



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
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HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

January 11, 1971

Seminary's New Dean Calls  
For Rethinking Seminary Aims

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--In his inaugural address, the new academic dean of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here called for rethinking of the aims of seminaries through increasing the role of field education in the curriculum.

Elmer L. Gray, who assumed duties as academic dean in August and was inaugurated in January, said current criticisms that ministers are being inadequately trained "implies that the nature of theological education is not sufficiently professional."

Gray answered the charge by saying that "the seminary" needs to reexamine what it is doing.

He proposed a wide expansion of a field education program begun at Golden Gate Seminary in September "to better orient students to the seminary, community, and to help in defining the students role."

Gray further advocated the inclusion of field education in the seminary curriculum on a part with studies for which credit is given.

The seminary should stress competence in the ministry, rather than overemphasize scholastic excellence, he said. Gray added that excellence should certainly not go unrecognized, but said an increased stress on competence is needed to qualify students for the Christian ministry.

The demands of the practical and ideal make it difficult to define the seminary's approach to education, Gray continued. On one hand education is expected to prepare persons for participation in the groups with which they are related. On the other, education hopes to "develop persons toward the fulfillment of their life capacities.

"It is something of the case of which do you want?--Good grammar or good taste? Gray suggested that the best education for the minister would be both professional and academic and recommended that the academic approach be continued in the seminary, with an upgrading of the professional approach.

"It is no wonder that ministers are confused today," Gray continued. The minister of today "is under pressure to respond to the world at large, the community with its varied interests, persons in need and facing crises, the denomination, his peers, his congregation and even his family."

The minister often faces his complex circumstances and problems alone and unsupported, Gray said.

"He may feel that his seminary training didn't adequately prepare him for the response (s) he must try to make." Small incomes, obligations to church policies he may feel aren't right or worthwhile--all of these contribute to a confused state among many ministers today concerning their role, he said.

It is the seminary's responsibility to clarify its understanding of the minister's role and the work of the ministry, and the curriculum should reflect these concepts, Gray argued.

He then outlined some personal qualities that he said must be developed by the modern minister, adding that in no way "do they rule out the working of God. By becoming competent the minister will not rely less on God but rather be available to him for greater service."

Gray said the minister of today is a "generalist in the day of specialization." He must be able to identify with his own situation and be able to analyze it objectively. He should be able to appreciate his physical and social environment and feel comfortable in it. A minister particularly needs to be a "thinking person," Gray said.

Numerous representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention, theological seminaries, and colleges and universities attended the inaugural ceremonies, a reception, and a luncheon honoring the new dean.

Gray, who is also professor of religious education at Golden Gate, was formerly Sunday School department manager of the SBC Sunday School Board and taught at Golden Gate from 1959-1967. During his previous years at the seminary, he served as head of the division of Religious Education and professor of church administration.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and received the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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South Carolina Convention  
Names Missions Associate

12/11/71

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Ernest A. Mehaffey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Chesnee, S.C., has been named associate in the missions department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention with offices here.

Mehaffey assumes the new position Feb. 1, working chiefly with the Baptist Education and Missionary Convention, a Negro Baptist group. He will work with leadership groups "seeking to promote Christian understanding among all Baptists in South Carolina," according to A. Harold Cole, chief executive of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Mehaffey is a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He was pastor of churches in Indiana and North Carolina before becoming pastor of the First Baptist Church, Chesnee, S.C., in 1964.

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Green Named Consultant  
For Sunday School Board

12/11/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--Herman Green Jr. has been named consultant in family ministries in the program of family ministry, church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

"As a consultant in family ministries, Green will channel family ministry emphases through field services and participate in family life conferences, seminars, and other interpretation and training activities," B. A. Clendinning, director, program of family ministries, said.

Green holds a bachelor of arts degree from Union University, Jackson, Tenn. He also holds a master of divinity degree and just earned the master of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He has served as pastor of Middleburg Baptist Church near Bolivar, Tenn., and Calvary Baptist Church, New Salisbury, Ind.

Green has most recently been chaplain, Masonic Widows and Orphans Home, Masonic Home, Ky., a suburb of Louisville.

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**Baptist Broadcasts In Arabic  
Heard Throughout Middle East**

BEIRUT (BP)--Baptist radio program in the Arabic language are now being heard throughout the Middle East, in the Mediterranean areas of North Africa, and as far east as Saudi Arabia, a Southern Baptist missionary here reported.

The programs are being broadcast from the Cyprus Broadcasting Corp., in Nicosia, Cyprus, according to SBC Missionary William T. (Pete) Dunn, director of the Baptist recording studio in Beirut.

Dunn said that new air time has been secured through cooperation with several evangelical groups who joined together to buy 15 minutes every evening this year on the medium wave station.

Baptists are supplying materials for the first 52 broadcasts, which began in late December.

The 52 programs are composed of two series. The first, "Word Pictures of Jesus," includes 26 personality studies of Christ, written by Mrs. J. Wayne Fuller, SBC missionary to Lebanon. The second, "The Man Called Jesus," is a series of 26 plays by J. B. Phillips, famed Bible translator and author of best-selling books.

The programs are broadcast each evening at 10:30 between two sessions of secular music. They were arranged by the efforts of the Middle East Communicators Fellowship, an organization created by several evangelical broadcasters for the purpose of obtaining cheaper rates, sharing research materials and solving problems.

Dunn reported that because of lack of funds, plans have been canceled for Arabic broadcasts over Trans-World Radio, located in Monte Carlo, Monaco and Far East Broadcasting Company transmitters in the Seychelles Islands.



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