



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 8, 1975

75-122

HEW Secretary Mathews
Is An Alabama Baptist

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--Forrest David Mathews, sworn in as new Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) by President Ford on August 8, is a Baptist who chooses not to wear his religion on the cuff.

For 20 years, since his student days at the University of Alabama, Mathews has belonged to the Calvary Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist congregation, in Tuscaloosa. The last six of those years, he has served as president of the University of Alabama.

During his undergraduate years at Alabama, he was active in the Baptist Student Union (BSU), serving as president of both the university and state BSU organizations. He has been a featured speaker at annual sessions of the Alabama Baptist Convention and currently serves as a trustee at Judson (Ala.) College, a Baptist school.

According to his pastor, Allan R. Watson, both Mathews and his wife Mary have led "exemplary" lives. At the same time, Watson notes that Mathews has been sensitive about parading his religious affiliation. "He has purposefully . . . not wanted too much play on it," the pastor observed.

That trait seems consistent with Mathews' personality. Although his career has risen meteorically, he's a quiet and unassuming type. During his recent confirmation hearings before two committees of the U. S. Senate, reporters sometimes had to strain to hear his responses to senators' questions.

Under persistent questioning from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) about the senator's view of quality health care as a "right" possessed by every American citizen, Mathews insisted that he is committed to seek solutions to the nation's health care problems, but declined to endorse the concept of health care as a "right." "With all due respect," Kennedy replied, "I consider that a non-answer." Mathews said nothing else.

Later, asked about the Kennedy exchange, he reportedly said, "I can't figure that out." He was evidently surprised that the hardest questions from the panel would come from Kennedy, who once appeared at the University of Alabama for a speech during Mathews' presidency there, and whom Mathews considers an ally.

Nevertheless, his low-key approach seemed to impress the senators, including Kennedy. He was confirmed by the full Senate on July 22 by a voice vote.

At 39, the youngest member of the president's cabinet, Mathews will undoubtedly find his biggest challenge yet in administering the mammoth HEW, largest of all the federal agencies. Its budget for the current fiscal year runs to \$120 billion, almost one-third of the federal budget.

Despite his youth, Mathews' nomination seemed to surprise no one. At 33, when he became president of the University of Alabama, he was the youngest head of a major university in the nation. That was in 1969, and the young president already had nine years' experience as a college administrator in various posts.

Mathews' educational background includes bachelor's and master's degrees from Alabama, where he was a Phi Beta Kappa, and the doctor of philosophy degree, in the history of American education at Columbia. In 1969, he was named one of the "Ten Most Outstanding Young Men in the Nation" by the U. S. Jaycees.

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Among his professional activities, besides his trusteeship at Judson College, Mathews has served as Alabama state chairman for the March of Dimes campaign, member of the National Programming Council for Public Television, member of the Alabama Council on the Humanities, member of the Southern Growth Policies Board and member of the Advisory Council of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist papers

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Mildred Souther Dies
In Salt Lake City

Baptist Press
8/8/75

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)--Mildred Curtis Souther, 62, died in a hospital here after a brief illness. Dr. Souther and her husband, William H. Souther, were in Utah, where he was to begin work with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

She had been professor of childhood education and director of the Demonstration School at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where her husband had also served before going to Utah.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Souther; a son, William Robert Souther of Jackson, Miss., and a daughter, Joy Souther Cullen, a Southern Baptist missionary to Bangkok, Thailand. Funeral services were held in New Orleans and Dallas, with burial in Dallas.

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Mars Hill College Awarded
\$157,250 from Kellogg

Baptist Press
8/8/75

MARS HILL, N.C. (BP)--Mars Hill College, a Baptist school here, has received a \$157,250 grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich., to continue work on the college's competence-based curriculum.

Mars Hill President Fred B. Bentley said the grant is the largest program grant in the school's 119 year history. It follows a \$100,000 grant made by Kellogg to the college in 1973.

The grant will be used to implement a faculty development program over a two year period which will be directly related to the college's new academic program. According to academic vice-president, Richard Hoffman, who guided the faculty team which formulated the original proposal, "This second grant is a real tribute to the faculty and staff of Mars Hill and, in a large measure, justifies the tremendous work done by the faculty in initiating the competence program. Since the Kellogg Foundation rarely makes a follow-up award, this grant is highly significant."

The competence-based curriculum was introduced on an experimental basis during the 1973-74 school year and on a curriculum-wide basis this past year. In establishing the competence-based program, the college has identified certain educational and skill competencies which represent full emotional, intellectual, and psychological development of the student. In contrast to traditional approaches, the new curriculum emphasizes the accountability of the college in the progress of its students.

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Parks Named New Foreign
Mission Support Director

Baptist Press
8/8/75

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--R. Keith Parks, secretary for Southeast Asia for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was elected director of the board's mission support division, during the board's August meeting here.

He succeeds Jesse C. Fletcher, who resigned in May to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn. Fletcher had headed one of three board divisions. The others are overseas division and the management services division.

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As director of the mission support division, Parks will coordinate the work of the departments of missionary personnel, missionary education, and promotion and furlough ministries. He will also give general supervision to public relations and press personnel.

As secretary for Southeast Asia since 1968, Parks has administered the work of missionaries assigned to Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Guam.

He was previously treasurer of the Baptist mission of Indonesia (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries), having been a missionary there 14 years.

Born in Memphis, Tex., Parks lived in several towns in Texas and Arkansas during his youth. He was graduated from North Texas State College (now University) in Denton, with the bachelor of arts degree, and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., with the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees.

Before going to Indonesia he was pastor of Red Springs (Tex.) Baptist Church, instructor in Bible at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and summer missionary to San Andres Island, Colombia.

He and his wife were appointed missionaries in 1954. After initial language study he joined the faculty of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Indonesia in Semarang, Java. His work there included administration, teaching, counseling and supervision of construction. He was acting president during furloughs of the seminary's missionary president. In addition, he was active in evangelistic work in the Semarang area.

From January 1964 until July 1965, he served in the Foreign Mission Board's department for missionary personnel as an associate secretary, working primarily with mission candidates in the western United States. He assumed the responsibility of mission treasurer in Djakarta, Java, upon his return to Indonesia.

Parks is author of "Crosscurrents" (Convention Press, 1966), a mission study book about Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan and India.

His wife is the former Helen Jean Bond of Abilene. They have four children.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Reavis Named to Foreign
Board Personnel Post

Baptist Press
8/8/75

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Don A. Reavis, regional personnel representative for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was elected by the board as an associate secretary for missionary personnel, effective August 8.

Reavis will work with candidates for foreign mission service in the Western United States, which will include candidates at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

In his new position, he will counsel prospective missionaries from the time they enter seminary until they are appointed. He will help them examine their motivation and qualifications. He also will work closely with the staff and personnel committee in the evaluation of candidates.

Reavis takes the position vacated by W.L. (Wimpy) Smith, who has been named to fill a newly-created post as associate consultant on laymen overseas and associate disaster response coordinator, assisting W. Eugene Grubbs, who is primarily responsible for both roles.

As a regional representative, Reavis counseled with persons interested in foreign missions and channeled qualified volunteers into the screening procedures leading toward missionary appointment.

His base was Fort Worth, and his area covered New Mexico and Texas, including Southwestern Seminary.

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In 1970, Reavis was named regional personnel representative with headquarters in Kansas City, Mo. His area then included 19 states west of the Mississippi River and the campus of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. He came to Fort Worth in 1972.

He was resident director for the 1971 and '72 Southern Baptist Missionary Journeyman training program at Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C. The seven-week-course prepares college graduates 26 years of age and under for two years of specialized work assisting career missionaries overseas.

For three years prior to his employment by the board in 1970, Reavis was director of the Baptist Student Union and an instructor in Bible at Angelo State University, San Angelo, Tex.

Previously, he directed the Baptist Student Union in the West Texas area. He was pastor of the Burneyville Baptist Church, Burneyville, Okla., for two years while attending seminary.

A native of Beaumont, Tex., Reavis was graduated from East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, with the bachelor of arts degree and from Southwestern Seminary, with the master of divinity degree.

He is married to the former Barbara Walker of Shreveport, La. They have two children, Bill, born in 1961, and Arlene, 1962.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Board Names Hays New
East Asia Secretary

Baptist Press
8/8/75

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--George H. Hays, East Asia field representative for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will be the new area secretary for East Asia. He will succeed James D. Belote, former area secretary, who died in Richmond, Va., March 4 of a heart attack.

East Asia is one of eight areas into which the board divides its overseas administration. As area secretary, Hays will serve as a liaison between the missionaries and the board. He will be responsible for missionaries in Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Okinawa, Japan, Korea and Mainland China (if it reopens).

Hays and his wife have been missionaries since 1948. As field representative for East Asia, Hays has provided a personal link between the board and its missionaries in the area. He will assume his new duties September 1.

After being appointed as missionaries, the Hays studied the Japanese language for two years in Tokyo. They were then assigned to Seinan Gakuin, where he taught in the theological department of the university in Fukuoka.

In 1958 he became treasurer of the Japan Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries), and they moved to Tokyo. He continued to lecture periodically at Seinan Gakuin

Hays is a native of Clark County, Mo. He received the associate of arts degree from Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., the bachelor of arts degree from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and the master and doctor of theology degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

His wife is the former Helen Mathis of Louisville, Ky. They have three grown children.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Wrapup

Board Names Personnel;
Allots \$195,000 For Relief

CLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, at its August meeting here appointed 41 missionaries, appropriated \$195,000 for world relief and elected three staff members to fill home office posts.

R. Keith Parks, the board's secretary for Southeast Asia since 1968 and formerly a missionary in Indonesia for 14 years, was named director of the mission support division, replacing Jesse C. Fletcher, who resigned in May to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.

"Dr. Parks has served with distinction both as a missionary and as area secretary," said Baker James Cauthen, the board's executive secretary. "His election has occasioned great joy and enthusiasm both among board members and the staff. We anticipate for him outstanding work in this new responsibility."

The new secretary for East Asia will be George H. Hays, currently East Asia's field representative and a missionary since 1948. He succeeds James D. Belote who died in Richmond, Va., March 4, of a heart attack.

Don A. Reavis, a regional personnel representative for the board, was elected as an associate secretary for missionary personnel, replacing W.L. (Wimpey) Smith who now serves as the board's associate consultant on laymen overseas and associate disaster response coordinator.

Of the \$195,000 appropriated for relief, \$150,000 is for relief and rehabilitation projects in hunger-plagued Bangladesh; and \$30,000 for flood relief in Recife, Brazil; \$10,000 to provide water supplies in Tonga areas of Rhodesia; and \$5,000 to assist refugees from Africa who are now in Portugal.

In addition, another \$2,006 was appropriated for work with Vietnamese refugees at Camp Pendleton, Calif, and Eglin Air Force base, Fla. The Foreign Mission Board earlier made appropriations in May for refugee work at Camp Chaffee, Ark.

Southern Baptist missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Myers of the Vietnam mission were authorized by the board to continue working with the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees and to serve as a liaison between the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board concerning refugees assistance.

The board also appropriated \$102,746 to cover personal losses and outfit allowances for several missionaries who recently fled Vietnam and Laos due to the fall of those two countries to Communist control. The board also redesignated \$69,172, previously designated to Vietnam, to be used in Indonesia.

The appointment of 41 missionaries brings to 200 the total additions to the missionary force in 1975. More than 2,600 missionaries now serve over 80 countries.

Appointed were Mr. and Mrs. Leslie W. Davis from Oklahoma and Texas, assigned to Middle America and the Caribbean; Mr. and Mrs. Deral E. Dockins, Missouri, to Ecuador; Mr. and Mrs. E. Gary Harthcock, Mississippi and North Carolina, to Leeward Islands; Mr. and Mrs. David A. Helton, Missouri, to Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Henry, Colorado and New Mexico, to Spain; Mr. and Mrs. William L. Hitt, Texas, to Thailand.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rex Holt, Arkansas, to Togo; Mr. and Mrs. F. Mitchell Land, Texas, to Togo; Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Lewis, Texas to Columbia; Mr. and Mrs. Elliott (Manny) Manferd, Alabama and Texas, to Chile; Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Montgomery, Texas and Arkansas, to Ghana; Mr. and Mrs. Billy L. Oliver, Texas, to Yemen.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. David M. Park, Texas, to the Philippines; Annette Perry, Arkansas, to Senegal; Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Phillips, Texas and Illinois, to Hong Kong; Linda Phillips, California, to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. Bill L. Pope, Alabama and Kentucky, to Guadeloupe.

Also, Beverly Richardson, Missouri, to Jordan; Mr. and Mrs. Rob P. Sellers Florida and Oklahoma, to Indonesia; Mr. and Mrs. Bobby C. Speegle, Alabama, to Liberia; Mr. and Mrs. Randy D. Sprinkle, Missouri, to Ethiopia; and Mr. and Mrs. W. David Truitt, New York and Louisiana, to Mexico.

All were appointed as career missionaries with the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Harthcock and Mr. and Mrs. Speegle, who were employed as missionary associates.

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Baptist Urges President;
'Amnesty for War Resisters,'

Baptist Press
8/8/75

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--A Southern Baptist seminary professor called on President Ford to reconsider granting universal and unconditional amnesty to all Indo-China war resisters and dissenters, during a conference here on "Southern Baptists and the Bicentennial."

Henlee H. Barnette, professor of Christian ethics at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and an outspoken advocate of amnesty for Vietnam War resisters, charged, "We have amnestized the Presidents and their administrations, the Pentagonites, the military and the religious who helped to keep us in that war."

Barnette said he had written President Ford urging him to grant universal and unconditional amnesty, but that he had not had a reply.

Barnette's two sons took different routes during the Vietnam War. One served as a U.S. Army officer twice in South Vietnam, while the other chose the conscientious objector route.

"We have not only amnestized the corrupt political leaders in Vietnam," explained Barnette, "but also the (South Vietnamese) generals and soldiers who deserted the battlefields leaving millions of dollars of American war material."

Barnette told the conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, "We have not only amnestized these people, but we now have welcomed them to our land and are subsidizing them with our tax money."

"I have no complaint about the Vietnamese refugees coming to America he emphasized, "but what I do object to is the fact that our government has not shown the same kind of compassion toward our own children and welcomed them back to their own land."

The professor cautioned the conferees against becoming "super patriots" whose motto would be "my country right or wrong," having a blind obedience on one's government regardless of its policy. It is a narrow type of patriotism in which pride of a nation tends to become ultimate and therefore idolatrous," said Barnette.

"What is needed," Barnette said, "is an authentic, genuine patriotism which places morality above material interest and expresses itself in such symbols as the pledge allegiance to the flag and in the national anthem."

The American flag--which I display in front of my house on every fourth of July," explained Barnette, "to the true patriot is not blindfold, it is a bright symbol to inspire us to challenge evil at every level of our government."

"There have been many authentic patriots in our history, from the apostles Peter and John to author of "Pilgrims Progress," John Bunyon, who went to prison because of their belief in God," Barnette reminded.

"In more recent days, those courageous young men who refused to participate in the Indo-China war on the grounds of Christian conscience, obeying the will of God for their lives, were authentic patriots."

"They were creative, corrective catalysts who prematurely saw the futility and evil of their country's intervention in a civil war 10,000 miles from home, For this they were punished," reported Barnette; "some of them were taught in churches to love their enemies and the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill.' When they obeyed, their churches disowned them and some members called them cowards and traitors."

Barnette challenged local churches and the Southern Baptist Convention to overcome the deterrents which prevent real political and social reform. "Such things as the decentralized nature of preaching, which tells people what to do but not how to do it usually has resulted in the church doing very little about social issues," Barnette added.

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"As a result, Baptists have shown more concern for adding church members than developing Christian character, piety than prophesy, racial segregation rather than saving races, banning firecrackers rather than the nuclear bomb. In short, Baptists have long majored on minor social issues. Yet, despite these limitations, Baptists have made significant impacts upon our society," Barnette concluded.

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'Keep Baptist Freedoms
Alive,' Historian Urges

Baptist Press
8/8/75

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--A church historian called upon the Southern Baptist Convention to update the freedoms Baptists won from their founders and urged them to keep freedom alive in the denomination, during a conference here on "Southern Baptists and the Bicentennial."

"The sad truth is that Southern Baptists are woefully unaware of their Baptist heritage, Walter B. Shurden told participants at the conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"And we cannot update Baptist freedom today unless we know what it was yesterday," declared the professor of church history at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

"If you think that Baptists of today are a herd of timid, effete thumb sucking Christians, fearful of any controversy and all change, please don't make the mistake of thinking that Baptists have always been domesticated. Baptists were born in the bosom of theological, ecclesiastical and political radicalism," Shurden said.

"Our granddaddies cut their teeth on a concept of civil disobedience," explained the Southern Baptist historian. "They survived by it and carved out a place in American history by their use of it."

Shurden challenged Southern Baptists to take a hard look at the ways they can update the freedom they have stood for historically.

"It was easy for Baptists in the colonial period to advocate religious liberty, for then it did not exist in many places. It has been easy for Southern Baptists in the deep South, because of our great numbers, to be satisfied with a quasi-established church, because this time we are the 'establishment'. We must, with integrity, extend this principle of religious liberty for all in the face of an increasingly religiously pluralistic America," urged Shurden.

"For example, on every U.S. Army base in this country there are Protestant, Catholic and Jewish chapels," said Shurden, who was recently appointed as chairman of Southern Baptist Studies at Carson-Newman. "Logic, legality and Baptist principles should be willing to admit other religions to have the same rights--even a Buddhist. We must recognize their legal rights without admitting that they are right about life."

According to Shurden, Southern Baptists must update Baptist freedom by permitting women to function in Baptist life on a par with men.

"For too long we have allowed Southern Baptist women to do much of the work without corresponding influence in church and denominational life," he observed.

"In local churches the work of the power committees--namely finance and board of deacons--have in many places been entrenched in the hands of men, while the women have been relegated to less influential places," he said.

"Most Southern Baptists know by now that if the women had not spearheaded the missionary concern for the local church and denominational life, the denomination would probably be in real financial trouble," Shurden said.

"Employment of women at significant staff levels in the denomination is a vital concern," he continued, "and underpayment and underemployment of women are items which should be on the Southern Baptist agenda for work in 1976."

Shurden also cautioned "to be on the alert for those among Southern Baptists who would bypass 'soul competency--the right of each believer to interpret scripture, a basic Baptist freedom--and impose on the denomination a centralized theology."

"Recently, a committee of the Southern Baptist Convention studied the changing of the name of our convention, but once we creedalize our faith, we will have unconsciously changed the name to the Southern Baptist Church," Shurden concluded.

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