



BAPTIST PRESS

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April 18, 1972

Midwestern Trustees Honor Berquist on Retirement

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here sponsored a gala banquet honoring retiring seminary president Millard J. Berquist who is retiring July 31 after 15 years as president.

Nearly 650 persons, including trustees, faculty members, students, area pastors, and friends of the seminary, attended the banquet.

Trustees unveiled a portrait of the first and only president of the seminary, and presented him with two cash gifts from the trustees and faculty members, totalling \$2,400.

A battery of speakers paid tribute to the retiring president. Included in the group were Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee; James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the SBC Sunday School Board; Seminary Presidents Olin T. Binkley of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Grady C. Cothen of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; William Jewell College President Thomas S. Field; and Donald E. McIntosh, an architect and deacon at First Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla., where Berquist was pastor for 18 years before becoming president of the seminary.

In response, Berquist said that the significance of the banquet was a tribute not to the administration, but demonstration of acceptance and deep appreciation for what Midwestern is, and has done, as a seminary.

In business sessions following the banquet, the trustees voted to establish an annual lectureship named the Millard J. Berquist Lectures in honor of the retiring president, adopted a record budget, elected a new associate professor of religious education and approved construction of a new unit of modular apartments for students.

The 1972-73 budget approved by the trustees totalled \$729,132, an increase of \$57,294 over the previous year's budget.

Named associate professor of religious education was Temp Sparkman, formerly minister of education at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville.

Five associate professors on the faculty were elevated to full professor status. They are Doran McCarty, professor of theology and Christian philosophy; M. Pierce Matheney Jr., and Burlan A. Sizemore Jr., both professors of Old Testament and Hebrew; K. David Weekes, librarian (ranked as full professor); and Kenneth R. Wolfe, New Testament and Greek professor.

Elected president of the board of trustees was Carlos Bradley of Kansas City, a grain elevator operator who is chairman of the committee to nominate a president to succeed Berquist.

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Golden Gate Trustees Fete Graves, Approve New Housing, Promotions

4/18/72

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary meeting here honored President Harold K. Graves for 20 years as administrator of the seminary, approved faculty promotions and sabbaticals, and announced plans for construction of new student and faculty housing projects.

Trustees were also given a current report on a capital drive to raise endowment funds for a chair of evangelism, and for a proposed Library-Learning Resources Center. The trustees took action requesting funds for future capital needs from the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee.

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At a banquet honoring Graves on his 20th anniversary as president, trustees presented him with an engraved watch and plaque praising him for "outstanding leadership and dedicated service as president."

Trustees also took note of the July retirement of Carlyle Bennett, music professor, who will be going to Singapore and Malaysia for a year to teach following retirement.

Elected as a new assistant professor of music was John P. Johnson, currently assistant professor of music at Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss. He will assume the position Aug. 1.

The administration was also authorized to seek a professor of preaching and a professor of professional studies to supervise the field education program of the new doctor of ministry degree.

W. A. Carleton, who has been distinguished professor of church history for the past two years following his retirement as vice president and academic dean, was given the title, "Dean Emeritus" by trustee action.

A special committee of trustees was authorized to work with a faculty committee to review and update the seminary agreement with the faculty called the "Principles of Academic Freedom, Tenure, Promotion and Faculty Responsibility." The committee is to report to the 1973 trustee meeting.

Promotions were granted to J. Roger Skelton, professor of religious education, and J. E. Humphrey, professor of historical theology. Sabbatic leaves were approved for Humphrey, and for Clayton K. Harrop, New Testament professor; and Richard B. Cunningham, philosophy and theology professor.

Several visiting professors and guest lecturers were announced by Elmer Gray, academic dean.

They include John P. Newport, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who will teach religion in the arts; Floyd A. Craig, director of public relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, who will teach church public relations; Howard P. Colson, editorial secretary for the SBC Sunday School Board, who will teach writing; Oscar I. Romo, language missions secretary for the SBC Home Mission Board, who will teach a course in ministering to minorities; and Thomas L. Starkes, secretary of the Home Mission Board department of interfaith witness, who will teach a course concerning cults and sects.

Other visiting professors and their fields include Wilhelm Pauck of Vanderbilt University, historical theology; Robert A. Williams of the child care and family services department for California Southern Baptists, social work; and Frederick A. Norwood of Garrett Theological Seminary, church history.

In other actions, the trustees voted to proceed with construction of six three-bedroom apartments, and authorized sale of a narrow strip of land and a one-acre plot of land.

Trustees also honored as "newsman of the year" Don Keown, editor of the Marin Magazine of the Independent Journal, Marin County's largest daily newspaper.

Re-elected chairman of the board of trustees was H. J. Flanders, professor of religion at Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

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Robison Crusade Results
In Record 2,400 Conversions

4/18/72

MOBILE, Ala. (BP)--Attracting crowds as large as singer Elvis Presley, a ten-day evangelistic crusade here led by Evangelist James Robison of Hurst, Tex., closed out with 2,395 professions of faith and 3,683 total public decisions.

It was the largest number of conversions reported in a single crusade ever led by the 28-year-old Southern Baptist evangelist. Robison set records two years ago by recording the largest number of conversions in local church revivals in Pasadena and Irving, Tex., Southern Baptist churches.

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The one-week crusade at Mobile's Municipal Auditorium, with overflow crowds of 10,000 on the last few days, was extended an additional two nights by crusade leaders.

"There has never been anything like this before in Mobile," crusade chairman Jaroy Weber, pastor of the Dauphin Way Baptist Church, said. "It has just been fantastic."

"I believe that this crusade has affected the total community and has made people more aware of Christ than they have ever been," he said.

Weber particularly praised the crusade for having "brought churches together" and for the impact that it had on churches of all denominations.

On the final Sunday, churches throughout the city reported hundreds of additions. One 80-member church had 20 additions by profession of faith.

Backed by some 70 churches of the Mobile Baptist Association, the crusade drew a total attendance of nearly 70,000 persons.

Peak crowds came on the final Sunday, when more than 11,000 persons jammed the auditorium to overflowing, and again on the last night of the crusade, when the largest number of conversions was also reported.

Not since singer Elvis Presley was in town had Mobile's Municipal Auditorium ever seen a local audience pack the house beyond its normal crowd capacity of 10,000 persons.

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Half SBC Churches Provide
No Retirement for Pastors

4/18/72

DALLAS (BP)--Nearly half the churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention do not provide retirement coverage for their pastors, state representatives of the denomination's Annuity Board were told here.

Baynard F. Fox, vice president for development among churches for the SBC Annuity Board with offices here, told 16 state representatives of the Annuity Board meeting here that of the 33,937 churches in the SBC, 16,464 congregations provide no retirement program for their pastors.

Fox pointed out that 11,867 of the churches, by far the largest category, have fewer than 200 members. Many of these small churches have part-time pastors and cannot afford to contribute to a retirement fund from their meager collections.

There are, however, 4,040 churches with between 200 and 499 members which do not have a retirement program with the Annuity Board that could and should do so, Fox said.

He urged the 16 state representatives of the Annuity Board to enlist 7,500 new churches in retirement coverage for their pastors and other staff members during the next five years.

Among the denomination's 2,054 churches with 1,000 or more members, only 81 do not provide retirement coverage for the pastor, although most do not provide retirement benefits for other staff members. In most cases, only the pastor's retirement is covered.

Fox said he hoped 5,000 unenlisted staff members of participating churches would be enrolled during the next five years, plus an additional 5,500 represented by seminary students now studying at SBC seminaries who will enter the active ministry during the next five years.

During the three-day meeting here, the 16 state Annuity Board representatives attending also were briefed on the board's investment policies, services to members of retirement plans, health and disability insurance coverage, and contacts with Baptist institutions other than churches.

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