



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 17, 1970

Cothen Elected President  
Of New Orleans Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Grady C. Cothen, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee for the past four years, has been elected president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here, effective immediately.

Cothen, former executive secretary of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, succeeds H. Leo Eddleman, who resigned in January, 1970 to become executive vice president of Religious Heritage of America, a patriotic foundation in Washington, D.C.

Just three weeks before Cothen was elected as his successor, Eddleman was named to a newly-created position as "doctrinal reader" for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Cothen was elected president of the seminary he attended as a student by the unanimous vote of the New Orleans board of trustees meeting in a called session here.

He was recommended to the board by a committee headed by J. Norris Palmer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La. Palmer said his committee had compiled information on 68 different persons recommended for the position. Recommendations came from the seminary's faculty, students and alumni.

Though Cothen accepted the position effective immediately, he is not expected to move to the campus until mid-November, according to an announcement from board chairman A. Morgan Brian, a New Orleans attorney.

In the interim period, acting president James Mosteller will continue to serve in the president's office and will work with Cothen in effecting a smooth transition, Brian said.

Brian said the unanimous selection of Cothen was "evidence of the divine leadership of God."

In accepting the position, Cothen said he was honored by the election, but added quickly: "the future of the seminary is not so much a matter involved ~~not so much~~ with prestige and honor but with the problems of a polarized society.

"The needs of our world are so great that we should be occupied with the proclamation and application of the love of God," Cothen continued. "Historically, Baptists are fitted to meet this challenge of the age....

"Theologically and from the point of view of polity, Baptists are uniquely equipped to serve this age," he said. "The New Orleans seminary must be dedicated to equipping the servants of the churches intellectually and spiritually. We shall redouble our efforts at academic excellence and in trying to help students develop spiritual resources adequate" for the times.

Active in denominational affairs, Cothen was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1962, and he preached the annual convention sermon at the SBC when it met in Denver, June 1-4, 1970.

In that sermon, Cothen urged Southern Baptists to love each other more and criticize each other less. Taking a moderate stance, Cothen praised Christians who seek to express their faith through social action, and decried those who criticize others and point accusing fingers at "heretics."

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"We can call nearly anyone 'liberal' and it can mean nearly anything," Cothen said in the SBC sermon. "I have been called 'liberal' for trying to apply Baptist polity to a Baptist college, and more conservative than that you cannot get."

Cothen told the SBC that the greatest need is not to change Baptist polity, but to practice it.

A native of Mississippi, Cothen had been president of the Shawnee, Okla., school with about 1,500 students from 1966-70. Previously, he was executive secretary of the California Baptist state convention from 1961-66.

The son of a Baptist minister, with two preacher brothers, Cothen was pastor of First Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., from 1959-61; pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, 1948-59; and White Oak Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., for two years.

During World War II, he was a chaplain in the U.S. Navy.

A 1944 graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with the master of theology degree, Cothen is also a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton. Both Mississippi College and California Baptist College, Riverside, have awarded him honorary doctorates.

During the past year, Cothen has been chairman of a special committee on higher education of the Oklahoma Commission on Education, appointed by the governor of Oklahoma. He has also been president of the Oklahoma Independent College Foundation, an organization of private colleges in the state.

Cothen has served on numerous boards of trustees for Southern Baptist and state Baptist convention agencies and institutions, and has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance.

At one time, he was a member of the board of trustees for New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He has also been a board member for the SBC Foreign Mission Board, and the state Executive Boards of conventions in Oklahoma and Alabama.

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BP PHOTO MAILED TO BAPTIST STATE PAPERS.

Florida Pastor Named  
Church Training Supervisor

NASHVILLE (BP)--Kenton C. Hofmeister, pastor of Azalea Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, Fla., since 1965, will join the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as supervisor of the youth section of the church training department effective Oct. 1.

A native of New York, Hofmeister earned the associate in arts degree from the University of Orlando (Fla.), the bachelor of arts degree from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Prior to serving in St. Petersburg, he was pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky., for two years. Earlier he served as youth division director for First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.

According to Philip B. Harris, secretary of the board's church training department, Hofmeister will be responsible for "supervising products for publication, developing significant long-range planning to meet the needs of youth across the Southern Baptist Convention and planning special events for the two Southern Baptist assemblies."

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Robert Halls Confuse Postmen:  
Two Families At Same Address

9/17/70

FORT WORTH (BP)--Pity the poor postman who delivers the mail at 4702 Gordon in Fort Worth.

Last year, the residence was home base for the Robert E. Hall family of Albany, Ohio, a Baptist superintendent of missions who decided to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here during a leave of absence.

This year, they returned to their home in Ohio, and a few weeks later, new tenants moved into the residence at 4702 Gordon.

Their names: the Robert J. Hall family, missionaries on furlough from Nigeria. To make it even more confusing, both families have five children.

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CUTLINES:

With story mailed 9-17-70

COTHEM NEW SEMINARY PRESIDENT: Grady G. Cothen,  
president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee,  
has been elected president of New Orleans Baptist  
Theological Seminary, effective immediately. A  
native of Mississippi, Cothen has been pastor of  
churches in Oklahoma, Tennessee and Alabama, and  
is former executive secretary of the Southern Baptist  
General Convention of California. (BP) Photo