



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 Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, 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

February 27, 1973

Seminary Extension Sets New Expansion Program

NASHVILLE (BP)--The administrative committee of the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention has approved an ambitious plan for expansion, and authorized a 27.5 per cent increase in the department's budget to finance the program.

Two major goals were outlined by Seminary Extension Director Raymond Rigdon as part of the expansion program.

The department will seek to establish and maintain a minimum of 500 extension centers across the country, with 10,000 students enrolled annually.

A second major goal is to increase the number of students enrolled in correspondence study to a minimum of 5,000 each year.

In announcing the goals, Rigdon also reported that 1972 enrollments in courses offered by the department were the second highest in the department's history.

Last year there were 6,998 individual enrollments in 215 extension centers and in the Seminary Extension Home Study Institute. The record year was in 1968-69 when 7,376 were enrolled, but that figure was slightly inflated with 664 enrollments in a popular-type half-unit course developed and promoted in cooperation with the SBC Radio-Television Commission, Rigdon pointed out.

"We have entered a period in history when continuing education no longer is an optional passtime for a few academically-oriented ministers," Rigdon said concerning the expansion program. "It must become a way of life for any minister who effectively guides his people in the Way of Life.

"Seminary Extension, on behalf of the six seminaries, is happy to offer learning opportunities for any Southern Baptist minister regardless of the limitations or the extent of his previous formal training," Rigdon said.

Rigdon added that the plan for expansion approved by the department's administrative committee is designed "to meet one of the most crucial needs in Southern Baptist life today-- the need for each minister to have within commuting distance of his home attractive opportunities for continuing his education for ministry."

Part of the plan for expansion calls for an intensive informational and educational program designed to cultivate a concept of the ministry in which continuing education is accepted as essential to the fulfillment of the calling of SBC ministers.

In an effort to develop more extension centers, boosting the number of such continuing education centers from the current 215 to more than 500, Rigdon and his staff proposed multiple patterns designed to best meet needs and resources of particular Baptist associations.

The new patterns include circuit centers in which one teacher commutes to several locations to conduct classes; existing centers adding a seminary course taught by a seminary professor to existing courses; and centers offering a diversified range of education programs and services including short-term conferences and retreats, seminars, a circulating library, guided independent study, and counseling and referral services.

Plans were also outlined to enlist black and Spanish-speaking pastors in training programs "relevant to their personal needs and ethnic characteristics."

The expansion program would also seek to involve in a guided program of personal study untrained pastors who are unable because of their locations or work responsibilities to enroll in an extension center, plus another program designed to encourage ministers who have not completed seminary training to consider seriously the feasibility of taking another step in their formal education.

In annual statistical report to the administrative committee, Rigdon disclosed a total of 1,044 course enrollments in the department's Home Study Institute (correspondence school), plus 679 enrollments in the "basic curriculum" and 5,185 enrollments in the college level curriculum offered by the 215 extension centers.

The 6,998 total enrollments represent students in 42 states and seven foreign countries, the report indicated.

Grady C. Cothen, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and chairman of the department's administrative committee, told the SBC Executive Committee recently of the proposed expansion program, and announced the budget increase approved by the committee to implement the program. The department's budget would increase from \$90,000 to \$115,402, a hike of 27.7 per cent.

-30-

Retired Baptist Minister
Gives \$20,000 to N.C. Home

2/27/73

SPRUCE PINE N.C. (BP)--A retired Baptist minister who now makes grandfather clocks has given \$20,000 to the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina as a result of a frugal savings program that began during the depression.

Somehow, back during the depression, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Stroup found enough money to purchase a U.S. Savings Bond. They continued the practice for many years, making possible the \$20,000 gift in accumulated bonds for the Broyhill Home campus of the North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes.

"God has been gracious to us through the years," Stroup said. "We served smaller rural and semi-rural churches, and they never paid too well. Yet, we managed to save quite a bit over the years."

"We always seemed to be able to buy another bond," Mrs. Stroup added.

Both, now in their mid-eighties, operate the Stroup Hobby Shop here. Since retiring from the active ministry 20 years ago, Stroup has specialized in building grandfather clocks, completing more than 785.

For almost a quarter of a century, Stroup was pastor of Baptist churches in Spruce Pine, Ramseur, Denton, and Kannapolis, N.C. Both he and Mrs. Stroup are natives of the Charlotte, N.C., area.

A graduate of Wake Forest College, then in Wake Forest, N.C., Stroup recalled that he arrived on the Baptist college campus with a wife, three children and \$4.37 in his pocket. "When we left three years later, I had paid off all my debts, had another child, and had \$100 in my pocket," They later had two other children.

In making the gift to the children's homes, Stroup established the McClain and Betsy Stroup Memorial for the Broyhill home near Waynesville, N.C., in honor of Stroup's sister, Miss Winnie Stroup, who formerly served as a matron at the Mills Home in Thomasville, N.C.

In sending the gift to the president of the children's homes, W.R. Wagoner, Stroup wrote that it was one of the happiest days of his life. "When I anticipate the long range good this gift will accomplish, my heart rejoices and all that is in me, and Betsy also, rejoices," he said.

-30-

**Texans Become Consultants
At Sunday School Board**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Two native Texans, both engaged in Baptist work in that state, have been named consultants in the church recreation department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

John L. LaNoue, youth associate in the special services division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Nilon H. Elliott, assistant church services director for the Dallas Baptist Association, will be instrumental in the church recreation department's new day camping program, according to Ray Conner, secretary of the department.

LaNoue's duties at the board will involve camping activities--family, resident and wilderness; and the use of camping as an evangelistic outreach tool," said Conner. "He will work specifically with managers of Southern Baptist assemblies and camps.

"Elliott, on the other hand, will give special emphasis to relating church recreation to church staff youth workers. He will work with ministers of youth, youth directors and ministers of education. His work will involve recreation for special groups, including handicapped and retarded youth; indoor and outdoor games; and youth retreats."

A native of Beaumont, Tex., LaNoue is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State College, Nacogdoches, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He was pastor of five Texas churches before serving as director of Baptist student work at three Texas colleges--University of Houston, Henderson County Junior College, Athens, and Navarro County Junior College, Corsicana, Tex.

Elliott, a native of Houston, is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary. He has been associate pastor of Baptist Temple Church, Houston, and youth coordinator for Union Baptist Association, Houston. (Prepared by BSSB Bureau)

-30-

PHOTO mailed to Baptist state papers

**Retired Royal Ambassador
Leader Takes College Post**

2/27/73'

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--Edward Hurt Jr., who retired recently after serving for 17 years with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, will return to his alma mater as new assistant director of development for Oklahoma Baptist University here.

Hurt, a graduate and former athletic director at the Baptist school here, was for many years the Royal Ambassador secretary for the Brotherhood Commission, directing the nation-wide efforts of the SBC in involving boys in missions activities and education.

Hurt was athletic director at Oklahoma Baptist University from 1935-55, and was named "coach of the year" in 1951 by the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Last year he was named to the school's athletic hall of fame, and in 1960 received the college's outstanding alumni achievement award.

-30-