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December 1, 1971

SBC Home Mission Board Names  
Bingham, Sapp to Key Posts

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board elected Robert E. Bingham of Atlanta and James Sapp of Washington to key positions on its executive staff here.

Bingham was named executive assistant over the program services section of the agency; Sapp was elected director of the Division of Communication.

Bingham, a native of Kansas City, currently is minister of education and administration at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. A member of the Home Mission Board of Directors since 1967, he currently is second vice president of the board.

Sapp, currently director of correlation services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, will succeed L. O. Griffith who is retiring as director of the Division of Communication.

Both Sapp and Bingham assume their positions effective Jan. 1.

As executive assistant, Bingham will provide administrative supervision for the program services section in undergirding all the work of the board. His responsibilities also include providing staff leadership in public relations planning and furthering financial support.

A graduate of Kansas University, Lawrence, Kan., he has done graduate study at Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and at Union Theological Seminary, New York City. Before coming to Wieuca Road Baptist Church in 1960, Bingham was minister of education at First Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., and educational director at First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, Mo.

Sapp, a Tulsa, Okla., native, will direct and correlate the work of the Communication Division, which includes art services, editorial services, audio-visual services, library services, picture services, and missionary education.

Before joining the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in 1964, Sapp was director of program development and promotion for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis. Sapp was previously a staff member of the First Baptist Churches of Atlanta, Raleigh, N.C., Memphis, Columbia, S.C., and Austin, Tex.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, he has done additional studies at Duke University, Durham, N.C.

He is an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America, and a charter member and past president of the Baptist Public Relations Association.

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Griffith, Cummins Honored  
For 35 Years' Mission Work

12/1/71

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board paid tribute here to two of its division directors who are retiring at the end of the year after more than 35 combined years of service.

The board honored L. O. Griffith, director of the Division of Communication for the past 12 years, and Geo. W. Cummins, director of the Division of Chaplaincy for the past 10 years.

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Engraved plaques and resolutions of appreciation were presented to Griffith and Cummins during the board's administrative committee meeting here. Home Mission Board Executive Secretary Arthur B. Rutledge expressed appreciation for their "work and their devotion to Christ."

Griffith, a native of Kentucky, has spent the last 20 years of his life promoting communication of the mission work of the board. He joined the board staff in 1951 as director of promotion from a position as assistant to the state executive secretary in Kentucky.

"The Lord has given me so many unique mission opportunities," Griffith said. "I don't plan to retire. I plan to do some of the things I've been wanting to do--I used to supply and preach in revivals; I'm far behind on my preaching."

In earlier years Griffith served more than 20 years in pastorates in the Kentucky mountains. He obtained his start in communications there with a camera photographing mountain people eager to have their children "in pictures."

In 1959 he became the first director of the board's newly formed Division of Education and Promotion, renamed the Division of Communication in 1966. From three departments and five staff members in 1959, the division has grown to four departments, nine staff members and 21 office workers, artists, technicians, and writers. In proportion to the staff, the work of the division has also increased.

"The growth isn't because of what we did," Griffith modestly said, "but because Southern Baptists made funds available to do these things. So many people have had a part of everything I've been privileged to do. The results have come because of prayers and support of others."

A graduate of Georgetown College in Georgetown, Ky., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Griffith was honored by Georgetown College with a doctor of divinity degree in 1955.

As director of the board's Division of Chaplaincy for the past 10 years, Cummins has travelled all over the world, preaching on military bases, in hospitals and prisons.

He said he plans to continue preaching, visiting military bases, and leading revivals, with hopes to continue to spread through these efforts "the principles of the chaplaincy."

Like Griffith, Cummins is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary, and received an honorary doctorate from Georgetown College. He also received a doctor of laws degree from Atlanta Law School.

Cummins assumed his position as director of the chaplaincy division in 1961. Previously, he was the division's associate director for six years. Before coming to Atlanta, Cummins served as superintendent of western missions in Salt Lake City, Utah, and as associate missionary in the San Diego, Calif., County Association.

In 1942, Cummins went into the U. S. Naval Reserve. Also, as a chaplain, he has served in hospitals, correctional, and industrial situations.

Today there are 3,500 active chaplains--or missionaries, as Cummins calls them--working throughout the world. "Their basic objective," he said, "is to render a spiritual ministry to people wherever they are found." Chaplains and military personnel have started about 80 per cent of the English-speaking churches around the world, Cummins said.

Since he assumed responsibilities of the division, the two-man staff has grown to six, working with each phase of the chaplaincy--military, institutional, hospital and industrial--in addition to an associate director.

Assuming the vacated positions will be James M. Sapp, director of correlation services, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, as director of the Communication Division; and James W. Kelly, former chief of chaplains of the U. S. Navy, as director of the Chaplaincy Division.

Southern Baptist Support  
For Bible Society Increases

NASHVILLE (BP)--Meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention Building here, the American Bible Society's Advisory Council heard reports on the society's efforts in translating and distributing the scriptures, and lagging financial support among most denominations.

It was the first time that the advisory council, composed of representatives from each of the 70 participating denominations, had met outside of New York City, where the Bible Society has its offices.

In a financial report on income from the denominations during the first 10 months of 1971, receipts from the churches and denominations totalled \$980,856, down about \$160,000 from the same period last year.

Southern Baptist Convention support, however, had increased during the 10-month period, with \$189,042 contributed to the Bible Society, an increase of nearly \$5,000 over last year's receipts.

For the past seven years, the Southern Baptist Convention has led all other denominations in the amount of financial support given the American Bible Society.

Most of the advisory council meeting here was devoted to presentation of plans and programs to the representatives of the participating denominations, with small group sessions devoted to advising the Bible Society on its work.

A proposed budget of \$9.7 million was projected for presentation to the Board of Managers for the Bible Society. The council, however, took no action on the budget, since its work is advisory in nature.

During the meeting, the society's executive secretary for distribution, James Z. Nettinga, announced that the Today's English Version of the New Testament, or Good News for Modern Man, as it is often called, had surpassed the 31 million mark in sales.

A symbolic copy of the 31 millionth Bible in Today's English Version was presented to Mrs. E. C. Rowand, a Disciples of Christ minister in Dallas, who accepted the copy on behalf of the 6,000 women volunteer workers for the American Bible Society.

The 31 millionth copy was presented during a luncheon meeting during which women from major denominations told of the work women were doing in distributing the scriptures. Mrs. Thurman Allred of Concord, N.C., wife of a Southern Baptist associational superintendent of missions, told the group of work she and others were doing in using Bible Society materials in literacy missions.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, brought greetings to the council, and W. Maxey Jarman, a Southern Baptist layman and retired board chairman for Genesco, Inc., presided over one dinner meeting.

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Southwestern Seminary Gets  
\$750,000 Anonymous Gift

FORT WORTH (BP)--The board of trustees for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary meeting here for semi-annual session heard reports on the seminary's work, including announcement of a \$750,000 gift.

The \$750,000 contribution is the largest single gift in the history of the seminary, according to Robert E. Naylor, president of the seminary.

A friend of the seminary, who asked that the name of the donor not be disclosed, made the contribution.

Income from the fund has been designated to be used exclusively to pay the cost of construction of a children's building, including its equipment and furnishings. The building is to be named the Goldia D. and Robert E. Naylor Children's Building.

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In major business, the trustees elected a new chairman, granted tenure to three faculty members, promoted another, and voted to participate in a Texas Baptist urban strategy program.

The board also voted to request Assistant to the President John Earl Seelig to reconsider his resignation and to remain on the seminary staff. Seelig had earlier announced his resignation to accept a position as administrative assistant to the president of the First Worth Corp., here.

In response to the board's request, Seelig said that he had reconsidered his resignation and decided to remain with the seminary as assistant to the president.

The trustees elected Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, as chairman. Elected vice chairman was Dr. Louis Gibson, a medical doctor from Corsicana, Tex.

Three faculty members were granted faculty tenure: John J. Kiwiet, professor of historical theology; Farrar Patterson, assistant professor of preaching; and Larry L. Walker, assistant professor of Old Testament. Jay N. Boo Heflin, instructor in Old Testament, was given faculty status and elevated to the position of assistant professor.

The board's building committee reported four buildings with 32 units in the J. Howard Williams Student Village, in addition to a new home for the president, were nearing completion. Occupancy of the student housing units is anticipated for the spring semester.

Building projects for the near future include a children's building, renovation of Price Hall, and a physical fitness building. A complete campus plan for future expansion will be presented during the March trustees' meeting, the committee reported.

Trustees voted to participate in an urban strategy program adopted in October by the Baptist General Convention of Texas by providing professors, facilities and library resources for the program. The state-wide effort stresses evangelism, church growth, and development of training and support programs for churches to minister more effectively in urban areas.

Smith, the new chairman of the board and also chairman of the faculty and curriculum committee, brought a progress report on the new doctor of ministry degree to be initiated in the fall of 1972. Specific recommendations on the degree will be presented in March, he said.

In announcing the \$750,000 gift, Naylor said that upon completion of the construction on the new children's building, any remaining funds would become permanent endowment for the seminary. Earnings from the endowment would be undesignated income.

"This is a fitting compliment to the continuing devotion manifested by these friends of the seminary," Naylor said.

Estimated cost of the new children's building is \$500,000, with construction anticipated to begin in 1972. Preston Geren Architects are finalizing plans for the building.

The building will provide modern nursery facilities, day school and kindergarten programs for pre-school children of seminary families. A laboratory for students as a clinical and research training center in childhood religious education will be the major function of the building.

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Alexander Karev, Russian Baptist  
Leader and Peace Advocate, Dies

12/1/71

MOSCOW (BP)--Alexander V. Karev, general secretary of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, died November 24 at the age of 77. Tass, the Soviet news agency, cited a circulatory disorder of the brain as cause of death.

Karev had been a leader of Russian Baptists for almost 50 years. The All-Union Council is the only officially recognized Baptist body in the U.S.S.R. It has approximately 500,000 members.

He was the second Russian Baptist leader to die in November. Sergei Timchenko, vice president of the All-Union Council died November 11.

Karev was active in the Russian movement for peace, holding membership on the World Peace Council, the Soviet Peace Committee and the Institute of Soviet-American Relations.

He viewed his participation in the Baptist World Alliance and other international church organizations as ties to guard against "modernization" of Baptist teachings and to work against the threat of new wars.

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