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June 25, 1974

Educators Accept Challenge To Study Education Abroad

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ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--The Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention accepted a challenge from the denomination's Foreign Mission Board to initiate a joint venture to study higher education needs of mission fields throughout the world.

Baker James Cauthen, the Foreign Mission Board's executive secretary, speaking at the commission meeting here asked the Baptist educators to study how Christians can have an impact on the proliferating universities in emerging nations and provide assistance to Baptist universities abroad.

In other action, the Commission elected new officers, adopted a \$169,300 budget for 1974-75, promoted a staff member and passed several resolutions.

William G. Tanner, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, was elected chairman, succeeding G. Earl Guinn, president of Louisiana College, Pineville.

Budd E. Smith of Benson, N.C., recently retired president of Wingate College, was elected vice chairman and George E. Capps Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville, Tenn., was named secretary.

Miss Marjorie Howard, a 20-year commission employee, was promoted from administrative assistant to director of administrative services.

In that position she will assist Ben C. Fisher, executive secretary-treasurer in editorial work on the Southern Baptist Educator, handling of all financial matters, statistical research, administration of scholarship and loan funds and developing and conducting workshops.

Cauthen outlined a number of ways Southern Baptist colleges have assisted worldwide missions historically but then said it was time to take a hard look at what could be done in the future.

"How the Christian enterprise can produce an impact on the increasing number of universities abroad calls for careful and creative thinking," Cauthen told the commission.

"What would you do for example, if you were president of one of those schools and the Christian group attempted to make an impact? What would be acceptable to you and what would not?"

"Nothing is more valuable than the right idea," Cauthen told the commissioners in inviting their assistance in formulating new approaches.

The mission board chief executive also outlined the need for Southern Baptist educators in the United States to "stand as big brothers to Baptist colleges around the world. You can provide them an academic umbrella and offer them ideas, friend-to-friend, and learn from each other," he said.

Cauthen outlined ways Baptist colleges have historically aided the mission enterprise through creating an awareness in their graduates of world-wide needs and by actually sending graduates to serve on the fields.

He said students get positive influences from mission groups, the deep sense of personal commitment reflected by teachers and administrators, through "vital Bible and religion courses," through campus Baptist student work, through religious emphasis weeks, chapel services, through sending students abroad as summer missionaries and on special projects and through sharing of teachers and administrators for special emphases and projects on mission fields.

We don't find the "Missionary, go home" problem because the people you send out don't come as master and director, but with love in their hearts," Cauthen said.

Last year Fisher conducted a study of the academic qualifications of Hong Kong Baptist College and because of his report, the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools voted that Hong Kong Baptist College's degree is generally equivalent to bachelors degrees in Baptist colleges in the United States.

This year Fisher, Gordon Sweet, chief executive of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and a team of Baptist educators will return to Hong Kong to study the possibility of academic recognition of the Hong Kong Baptist College by the Southern Association.

Resolutions passed at the meeting included one to the SBC Executive Committee's program committee urging that it renew scholarship loan funds for the commission to use in assisting Baptist professors to secure doctoral degrees.

Another resolution expressed gratitude to the SBC Stewardship Commission for its efforts in promotion of the Cooperative Program, unified budget and indicated that the commission would support and promote it at its 50th anniversary.

The commission also commended Guinn, the outgoing chairman, for his leadership.

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Tells Educators

June 25, 1974

'Keep Baptist Identity,'
Baylor's McCall Warns

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--Southern Baptist colleges and universities which try to become like state schools will die, the president of the nation's largest Baptist college said here.

And those which maintain their distinctively Baptist character will survive, Abner McCall, president of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., told the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Private church-related schools must concentrate on what they have to sell in contrast to other available education, McCall told the commissioners who relate to 71 Southern Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries across the country.

Southern Baptist and other private church-related schools face increased costs and stepped up recruiting battles with state schools sparked by declining enrollments which have resulted from a drop in the birth rate in the United States and a loss of the "old time faith" in what education will do, McCall said.

"It's not what you teach, but more how and why you go about it," McCall said.

Private schools, he continued, can't claim to provide better quality education. Surveys have shown "students learn about the same in any college--over 90 percent depends on the individual student."

Educators of any variety, continued the former Baylor Law School dean and Texas Supreme Court Justice, can't sell the economic worth of a liberal arts degree.

"We have heard that the college degree earns the graduate \$250,000 more than a non-graduate over a lifetime," McCall said.

"That may have been true 20-30 years ago when students came from affluent homes with influence to get them high-paying jobs. But now, there are 10 million students in schools, many from disadvantaged backgrounds who won't earn much more over a lifetime than those in vocational training," he said.

Educators can also no longer sell education as the cure-all for society's problems, McCall continued.

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"The golden age of education is past. People who used to believe higher education would solve all our political, moral and social problems have become disillusioned because it has not solved any of these things."

He said "The educational program of any college is not designed to make people good--but knowledgeable."

Religion, he noted, has largely been pushed out of many schools, and "even some church-related schools are neutral."

Secular truth, as important as that knowledge is, is not the truth that sets you free from sin, McCall said.

"Baptists need to be in the business of providing the truth of Jesus Christ which will truly set us free."

So, he reiterated, Baptists, while they should provide quality education, should never forget the distinctive they have to offer--in Christian perspective.

Citing Baylor as an example of the different type of education Baptists have to sell, McCall said, "I ask a potential professor about his Christian commitment. We want him to have concern and compassion for every student. He's more likely to do so if he's a Christian. Just because someone has a Ph.D. does not make him compassionate."

"I won't yield to the right to give preference to Baptists first as faculty members and, if they're not available to other evangelical Christians," McCall continued.

"We still believe the concept of 'in loco parentis'--in place of the parent--" McCall said. "That's a dirty word in state colleges but at Baylor we're going to encourage students to do right."

"Our Baptist schools have a definite commitment. We are there to help the student and give the same personal concern as a parent has. And we want the parent to stay in partnership with us during the educational and maturation process--not dump the student on us for four years."

Also, McCall pointed out, peer group pressure is stronger than the influence of faculty or administration. At a Christian school, the Christian students will "support each other and help each other stay on the straight and narrow."

McCall warned that Baptist schools should not only be primarily Baptist, but should recruit among them.

"Baylor has about 8,000 students. Without our connection with Baptists we'd have about 1,000 students and be primarily a localized school in Waco," he said.

The connection with Baptists is a mutual advantage, he said. "If we maintain it in strength we will be of service and survive. Those schools which will live will rely more on Baptists and not less."

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Thomas E. Corts Is New
Wingate College President

6/25/74

WINGATE, N.C. (BP)--Thomas E. Corts, former director of a state college and university consortium for televised higher education in Kentucky, is the new president of Wingate College, a Baptist school here.

Corts, formerly executive vice-president of Georgetown (Ky.) College, succeeds Budd E. Smith, who retired recently.

A native of Ashtabula, Ohio, Corts holds the bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown College, the master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees from Indiana University.

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In Kentucky, he directed the activities of a consortium concerned with reaching the non-traditional learner. These included housewives, persons with families, the handicapped, and persons not usually thought of as college-age.

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'Carnal Knowledge' Film
Not Obscene, Says Court

6/25/74

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court unanimously reversed the conviction of an Albany, Ga. theater owner arrested for distributing obscene material by showing the film, 'Carnal Knowledge.'

The court thus reaffirmed its 1973 decisions on obscenity by stating that to be obscene, material must be "patently offensive" and appeal to "prurient interest." In spite of this new ruling, however, the court has not yet attempted a clear definition of obscenity.

'Carnal Knowledge' is the story of two young college men who are constantly pre-occupied with their sex lives. Jack Nicholson, one of the stars, is the more outgoing of the two and engages in a series of meaningless sexual relationships. He finally meets Ann-Margaret, one of the female leads in the film who is the embodiment of his dream of the perfect woman. She desperately wants to marry him. He resists, however, and their relationship crumbles as they torment one another.

Art Garfunkel, the other male lead, and Nicholson's lifelong friend, falls in love with a sophisticated college classmate (Candice Bergen) and they are married. Their relationship too, becomes strained as Garfunkel climbs the ladder of "success," leading eventually to a meaningless marriage.

Justice William H. Rehnquist, who wrote the court's opinion declared that "It would be a serious misreading" of the court's 1973 decisions "to conclude that juries have unbridled discretion in determining what is 'patently offensive.'"

The case, Jenkins V. Georgia, drew considerable interest from local public officials seeking further clarification of what constitutes obscenity, and from the film industry, which viewed the case as a crucial test of film makers' future freedom in producing new films.

Billy Jenkins, the appellant, was convicted of distributing obscene material for displaying the film in 1972, a year and a half before the landmark Supreme Court decisions of 1973. Those decisions were most fully expressed in the case Miller V. California.

The Miller decision of last year, in addition to setting up "patently offensive" and "appealing to prurient interest" standards, further stated that local communities may establish their own definitions of obscenity.

In its new decision, the court said that Jenkins could benefit from the 1973 decisions, even though his arrest and conviction preceded the decisions themselves.

Four of the nine justices issued two concurring opinions in which they declared the view that the court should have gone further by declaring clearly what constitutes obscenity.

Speaking for fellow justices Potter Stewart and Thurgood Marshall, Justice William J. Brennan Jr., declared that in his view, the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution prohibit both state and federal governments from "attempting wholly to suppress sexually oriented materials on the basis of their allegedly 'obscene' contents," unless such materials are distributed to juveniles or to unconsenting adults.

In a separate concurring opinion, Justice William O. Douglas reaffirmed his view that "any ban on obscenity is prohibited by the First Amendment."

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