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HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

June 26, 1972

Kenneth Chafin, SBC Evangelism
Leader, Takes Houston Pastorate

HOUSTON (BP)--Kenneth L. Chafin, director of the Division of Evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, for the past 2 1/2 years, will become pastor of South Main Baptist Church here, effective Aug. 6.

Chafin, 45, will succeed E. Hermond Westmoreland, who retired as pastor last year to become minister-at-large for the South Main church. Westmoreland preached the annual sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention in Philadelphia on June 6.

Under Chafin's leadership, the SBC Home Mission Board's Evangelism Division has developed lay evangelism schools which have already trained more than 100,000 laymen in evangelistic efforts across the country.

The lay evangelism schools have comprised the major thrust of the work of the Evangelism Division under Chafin, and have spawned new programs in college and high school evangelism for the division.

Chafin has also helped coordinate production of new Witness Involvement Now (W.I.N.) materials in cooperation with the SBC Sunday School Board, and the division has added a new program of renewal evangelism.

The division has also initiated production of a half-hour television program, using a format featuring music by a group called the Spring Street Singers, a guest soloist or personality who would be interviewed, and closing with a 10 minute message by Chafin. The television series, to be produced by the division and the SBC Radio-Television Commission, is tentatively scheduled to start next spring.

Three programs in the television series are already completed, and production on ten more programs to complete one quarter is in progress. Chafin will continue as the speaker for the first 13 programs.

In accepting the pastorate of the 5,700-member church, Chafin said here that it was "a radical decision."

He added that he knew of no other church in the Southern Baptist Convention which he would want to serve as pastor, explaining it this way: "Houston, the sixth largest city in the country, is the last great city in the nation that Baptists can win for Christ."

Chafin also cited the church's "tremendous lay resources", and its broad base of ministries to the people of the city.

Chafin said the pastorate was "not a step down," but a move to the "front line of activity" in winning a great city to Christ through the efforts of a local church. He said he had been "very happy" in his role at the Home Mission Board, but felt this was what he needed to do.

Chafin was the Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, before going to head nation-wide evangelism efforts of the SBC Home Mission Board in 1969.

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He taught at Southern Seminary for four years, and previously was head of the evangelism department at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth for five years. He was on the Southwestern Seminary faculty for 13 years.

Previously, he had been pastor of James Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth; and pastor of Bel Air Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.

A native of Oklahoma, he was a graduate of University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and Southwestern Seminary where he earned the doctor of theology degree.

Westmoreland, whom he succeeds, had been pastor of the South Main Church for 33 years, and is a former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Southern Seminary Names Graves,
Dickson to Student Affairs Posts

6/23/72

LOUISVILLE (BP)-- Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here have approved a reorganization of the seminary's student affairs program and have named a new team of administrative officers to direct it.

Allen W. Graves, who served as dean of the seminary's School of Religious Education from 1956 until he became administrative dean in 1969, was named vice-president for student affairs.

Elaine Dickson, who previously held management positions with the SBC Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, will be dean of student affairs.

Three fulltime staff members will work with Dean Dickson in implementing the objectives of the new division.

They are Thomas C. Sherwood, who continues as seminary registrar, a position he has held since 1954; O. Norman Shands, who shifts from co-ordinator of development services to become director of admissions and student aid; and Jean Aiken, former supervisor of the faculty secretarial pool, who will be intake counselor and office manager for the new student affairs division. Shands joined the staff in 1971, Miss Aiken in 1964.

All of the new positions are effective this summer.

John H. Boyle of the psychology of religion department will serve as seminary chaplain, a post he has held since 1969.

Anne Davis, assistant professor of social work education, will serve as parttime consultant in community development, seeking ways of bringing various elements of the seminary family into dialogue and fellowship.

Robert Proctor, professor of educational psychology and religious education, will continue to administer and interpret the various tests used by the seminary for admissions and counseling purposes, and will coordinate research projects designed to provide data in the area of student affairs.

The new divisional structure is part of the larger reorganization of the seminary's administrative offices approved in the April meeting of the trustees. Named earlier to new posts were Vice-President for Development Wesley M. Pattillo, Vice-President for Business Affairs Badgett Dillard, and Provost William E. Hull.

Both Graves and Miss Dickson are natives of Illinois and both are graduates of Southern Illinois University.

Graves was pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Pierce, Fla., First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Va., and Immanuel Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., before joining the seminary administration in 1955. He also served as secretary for young people's work with the Training Union Department, SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville.

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He holds master's and doctor's degrees in theology from Southern Seminary and has done advanced study at Columbia University, New York.

Miss Dickson holds the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and the doctor of education degree from Southern Seminary. She has done post-graduate study in guidance and counseling at Illinois State University and study in organization development at Boston University and the Institute for Applied Behavioral Science.

For 11 years she was an associate in the Promotion Division of the Woman's Missionary Union headquarters in Birmingham.

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Church Has Responsibility In Ecology Crisis, Study Shows

6/23/72

FORT WORTH (BP)--The church must accept the responsibility for persuading people to become aware of the environmental crisis and become involved in it, or share the responsibility for the ecology crisis in the country, a graduate student who has studied the ecology crisis for a doctoral dissertation concluded here.

Royce Calhoun, minister of pastoral care at First Baptist Church, San Antonio, came to the conclusion after completing his dissertation for the doctor of theology degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary on the ethical dimensions of the ecology crisis.

Calhoun said that although Christians bear responsibility for ecology as a stewardship matter, the church's interpretation of certain scriptures has caused Christians to shirk this responsibility.

He argued that a misinterpretation of the Biblical imperative by God for man "to subdue the earth" has caused a ravaged ecology to develop.

"One contemporary problem with the idea of subduing the earth," said Calhoun, "is that in the process man uses up irreplaceable resources, or he affects nature in such a way as to bring on harmful byproducts."

Calhoun contended that it is now man's attitudes which must be changed if the ecology crisis is to be stopped. And it is at this point that the church can play the most effective role, he said.

The church must challenge those basic cultural values, structures, and operations which have resulted in exploitation of the natural world, he said.

"This means," stated Calhoun, "that the church must challenge such things as technology, economics, and growth. It also means that the church must challenge the rights of individuals, special interest groups or industry which takes precedence over the rights of the larger community which is not smaller than the world."

Calhoun pointed out that the church has the advantage of knowing a God who is over all things. In addition, Christians should be motivated to ecological concern by love, as expressed in the person of Christ.

Calhoun noted that most churches could begin in their own buildings.

He suggested that churches could be ecology minded when they plan to expand the size of buildings or parking lots. Churches also could refuse to do business with those companies involved in the exploitation of the environment.

Concluding the 250-page study, Calhoun asserted that the time for action is now. "The luxury of waiting could very well mean the elimination of the possibility of action to save the earth," he said.

Calhoun's study is entitled, "Ecology and Christian Responsibility: A Study of the Theological and Ethical Basis for Christian Ecological Concern."

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