



BAPTIST PRESS
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January 22, 1970

Merrill Moore To Retire
 As Stewardship Leader

NASHVILLE (BP)--Merrill D. Moore, top stewardship leader of the Southern Baptist Convention for more than 22 years, announced plans to retire as executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Stewardship Commission here, effective Jan. 31, 1971.

Moore, 65, has been the top executive of the Stewardship Commission since the organization was founded in 1961. For 13 years prior to that, he was director of stewardship promotion for the SBC Executive Committee here.

On his retirement in January of 1971, he will have completed 23 years in nation-wide stewardship promotion efforts in the Southern Baptist Convention. He said his plans after retirement are uncertain at the moment, but he probably would continue to live here.

Under the bylaws of the commission, the executive committee of the 26-member elected commission will nominate a new executive secretary-treasurer, possibly as soon as the next full commission meeting in August.

Commission members will meet again at Albuquerque, N.M., Aug. 12-13, just prior to the first nation-wide stewardship conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly, Glorieta, N.M., during the week of Aug. 13-19.

During the commission's January meeting here, Joe L. Ingram assistant executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma was elected chairman of the commission, and James D. Reynolds, a grocery executive from Columbia, S.C., was named chairman of the commission's administrative committee.

In a major report to the commission, the members heard details of projects being conducted by the commission to raise capital needs and building funds for nine churches and two institutions as part of an endowment and capital giving service called, "Together We Build."

Before becoming director of promotion for the SBC Executive Committee in 1948, Moore was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville for six years.

Previously, he had been pastor of Baptist churches in Newport, Tenn., Selma, Ala., New Salem, Ky., Albany, Ind., and Money, Miss.

A native of Mississippi, Moore is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Both Mississippi College and Cumberland University granted him doctor of divinity degree.

He was president of Tennessee College for Women, 1940-42, and a field worker in the Sunday School department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 1926-27.

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Hardin-Simmons Given
 \$225,000 For Building

1/22/70

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Hardin-Simmons University here has been given \$225,000 for the construction of a new military science building by the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla.

The new building will replace three structures currently housing the Baptist school's Reserve Officer Training Program. More students earned Army commissions in 1969 at the school's ROTC program than ever before in history, school officials said.

The ROTC program also trains students from neighboring Abilene Christian College and McDierry College (Methodist) in addition to those from Hardin-Simmons.

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SBC Annuity Board Boosts
Benefit Checks In 1970

DALLAS (BP)--Most persons receiving benefits from the Southern Baptist Protection Program will find the amounts of their checks four per cent larger during 1970, as well as a new format for the checks, the top executive of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board said.

According to R. Alton Reed, executive secretary of the SBC Annuity Board, all persons in the plan except those who get education benefits and fixed period benefits will get the increase starting with checks issued Jan. 31, 1970.

Reed said the increase is not new, but rather represents a departure from the way it has been given during the past few years.

"Previously persons receiving retirement benefits were given a "13th check," which during the past two years has amounted to 12 per cent of each annual retirement benefit," he said. (The extra check for 1969 will be recommended to the trustees in February.)

Reed said the new procedure now allows the board to give part of the increase each month instead of waiting to give it all at one time at the end of the year.

"With the way the costs of living keep going up, the board feels this approach will help our people," Reed said.

He added that this means the "13th check," if given in 1971, by necessity, would be smaller.

"The increase in benefits, including the "13th check," has been made possible by interest earnings in excess of the amount needed to meet the actuarial requirements of the various retirement plans," Reed said.

He added that persons getting fixed period benefits will realize a proportionate part of the gain. The percentage of each will vary, however, since each is based on different specified periods of time.

Reed said the education benefit, which is paid to a college student of a retired, disabled or deceased minister, will not get the increase.

The reason is this benefit is paid over a short period of time--four years maximum--and has only a small reserve on which to earn interest, he explained. Computing the amount for each individual education benefit plus making a determination if it is current and payable, would cost more than what could possibly be given, Reed said. The education benefit amounts to 40 per cent of the regular benefit each member receives and can be as much as \$600 a year.

Reed said the check format has been completely revised to conform with the board's computer operation which not only increases proficiency but also eliminates the need of issuing multiple checks to the same person.

"Now each person will get only one check for all the benefits to which he is entitled," Reed said.

"The new check format shows the receiver his personal account number, a list of each benefit, and the amount of each payable to him, plus the total amount of all benefits payable," Reed concluded.

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Dillow Named Illinois
Church Training Head

1/22/70

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--Don E. Dillow, pastor of the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in Urbana, Ill., for the past 14 years, has been named secretary of the church training department for the Illinois Baptist State Association.

He will succeed Bluford M. Sloan, who resigned in September.

Announcement of Dillow's selection was made by James H. Smith, executive secretary of the state convention. Under a new system of naming staff personnel approved by the convention, final selection was made by the executive secretary from three applicants who were reviewed and named acceptable by the church development and administrative committees of the Board of Directors.

A native of Dongola, Ill., Dillow planned to enter the field of physical education and was offered a contract to play professional baseball by the Chicago Cubs, but he declined the offer to enter the ministry.

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He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University here and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

The Urbana church has grown from about 300 members to more than 1,400 during his 14 years. The church has also initiated what is often called the "Eldorado plan" which they call the "School of Christian Education," in which Sunday School and church training are combined into a single 95-minute session on Sunday mornings. Only a worship service is conducted on Sunday nights.

Dillow added that as the church training department secretary, he had no plans to promote this approach throughout the state, unless requested. "We did it at Urbana to fit a special need. My main concern is to assist our churches in member and leadership training, however best that can be accomplished."

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Oklahoma Baptist University
Given \$200,000 Center Grant

1/22/70

SHAUNEE, Okla. (BP)--Oklahoma Baptist University here has received a \$200,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation of Tulsa for completion of its Fine Arts Center.

Grady C. Cothen, president of the school, said the grant was made with the stipulation that the school raise about \$250,000 in matching funds by Aug. 31, 1970, for the construction of studio and classroom facilities in the lower level of Raley Chapel.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$600,000. Cothen said pledges totalling \$150,000 had already been received.

Cothen said a statewide campaign for the \$250,000 necessary was being planned. The new facilities will be named The Mabee Fine Arts Center of the Warren M. Angel College of Fine Arts.

The Mabee Foundation is a philanthropic organization which was incorporated in 1948 to aid Christian religious organizations, charitable organizations, institutions of higher learning, hospitals, etc. Foundation donors were J. E. and L. E. Mabee of Tulsa.

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Retired Pastor Establishes
\$100,000 Baptist Trust Fund

1/22/70

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--A retired North Carolina Baptist pastor and his wife have established a \$100,000 trust fund benefiting the Cooperative Program of the state convention and two Baptist schools the minister attended.

The gift is being made by Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Redwine of Winston-Salem, N.C. He is the former pastor of the First Baptist Church, Hickory, N.C., and former director of the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Southport, N.C.

The trust fund was set up with the North Carolina Baptist Foundation to benefit in perpetuity the Cooperative Program of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; and Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem.

He is a graduate of both institutions, and Mrs. Redwine, a native of Alabama, graduated from Shorter College and the Woman's Missionary Union Training School, Louisville, (since merged with Southern Seminary named as beneficiary in the trust).

Under the trust fund plan, Southern Seminary will receive \$300 annually for two scholarships for women training for Christian service; the Cooperative Program will receive \$200 annually; and the remainder will go to Wake Forest to provide scholarships of \$500 for needy and worthy students selected by the university.

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