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January 26, 1971

Texas Baptist School Asks
 For "Independent" Status

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CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--Trustees of the University of Corpus Christi have requested by a vote of 18-1 that the Baptist General Convention of Texas grant the school independent status with a self-perpetuating board of trustees.

The request will be funneled through the convention's Christian Education Commission and program coordinating committee to its Executive Board, which will act on the request at its regular quarterly meeting, March 9. Final action must be taken by the convention in annual session in late October in Houston.

If ownership of the financially-plagued school is relinquished, it will mark the third consecutive year that Texas Baptists have parted with a school. Baylor College of Medicine in Houston was released in 1969, and Baylor College of Dentistry was released last year.

The University of Corpus Christi stirred controversy last fall when it accepted a \$500,000 line of credit from the Small Business Administration after being devastated by Hurricane Celia just 30 days before school was scheduled to begin.

The convention softened a recommendation that the school repay the federal loan or withdraw from the convention by instructing the school to repay it with money borrowed from an agency other than the government. The convention also appointed a committee to assist the school.

The trustee action, according to observers, may halt action to repay \$380,000 already received from the \$500,000 line of credit.

J. H. West of Bishop, Tex., retiring board president, commenting on the request to sever relations, said, "A new course of action for the college is essential and this can best be achieved by an independent, self-perpetuating board of trustees that will be given the opportunity to chart the course of the college and enable it to become a more vital part of the Corpus Christi area."

W. H. Colson, superintendent of missions of the Corpus Christi Baptist Association and vice president of the school's development board, added, "The time has come to involve the non-Baptist leadership of the city active in the development of the college in service on its board of trustees."

The school is one of 10 educational institutions operated by Texas Baptists. Unlike the others, it is in an area where Baptists are in the minority, comprising an estimated five per cent of the population.

The school has suffered continuing problems with finances and student enrollments over the years. In 1969-70, there was an operating deficit of \$149,574 and a similar deficit is expected this year. Enrollment dropped to 675 in 1968, 624 in 1969 and 613 currently, with only 30 per cent of the students Baptists.

Approximately 5,000 students are enrolled in a junior college in Corpus Christi and a new upper level state college has been approved for the area.

A school spokesman said the trustee action "does not presuppose that action will be taken to relate to the state," and he added that "it also does not presuppose that such action will not be taken."

The university site was a naval training center during World War II. It was deeded to the trustees, selected by the Texas convention, by the federal government, with property to be free of entanglements if operated for 20 years as an educational institution. The 20-year period ends Aug. 6.

The 300 acres, fronting Corpus Christi Bay, has nine major buildings and is valued at about \$4 million. The college has a \$1.1 million debit.

The basis for the trustee action included:

1. The convention through its Education Commission and Executive Board "recognize the unique status of the University of Corpus Christi by immediately entering into an agreement" with the trustees, "which will create an independent status" for the college.
2. The independent board will be self-perpetuating and non-Baptists will be encouraged to serve as members.
3. The convention will assist at the current level with funds during the transitional period to independent status.
4. Some property will be assigned for a Baptist student center.

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Encyclopedia To Honor Woolley,
Committee To Suggest Successor

1/26/71

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The administrative committee of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission suggested a memorial page in the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists to honor Davis C. Woolley, the commission's late executive secretary, and appointed a nominating committee to suggest a new executive.

The commission's administrative committee met here just one week after Woolley, who headed the commission for nearly 12 years as executive secretary-treasurer, died of cancer.

Named chairman of the five-man nominating committee was Robert A. Baker, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

No time schedule was suggested, but W. Morgan Patterson, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and chairman of the commission, said he hoped that the committee could nominate a new executive by the time of the next commission meeting, April 19-21, although this may not be possible.

In another action, the committee requested Lynn E. May Jr., research director of the commission, to "continue to provide interim leadership" for the commission staff, as he has done since Woolley was hospitalized on Sept. 27.

The committee requested the editorial committee of the Southern Baptist Encyclopedia, Volume III, to approve of publishing an "in memorium" page in the Encyclopedia volume expected to be released May 15.

Woolley was managing editor of the Encyclopedia volume, which is designed to expand and update the content of Volumes I and II of the Encyclopedia published in 1958, by presenting significant developments among Southern Baptists from 1956-70.

Only a few days after the committee's action, associate managing editor May and editorial assistant Terry L. Jones, turned over the revised and corrected galley proofs on the Encyclopedia to the publisher, Broadman Press.

The volume includes 560 pages of articles and monographs and 48 pages of photographs chronicling Southern Baptist history and developments during the 14 year period not covered by the previous two volumes.

A total of 642 writers contributed 1,145 articles for the volume. Each one of the 21 agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, state convention executives and editors, college, seminary and state historians, and Baptist pastors cooperated in the joint effort coordinated by Woolley as managing editor.

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Dallas First Baptist Church
Names Bird Technical Director

1/26/71

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DALLAS (BP)--Jack E. Bird, a Baptist public relations director here, has accepted a newly created position as director of technical services and communications at First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Bird, director of public relations and communications at Buckner Baptist Benevolences here since 1963, will direct the radio, television and audiovisual programs of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest church and develop methods for use of television in teaching and training programs.

Future plans call for the development of TV Bible study and training aids on video tape cassettes. With the projected nationwide use of TV cassette players, these would be designed for use in individual homes.

Chairman of the church's technical services committee for the past 15 years, Bird, a deacon at First Baptist, will also institute a program to train technical volunteers.

Bird holds a degree in radio and drama from Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and has done graduate work there in radio and speech.

During his first four years with Buckner, Bird also served as manager and vocational instructor for radio station KNER, located on the campus of the Buckner Baptist Children's Home until it ceased operation in 1967. Before going to Buckner, he served as technical director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas for 10 years.

He is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, and is current president of the Texas Baptist Public Relations Association.

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Arab Music Council Formed;
SBC Missionary Participates

1/26/71

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BEIRUT (BP)--A Southern Baptist missionary on the faculty of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary here was one of two non-Arabs participating in the organizational meeting of the Arab Council of Music in Tripoli, Libya.

J. Conrad Willmon, professor of music, religious education and church administration in the seminary, attended the five-day meeting held to approve a charter and constitution for the council.

Willmon was made an official delegate because of his qualifications and musical activities in the Arab world, reported Mrs. Frances Fuller, missionary press representative. His expenses were paid by the Libyan Ministry of Education.

Outstanding musicians from every Arab country except Jordan and Saudi Arabia attended the conference. They included performers, composers, critics and heads of conservatories.

Willmon, a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is editing the first Arabic Baptist Hymnal and has served as consultant and conference leader on music and religious education in several Mideast countries. He is also program producer and director for the Baptist Radio Recording Studio here.

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South Carolina Project Gives
625,000 Copies of "Good News"

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--In a final report, promoters of a massive statewide project to distribute 500,000 copies of Good News For Modern Man, the Today's English Version of the New Testament, were told here that more than 650,000 copies were given away in the state.

The project, conducted last November and December with the help of an estimated 15,000 volunteers, was sponsored jointly by the American Bible Society, which publishes the paperback New Testament, and the South Carolina Christian Action Council.

Results far exceeded the sponsors expectations, passing the goal of 500,000 by more than 125,000 copies.

The statewide project is believed to be the largest area covered in a single distribution project in the American Bible Society's history.

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Hogue Elected Evangelism
Secretary For Oklahoma

1/26/71

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OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--C. B. (Bill) Hogue, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ada, Okla., was elected secretary of the evangelism department for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma by the convention's board of directors meeting here.

Hogue succeeds Jerold McBride, who resigned to become pastor of First Baptist Church, San Angelo, Tex.

A native of Stanton, Tex., Hogue, 43, was pastor of five churches in Texas before moving to Ada in October, 1969.

Previously, he was pastor of churches in Star, Ranger, Happy, Post and Odessa, Tex. He is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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