



**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) 254-5461  
**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

January 26, 1972

**Seminary Extension Creates  
New Home Study Institute**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Seminary Extension Department of the six Southern Baptist seminaries has established a "Seminary Extension Home Study Institute" to replace the department's former correspondence school as a step toward possible accreditation.

The department is currently seeking accreditation from the National Home Study Council, an accrediting agency established by the Office of Education for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The council had recommended the change in the department's program to rename its correspondence school the Seminary Extension Home Study Institute.

Presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, who comprise the administrative committee for the department, approved the change during a meeting here.

The Home Study Institute will include all the 36 correspondence courses offered by the department, and any such courses to be added in the future.

The institute will also provide reading programs, cassette tapes, and other training media developed for use in continuing education, through independent home study, of pastors and other church vocational workers.

J. Ralph Hardee, associate director of home study education for the department, will have immediate responsibility for supervision of the institute, according to Raymond M. Rigdon, director of the Seminary Extension Department.

Eleven correspondence instructors will give individual attention and counsel to the students who enroll in the department's 36 correspondence courses. Eight of the 11 instructors have earned doctoral degrees, and three have master's degrees in their fields.

Rigdon said that increasing numbers of colleges and universities are accepting credit on degree programs for seminary extension courses taken by correspondence. Accreditation by the National Home Study Council would be a major step toward credit transfers for such study.

In other recent action, the department's curriculum committee, composed of one faculty member from each of the six sponsoring seminaries, approved plans to develop four additional courses through the department.

In the basic curriculum, for persons who prefer "easy to read" courses available in seminary extension centers, two courses were added: "Great Men and Women of the Bible," and "Learning to Lead People."

In the college-level curriculum, available both in the centers and through the new Home Study Institute, these courses were added: "Enlisting and Developing Lay Church Leaders," and "Studies in Colossians."

Last year 832 persons enrolled in correspondence courses through the Seminary Extension Department, and 3,937 students studied in the 187 Seminary Extension Centers located in 48 states and 13 foreign countries.

Baptists Open New Work  
In Muslim Area of Togo

SOKODE, Togo (BP)--Baptists have established work in a second town in Togo, West Africa, and they recently opened a Baptist center with a program of educational and evangelistic activities.

Sokode, center of a predominantly Muslim area, is located about 200 miles inland and north of Lome, the capital of Togo. Sokode is a regional seat of government with a population of about 15,000.

A Southern Baptist missionary couple, Morris and Carol Anne Fruit, moved to Sokode in September 1971 to head up the new mission station.

"Why not" was the simple reply of Sokode's Muslim mayor when Fruit asked him about starting Baptist work there.

"This is typical of the cordial welcome the Fruits have received from the Kotokoli people, the major tribe in the area," according to Bill I. Bullington, missionary press representative in Togo.

Southern Baptists entered the country in 1964. Now three couples and three single missionary journeymen are stationed there.

A religious film was shown at the center six times on two nights in an effort to give everyone who came an opportunity to see it. Another film was shown in the street outside the center. At one point, a crowd estimated at 2,000 was present. About 70 adults returned for Sunday worship.

The highlight of the worship hour was the baptism of two men, who had been attending a Bible study on Sunday mornings in the Fruit home.

They were baptized in a collapsible baptistry designed by Fruit. The portable unit was built for use in villages where water is not always available, or when water is available but may not be clean enough for baptizing.

In addition to the center program, the Fruits have begun a Sunday afternoon and evening ministry in their home for their neighbors. Thusfar, they have had Sunday School in their front yard, using records with Bible messages and choruses recorded in Kotokoli, the local language. Most who attend are children.

As a result of their efforts, Ousmane, a 14-year-old Muslim boy, was converted. When asked about baptism, Ousmane said he preferred to be baptized in his own village a few miles away as an example and witness to his people.

Fruit agreed. Plans are now being made to start a Bible study in Ousmane's village.

-30-

BP PHOTO to be mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

New Orleans To Offer New  
Doctor of Ministry Degree

1/26/72

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Plans for offering the doctor of ministry degree beginning next fall were approved by the executive committee and instruction committee of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The executive committee also named J. Hardee Kennedy, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew in the seminary's School of Theology, as acting dean of the seminary.

Ratification of the new degree and the appointment of Kennedy is expected by the full board of trustees in March, according to seminary officials.

-more-

The new doctor of ministry degree at New Orleans will emphasize flexibility to enable the student, under the direction of his advisor, to build his program of study in keeping with his own needs and interests, said seminary officials.

It will also provide for an internship project under an approved field supervisor. Seminary officials pointed out that the location of the seminary offers unique opportunities of service in programs of Christian social ministries through the SBC Home Mission Board, plus opportunities in several universities and hospitals located in the area.

Both the appointment of Kennedy as acting dean and the establishment of the doctor of ministry degree are part of a reorganization of the seminary.

A native of Quitman, Miss., Kennedy has been a faculty member at the seminary since 1947. He was dean of the School of Theology from 1959-68.

-30-

Operation Talk Back  
Brings Recommendations

1/26/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--Increase in use of biblical content in church training materials, more helps for small churches and more emphasis on the non-believer were among recommendations made by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's research services department after compiling suggestions proposed through Operation Talk Back, a readership survey of SBC study periodicals.

Operation Talk Back was an effort to determine readership opinion toward periodicals and publications produced by the Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union, agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Analysis based on the 36,868 questionnaires returned by June 1, 1971, has been completed.

Individual reports prepared for each of the 79 periodicals involved seek to pinpoint specific and general problems users are experiencing with each publication.

Editors and supervisors have been furnished conclusions and recommendations based on the findings. The reports gave highlights of the findings and personal information about respondents. Editors of the periodicals are studying the reports in an effort to respond to the suggestions and recommendations included in the reports.

"Future publications of the board will reflect changes based on findings from the reports," Allen Comish, director of the board's Church Services and Materials Division, said.

In addition to individual reports, a general report has been prepared recommending that efforts be made to determine the materials and organization which will help smaller churches to operate at maximum effectiveness.

"The general report recommended that more emphasis be placed on concern for the lost.

"Another recommendation was an increase in biblical material and references in training materials," he added.

Inclusion of specific suggestions in materials as to how they are designed to be used was the subject of one recommendation. Readers asked that the suggestions be phrased in simple terms and placed in the beginning of each unit.

It was recommended that the board explore ways of making leaders more aware of curriculum options a quarter in advance and to encourage leaders to discuss these options with members before placing literature orders.

Editors were advised to report through their publications the results of the "Talk Back" study stating intended changes. It was also requested that age group identification be placed on the covers of periodicals. A decrease in number of periodicals was recommended with emphasis on combining existing ones. Improving the arrangement of content with emphasis in children and preschool areas was requested.

The April-May-June 1971 issue of each quarterly periodical and the April 1971 issue of each monthly periodical contained an Operation Talk Back questionnaire. Users of the periodicals returned more than 61,000 questionnaires to the Sunday School Board.

-30-

Irish Baptist Sunday School  
Worker Killed by Gunmen

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (BP)--The superintendent of the Sunday School of East End Baptist Church here, Raymond Denham, was shot to death at a printing plant here where he was employed as an electrician, according to a report in European Baptist Press Service.

Three gunmen entered the printing plant on the night of Jan. 12, two of them shooting Denham at close range while the third held the gateman at gunpoint, the news service quoted a release from the office of the Baptist Union of Ireland.

The report said Denham's death occurred the day after a government announcement that the Police Reserve, of which Denham was a member, was to be increased in number.

In addition to being superintendent of the Sunday School in his church, Denham was captain of the 88th Boys' Brigade Company, a youth organization which is devoted "to the extension of Christ's kingdom among boys."

The report said Denham's untimely death has distressed Irish Baptists generally and has heightened for them the sorrows of the present conflict in Northern Ireland.

The same issue of European Baptist Press Service quoted the general secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, writing in the Baptist Times of London, as saying the churches of Northern Ireland have had a major hand in saving the community from total collapse into despair and naked civil war.

Andrew Weir, the Presbyterian leader, wrote that leading churchmen have complained that news reports have not covered fully enough what the churches in Ulster have been doing during the civil strife.

Weir said that leaders of the principal Irish churches, including Catholic, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist, have met frequently to discuss the more serious issues which cause mutual distress and conflict in the community, especially religious differences.

They also have issued joint statements appealing for peace, with rejection of violence as a means to obtain justice. Last autumn they called for a special day of prayer in all the churches.

Weir also reported organization of several joint Protestant and Catholic groups active in bringing together concerned Christians, efforts by joint groups to rebuild houses destroyed in the conflict, and dialogue and communication efforts by Protestants and Catholics.

"It is not always easy seeing where church action ends and joint community action begins," Weir said. "The main contribution of the churches, however, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, has been in the continuing witness of so many clergy and laity in their own parishes," he concluded.

-30-

WMU Scholarship Awarded  
To Missionaries' Daughter

1/26/72

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union has awarded the Elizabeth Lowndes Award, a \$200 scholarship, to Miss Becky Jean Ross, daughter of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, for excellence in her college work.

Miss Ross, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, is a graduate of University of Texas at El Paso. She is studying social work.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson Ross, SBC foreign missionaries. Ross is director of the Business Services Division of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Tex.

The scholarship is issued annually to a child of Southern Baptist missionaries who has recently graduated from college with distinction. It is named in honor of Mrs. W. C. Lowndes, who was treasurer of the WMU for almost 40 years.

-30-



**BAPTIST PRESS**

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

RECEIVED  
JAN 27 1972  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE. NO.  
NASHVILLE TN 37203