

April 2, 1951

A SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT

Duke K. McCall

The future of Southern Baptists' witness for Christ is in large measure in the hands of the pastors. Wisely, Southern Baptists have insisted that the only way a man can become a minister is through the call of God. His economic, social, and educational background are all subordinate to the divine choice.

I was disturbed by reading in the publication of a Bible school that the Southern Baptist Convention is making no provision for the training of God-called men of limited academic attainments. It was in the midst of brooding over this serious charge against our denomination that I read the following significant statement.

Dr. Ray Summers, director of the School of Theology of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, announced that the American Association of Theological Schools no longer placed a black mark against the seminary because of its library facilities. He then added the following:

"The only remaining notation against the school is one stating that more than 10 per cent of the student body do not have college degrees."

"We are not disturbed because of this notation," Dr. Summers explained, "for these non-college students are always welcome. We anticipate this notation indefinitely."

I like that spirit. It means the door to Southwestern Seminary is now and always will be open to God-called men of limited academic attainment. The same is true of the other four seminaries operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Now I feel better knowing that the Southern Baptist Convention is trying to make its training facilities available to all who desire to sharpen their abilities for the service of God.

Extension courses are already in existence and others are planned whereby our colleges and seminaries go to the man who needs them when he cannot go to the city where the educational institution is located. We Southern Baptists are doing much for these men of God and we expect to do a lot more. - B.P.

WINSLOW, ARIZONA  
CHURCHES UNITE

WINSLOW, Ariz.--(BP)--Two Winslow, Arizona, Baptist churches have joined forces under the leadership of Gerald A. Hall as pastor. They are the First Baptist Church and the First Southern Baptist Church. The new congregation will be known as the First Baptist Church and will co-operate with the Southern Baptist Convention.