



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 11, 1970

**Malawi Baptists Organize;
Plan Indigenous Programs**

RICHMOND (BP)--In a demonstration of indigenous progress among African Baptists, the Baptist Convention of Malawi was organized recently, giving immediate approval of the new convention's constituents to launch both home and "foreign" mission projects.

The convention voted to send a pastor-evangelist as a home missionary to develop Baptist work in the northern region of Malawi, and to send another pastor as a working chaplain to the gold mines near Johannesburg, South Africa.

Three African Baptist pastors were elected chairman, secretary and treasurer of the new convention. The highest office is designated "chairman" rather than "president." A provisional constitution has been drawn up and is expected to be adopted by mid-1971.

The newly elected convention chairman, Pastor Phiri of the Lilongwe Baptist Church, volunteered to go as a missionary to the northern region, and he expects to set up headquarters in the town of Mzuzu by the first of next year. Phiri is a native of the region, and he speaks five African languages including the prevalent Timbuka dialect.

The convention, lacking adequate finances to support Phiri, asked the Malawi Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) for help. The mission gave its assurance of cooperation, but insisted that Phiri's ministry must be a convention project and not a mission project.

The mission's position is that it is "advisable to have a convention worker go to the region first, get Baptist work started on an indigenous basis, and then be joined by a missionary co-worker later," according to H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here, in a report from Malawi.

The mission has assigned Mr. and Mrs. Gary K. Swafford as liaison personnel between the mission and convention in the development of the project. They will make several trips to Mzuzu during the coming months and will probably relocate there from Lilongwe late next year.

The convention also wants to send a pastor as chaplain to the thousands of men from Malawi who work about nine months of every year in the gold mines near Johannesburg, South Africa.

The men have little to do during their off hours, and it is easy to gather a crowd for a religious service in the mining compounds, Goerner said.

The South African Baptist Missionary Society has long desired to carry on evangelistic efforts among the miners, he continued. Consultations between the society's secretary and Southern Baptist missionaries in Malawi led to a proposal that the newly formed convention send an African pastor to hold a clerical job with one of the mining companies and serve as chaplain in the mining camps.

The pastor's travel expenses will be defrayed by the mining company, "which is very friendly toward this plan and realizes the value of bringing moral and spiritual values into the lives of the men," Goerner said.

The pastor will be expected to follow up any converts when the miners return to their villages in Malawi. Different pastors will be asked to serve as chaplain to the miners on a rotation basis.

Other new plans for Baptist work in Malawi include a "church garden" project. Missionary Darrel E. Garner, an agriculturist who arrived in Malawi last January, is encouraging village congregations to set aside a plot of land to be tilled by the members.

Produce from the "church garden" will be made available to the pastor and will provide for local expenses. This is expected to strengthen self-support among the churches and to enable some to support trained leaders:

With the approval of the Malawi Department of Agriculture, Garner is also seeking land for a demonstration farm. He has been invited to start agricultural projects in several communities, where he hopes to introduce methods of soil conservation, fertilization and irrigation.

The "lakeshore medical project" is about to get underway also. A Baptist layman and his wife, and missionary Howard B. Bickers Jr., will conduct medical clinics and evangelistic services in villages along the shore of Lake Malawi. Necessary government approval has been granted for the project, and invitations have come from several villages.

The layman is trained as a medical assistant, and his wife is a midwife. From their headquarters in Salima, they will travel around the lake in a motorboat operated by Bickers. He is learning the language of the predominate Yao people of the lake area.

President Hastings Kamuzu Banda of Malawi "is very friendly toward Christian missions," reported Goerner, "and our missionaries have appealed for additional personnel to continue to teach and train pastors and lay leaders and further strengthen the courageous, young Baptist Convention of Malawi."

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Southeastern Seminary Elects
Cross New Business Manager

8/11/70

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Onard L. Cross, branch manager for Jack's Cookie Co., of Raleigh, N.C., has been elected business manager at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary by the trustees' executive committee meeting here.

A native of Knoxville, Tenn., Cross has been associated with the baking business for 32 years, and is a former president of the Baker's Association of the Carolinas.

He is a former manager of American Bakers plants in Florence, S.C., and Charlotte, N.C. A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Cross is a Baptist deacon, Sunday School teacher and Baptist men's director at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Raleigh.

At the time the seminary's executive committee elected Cross to the position, President Olin T. Binkley announced the schedule of special lectures at the seminary for the coming academic year.

The fall lectures at the seminary will be delivered Oct. 21-22 by James M. Gustafson, professor of Christian ethics at Yale University Divinity School.

The Carver-Barnes Memorial Lectures, slated Feb. 23-26, 1971, will be delivered by Ray C. Petry, church history professor at Duke University; and the seminary's spring lectures will be given by Russell F. Aldwinckle, theology professor at McMaster Divinity College.

Other one-day lectures and special addresses slated throughout the year include those by Edwin H. Tuller, general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, Oct. 8; Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, Nov. 5; Roy D. Gresham, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Maryland, March 5; and James L. Sullivan, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, April 15.

In addition, John W. Carlton, professor of preaching at Southeastern Seminary, will deliver his inaugural address on Oct. 14, and John I. Durham, professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southeastern, will deliver the spring convocation lecture, Jan. 26, 1971.

Binkley said that all of the lectures would be open to the public and would be given at 10:00 a.m. on the designated dates at the seminary's chapel.

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Attack On Alcoholism
Approved By Senators

8/11/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate has approved and sent to the House of Representatives a major new federal program designed to attack the problems of alcoholism and alcohol abuse.

Hailed as a federal commitment to launch war on alcoholism, the new program seeks to establish the principle that alcoholism should be approached as a medical-social problem rather than a legal-criminal one.

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Sen. Harold E. Hughes (D., Iowa) and 51 other senators sponsored the legislation known as the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970.

The Senate action authorizes \$395 million over the next three years for grants to help states and local agencies develop and administer programs dealing with alcoholism.

Private, nonprofit agencies can also receive grants from this sum to use and "develop the expertise and the techniques that they have" for dealing with problems of alcoholism, according to Sen. Hughes.

In addition, the bill would establish a National Health Institute for dealing specifically with alcoholism; provide for the coordination of all federal efforts in this field; require federal agencies to set up programs dealing with alcohol abuse among federal employees; and would require the U.S. Civil Service Commission to guarantee persons afflicted with alcoholism the same employment conditions and benefits as persons who are ill from other causes.

Also, the Senate version requires the secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to submit to Congress by June 30, 1971, a report on the health consequences of the use of alcohol, similar to the Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and the upcoming report on the use of marijuana.

Sen. Hughes said he was hopeful that the House would act on the measure before the fall recess.

The Iowa Senator said the program initiated in this bill would "strike a blow for economy. Every dollar soundly invested to control this costly plague will be returned to society at all levels many times over."

"We tend to lose sight of the fact," Hughes said, "that alcohol is the most widely abused dangerous drug in America." He pointed out that there are over nine million alcoholics in the nation. Their disease he said, affects perhaps 50 million persons, directly or indirectly.

"We are not suggesting prohibition," Hughes told the Senate, describing that experiment as a "failure."

Instead, he continued, we are suggesting something that would be "substantially less costly and infinitely more effective--sensible, realistic legislation for the control and prevention of an illness that would be recognized as having reached epidemic proportions if it were typhoid or tuberculosis, or another disease."

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Training Union Worker
Harvey Gibson Retires

8/11/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Harvey Taylor Gibson, staff field services consultant for the church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, here will retire August 31 after 20 years of service.

Gibson was Training Union secretary for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for seven years before he began his work with the Sunday School Board.

He joined the board's Training Union staff as director of adult work in December, 1950. Later he became director of associational work and then director of the field services section.

A native of South Carolina, Gibson is a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, and Duke University, Durham, N.C. Prior to entering Training Union work in North Carolina, he was professor of English at North Carolina State College, Raleigh.

This fall he will teach English at a Baptist institution, North Greenville Junior College, Tigerville, S.C.

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New Orleans Seminary
Names Two New Professors

8/11/70

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Two new assistant professors have been named at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to teach theology and church music.

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Named assistant professor of systematic theology was Fisher H. Humphreys, currently a fellow in the theology department completing his dissertation for the doctor of theology degree at New Orleans.

Appointed to teach conducting in the seminary's music school was Eugene Brasher, who currently is completing requirements for the doctor of performing arts degree at Florida State University.

Humphreys is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and Oxford University in England where he studied British theology. He is also a former Baptist summer missionary to Aquadilla, Puerto Rico, and has been pastor of Baptist churches in Frankfield, Ala., Weldon, Ill., and Lula, Miss.

The new music faculty member is also an alumnus of New Orleans Seminary, and a graduate of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

He is a former minister of music for Riverside Baptist Church, Miami, Fla., and First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala. He has also sung with the famed Robert Shaw Chorale in Atlanta.

Humphreys will teach courses in conducting, assist in the doctoral program in church music education, and lead in developing a mixed choral group for New Orleans Seminary.

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McClain Resigns Atlanta Church
To Become "Minister At Large"

8/11/70

ATLANTA (BP)--Roy O. McClain, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Atlanta, has resigned to become a "minister at large" effective Sept. 13, the date of his 17th anniversary as pastor of the 5,700-member church.

In making his announcement, McClain said his main concentration will be preaching, especially to youth.

Once acclaimed as one of America's top 10 preachers by Newsweek Magazine, McClain plans to speak at military installations, churches, youth conclaves, and college campuses.

He said he also plans to produce broadcasts for radio and television, write a column and several books, and "unapologetically do nothing sometimes."

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Cummins

3/11/70

AIR FORCE MISSION OFFERING PRESENTED: George W. Cummins, director of the chaplaincy division for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (right) presents a check for \$13,447 to Porter Routh (left) executive secretary-treasurer for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, on behalf of Air Force servicemen around the world for Baptist world mission efforts. The check represents about 15 per cent of a total of \$63,258 given by Air Force servicemen through Protestant chapels in about 34 countries of the world. There are 167 Southern Baptist Air Force chaplains on active duty around the world, comprising the largest group of Protestant chaplains in the Air Force. (BP) Photo.