



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

March 18, 1971

Rust, Young Join Staff
Of New Orleans Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The board of trustees for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here elected a Louisiana Baptist pastor and a California Baptist editor to key positions during their annual meeting here.

Ray P. Rust, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bastrop, La., was named executive assistant to the president, effective April 5.

J. Terry Young, editor of the California Southern Baptist, Fresno, Calif., was elected associate professor of theology.

Rust has been pastor of the Bastrop church for the past 15 years, and has been president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. He is chairman of the board for the Louisiana Baptist Message.

Before serving the Bastrop church, Rust was pastor of First Baptist Church, Amite, La., Second Baptist Church, Biloxi, Miss., and associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La.

A native of Shreveport, La., Rust is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, La., and New Orleans Seminary. He received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Louisiana College in 1963.

Active in community affairs, the seminary's new executive assistant received Bastrop's annual distinguished service award in 1964. He is a charter member of the Bastrop City Planning Commission and has served on the education committee for the Bastrop-Moorehouse Chamber of Commerce.

Young, the newly-elected associate professor of theology, has been editor of the weekly newspaper published by the Southern Baptist General Convention of California for the past eight years.

Before accepting the editorship in 1963, Young was pastor of Village Baptist Church, San Lorenzo, Calif.; First Southern Baptist Church, Chula Vista, Calif.; and Algoa Baptist Church, Algoa, Tex.

He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth where he earned the doctor of theology degree. Currently, Young is a member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

In other actions, the trustees voted to develop a set of criteria to control the seminary's investment policies, approved increases in matriculation fees for doctoral students to the same level, as those used by the other five Southern Baptist Convention seminaries, and promoted two assistant professors to associate professors.

Named associate professor of childhood education was Mildred Souther, and promoted to associate professor of biblical introduction and archeology was George Kelm.

The inauguration of Grady C. Cothen as sixth president of the seminary was set by the trustees for May 7-8, 1971.

The seminary trustees also passed resolutions of appreciation for two resigning professors and two retiring professors. They expressed thanks to resigning communication professor Joe H. Cothen who has accepted the pastorate of Oakpark Baptist Church, New Orleans,

and to associate professor of pastoral theology Harry J. Rowe.

Retiring professors honored by the board were C. E. Autrey, former evangelism professor and former head of the SBC Home Mission Board's Evangelism Division; and William Mueller, former professor of theology who will be teaching in Taiwan next year following retirement.

Sabbatical leaves were granted to two professors for the 1971-72 school year, and preliminary approval was given for sabbaticals for three professors in 1972-73. Scheduled for leave next year were Kelva Moore, professor of history and philosophy of education; and Wilbur Swartz, professor of speech.

Three professors were given the title, "professor emeritus," by the trustees--William A. Mueller, professor emeritus of theology; J. Wash Watts, professor emeritus of Old Testament and Hebrew; and Roy Beaman, professor emeritus of biblical introduction.

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Ecuadoran Baptists Record
1,638 Professions of Faith

3/18/71

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (BP)--Professions of faith in Christ during the "Campaign of the Second Harvest" in Ecuador have reached 1,638, according to preliminary reports from the several sections of the country.

The special evangelistic thrust came as the final phase of the Crusade of the Americas (COTA) and was jointly promoted by COTA and the Pan American Union of Baptist Men. Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., is president of the Baptist Men's Union.

The campaign featured special city-wide evangelistic crusades using theaters, stadiums and large tents, local church revivals, intensive distribution of scriptures and evangelistic literature, and widescale use of radio, reported Southern Baptist missionary Stanley D. Stamps.

During the period covered by the special emphasis, Ecuadoran Baptist churches baptized 190 persons and reached a total church membership of almost 1,300. Three hundred twenty-three persons made "reconsecrations" and 28 "surrendered for special service," Stamps said.

About 40 weddings were performed during this period. Many of the couples who had been living in common-law union but who upon being converted wanted to legalize their union in order to be baptized, he said.

Churches reported that many persons were attending prebaptismal studies. Ordinarily a waiting period of up to several months is observed by the churches, during which the candidate is indoctrinated in the New Testament faith and his life and conduct are observed by the church.

Baptism comes after a formal request before the church in session and is followed by a personal testimony and brief questioning about the person's beliefs.

At least six new mission points were begun as a result of the campaign, Stamps said, and another was reopened after a few months of inactivity. Several churches reported that they had experienced revival and increased attendance as a result of the campaign.

The campaign of the Second Harvest, primarily a layman's movement, witnessed "a great participation on the part of the man in the pew," Stamps said. Lay preachers served as evangelists in a number of churches; in some they serve as pastors.

A laymen's retreat inaugurated the movement last August. Laymen from Quito and Guayaquil, where Baptist concentration is greatest, traveled to several cities to help in witnessing, street preaching, and literature distribution.

"The general feeling is that the campaign of the Second Harvest has put into motion a lay-led effort that will continue to bear evangelistic fruits for some time to come," Stamps said.

March 18, 1971

Baptist Press

Norman College Trustees
Vote To Close Operations

NORMAN PARK, Ga. (BP)--The board of trustees for Norman College has voted to close the Baptist-owned junior college and cease operations after its June 6 commencement.

The trustees also voted to ask the Georgia Baptist Convention to assume all assets and liabilities, and to consider using the property for a Baptist Assembly of South Georgia.

The twin decisions were made after hearing President Thomas E. Renfroe report that he could only foresee an enrollment of 121 students for next September, not enough to carry the financially-plagued school another quarter.

Renfroe said that present enrollment is 170 students, with less than that expected for the spring quarter scheduled to begin March 22.

Norman College was started in 1900 by six district Baptist associations in Southwest Georgia. Trustees asked the Georgia Baptist Convention to assume ownership in 1950.

The school reached a peak enrollment of about 500 students in 1958, but has been sliding steadily downward in recent years because of increasing costs and proliferation of state-supported junior colleges across the state, observers said.

Renfroe reported two years ago that the school was about \$250,000 behind in its current operating expenses, but reported to trustees that the school is now up-to-date on current bills.

The 150-acre campus has nine buildings, the latest additions including two dormitories constructed in 1968. Total value of all college assets were reported by Renfroe at \$1,172,988.

Renfroe said Norman College has liabilities totalling \$1,274,556, or about \$100,000 more than its assets. Most of the liabilities is the outstanding construction debt for the two new dormitories.

The school has 11 full-time faculty members and seven part-time instructors. Renfroe said the teaching faculty will be paid through Aug. 31; others will terminate June 6.

R. J. Robinson, president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Augusta, will bring the final commencement address on June 6.

The Georgia Baptist Convention Executive Committee is expected to consider the matter of assuming the college's assets and liabilities and the proposal to create a South Georgia Baptist Assembly on the property during its March 23 meeting in Toccoa, Ga.

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Czechoslovakian Authorities
Deny Church Building Request

3/18/71

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (BP)--Government authorities in Czechoslovakia have refused to permit Baptists to build a new church here, the capital of the Slovakian region.

Instead, the officials have proposed that Baptists remodel an existing building somewhere, but they have not offered to help find a suitable building for the church.

The 400 member congregation is the largest Baptist Church in the country, and meets in an old building, Czechoslovakian Baptist leaders told European Baptist Federation leaders recently.

Several Baptist groups in western Europe had pledged to donate money to the Bratislava building project, according to a report in European Baptist Press Service.

Bratislava lies on the Danube River on the Austrian border about 40 miles east of Vienna.

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At one time, according to earlier reports, it seemed certain that Baptists would be permitted to build on a plot of ground near a new housing development here.

Baptist work in Czechoslovakia, however, was reportedly progressing. In the Czech-speaking regions of Bohemia and Moravia last year, the 19 churches baptized a total of 92 converts, twice the number converted in 1969. A district conference of Baptists recently closed with an evangelistic rally with 20 professions of faith, most of them by young people.

The 4,200 Baptists in Czechoslovakia are about equally divided into the two political sections of the country--Slovakia, where Slovakian is spoken, and Bohemia-Moravia, where Czech is spoken. There are eight Baptist churches in Slovakia, 19 in Bohemia-Moravia.

A new hymnal has been published this year with delivery scheduled this spring. About half the 700 selections are in Czech, half in Slovakian. A total of 8,000 copies are being issued.

Permission has been given to import 70,000 more Bibles for various religious groups in Czechoslovakia, with 5,000 copies scheduled to go to the Baptist churches.

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Baptists in East Germany
Operate Epileptics' Home

3/18/71

EISENACH, East Germany (BP)--What is perhaps the only Baptist home anywhere for incurable epileptics is located near here in a farm setting in the German Democratic Republic (DDR).

The home, which will celebrate its centennial in 1974, has 150 patients between the ages of 18 and 80, and is maintained by the Union of Protestant-Free Churches (predominantly Baptist).

Rolf Dammann, general secretary of Baptist work in the DDR, said the home cares for three types of sick people--epileptics, feeble-minded, and elderly invalids.

Known as the Christian Nursing Home, the social care center was founded by the Bretheren, who merged with the larger Baptist movement in Germany in 1942 to form the Union of Protestant-Free Churches.

When Germany was partitioned after World War II, the institution came under the direction of Baptists in East Germany, as did three other homes for the aged still in operation.

A staff of 45 Baptists, headed by Gerhard Wutzer as manager, operates the home. Five of the staff are young people serving "One Year for God," Dammann said.

Only a small number of patients come from Baptist churches, he added. The majority were referred here by public social welfare agencies, and state funds are used to finance their care, Dammann said. Baptist churches and individuals provide the remainder of the funds.

"The employees work out of a sense of Christian compassion rather than from purely humanistic motives," said Dammann. "They display the love of Jesus to these handicapped patients."

Daily devotions are held, and prayers are offered at mealtimes. There are periodic Bible study periods and worship services every Sunday. "It would surprise you to hear how joyfully the patients sing the Sunday School songs," Dammann said.

The home operates at full patient capacity, and most of the patients will spend the rest of their lives here, he said. Thus, there are openings for new patients.

Located in a farming situation in the village of Schmalkalden 25 miles east of Eisenach the home raises dairy cattle to supply its own milk and some income, and raises vegetables and flowers in a large garden.

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NASHVILLE TN 37203