

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Southwestern Seminary Sets
Up Degree Program in Houston**

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will begin this fall offering accredited degree courses in an off-campus program in Houston to "take the seminary to the minister rather than making the minister come to the seminary," a seminary spokesman said.

The program, entitled Southwestern Seminary in Southeast Texas, was approved by the executive committee of the board of trustees of Southwestern, the world's largest seminary and one of six owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is an outgrowth of research among the 490 Baptist churches in the Houston-Galveston area. Two independent surveys revealed that 49 percent of the church staff personnel had no seminary training.

Based on these and other findings, a coordinating committee representing the churches proposed the off campus program which will be within easy reach of seven associations of Baptist churches--Bay, Union, Galveston, Gulf Coast, Creath-Brazos, Tryon-Evergreen and Coastal Plains.

The coordinating committee will financially underwrite the project, Southwestern Seminary will furnish the educational personnel and Houston Baptist University will supply the classroom and office space.

Jesse Northcutt, Southwestern Seminary's vice president for academic affairs, said courses offered will lead to two basic degrees--the master of divinity and the master of religious education.

The program, says Robert P. Naylor, seminary president, "is designed to provide graduate theological education in a major metropolitan area not presently served by a local, established seminary."

Northcutt said the program will "enable those people committed to ministry to get a theological education without leaving their church field."

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., another of the six SBC seminaries already has established an off-campus satellite degree program. One of its major off-campus centers is Los Angeles.

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Woman Heads Deans' Group;
Educators Conduct BusinessBaptist Press
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NASHVILLE (BP)--An Atlanta educator became the first woman to head the deans' section of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools (ASBCS) during meetings here of the ASBCS and the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jean Hendricks, academic dean at Mercer University, Atlanta, was elected president by fellow deans, succeeding Ruric Wheeler, vice president for academic affairs at Samford University, Birmingham.

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John Fincher, president of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., was elected ASBCS president, with James Staples, president of California Baptist College, Riverside, as vice president, and H. I. Hester, well-known retired SBC educator from Liberty, Mo., as secretary-treasurer.

The Education Commission elected William G. Tanner, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, to a second term as chairman; re-elected Budd Smith, retired president of Wingate (N. C.) College as vice-chairman; and named Tom Madden, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, Tenn., as secretary. Ben C. Fisher of Nashville is executive director-treasurer.

Besides Jean Hendricks, other dean's section officers are Jerry L. Surratt, academic dean at Wingate College, vice president; and Joseph M. Ernest Jr., academic vice president at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., secretary-treasurer.

The Education Commission, which serves as liaison between Baptist schools and SBC agencies, voted a 1975-76 budget of \$196,000, named Howard Kirksey, a Baptist layman and retired academic vice president at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, as a consultant in placement for a year, beginning Oct. 1, and discussed issues related to challenges facing educational institutions.

The commission established goals for the future including development of a "vigorous program" of national student recruitment; building the acceptance of Southern Baptist educational institutions as national resources; conducting a serious study of student ministries on Baptist college campuses; developing an in-depth study of adult education and its significance for Baptist educational institutions; studying and coordinating for ign study and student and faculty exchange programs; issuing of the fourth addition of Fisher's Trustee Orientation Manual; and increasing services to Baptist colleges in preparing self-study and following up self-study for reaccreditation.

The ASBCS, which has a membership of 71 Baptist educational institutions across country, voted a 1975-76 operating budget of \$5,450; heard plans for a National Colloquium on higher education to be sponsored by the Education Commission, June 9-12, 1976, in Williamsburg, Va., and commended Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka, Japan for its work and funding in foreign student exchanges with Baptist colleges in the United States.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Hughey Reports Mid-East
Hospitals Financially Hurt

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RICHMOND (BP)--Two Baptist hospitals, in Gaza and Jordan, are facing financial difficulties, J. D. Hughey, area secretary for Europe and the Middle East, told the June meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here.

He also updated board members on relief work in Bangladesh and highlighted the evangelistic opportunities there.

He made the report following a six-and-a-half week trip to 10 countries in his area.

"Since they (the hospitals) have always been mainly charitable institutions, they find it extremely difficult now to get paying patients," Hughey said. He noted they are having problems despite receiving the highest subsidies of all mission hospitals supported by Baptists.

"There is not a large enough local Baptist constituency anywhere in the Middle East to give much financial help to our hospitals. Inflation and escalating medical costs are great problems everywhere," he added.

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The Ajloun Baptist Hospital in Jordan is facing such a crisis. Two new government hospitals which offer free medical care have been constructed in Amman, about one hour's drive from Ajloun. Such competition puts even more financial pressure on private hospitals, Hughey said.

The Gaza hospital's financial situation has been improved by the recent decision of the United Nations Relief and Welfare Administration (UNRWA) to pay 85 percent of the cost of refugee patient expenses for those it sends to the hospital, he said. Fees have been increased, some employees have been discharged and private paying patients of a few doctors in Gaza are to be admitted to the hospital, he added.

Two other hospitals on which Hughey reported were in Yemen and Bangalore, India. These are in better financial condition, but may face similar problems in the future, he said.

Hughey also visited Bangladesh to assess relief work there.

"The need is enormous," he said. "The land has suffered grievously from floods, cyclones, tidal waves, civil war, overpopulation, undeveloped industry and under-developed agriculture."

He observed the "Food for Work" programs in which people receive food and a small amount of money for work.

He also visited a half-way house for widows and orphans near Faridpur, where women are given \$50 by the government towards the building of a home when they return to their villages. In addition, Baptists gave 34 women enough tin for the roofs of their houses.

"One woman came forward to touch our feet as an expression of gratitude. Later we could see the women and their children setting out for their villages carrying the tin on their heads or in rickshaws."

Hughey also reported evangelistic success in the country.

"The people of Bangladesh are probably more open to the gospel now than they have ever been before."

During his stay, he preached in Dacca's Immanuel Baptist Church, before 300 people.

"Many people must travel great distances to church, paying half a day's wages for the rickshaw rides of their families--but they do it."

Concluding, he said, "Our missionaries in Bangladesh are glad to do relief work. However, they do not want to be just relief workers. They know that man does not live by bread alone.

"They want to offer the bread of life."

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CORRECTION

In the BP story of 6/25/75, headlined "16th Century Englishman Struck Blow for Religious Liberty," the headline should read "17th . . ." (instead of 16th).

Thanks--

Baptist Press