig said that the funds, already available, would come from earnings from investments of funds from various seminary enterprises and reserves invested for the school by the Baptist Foundation of Texas, plus designated gifts for that purpose.

He said that the trustees had approved of the \$125,000 construction unanimously on two occasions, once in 1967 and again in December of 1969. He added that architect's drawings are not complete and the home might actually cost less than the maximum amount.

The outgoing chairman of the board, James E. Coggin, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church where Naylor previously was pastor, added that Naylor did not request the home. The 61-year-old president is nearing retirement age and would live in the home only a short time, Coggin said.

The new residence will "be in keeping with the type of homes which our other seminaries have already built for their presidents," Coggin said.

Seelig added that the two-story home would include guest rooms for official guests of the seminary, and a living and dining room adequate to entertain large groups such as graduating seniors, trustees, advisory council members, faculty, student organizations, etc.

"The cost, although it sounds extravagant, is really not when you realize what the main purpose of the building is, and what construction costs are today," Seelig said. "It could have built for \$60,000 to \$75,000 10 years ago. Furthermore, it is being built to serve the seminary for the next 50-75 years and five to 12 presidents could conceivably use it. It needs to be sturdy and adequate."

One critic, F. Murray Mathis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Elkhart, Tex., asked why the entertaining could not be done in "the very elaborate student center located just north of the proposed home site.

Coggin replied by saying that would be like asking a pastor to do all his entertaining in the church.

An Irving, Tex., housewife, Mrs. Naomi Lawrence, called the price "sadly absurd," especially "when compared to the day when our Lord had not a place to rest his head."

Seelig said that most of the criticism has come from lack of adequate information, and in a few cases personality conflict and jealousy.

The board earmarked the project for 1970, and plans call for completion of the home by the spring of 1971.

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Mississippi Action Group  
Adopts School Statement

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Stating that the "twin problems of ignorance and poverty have already had a strong hold on our state," the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention urged all Christians in Mississippi to face the integration of public schools by preserving "the dignity and respect of the human personality regardless of race."

"Common sense, Christian love, and concern for each other should be the normal pattern for Christian behavior," said the statement.

It pointed out that since Baptists are in the vast majority in Mississippi, "the end results after a few years will reflect the maturity of Baptist people who call themselves Christians."

Adoption of the statement by the commission, the state equivalent of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, was the first public stand taken by Mississippi Baptist Convention leadership concerning the turmoil in the state following desegregation of public school orders by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

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A few days later, the Lauderdale County Baptist Pastors' Conference adopted a similar statement urging support of the public school system in Meridian, Miss., and urging Baptists to do all in their power "to make the public school system in this area efficient, sound and strong."

J. Clark Hensley, executive director of the state convention's Christian Action Commission, said that their statement was designed to deal with Baptist attitudes and behaviour as a result of the problems in the state, rather than supporting public schools as over against private schools.

"There are many who feel that our future destiny is at stake in this crisis," said the statement. "The twin problems of ignorance and poverty already have a strong hold on our state. Little improvement will be made on the poverty problem until something more is done on the education problem.

"To allow the public school system to be impoverished or destroyed will only shift the burden of care to the tax-payers in a further non-productive deteriorating system (welfare hunger, unemployment, crime, delinquency)," the statement continued. "The scourges of poverty and ignorance affect all people in Mississippi. There are many children of all races who cannot go to a private or parochial school."

Pointing out that each parent has the right and responsibility to choose the type of education for his child, the commission urged Christians not to criticize or try to coerce others for whatever decision they might make.

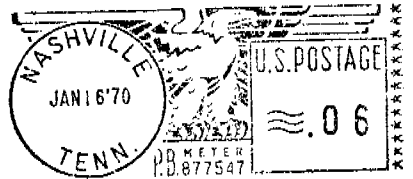
"The dignity and respect for human personality regardless of race should be preserved by all Christian people," said the statement. "Care should be exercised not to pit race against race, recognizing that these problems of social adjustment affect all alike."

The commission in other action elected Macklyn Hubbell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Miss., as its chairman.



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