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August 15, 1973

Union University Studies
Relocation of Campus

MEMPHIS (BP)--Two prominent Baptist laymen here have offered \$6 million to Union University in Jackson, Tenn., if the Baptist school will move to a site in Shelby County near here.

Trustees of the school have voted to study the proposal for six weeks and to meet September 20 to make a decision on possible relocation.

If the trustees authorize the move, final approval would have to come from the Tennessee Baptist Convention when it meets in Memphis in November.

No timetable for the proposed move was set, but a University spokesman said that if the plan is approved, construction would probably start as soon as possible to enable the move to be completed by 1975.

The proposal for the move was set off by offers totalling \$6 million by Dr. and Mrs. William B. Cockroft and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace E. Johnson of Memphis.

Dr. Cockroft, a dentist, is chairman of the board of United Inns Inc., the largest franchised owner of Holiday Inns in the nation. Johnson is vice president of the board of Holiday Inns Inc., and chairman of the board of Wallace E. Johnson Enterprises which specializes in big real estate developments.

The Cockrofts pledged \$5 million to Union University under stipulation that the university must remain theologically conservative, academically excellent, and must move to Shelby County. The Johnsons pledged \$1 million with similar stipulations.

The proposal came as a surprise to most residents of Jackson, Tenn., located about 90 miles east of Memphis.

Union, with a current enrollment of 1,100 students, had been in a fund campaign to raise \$8 million to finance the move from its downtown Jackson location to a new site on Highway 45 by-pass in Jackson. About \$3.5 million of the \$8 million goal had been pledged.

Though the announcement came as a surprise, it is not a new proposal. According to university officials, discussion to move the 149-year-old college to Shelby County has been held for at least 30 years.

In 1958, a consultant study underwritten by the Tennessee Baptist Convention had recommended that the school move to Shelby County.

In voting to study the proposal, the Union trustees said the move would place the university near Memphis, the largest city in the state near a great source of potential students.

Along with the pledges of \$6 million from the two Baptist laymen, trustees are considering purchase of a 177-acre tract of land in the northeast section of Shelby County for about \$250,000. Value of the land, offered by Investors Mortgage Services Inc., was estimated to be \$1.5 million.

Robert Craig, president of Union University, said that if the trustees decide to recommend the move to Memphis, the 284-acre proposed campus site on by-pass Highway 45 in Jackson could probably be sold for more than the \$1.2 million the property originally cost.

Former Texas Pastor and Wife
Appointed HMB Missionaries

ATLANTA (BP)--Raymond and Gloria Singleton were named here as career missionaries by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board of directors.

Singleton, a former Texas pastor, was named director of Christian social ministries for the Odessa (Tex.) Baptist Association.

A native of Havre de Grace, Md., Singleton is a graduate of Texas Western College, El Paso, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. He is former pastor of Texas churches in Salt Flats, El Paso, Chisholm, and Rotan.

Mrs. Singleton, the former Gloria Peterson, is a native of Mansfield, La. While in El Paso, she worked as secretary and coordinator for women's and girls' work at the Baptist mission center.

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McCullough Hurls; Musical
Premiered at RA Congress

8/15/73

ST. LOUIS (BP)--A click of the heels and a slow-fast ball kicked off activities here at the Fifth National Royal Ambassador Congress, which also featured the world premiere of a new musical before nearly 3,000 teenage boys.

The click and the slow pitch came from Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, during pre-game ceremonies at a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game.

McCullough, Foreign Mission Board artist Bob Harper; national Royal Ambassador director Jay Change; and 58 teenage Royal Ambassadors took part in the ceremonies before some 27,000 Cardinal fans at Busch Memorial Stadium.

McCullough gave a smart click of his heels before throwing the game's first pitch to batter Chance. Two Royal Ambassadors, catcher Randy Bridges of Gastonia, N.C., and umpire James Robertson of Raleigh, N.C., watched McCullough's first pitch go high and wide for a "strike." Chance pounded the second pitch back to the pitcher's mound.

Harper made a special presentation to Cardinal representative Stan Musial from the Foreign Mission Board and Virginia Royal Ambassadors. He gave the Cardinal organization a 30" x 50" painting entitled The Spectators.

As part of the ceremonies, Royal Ambassadors from North Carolina carried flags representing some of the countries where Southern Baptists have mission work.

The pre-game ceremonies began three days of mission activities and multi-media presentations scheduled for the Royal Ambassador Congress. Former astronaut James Irwin and Baptist entertainers Grady Nutt and Jerry Clower were among program personalities.

The new missions musical, "To the Ends of the Earth," featured a 60-voice youth choir, a singing group of identical triplets and 20-foot high graphic slides. The Royal Ambassadors responded with a several-minute standing ovation.

Using the giant color slides and dialogue mixed with nine songs, the musical tells the story of Marc, a teenage boy who discovers that missions is more than giving to a Christmas offering--that it is a worldwide effort in the States and abroad.

Ed Seabough of the SBC Home Mission Board, Foreign Missionary Bill O'Brien and Rob Sellers, minister of youth, St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., wrote the lyrics. O'Brien and the Ware triplets (Darrell, Gerald and Harold) from Oklahoma Baptist University were featured soloists. The youth choir of First Baptist Church, Ellisville, Mo., directed by Carl Moman, provided choreography and musical backing and the William Jewell College Jazz Ensemble from Liberty Mo., directed by Phil Posey, provided accompaniment.

The congress is sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission which operates the Royal Ambassador mission program for boys.

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