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April 25, 1972

**New Directions Suggested
For SBC Work with Blacks**

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern and National Baptist race relations workers suggested new directions for cooperation and changes in black-white relationships at the first National Conference on Work with National Baptists here.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board department of work with National Baptists, the conference drew 70 Southern Baptist Convention departmental workers and National Baptist consultants to discuss ways to reorganize the department and make it more contemporary and relevant.

Objectives, structure and program design were considered for possible changes. "We'd like to rewrite the whole cotton-picking thing," quipped Victor Glass, head of the department.

Among the major issues discussed was a proposed name change for the board's department which works with National Baptists. Before 1959 it was called department of Negro work. After 1959 it was changed to department of work with National Baptists.

"We got rid of the word Negro. Southern Baptists were killing us with the word--they couldn't pronounce it," Glass said.

National Baptist is still correct terminology because it can refer to any of the three National Baptist conventions, he added. The National Baptist Convention of America, National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., and Progressive National Baptist Convention, all have the same basic theology as Southern Baptists, but with differing governing bodies, Glass noted.

The group was concerned with the terminology of the proposed changes in name because blacks in the field dislike the idea of getting something free from Southern Baptists and having "missionaries" sent to them.

An attempt was made to make the work more fraternal than paternal, Glass said. Most seemed to like the terms "black-white relationships" and "cooperative ministries."

As a result of the two-day meeting, the conference participants prepared a document concerning the program of work with National Baptists. Their conference report will go through the channels of the SBC Home Mission Board administration and Board of Directors, and then to the SBC Executive Committee, and hopefully as a formal proposal for action by the Southern Baptist Convention.

At the close of the conference here, a banquet honored three Baptist leaders in the field for their life-long commitment to racial cooperation. The conference participants paid tribute to Glass and to W. R. Grigg, associate secretary of the department, and to Julius Avery, director of work with National Baptists for the Florida Baptist Convention.

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Baptist Home Study Institute
Granted Full Accreditation

4/25/72

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--The Seminary Extension Home Study Institute, a correspondence school operated as a division of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department in Nashville, has been granted full accreditation by the National Home Study Council.

The action was taken during a meeting here of the Accreditation Commission of the National Home Study Council, an agency recognized by the U. S. Office of Education for accrediting schools of correspondence.

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The Seminary Home Study Institute was created in January of this year to replace the department's former correspondence school as a step toward possible accreditation. J. Ralph Hardee, associate director of the Seminary Extension Department, has responsibility for the immediate supervision of the institute.

The director of the Seminary Extension Department, Raymond M. Rigdon, hailed the accreditation by the National Home Study Council as a major step in the department's efforts to upgrade its services to the denomination.

The significance of the accreditation, according to Rigdon, is that it will help other educational institutions, especially colleges and universities, appraise the quality of the department's training as they consider requests for transfers of credit from students who have participated in the Institute's program to their own institutions.

Rigdon said an added benefit of accreditation has been the discipline required by the self study in preparation for accreditation.

Hardee, who did most of the work on the self study, added that the procedure required the department to look deeply into what they are doing and why, and provided counsel and advice to the department for improvement by some of the top experts in the field on the accrediting commission.

According to Rigdon and Hardee, accreditation requirements by the National Home Study Council are high, and include standards in such areas as educational objectives, educational materials, educational services, student success and satisfaction, admission practices, financial responsibility and research and improvement.

As part of the requirements to achieve accreditation, the Home Study Institute staff prepared a 101-page self-evaluation report and submitted it to a special accreditation committee. The committee also visited the Seminary Extension Department offices at the SBC Building in Nashville for an on-site investigation.

Last year, 832 students from 47 states and seven foreign countries were enrolled in 1,226 correspondence courses offered by the department.

Individual assistance was given each of the enrolled students by nine correspondence instructors, seven of them with earned doctoral degrees and two with masters' degrees.

The self study prepared for accreditation indicated that 68 per cent of the persons who enroll for the courses complete the study. Rigdon said the percentage is substantially higher than the national average for all schools of correspondence.

The Seminary Extension Home Study Institute offers 36 courses for credit on the college level. It also offers guided reading programs and cassette tapes with accompanying listening guides.

In addition to the Home Study Institute, the SBC Seminary Extension Department sponsors about 200 extension centers scattered throughout the United States and in several foreign countries. The extension center study is completely separate from the correspondence study through the Home Study Institute.

Rigdon said he and Hardee "are grateful for this national recognition of the academic quality of the training offered by our Home Study Institute" as indicated by the accreditation. "It represents significant progress toward our goal to provide meaningful continuing education opportunities for every Southern Baptist pastor, including those with limited formal training to the seminary graduate with the doctor of theology degree," he added.

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Hawaii Baptists Purchase
New Home for Academy

4/25/72

HONOLULU, Hawaii (BP)--The Hawaii Baptist Convention, in a public auction here, has purchased a 13-1/2 acre estate at a cost of \$553,000 as the new home of the Hawaii Baptist Academy.

Purchase of the property for the academy was authorized in a called meeting of the convention's Executive Board one day prior to the public auction.

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Formerly the Robertson estate, the new property is located just off the curve of the Wyllie Street access to Pali Highway here.

Included on the "beautifully landscaped property" is a large residence with 9,000 square feet of floor space. The building was constructed of reinforced concrete in 1910.

Edmond Walker, executive secretary-treasurer, and Dan Kong, president, who represented the convention at the auction, said the residence will be used as a part of the school facilities. Additional classrooms and other facilities will be constructed "as soon as possible," they added.

The Hawaii Baptist Academy, presently located at 1234 Heulu St., was started by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1948.

The school, headed by president Stanley Sagert, has an enrollment of more than 600 students. Col. Sagert became president in 1970 when he retired from the U.S. Air Force.

A portion of the current Academy property of Heulu Street is under option to lease for development into a condominium. Funds realized from the lease will be used to help finance purchase of the new property, convention leaders said.

The school is also planning a fund campaign in the near future, according to Sagert and Dan Liu, chairman of the academy development committee.

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OEO Launches First Voucher
Experiment in California

4/25/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has announced plans to fund the first test of the controversial educational voucher system, a plan giving parents of all income levels a choice of schools for their children.

Private and parochial schools will not be included in the first test which will be limited to 4,000 pupils in six public schools in the Alum Rock School District in San Jose, Calif. The project begins this fall.

Nonpublic schools may be added later, according to OEO Director Phillip V. Sanchez. The participation of private and parochial schools in the Alum Rock program depends on enabling legislation which the California legislature rejected this past year. A similar proposal is being considered in the present session with the blessing of Gov. Ronald Reagan.

The demonstration program in San Jose will receive a \$2 million grant to conduct alternative educational programs over the next two years. In addition, OEO will provide \$65,600 to help prepare and distribute information to parents concerning the program.

Here is how the Alum Rock experiment will work:

Parents will receive vouchers worth about \$680 for children in kindergarten through sixth grade and \$970 for seventh and eighth graders. These amounts, according to the OEO release, represent the current average cost per pupil in the Alum Rock district.

Children from low-income families will receive vouchers about one-third higher than the basic amount in order to help the schools develop programs to meet the special needs of such children.

Of the 4,000 pupils participating in the program this fall, about 48 per cent are Mexican-American, 11 per cent are black and 42 per cent are white.

Parents will have a choice of five or six different education programs, all of them within the public schools, OEO officials explained. The parents will select the education program they want for their children and the school building they desire. Each child will be assured of placement in his first-choice program.

Provision is made in the current demonstration program for the participation of new schools, if they meet the requirements set by the school board. According to the program notes, these new schools may be nonpublic if their participation is approved by the California legislature.

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The educational voucher plan has been opposed by a number of Baptist groups and national educational organizations because of the possible "adverse effect on public schools." The plan was devised by OEO "to give poor parents greater influence over the education of their children and greater choice among the types of education available."

The controversial plan, endorsed recently by the President's Panel on Nonpublic Education, would also "foster educational innovation both within the public schools and outside the public school system" and would "make schools more accountable to parents at all income levels."

The OEO planners, in a 24-page booklet describing the proposed test, listed a number of questions to be answered by the demonstration program. These are:

Will the parents, and the community as a whole, feel their needs are met by the education offered under a voucher system?

Will the education of children be improved?

Is a regulated voucher system administratively feasible?

Will a voucher system result in improved integration patterns; i.e., are racial and economic integration fostered? Is a voluntary system of this sort more satisfactory to all concerned than involuntary busing?

Do meaningful alternatives to the existing public school system actually occur under a voucher system?

Do low income parents feel able to exercise this degree of influence over their child's educational future?

Is the impact of vouchers on the existing public schools beneficial?

Do compensatory payments offer adequate incentives for schools to accept children who are difficult to educate?

Over the past two years OEO has funded a number of feasibility studies on the voucher system. A summary of their findings and the community attitudes toward the plan in four school districts was released by OEO officials at the press conference.

In the Gary, Ind., school district, the first feasibility study to be funded, a survey showed "uncertainty" among parents, teachers and administrators about participating in the program.

The survey in Alum Rock showed a strong majority favoring educational experimentation with more than 75 per cent of the teachers and administrators agreeing that "new alternatives are needed in the public and private schools."



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