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January 27, 1970

Eddleman Resigns Seminary Post;
Becomes Religious Heritage Head

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--H. Leo Eddleman has resigned as president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here to become executive vice president of Religious Heritage Of America, with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Eddleman has been president of the seminary, third largest in the Southern Baptist Convention, with a fall enrollment of 613 students, since 1958.

He announced his resignation, effective Feb. 28 "or at such times as is mutually beneficial and preferable to all concerned," to the executive committee of the seminary's board of trustees here.

He told the committee that he was accepting the top executive post for Religious Heritage of America "after much prayer and consideration," and that he and his wife "feel that this is the Lord's will for our lives at this time."

Religious Heritage of America is a nation-wide organization committed to keeping alive the fact that the United States was settled primarily by people of faith, and that the unique idea of religious liberty was written into the Constitution as a result of their Christian faith, according to Eddleman's statement.

The organization also sponsors an annual "pilgrimage" of top religious leaders in America to the nation's capital, and presents awards to outstanding clergymen, church women, and a "Faith and Freedom Award" in journalism.

Eddleman said in his resignation statement that "the work with New Orleans Seminary had been satisfying and delightful. Only the challenge of the broader service of a nation-wide organization like Religious Heritage of America could pull me away from the extraordinary faculty, the excellent trustees, and the capable student body at New Orleans seminary."

A native of Mississippi, Eddleman was elected the fifth president of the seminary in November of 1968, succeeding Roland Q. Leavell. At the time, he was president of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.

He had taught Old Testament and Hebrew at New Orleans Seminary before his election as president of Georgetown College, and had served six years in Palestine as a missionary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He had lived in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Nazareth.

Eddleman was pastor of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville, from 1942-52, and taught Old Testament and Hebrew at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary there for two years as a pastor, and taught there as a full professor for two additional years.

He has also lectured and studied in Palestine (Israel) and studied at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

A graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., he received the master and doctor of theology degrees at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Georgetown College conferred on him an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1949.

He has written ten books: To Make Men Free; The Teaching of Jesus, Matt. 5:7; Trustees and Higher Education; Guidelines to Ecumenicalism; The Second Coming; Eschatology; Ecumenicalism and Brotherhood; The Spirit of Ecumenicalism; The Missionary Task of the Church; and Mandelbaum Gate.

At the time of his resignation, Eddleman had just returned to the seminary from a brief sabbatical. He had taught as a guest lecturer at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill., while on sabbatical.

Though Eddleman was taking a position outside the denominational structure, he said "our continued involvement on a full-time basis in Christian and religious activities will be as extensive as ever," He said he planned to join a Southern Baptist church in Washington.

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Though Eddleman was taking a position outside the denominational structure, he said "our continued involvement on a full-time basis in Christian and religious activities will be as extensive as ever." He said he planned to join a Southern Baptist church in Washington.

A. Morgan Brian Jr., a New Orleans attorney and president of the board of trustees, said that the board's executive committee had accepted Eddleman's resignation "with regrets."

The executive committee adopted a resolution expressing "grateful appreciation" for Eddleman's "dynamic leadership," and praised his more than 11 years "of devoted service." They planned a testimonial dinner honoring Eddleman at a later date.

The executive committee named James D. Mosteller, dean of the seminary's School of Theology, to be acting president until a successor is selected. No procedure has yet been set up for nomination and election of a new president by the board of trustees.

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New York Church Elects
Two Women New Deacons

1/27/70

NEW YORK (BP)--The Manhattan Baptist Church here has ordained two women as deacons, the first Southern Baptist congregation in the Baptist Convention of New York to do so.

The church elected and ordained as deacons Miss Ann Hurt, an administrative assistant to the design department director at Simplicity Patterns, Inc.; Miss Carolyn Simmons, secretary to a senior vice president of Stauffer Chemical Co.; and Bob Smith, a New York musician and organist.

For the last four years, Manhattan Church has been without a pastor. Miss Hurt, one of the new deacons, is chairman of the "interim committee" which is responsible for filling the pulpit each Sunday, planning the worship services, and arranging for prayer meeting.

Gene Maston, chairman of the deacons who also pioneered in Baptist student work in New York while working on his doctorate at Columbia University, said that the church had discussed the possibility of electing deacons without regard to sex for several years.

About a year ago, the church adopted a recommendation from the deacons that a women be eligible for election as deacons, he said.

"There was some hesitation on the part of a few about the election of women, but nothing very serious," Maston said. "I really don't think that anyone thinks very much about it now; they just accept it as a normal part of life, since there are so many women in the church who are already strong leaders and have for some time been key leaders."

Maston said as far as members of the church knew, Manhattan was the only Southern Baptist church in the Northeast to elect women deacons, though they knew of a number of such churches in the Southeast.

Both Miss Hurt and Miss Simmons are very active in the church, Maston said. Each had held Sunday School and/or Training Union leadership positions, sung in the choir, and served on church committees.

Manhattan Baptist Church is considered by many to be the parent church of South Baptist ministry in New York. Organized 12 years ago, the church has founded 17 chapels in the New York area.

The church, however, has been without a pastor for nearly half of its lifetime. Paul S. James, now executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of New York, was the first pastor, serving for six years. Morris Fain, the last pastor, left about four years ago and is now pastor of a Baptist chapel in Rockland County, N.Y.

About a year ago, the church decided against renewing a 10 year lease for its building on 57th Street because of high rent (\$40,000 a year), and moved to temporary quarters at the Church Center for the United Nations headquarters.

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Seminary Consortium Sets
Month-Long Mini-Mester

1/27/70

LOUISVILLE (BP)--A four-week "Interterm" will be conducted during January of 1971 by the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here and four other theological schools participating in a new consortium organized recently.

The "Interterm," scheduled Jan. 4-28, 1971 will be organized similar to "mini-mester" sessions at various colleges, except that students will also be allowed to take credit courses at any one of the five participating schools.

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Though the "Interterm" is designed for student interchange, some professors may also be teaching at other institutions.

During the experimental session professors will be given great latitude in structuring their classes, particularly in regard to number of class sessions and requirements for the course.

Among the creative approaches to study that will be tried during the "Interterm" will be several laboratory-type courses. Travel seminars to archaeological sites in the Holy Land, Reformation sites in Europe, and Latin American mission fields have already been proposed.

Also planned is an on-site missions workshop in the inner city and intensive reading seminars on various topics. Because a student will take only one course during the January session, class schedules may vary widely to permit concentration to material as the course requires.

"We now think about 80 to 90 per cent of both the faculty and students at Southern will be participating," Administrative Dean Allen W. Graves said. Southern is the largest of the participating seminaries, with an enrollment of about 1,300 students annually and a teaching staff of 75.

Louisville Presbyterian enrolls about 150; Lexington (Disciples of Christ) Theological Seminary has an enrollment of about 100; Asbury (Methodist) Theological Seminary enrolls about 400; and St. Meinrad (Catholic) School of Theology enrolls about 100.

Because of the January "Interterm," a new academic calendar will be necessary for Southern Seminary. Classes for the fall semester will officially begin on Sept. 1 with orientation for new students scheduled to begin Aug. 26. The semester will end before Christmas, on Dec. 16. Spring semester is to be Feb. 2 through May 26, 1971.

Courses taught during the "Interterm" will carry two and three semester hours of credit, and possibly some four-hour classes will be established.

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Frost Elected Florida
Sunday School Secretary

1/27/70

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--James E. Frost, Sunday School department secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas, has been elected Sunday School secretary for the Florida Baptist Convention, effective March 1.

Frost is well-known throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, having previously been supervisor of general administration for the Training Union department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

He has also been director of the Training Union department for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, in Fresno, Calif., and pastor of Baptist churches in Abilene, Tex.; and Mesquite, Tex., and Longview, Wash.

He is a former president of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington, and former Training Union Convention president in Texas.

A native of Oklahoma, Frost is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.; did advance study at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Frost's election was announced by Harold Bennett, executive secretary of the Florida Convention. Bennett also is a former Texan, serving as director of the Texas Convention's missions division before going to Florida as executive secretary.

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