



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
160 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-8255
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

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. 37234
Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 27, 1973

TV Documentary Reveals
Baptist Life in USSR

HAMBURG, Germany (BP)--A four-part, 30-minute documentary on the problems Baptists face in the USSR is being shown by most West German television stations, according to a report by Rudolph Thaut, president of Hamburg Baptist Seminary.

Thaut, writing for European Baptist Press Service, says one section "is an amateur film" showing a "well-attended worship service" which was held in a forest "since the congregation is not granted official registration and, therefore, has no other meeting place.

"The film shows security forces as they halt and dissolve the meeting and indicate that the church leaders responsible will be called before the courts," Thaut reports.

"Afterwards, the amateur film shows a baptismal service, taking place before sunrise in a river, also because of the registration question," the report continues.

Thaut said another part consists of interviews with emigrants who recently left the USSR. "They report clearly and impressively about discriminations, persecutions and difficulties which believers and churches experience in the country," Thaut said.

The telecast, produced by NDR (North German Radio and TV), "gives a very clear picture of the actual situation of churches in the Soviet Union. It shows the opportunities which churches have to assemble but also elaborates the limitations and persecutions which churches and individuals must face," Thaut continues.

He said an interview, made in Hamburg with four Moscow-based members of the All-Union Baptist Council, including the union's general secretary, Alexei Bichkov, reports on the possibilities of church work, the training of pastors and the very limited scope of Christian education for children."

The documentary is narrated by Erik Ruden of Stockholm, former general secretary of the European Baptist Federation.

-30-

Southwestern Maps Plans,
Institutes Ph.D. Program

11/27/73

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)--The board of trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has authorized appointment of a long-range planning commission to set objectives and goals in all phases of seminary life, including a revised master campus plan.

In their annual fall meeting, the trustees also voted to change the name of the seminary's doctor of theology (Th.D.) degree to the doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degree.

The long-range planning commission will consist of representatives of trustees, the seminary's advisory council, faculty, administration, alumni and students.

The new group will bring together all previous long-range planning activities with new additions and will set 5, 10 and 15-year objectives and goals.

The new Ph.D. degree, to be offered beginning next fall, will provide training in academic research, primarily for the preparation of teachers but focused also on editors, writers, denominational executives, scholarly pastors and other specialized vocations.

-more-

The board also approved the School of Religious Education entering into a teacher certification program with Dallas Baptist College to develop persons having both public school certification and training in religious education.

One aspect of the agreement provides for Dallas Baptist College to accept up to 16 hours from the master of religious education degree program in specified areas toward teacher certification.

Dr. Louis Gibson, a surgeon from Corpus Christi, Tex., was elected trustee chairman and Oswin Chrisman, a domestic relations court judge from Dallas, was named vice chairman.

-30-

Retired Longtime Alabama
Convention Employee Dies

11/27/73

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Miss Frances Haralson, 92, an employee of the Alabama Baptist Convention Executive Board for 48 years, died in a Montgomery hospital.

Miss Haralson served as office secretary to six executive secretaries of the Alabama board between 1912 and 1960, the year she retired.

An uncle, Jonathan Haralson, was president of the Southern Baptist Convention for 10 years, 1888-1898, and the Alabama Baptist Convention for eight years.

Graveside services were held at Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery.

-30-

Deweese Named to New SBC
Historical Commission Post

11/27/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--Charles William Deweese has joined the staff of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission here as assistant director of editorial and research services, a newly created position.

Deweese, 29, current pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Oakland, Ky., has completed requirements for a doctor of theology degree in church history from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and also holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary and a bachelor of arts degree from Mars Hill (N. C.) College.

Lynn May, Historical Commission executive secretary, said Deweese will assist in the production of periodicals, promotional materials and other publications, conduct research projects, provide historical information and consultation and assist in promoting the commission's program of recording, procuring, preserving and utilizing important Southern Baptist historical materials.

A native of Asheville, N. C., he is a former pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Madison, Ind., and was a recipient of a study grant from the Davis C. Wooley Memorial Fund, administered by the Historical Commission.

-30-

BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist editors.

November 27, 1973

**Black Southern Baptists
Assuming Leadership Roles**

By Tim Nicholas
for Baptist Press

It took the vote of one courageous white pastor in California to finally crack the barrier of racism that kept black Baptist churches from bearing the name and role of Southern Baptist.

Norris Fulfer cast the decisive vote to break a tie that admitted the black Community Baptist Church in Santa Rosa, Calif., into the Redwood Empire Baptist Association in 1951.

"I was later accused of doing the worst thing that had happened in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in 100 years," recalled Fulfer, who now is the pastor of the integrated First Baptist Church in La Puente, Calif.

The Redwood Empire Association then stretched from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border, Fulfer said, and E.W. Boyce, pastor of the Community Baptist Church, asked to join the association.

After the credentials committee "sat on the black church's request for several months," Fulfer, as moderator, decided to "get the proceedings over with" and called for a vote.

"I told Boyce to be prepared for ugly spirits," Fulfer said. The uproar that ensued was such that the moderator declared a closed session of the associational board, where the vote was finally taken.

The board members divided--a tie vote. Fulfer cast the tie-breaking vote that admitted the first black church into the association and to recognition as an SBC church.

"One thing that helped me in my decision was the letter I got from a missionary in Nigeria saying that the hardest part of his work was the people knowing the attitude of the people back in the U.S.," said Fulfer.

Now, 22 years later, the pastor of Community Baptist Church, James Coffee, is moderator of the association that, without Fulfer's decision, would have noted 'no.'

Though the Redwood Empire decision was in no way binding on other Baptist organizations, other black Baptist churches have since aligned themselves with the SBC.

A recent survey by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board revealed that 191 predominantly black Baptist churches have aligned with the SBC. Of the 191, the survey indicated, 125 of the black churches were dually aligned with the SBC and at least one other nationwide black Baptist convention.

There are an estimated 75,000 black Southern Baptists in the United States.

Moves toward interracial participation by SBC organizations are sounding a new day in increased black leadership. Prominent black Southern Baptists are assuming positions of leadership in Baptist organizations all over the nation.

Harold T. Branch, the first black officer ever elected by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, is a good example of black leadership within the SBC. Branch was named second vice president of the Texas convention during their recent annual meeting in Corpus Christi.

Branch, the pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, has been moderator of the Corpus Christi (Baptist) Association, is on the Texas State Mission Commission and is a city councilman.

His brother, E. Stanley Branch, pastor of the dually aligned Fourth Missionary Church in Houston, is an executive committee member of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention of America.

Rochelle Davis, pastor of Temple of Faith Baptist Church in Detroit, was the first black officer elected by the Baptist State Convention of Michigan in November, 1973, when he was named second vice president.

Herbert Cotton, a layman from Fairview Baptist Church in Anchorage, is serving his second consecutive term as president of the Alaska Baptist Convention.

John Cross, associate pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., is a black Southern Baptist home missionary and on the board of directors for the Christian Council of Metro Atlanta.

Still another black leader among Southern Baptists is Lacey Solomon, Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Solomon is responsible for "producing" the majority of BSU black summer missionaries.

David Morgan, of San Diego, Calif., is a retired Southern Baptist home missionary and is a member of the California Southern Baptist Board of Christian Higher Education. C. Albert Henson, pastor of Zion Baptist Evangelistic Temple in Compton, Calif., has made evangelistic tours for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Black leader Sidney Smith Jr., a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board-appointed missionary in South Central Los Angeles, directs multi-faceted, Cooperative Christian Ministries. Smith, who serves on the human relations committee of the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association, was the first black student admitted to the formerly Baptist-owned University of Corpus Christi.

-30-

The article above was adapted from the November, 1973 edition of Home Missions magazine.

#

T.A. Patterson to Join
World Evangelism Foundation

11/27/73

DALLAS (BP)--T.A. Patterson, executive secretary for Baptist General Convention of Texas for the past 13 years, will become executive vice president of World Evangelism Foundation, a private missionary organization based here, when he retires Dec. 31.

In January, Patterson and W.H. Jackson Jr., president and director of the organization, will meet with Baptist leaders in London, Denmark and France "looking toward projection of accelerated witness involving laymen and pastors."

The foundation has conducted similar projects in other countries, most recently Korea, and hopes "to supplement other Baptist mission work around the world," Patterson said.

-30-

CORRECTIONS

In Baptist Press story mailed 11/21/73, headlined Lottie Moon--Mischievous Child Became Famous Missionary, graph 25, first line, please change offerings total to \$237,464,705.14.

In Baptist Press story mailed 11/26/73, headlined Minister Sees Poverty, Returns to Help Indians, please change graph 3, first line to read:

"We went down the streets and there was just row after row of houses with little . . . (rather than --row after of houses, as sent) Thanks.

--Baptist Press

With BP story mailed 11/27/73

JOINS HISTORICAL COMMISSION--Charles William Deweese, 29, has joined the staff of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, Nashville, in the newly created post of assistant director of editorial and research services. Deweese, a native of Asheville, N. C., has served as pastor of churches in Kentucky and Indiana and has completed requirements for a doctor of the-ology degree in church history from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

(BP) Photo