



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
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September 22, 1970

Texas Group Honors SBC  
Social Concern Leaders

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HOUSTON (BP)--The Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, meeting at First Baptist Church here for a workshop on moral issues, paused to review its 20-year history and honor two men who have played prominent roles to Christian social concerns in the Texas and Southern Baptist Conventions.

At a banquet, the Texas commission presented gifts to A. C. Miller and T. B. Maston and recognized others who contributed to its development.

Miller became first secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission in 1950 and then served as secretary of the SBC Christian Life Commission, 1953-60. Maston, professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, chaired a seven-man committee which recommended foundation of the Texas Christian Life Commission.

Also recognized were Foy Valentine, present SBC Christian Life Commission secretary, who succeeded Miller in Texas in 1953 and again on the SBC level in 1960; Jimmy Allen, San Antonio pastor, who was Texas Christian Life secretary, 1960-68; and Herbert Howard, Dallas pastor, who served on the original committee.

Banquet speaker, Kenneth Chafin, director of evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board, praised the Texas commission for 20 years of biblically-based, "effective permeation of Texas Baptist Life" with social concern.

In assessing Maston's role in Christian social concerns, Chafin commented, "God has allowed me to know one or two of his great prophets. T. B. Maston is one of them."

"Chafin, Valentine, Allen and James Dunn, present secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, are among many of Maston's former students. The three-day workshop, addressed itself to such moral issues as race, poverty, housing, ecology, population, crime, drugs and alcohol.

A battery of speakers at the workshop, including Valentine and Allen called for continuation biblically-based efforts to balance spiritual regeneration and social concern in a ministry to individual needs.

W. H. Borders, black pastor of Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, said in another speech that racial prejudice is a "vampire of the mind, which sucks the red blood of hope" from black people.

"Unless we produce a morality and religion equal to our fabulous scientific knowledge," Borders said, "we will be swept from the face of the earth.

"The Negro man is too far behind to dig out of his situation by himself," he continued. "It's up to you--the white man--to give him a chance and to show sympathetic understanding as he tries to rebuild a self-image shattered by years of fear, poverty and oppression."

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Springer Retires, Skaggs  
Named Texas Treasurer

9/22/70

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DALLAS (BP)--Jay L. Skaggs, 51, controller and assistant treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas since 1964, has been named to succeed R. A. Springer, who will retire Dec. 31 after 32 years as treasurer of the Texas convention.

Bill E. Roe, pastor of First Baptist Church, Teague, Tex., has been elected associate secretary of the state convention's estate stewardship department.

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Skaggs, a native Oklahoman, and Roe, a native Texas, were elected unanimously by the 192-member Texas Baptist Executive board.

A graduate of Oklahoma University, Norman, Skaggs served as business manager of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, for six years before joining the Texas convention. Before that he had been in private business.

Roe, a graduate of Texas Wesleyan College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, both in Fort Worth, has held four pastorates in Texas.

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1,000 Italians Watch Two  
Baptized In Mediterranean

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SAVONA, Italy (BP)--More than 1,000 persons watched as Baptists in Savona, Italy, conducted a baptismal service here along the shore of the Mediterranean sea.

Two men and a woman were baptized after making professions of faith in Christ, according to a report in European Baptist Press Service, Zurich, Switzerland.

Emidio Santilli, pastor of the Baptist church in Genoa, preached, and Robert A. Holifield, Southern Baptist Convention missionary living in Genoa, immersed the converts. Holifield serves the Savona congregation.

The baptismal service was reported in the local press. A photograph of one of the converts being baptized accompanied the story.

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CARL BATES, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, points out some of the volumes of mail--up to 100 letters a day--he receives as top elected official of the 11½ million member denomination. Bates, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charlotte, said his view of the office of president had changed somewhat, for he now has a less exalted view of the SBC presidency. (BP) Photo by Toby Druin.

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