

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 15, 1971

Atlanta Baptist Association Retains
College, Property; Continues School

ATLANTA (BP)--Ownership of Atlanta Baptist College's property here will remain with the Atlanta Baptist Association rather than being given to the Georgia Baptist Convention, and the financially-struggling school will continue to operate, at least for the present.

This is essentially the meaning of actions taken during a stormy three-hour meeting of the Atlanta Baptist Association Executive Committee here in mid-January.

During the session, the executive committee received a formal proposal from trustees of the college to give all school assets to the Georgia Baptist Convention, with a request that the executive committee call a special session of the association to give official approval to the transfer.

Trustees pointed out that the three-year-old school, which has less than 300 students, cannot operate beyond June of this year without incurring major new indebtedness, or without selling off additional pieces of its valuable 600-acre tract of land.

The Georgia Baptist Convention voted last November to accept title to the property "if and when such an offer were to be made by the Atlanta association," with the possibility of the state convention developing a major Baptist center housing many Baptist enterprises there.

But, when the trustee proposal was presented to the associational executive committee, C. Douglas Jackson immediately rose to present a lengthy substitute motion hoping to block the transfer.

Jackson, pastor of First Baptist Church in East Point, Ga., proposed that the Atlanta association "retain sponsorship of the college and that the college be continued, even though this may require a severe reduction in expense in order to match income, and a reorganization of the administration and the trustees of the college."

Jackson's substitute motion also specified "that no further consideration be given to the transfer of the properties, the sponsorship or the control of the Atlanta Baptist College to the Georgia Baptist Convention," and "that no need exists on this account for the calling of a special session of the Atlanta Baptist Association."

Bitter debate ensued for more than two hours before Jackson's substitute motion passed by a vote of 53 to 34.

Supporters of Jackson's motion argued that the college had not been properly promoted among Atlanta Baptist churches, and that the association could operate it more satisfactorily than the state convention could. They also wanted the convention to give written guarantees that the college would continue to operate under convention control.

Supporters of the original trustee proposal countered that every possible effort had been made since the school committee was formed in 1954 to get funds, but that churches and individual Baptists had not responded.

Jarvis Hill, academic dean at the college, said that "we have gone along too long with our heads in the sand about finances. You cannot operate next year on this year's budget without cutting the quality drastically."

But, Jackson's substitute motion was passed by a 53-34 vote.

Then, Monroe F. Swilley Jr., president of the college, told the associational executive committee: "Gentlemen, I must be frank and say that I am against what you have done. You haven't solved a thing. This problem is primarily a matter of money. We have already been on an austerity program. We have been cutting back for a long time, every way we know how."

Swilley added: "But, by your vote today you have told us to continue. By March 1, I must sign faculty contracts and, gentlemen, you are going to pay them."

After several other speakers tried to maintain that the executive committee had in effect evaded facing the college's financial dilemma, R. D. Spear, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church, closed the meeting by saying:

"We have done something here today. We have said that if a burial is necessary, then we as Atlanta Baptists will assume responsibility for burying what we brought into the world. And we will be glad to invite the Georgia Baptist Convention to attend the funeral."

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Pennsylvania-South Jersey
Baptists Name Ed. Director

1/15/71

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey elected Larry Lewis, pastor of Delaware Valley Baptist Church in Willingboro, N.J., as the convention's religious education director.

The action came in the first meeting of the Executive Board since the convention began operating officially as the 32nd Baptist state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Joe Waltz is executive secretary.

As religious education director, Lewis will be responsible for coordinating the new convention's programs and work in the area of Sunday School, church training, music and student work.

A native of Centralia, Mo., Lewis is a graduate of Missouri Baptist College, Hannibal-LaGrange, Mo.; the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He has been pastor of Baptist churches in Snow, Okla., and Sulphur Springs, Tex., and several part-time churches in Missouri. He was education director at the College Street Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo., and at Tri-Village Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio, where he also was pastor of that church's mission which became Parson Baptist Church, Columbus.

During the past five years while he has been pastor of the church in Willingboro, N.J., the church has grown from 116 to 700 members. The church led the Maryland Baptist Convention in the number of baptisms last year. The church utilizes seven church busses to reach many of the 834 members of the church's Sunday School, Waltz said.

During other business, the Executive Board, organized itself into five committees, signed incorporation papers, and agreements with SBC agencies during their first meeting as an official state convention.

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Board Told Foreign Missions
Outlook for 1971 Encouraging

1/15/71

RICHMOND (BP)--Calls from all mission fields around the world are "far beyond our resources, the top executive of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board told trustees of the agency here, but the outlook for missionary appointments in 1971 is encouraging.

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Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the board, told the trustees that the need for missionaries to be appointed on a long-range career basis must be stressed in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Cauthen said that the need calls for a fresh emphasis in addressing persons 25 to 35 years of age. This age group expected to comprise the major population increase--more than 11 million--in the U.S. in this decade, he added.

More attention must be given to theological seminary students nearing completion of their work, Cauthen continued, so that many of them can move from seminary to mission field early after graduating. However, adequate educational preparation, work experience and commitment to mission service will remain as important as ever, he said.

"The critical matter as we face the future," Cauthen told the board, "is the financial undergirding." A minimum of \$2 million of new money every year is needed to sustain the agency's current rate of growth, he said.

Concerning the 1970 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which was taken in Southern Baptist churches for the support of foreign missions, Cauthen said that it is too early to project total results "but the words we hear from individual places are better than we have ever heard before."

Cauthen, who recently returned from a visit with Southern Baptist missionaries in Chile, said they are carrying out their duties as usual. The installation of a Marxist president in Chile has not adversely affected the missionaries' activities or plans, he said.

New missionaries are needed for work in Chile, and some have recently been appointed, Cauthen noted. None of the developments in that country have raised any question as to the advisability of recent appointments, he said.

During major actions, the board appointed three missionaries and elected a field representative for the board's work in the Caribbean area.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Hines were employed by the board as missionary associates for an evangelistic ministry in Trinidad. Hines has been pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Garden Grove, Calif., for the past 16 years.

Mrs. Jerry P. Bedsole was appointed for career service in Ethiopia. The former Rosie McIntire of Montgomery, Ala., she was married two weeks prior to her missionary appointment. Her husband, a veterinarian, was appointed in December 1969 to conduct an agricultural ministry in Ethiopia.

The board elected William W. Graves, missionary in Argentina, as field representative for the Caribbean area, effective March 1. He will act in a liaison role between the board's secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, Charles W. Bryan, and Southern Baptist missionaries in the Bahamas, Bermuda, Dominican Republic, French Indies, Guyana, Jamaica, Surinam and Trinidad.

Since 1966, Graves has been an area missionary for Baptist churches in Misiones Province in Northeastern Argentina, and pastor of the Baptist Church in Posadas since 1967. He is a native of El Paso, Tex.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde R. Campbell of Big Spring, Tex., were invited by the board to go to Athens, Greece, for a one-year pastorate beginning in February. Campbell recently retired as pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Big Spring.

There is no Baptist church of Greek citizens, but Americans living in Athens have been holding services, according to John D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East for the board.

H. Cornell Goerner, the board's secretary for Africa, said that incomplete reports from Baptist churches in six countries of East and Central Africa indicate that more than 12,000 persons made public professions of faith in Christ during evangelistic rallies last fall. This includes about 3,000 in Rhodesia and almost 6,000 in Kenya and Tanzania.

"If the follow-up process can be carried out constructively in these several countries, the increase in membership should prove to be quite significant," Goerner said. "We continue to get stories of remarkable instances of life-changing conversions and strengthening of the churches and conventions."

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Christians Engulfed By Paganism,
Criswell, Bates Warn Conference

1/15/71

FORT WORTH (BP)--The president and immediate past president of the 11.4 million member Southern Baptist Convention joined forces here to warn that Christians are passively allowing themselves to be engulfed by a world tide of paganism, atheism, and materialism.

Carl E. Bates, current SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., said the problem is the failure of Christians to "come clean with God," to appropriate God's 7,000 promises in the Bible and to share their faith with all people, without discrimination.

Bates and W. A. Criswell, pastor of the 15,500-member First Baptist Church, Dallas, immediate past president of the SBC, spoke to 13,000 people at the annual Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Criswell, a fiery conservative among Baptists, said floodtides threaten to engulf churches around the world at a time when many of them have become tools of left-wingers who deny the doctrines of faith.

He said that whereas 25 per cent of the world's people knew Christ a century ago, the number will drop to less than 2 per cent by the year 2000 at the current rate of population growth contrasted to the winning of converts.

"If we are to survive and live," Criswell said, "the church must become authentic authoritarian, absolute and apocalyptic."

Decrying the less than literal interpretation of the Bible, Criswell said, "our message must be genuine and real. We can't face the modern world with legends, fancies, fables and fairytales,"

Bates said Christians must abandon their idols and must make up their minds to "come clean with God."

Calling on Christians to accept all the promises of God if they expect to have spiritual power, the SBC President said: "There is enough stored-up energy in this auditorium to literally obliterate anything that stands in the way of Christianity."

Criswell followed the same line as a Negro speaker from Corpus Christi, Tex., in accenting the necessity for the church to minister alike to all persons.

"There is no black and white," admonished the former SBC president. "All are equal in the eyes of God," Criswell declared.

Harold T. Branch, black pastor of St. John Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, said Christians have an obligation to present Christ to all men, "the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the long hair and the no hair."

Concerts were presented at the conference by George Beverly Shea and Tedd Smith of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team and by Norma Zimmer, of the Lawrence Welk television show.

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Atlanta Businesswoman Named
To Home Board Personnel Post

1/15/71

ATLANTA (BP)--Mrs. Evelyn Worley, former vice-president of Citizens and Southern National Bank of Georgia, has been elected secretary of office personnel services of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board--a new position in the Personnel Division created in the recent reorganization of the board.

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Mrs. Worley's appointment becomes effective Feb. 1. She will recruit, screen and employ office personnel and give general supervision to these employees.

A recognized businesswoman in Atlanta, Mrs. Worley became a bank teller in 1942. By 1969 at her retirement she was vice president and was responsible for giving specialized training to 2,600 employees. During 1969 and 1970 she directed "The Ships of the Sea Museum," Savannah, Ga.

She was named Woman of the Year in Business in Atlanta in 1965 and is listed in "Who's Who in American Women." During her banking career she was president of the National Association of Bank Women, Inc.

A native of Monroe, Ga., she attended Women's College in Milledgeville, Ga., and studied at the American Banking Institute.

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Three Home Mission Board
Staffers Accept New Posts

1/15/71

ATLANTA (BP)--Three staff members of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here, George Torney, Eddie Rickenbaker, and Billy Hargrove, have resigned to accept positions as pastors and as a state denominational worker.

Torney, associate secretary of the board's department of metropolitan missions, has been named pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, San Francisco.

Rickenbaker, associate in the board's department of missionary personnel, resigned to become pastor of Kathwood Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C., on Feb. 1.

Hargrove, field representative in the board's Division of Church Loans for three years, will become director of stewardship promotion for the Missouri Baptist Convention, effective March 1.

Torney, before joining the Home Mission Board staff in 1967, was pastor of Winstanley Baptist Church, East St. Louis, Ill., and Hopewell Baptist Church, Madison, Ind. He is a graduate of William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Rickenbaker, who returns to his hometown to lead the Kathwood church, was pastor of First Baptist Church, Denmark, S.C., before joining the board staff in 1967. He has also been pastor of churches in Texas and chairman of the South Carolina Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, with a doctor of theology degree.

Hargrove's service in home missions stretches over 20 years since he was a pioneer missionary in northwest Missouri. He has been field representative in stewardship and missions, and director of surveys for the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Besides being a missionary of the board and the Missouri convention, he was secretary of Home Mission Board department of surveys and special studies for five years.

A native of Norborne, Mo., Hargrove graduated from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

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