



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
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April 3, 1970

#### Former SBC Candidate Against Criswell Plans To Leave SBC

**RICHMOND (BP)**--William C. Smith, University of Richmond professor who was nominated as a protest candidate against W. A. Criswell of Dallas for president of the Southern Baptist Convention last year in New Orleans, has resigned his teaching post and announced plans to leave the denomination.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch in a page one story reported that Smith is accepting the challenge Criswell made last September calling for those who don't accept the convention adopted statements of faith to leave the denomination.

Criswell and Smith have been at odds over literal interpretation of the Bible. Smith is secretary of the E. Y. Mullins Fellowship and active in the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, organizations that both opposed Criswell's book last year on "Why I Preach That The Bible Is Literally True."

At the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, defeated Smith for president of the SBC by a vote of 7,482 to 450.

Smith, director of religious activities for men and assistant professor of religion at the University of Richmond, said he had no immediate plans for the future, either in his choice of another position, or in a specific church.

He pointed out in a telephone interview with Baptist Press in Nashville that he was not leaving the church, but did not plan to remain in a Southern Baptist church.

He added he felt no bitterness toward the denomination, for he had found fulfillment and purpose in his work, especially with students. "But it is kind of like the Boy Scouts--it's a fine organization, but there comes a time to leave. And for me, it's all over."

He said he had come to the decision after "careful consideration" and a conclusion that the situation in the Southern Baptist Convention is that the conservatives hold the power, and they will allow liberals to exist just so long as "you do not say anything, tend to your knitting, stay out of sight, stay off platforms, don't run for office...."

He said he was deeply discouraged about the place of the liberal in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I just don't care to participate in the fight anymore. For me, it is not worth the effort," he said. "There are just so many other problems and issues that are more pressing than the ones Southern Baptists seem concerned about. I want to devote my time and energies to these."

He added that he had made no specific plans regarding the type of position he would seek, but it would be in the secular field, either private, governmental or education.

Smith said he would fulfill his contract and remain at the University of Richmond until June 15 and would teach during the first summer session. He said he felt he must leave the school because it is a Baptist institution "where it is understood that you are in the denomination."

"I just don't think there is any future for me in this framework," he added.

Smith, 42, is a native of Georgia and was involved in Baptist student work in North Carolina before going to the University of Richmond. He is a graduate of Washington and Lee University, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

April 3, 1970

Baptist Press

Parking Problem Cited At SBC;  
Shuttle Bus Set To Stadium

DENVER (BP)--The local arrangements committee for the Southern Baptist Convention here June 1-4, citing a critical shortage of economical downtown parking facilities, have set up a shuttle bus to the Mile High Stadium for those who drive their cars to the convention.

All day parking at the stadium will cost 25 cents per day, provided cars are not removed. Reparking will cost an additional 25 cents, according to convention officials.

The shuttle bus will cost \$2.50 per person for the entire week of the convention, including as many trips to the stadium as needed. The shuttle bus cannot take money, and every bus rider must have a pass, the committee pointed out.

Downtown parking for the convention became a problem after recent action by the Denver Downtown Parking Association limiting the number of all-day parking spaces. What few all-day parking places are available cost a minimum of \$1.10 per day or more.

Convention officials urged those who desire to use the shuttle bus to send check or money order for \$2.50 per person to the Denver Association of Southern Baptists, 405 South Platte River Dr., Denver, Colo. 80223.

"The shuttle bus service can save you hours of looking for a parking space and save you money for more important things," said John B. Upchurch, pastor of Chambers Road Baptist Church in Aurora, Colo. "But don't blame us if you fail to take our warning. You could be in Denver but miss much of the convention riding around looking for parking."

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Chafin To Preach On  
Baptist Hour In Summer

4/3/70

FORT WORTH (BP)--Kenneth L. Chafin, director of the evangelism division for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, will be the speaker on The Baptist Hour's summer series, the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here announced.

Chafin, former evangelism professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, will relieve Herschel H. Hobbs, regular Baptist Hour speaker. Chafin also previously taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He has previously spoken on The Baptist Hour and has also been a speaker for the radio variety program, "MasterControl" which the commission produces.

The Baptist Hour is heard on 460 stations throughout all 50 states.

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McGhee Joins Staff Of  
Sunday School Board

4/3/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Bob R. McGhee has joined the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as editor of children's curriculum materials in the church training department.

A native of Kentucky, McGhee earned the bachelor of science in education degree from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn., and the master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Prior to joining the board's staff, he served as minister of education for First Baptist Church, Florence, S. C. Earlier he served as minister of education for First Baptist Church, Kingsport, Tenn., and Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

In the new position, McGhee is responsible for editing "Exploring A," a Training Union curriculum periodical for children ages six and seven and "Exploring A for Leaders."

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CORRECTION

On BP story mailed 4/2/70, headlined "Cooperative Program Gifts Increase in First Quarter," please change graph 3, last sentence to read: "The 18 per cent increase in March offset a 6.18 per cent decrease in February," This change reverses the meaning of the incorrect word "increase" as sent. Thanks.

--Baptist Press



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