

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

December 28, 1951

HERRING RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT
OF GOLDEN GATE SEMINARY

BERKELEY, Calif. --(BP)-- Dr. Benjamin O. Herring, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in ^Berkeley since 1946, has submitted his resignation, effective May 31, 1952. The resignation has been confirmed by Dr. E.H. Westmoreland, Houston, Texas, chairman of the board of trustees.

Dated December 15, the resignation will not be acted upon by the trustees until their annual meeting in Berkeley in February, Dr. Westmoreland said.

Under Dr. Herring's leadership, Southern Baptists' seminary serving the western part of the Convention territory has recorded a rapid growth. The current semester's enrolment of 200 is a marked increase over the thirty-one who enrolled in the fall of 1946, Dr. Herring's initial semester. The 1951-52 cumulative enrolment is expected to exceed 240.

Plans are now being formulated for beginning construction on a permanent site for the Seminary in Berkeley. The Southern Baptist Convention has already granted the seminary \$1,000,000 for building. A campus sufficient to accommodate 600 students is being planned for within five to ten years.

Before coming to the seminary presidency, Dr. Herring was for twenty-one years a member of the faculty at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. He has the bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from Baylor and the master of theology and doctor of philosophy from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Herring has as yet announced no plans for the future.

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MERCER CAMPAIGN PROGRESSES

MACON, Ga. --(BP)-- Over seventy per cent of Mercer University's \$600,000 goal in the Spright Dowell School of Education endowment campaign has been raised, according to Dr. Louie D. Newton, Atlanta, honorary chairman of the drive.

Dr. Newton commended Georgia Baptists for their generosity in the \$433,179.36 given thus far but stressed a need for a concerted effort in completing the drive.

The School of Education, named in honor of Mercer's long-time president, must meet endowment standards to remain accredited with the Southern Association of Colleges.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN DIES
IN PLANE CRASH NEAR TEHRAN

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Dr. Henry G. Bennett, director of President Truman's Point Four Program and a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, was killed December 22 when his plane, carrying an American party to Tehran, Iran, for a diplomatic visit in connection with the technical program, crashed in a snowstorm just north of Tehran.

Mrs. Bennett was among the twenty-two passengers, all of whom perished in the tragedy.

The sixty-five-year-old president of Oklahoma A. & M. College was granted a leave of absence from his duties in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in November of last year to become head of the technical assistance program.

An outstanding educator and agriculturist, Dr. Bennett was known throughout Southern Baptist territory as an influential Baptist leader. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist College, Arkansas, he served the Baptists of Oklahoma on many committees and boards and was at one time vice-president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He was a member of the board of trustees of Oklahoma Baptist University.

Much of the Christian atmosphere provided on the campus of the Oklahoma A. & M. College was attributed to Dr. Bennett's consistent influence and leadership. The son of a Baptist minister, he was frequently in demand as a pulpit speaker and program personality in both Baptist and other churches.

In paying tribute to the leadership of the outstanding Baptist layman, Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, said:

"In the death of Dr. Henry G. Bennett the United States has not only lost a valuable citizen in the director of its Point Four Program, but the Nation has lost a man who saw the world and its needs in the spirit of Christ. The Executive Committee has lost a valuable member who took time out from his busy official life to study the needs and problems of Southern Baptist agencies and institutions. Mrs. Bennett will be missed because of her intense interest in Christian missions and in Southern Baptist mission activities around the world."

Dr. Bennett was known as one of America's most enthusiastic "flying college presidents." His interest in aeronautics was instrumental in the birth a few years ago of Oklahoma's Flying Farmers, an organization which has expanded to national proportions just lately.

Often named among the ten top educators in the nation, he was listed in Who's Who in American Education and Who's Who in America.

BIRMINGHAM BAPTIST HOSPITALS
LAUNCH EXPANSION PROGRAM

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. --(BP)-- A million-dollar expansion and improvement program was launched for Birmingham's two Baptist hospitals recently with ground-breaking ceremonies for the two three-story wing additions to the West End Hospital.

The two wings, contracted at \$886,000, will provide additional bed capacity of ninety-two, additional operating rooms, laboratories, central storage space and expansion of kitchen and dining room facilities.

Improvements and new installations are planned for the Highland Avenue Hospital.

Funds are being pledged and given liberally, according to W.I. Pittman, Birmingham layman who is heading the advance program. The medical staff of the two hospitals, including 217 Birmingham physicians, have contributed more than \$100,000. Federal funds offered to Birmingham Baptists for the construction two years ago were refused.

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MILAM BRINGS REPORT
FROM CANADIAN BAPTISTS

PORTLAND, Ore. --(BP)-- Canadian Baptists in British Columbia "differ little from Southern Baptists who now join them both south and north," reports Dr. R.E. Milam, executive-secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington, after a recent visit to the Conference of Regular Baptists of British Columbia.

British Columbia Baptists, "a courageous, Bible believing, Bible practicing people," according to Milam, face a religious situation much similar to that of Southern Baptists in the Northwest -- modernism, ecumenicalism and Catholicism.

The Canadian group have recently founded Northwest Baptist Bible College at Port Coquitlam.

Southern Baptist mission work in Ketchikan, Alaska, is only sixty miles from the northernmost British Columbia church at Prince Rupert, while it is only a few miles less from Vancouver, their southern point, to Bellingham, Washington, Southern Baptists' northernmost point.

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BAPTIST STATION KYBS
CLOSES DOWN IN DALLAS

DALLAS, Tex. --(BP)-- Station KYBS, operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas here, has gone off the air permanently, with a committee being appointed to dispose of the \$90,000 worth of property on which the station was located.

The executive board of the Convention ordered the shut-down "as soon as it is in keeping with good business practices" as the result of a \$25,000 to \$30,000 loss during each of its two years of operation. The station was the only one of a proposed statewide Baptist network which was never developed.

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WILLIAMS WILL DIRECT MUSIC
FOR MIAMI CONVENTION IN MAY

TULSA, Okla. --(BP)-- Dr. Loren R. Williams, minister of music of the First Baptist Church in Tulsa, has been named to be the director of music for the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Miami, Florida, next May 14-18.

Serving the Tulsa church as his third congregation since entering the music ministry, Dr. Williams was for fifteen years director of music in the public schools of Neosho, Missouri.

Under his direction, a fully-graded choir program at the Tulsa church includes around 400 participants, in both choral and individual activities.

Having studied in several colleges and conservatories in Missouri, he holds the bachelor of science degree in music education, the master of music, and the doctor of education. He attended both Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Missouri, and William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri.

Dr. Williams is now a part-time instructor in the church music field at the University of Tulsa and is a frequent contributor to music periodicals.

The Convention music director was named by Dr. J.D. Grey, New Orleans, Louisiana, president of the Convention.

Correspondence with Dr. Williams should be addressed to the First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.