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APRIL 19, 1971

Stringer Elected Executive Of Northwest Convention

TACOMA, Wash. (BP)--In a special called session of the Northwest Baptist Convention here, Dan C. Stringer Jr., associate executive secretary of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, was elected as the Northwest Baptist Convention's executive secretary-treasurer.

Stringer, who also has been director of the Missions Division for the Arizona convention, will assume duties as the top executive for Baptists in Oregon and Washington effective May 1. The state offices are located in Portland, Ore.

Stringer's election came after the convention's Executive Board had voted unanimously to recommend him during the business session at First Baptist Church of Lakewood in Tacoma.

He succeeds Wm. Eugene Grubbs, who resigned in January to become consultant on laymen overseas for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond. Bennett Cook, director of the convention's Education Division, has served as interim secretary.

Stringer, in accepting the position, delivered a message urging Baptists in the two-state area to set priorities under God's leadership, and to accept the responsibilities of discipleship.

A native of Oklahoma, Stringer's father was pastor of Baptist churches in Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Stringer is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and attended Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He has been pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Buckeye, Ariz.; First Southern Baptist Church, Las Vegas, Nev.; and Colorado Baptist Church, Scottsdale, Ariz. He is a former president of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

During his service on the staff of the Arizona convention, Stringer has held five positions--associate director and director of missions; secretary of stewardship, institutional and financial coordinator, and associate executive secretary.

An estimated 250 persons attended the special called session to elect Stringer as executive secretary-treasurer.

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Dr. Lam Chi Fung
Dies in Hong Kong

4/19/71

HONG KONG (BP)--Dr. Lam Chi Fung, 79, prominent Baptist laymen here, died April 17 at Hong Kong Baptist Hospital. He had been seriously ill after suffering a stroke last month.

"His long life was marked by outstanding Christian witness and service," said James D. Belote, of Richmond, longtime associate of Dr. Lam and secretary for East Asia for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Dr. Lam, as he was usually known, served as vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance for two consecutive five-year terms from 1955 to 1965.

A leading banker and manufacturer as well as an outstanding Baptist layman, Dr. Lam was elected president of Hong Kong Baptist College when it was established in 1956.

From an initial student body of 143 taught by Chinese faculty members and Southern Baptist missionaries, the student body has grown to over 2,800 persons enrolled in full-time post-secondary study in 12 major areas. The college's equipment and buildings are valued at \$10 million by the Hong Kong Department of Education.

For about 20 years Dr. Lam served without salary as principal of Pui Ching Middle School in Hong Kong.

After Communists closed a Baptist seminary in South China, he helped found Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary in 1951, and became chairman of its board of trustees.

He also founded and directed Pok Ai (Brotherly Love) Village, a refugee project for Christians from mainland China. He was the first Chinese person to be president of the Hong Kong Teacher's Association.

Active as a deacon and Sunday School teacher in Kowloon City Baptist Church in Hong Kong, Dr. Lam was also moderator of the Hong Kong Baptist Association for many years. He was treasurer of the Hong Kong Council of Churches for 23 years.

Dr. Lam was president of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Hong Kong for 17 years and took part in organizing four YMCA schools in Hong Kong.

In 1957 he received the Order of the British Empire for service to the youth in the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. He also has a special award from President Chiang Kai-Shek of the Republic of China, and honorary doctor of laws degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

Dr. Lam is survived by his wife, six sons, two daughters, and several grandchildren. The Lam family is active in Baptist work. The late Dr. Lam's eldest son, David, is present chairman of the board of trustees for Hong Kong Baptist College; his son-in-law, Richard R. Lin, is an associate professor in the School of Church Music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

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Group Investigates Prospects
Of Baptist College In Lebanon

4/19/71

BEIRUT (BP)--A study group has been organized in Lebanon to investigate possible establishment of a Baptist college at the site of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary near here.

In its first meeting the group discussed the need and feasibility of such an institution, reported Mrs. Frances Fuller, Southern Baptist missionary press representative.

The proposal to establish a Baptist college grew out of the seminary faculty's exploration of its failure to provide educated leadership for Baptist churches. They found that the rising level of education in the general population is surpassing the level of education of local pastors, said Mrs. Fuller.

The seminary usually has 12 to 15 students while its facilities can accommodate 50 boarders, Mrs. Fuller added. Faculty members estimate that, with adjustments, 100 day students also could be accepted.

Missionaries and nationals in the 24-member study group expressed both hopes and doubts about a Baptist college, Mrs. Fuller said.

A layman expressed the need for a place to study philosophy in "a Christian atmosphere."

A Lebanese homemaker said many students are being turned away because the colleges in Lebanon are full, and many, especially Christians, are going abroad to study. "This is what we don't want," she said.

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Baptist Press

A missionary said he hoped Baptists will not confine themselves to training Baptist leaders but will provide a "place where others will come in contact with Christian truth."

A university professor challenged the group to consider an institution which would break out of an educational system based on the memorization of facts and the passing of tests. The new approach would begin "to change the utilitarian attitude of the Middle Eastern man toward education, society and life," he said.

William W. Marshall, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board field representative for the Middle East, explained on behalf of the board that it could not allocate capital funds for the project at this time.

The question of what other financial support the school could hope for remained unanswered, Mrs. Fuller said.

Since most graduate study in the Middle East is in English or French, the group could not decide if Arabic should be in the primary teaching language of a Baptist college. They also failed to "agree whether or not the new school should attempt or expect to serve other Arab countries."

At the conclusion of the meeting the group formed small fact-finding delegations and planned to meet again May 8.

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SEC

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CUTLINES

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Historical Commission elected Lynn E. May Jr., research director for the commission for the past 15 years, as the agency's fourth executive secretary. He succeeds Davis Woolley, who headed the commission as executive secretary from 1959 until his death Jan. 15, 1971. Effective immediately.

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