



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 29, 1970

**California College Elects
James Staples President**

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--James R. Staples, editor of the Arizona Baptist Beacon in Phoenix, has been elected president of California Baptist College, here effective Sept. 1.

Staples became editor of the Arizona Baptist state paper in March, and had previously been editor of the Beacon from 1960-62 when he left to become executive vice president of Grand Canyon College, Phoenix.

He will succeed Loyed Simmons, who resigned as president of California Baptist College on Nov. 30, 1969.

At the meeting of the board of trustees when Staples was elected, a newly-elected business manager, J. Patrick McGrew, gave a report on the college's financial condition, saying that the situation is "encouraging."

The annual audit showed the school closed its books in the black this year, with a \$29,991 balance in the current (operating) fund, compared to operating in the red last year with a deficit of \$1,105.

Enrollment during the summer months was higher than anticipated, though still below last summer's enrollment, college officials said. About 250 students are attending summer school sessions.

In March, the school's trustees accepted the resignation of its business manager, J. L. Harden, who predicted that the operating deficit for the summer might reach \$200,000. McGrew, the new business manager, said the summer deficit would only amount to about \$120,000.

Enrollment is expected to reach 700 during the fall term, a school official said.

Staples, the new president, told the board he had gone over the books for the school and found that the school was not nearly in as bad shape financially as he had previously thought. He pointed out that the school had not borrowed against its line of credit.

Staples said he was deeply concerned that the school offer "quality education within a Christian framework." He added he expected to be an active leader as president, but would depend heavily on the school's academic dean.

During the board meeting, the resignation of Thurmond George, vice president in charge of development, was announced. George is returning to the pastorate, going to Foxworthy Baptist Church in San Jose, Calif.

Staples was pastor of the Royal Palms Baptist Church in Phoenix for four years before returning for a second, but short, term as editor of the Baptist Beacon.

He was executive vice president of Grand Canyon College for four years before taking the Royal Palms pastorate.

Before becoming editor of the Baptist Beacon in 1960, Staples was pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church for 10 years.

A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Staples earned a doctorate in education from Arizona State University.

He is a former president of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, former trustee of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, former president of the Arizona convention's Executive Board, and former trustee for Grand Canyon College.

Shortly after his election, Staples is scheduled to lead a tour to the Orient and attend the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo.

Superficial Commitment Said
Causing Declining Growth Rate

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--A Southern Baptist seminary professor said here that the growth rates for Southern Baptists and other denominations have diminished or stopped because "church members have too superficial an understanding of God and too shallow a commitment to serve God."

Findley B. Edge, professor of religious education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, discussed the problem and possible solutions during a Church Renewal Conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly.

"My own view," Edge said, "is that the basic problem in our churches--both Southern Baptist as well as others--is basically a spiritual problem."

"We are unwilling to take our religion out of the church and express it in the everyday world; we are unwilling to get involved in the lives of needy people and to seek to be instruments of God's love to these people."

"We have tended to express our religion by attending meetings in the church," he continued. "While these are important, religion must be expressed in the world during the week."

Edge said this means the layman in the church is God's basic minister, and every layman must find his own particular way of expressing his ministry. Involvement in ministry is the key to renewal of the church, he observed.

He said typical expressions might include working in the church program, helping poverty-stricken people, tutoring high school dropouts or teaching illiterate adults to read.

"In addition to ministering to the physical, economic and social needs of people, our desire is so to relate to these people that they will come to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ."

Edge said the result will be a new dimension added to relationships inside and outside the church.

"This renewal is a deeper and more personal relationship with God himself and with other people.

"In its essence, renewal is an attempt to discover how to bring new life or 'the real life' into the church."

Glorieta Baptist Assembly, owned and operated by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, is located on a 2,500 acre mountain site 18 miles east of Santa Fe, N.M.



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