

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

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September 17, 1975

75-145

Two Baptist Colleges Get Federal Grants

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two Southern Baptist colleges are among 10 church-related schools or agencies to receive federal grants totaling \$602,769 "to improve the quality and to increase the effectiveness of postsecondary education."

Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) Assistant Secretary for Education Virginia Y. Trotter said in a news release that the fund for the improvement of postsecondary education had awarded grants totalling \$11.5 million to 135 public and private institutions.

Mercer University, a Georgia Baptist school, received two grants for a total of \$80,114, according to the HEW release, and Mars Hill College, a North Carolina Baptist school, received \$51,992.

One of the Mercer University grants (\$60,998) "provides, in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Offender Rehabilitation and two private junior colleges, an educational and counseling program for offenders and ex-offenders from state penal institutions to facilitate their transition to work and learning."

The other Mercer grant (\$19,116) "attempts to increase teaching effectiveness and develop new incentives for improvements in teaching in a cooperative effort with three other colleges."

The Mars Hill College grant (\$51,992) "develops a core curriculum based upon standards as to what students need to know and be able to do when they graduate. A key element in this project is a center that measures competencies whenever learners believe they are ready and also provides teaching effectiveness measures for the faculty."

Commenting on the grants provided by the Education Amendments Act of 1972, Assistant Secretary Trotter said, "Although many institutions are facing severe financial stringency, they are also under immediate pressure to adopt and improve their programs to be more responsive to needs of the learner and the economy. To accomplish this often requires some additional initial investment, and fund grants provide that needed margin."

Three Roman Catholic colleges received grants for a total of \$218,138. They are Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., \$52,138; Our Lady of the Lake, San Antonio, Tex., \$55,000; and Lone Mountain College, San Francisco, Calif., \$111,000.

Two Methodist schools receiving grants are Shenandoah College, Winchester, Va., \$37,938; and Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tex., \$32,385.

Receiving one grant each are Bethel College, Mennonite, North Newton, Kan., \$40,420; and Society for Religion in Higher Education, New Haven, Conn., \$141,788.

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Weber Urges Baptists Not to
Use Ammunition on Each Other

Baptist Press
9/17/75

NASHVILLE (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, speaking here, urged proponents of evangelism and social action--both valid functions of ministry--to "get on with the task of winning our world to Christ and not waste ammunition on each other.

"When a church evangelizes and fails to disciple the total man to defeat his social problems in the power of the Spirit, it is not a true New Testament church," Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., told members of the SBC's Christian Life Commission during the commission's annual meeting. -more-

"And when a church commits itself to social action without evangelism first, that church dies," he declared.

"There is no segment of the Southern Baptist Convention life which has been under fire, so constantly, as the Christian Life Commission--even the Sunday School Board," said Weber of the SBC's social concerns agency.

"This doesn't surprise us and in a sense this role of the Christian Life Commission is to help us maintain a creative tension between doctrine and practice . . . We have not always said the right thing in the right way and it has created unnecessary tension, but in balance and in fairness we are better people and have a greater respect in the secular world because of the continual reminder and prodding of our conscience by the Christian Life Commission," he said.

"There must be less criticism on the part of people committed to either side of the question (evangelism and social action) and more love and understanding about God's objective for our world," he said.

"There is too much 'talk' and not enough 'walk' among all of us who preach either, or rather both, purposes of God--faith and social concern. Let us get on with the task of winning our world to Christ and not waste our ammunition on each other. Save it for the Devil and his demons

"One encouraging thing about the Christian Life Commission is that you have broadened your base to include more social issues. One of the unfortunate things is that for years the commission was thought of in terms of integration when actually there is so much more. The commission is informing the convention well about its many concerns."

Speaking of the need of the Christian faith to be active in influencing the world to confront its problems, Weber recalled a request by a group of white ministers that black pastors help them in a liquor fight in one of the eastern states.

"The president of the black ministers' association refused by saying, 'We asked you for help when we were discriminated against in restrooms, dining rooms, buses and at the ballot and your group said the primary work of your church was to convert souls of men and that social problems would take care of themselves. So you preach the gospel and get born-again men to solve this (the liquor) problem.'"

But Weber added: "Let us not make the mistake in believing that social concern is first in God's concern. Personal evangelism is first. Man cannot handle personal rights, economic security, the move from the ghetto, better education, building better homes and families or resolving personal social problems unless he is a new man in Christ.

"The history of revival and evangelism proves that when the gospel is faithfully proclaimed, it calls for social renewal. God's two hands must work together--personal faith and social action."

He noted that the Apostle Paul's letters to the Galatians, Ephesians and Colossians are "almost equally divided in doctrine and application" and that "James is the most practical book in the Bible and reminds that faith without works is dead."

Citing the ministry of Jesus, Weber declared, "He went where people were lonely, depressed, depraved and degenerate. He dissolved their disease of sin and treated it. He raised the dead, healed the sick and fed the hungry, but only to redeem. He taught of the kingdom of God but never left out the sociological implications of the gospel."

Weber said he has observed that "many of our great evangelistic churches in our convention are totally involved in social ministries and are aggressively seeking to build a better world in which to live."

But, he added, "When evangelism is deleted as a preacher's first emphasis and social issues his only interest, his ministry becomes meaningless, and many who have followed this course changed to government jobs and found it less prophetic than the pulpit.

**Cecilia Adkins Heads Black
Baptist Publishing House**

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Cecilia N. Adkins was elected here as executive director of the Nashville-based Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. She is believed to be the first woman in the U. S. to head a religious publishing house.

Mrs. Adkins, personnel director and financial manager of the board for the past 15 years, had served as acting executive director since January 22. She succeeds D. C. Washington, who died in October, 1974.

The Sunday School Publishing Board, publishing arm of the 6.3-million-member National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., serves some 26,000 black Baptist churches.

Mrs. Adkins, a summa cum laude graduate of Fisk University, is a licensed public accountant, a member of the Metro (Nashville area) School Board, a member of the board of trustees at Fisk, and active in community and church organizations.

She is the daughter of the late James M. Nabrit, president of American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville, 1936-44, and is married to John W. Adkins, who owns and operates the J. W. Adkins Funeral Home, Nashville.

Two brothers, James Nabrit Jr. and S. M. Nabrit, are former presidents of Howard and Texas Southern Universities respectively. Another brother, H. C. Nabrit, is pastor of Third Baptist Church, Toledo. A sister, Mrs. Margaret N. Curry, now retired, was reportedly the first black teacher at Spellman College in Atlanta and former dean of students there.

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Shun 'Play-Like' Faith Christian
Life Award-Winner Urges

Baptist Press
9/17/75

NASHVILLE (BP)--A Mississippi Baptist leader, here to accept the 1975 Distinguished Service Award of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, urged Christians to shun "play-like" Christianity.

"As a part of their wardrobe, most people have many masks," declared J. Clark Hensley, executive director of the Christian Action Council of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"Unfortunately, some Baptists celebrate Halloween each Sunday. They wear a mask to church. And, by attitude at least, some say to the pastor, 'Trick or Treat,'" he said. "They expect entertainment--or merit marks, such as 'Chalk up one for me, I'm here' or 'Preacher, you'd better have a good talk today if you expect me to be back.'"

"Jesus was most severe in his judgment upon the hypocrites--or play actors," declared Hensley, a pastor, seminary professor, associational missionary and state convention staffer during 45 years of ministry in Missouri, Tennessee and Mississippi.

"If my Christian experience is authentic," he said, "I should not be either embarrassed or too timid to witness." "After all, I am not commending myself, but my friend and savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"To the believer, the gospel message is made credible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. To the non-believer, the gospel message is made credible by a redeemed life. To the non-believer, the question is, 'Are you for real?' The non-believer is not convinced until he sees a demonstration of a change in attitudes and actions by the professing Christian.

"While our preaching and teaching must be relevant to our needs," he declared in urging proper attention to the social as well as spiritual implications of the gospel, "it must also be authentic and therefore credible."

Hensley, who has headed Mississippi Baptists' Christian Action Council since 1966, said the integrity of the one witnessing "must validate the witness." When churches "fail to witness with integrity, the witness is nullified," he continued. "To give credibility to their testimony, churches must demonstrate active social concern for all people, whether or not they add statistically to the annual association report.

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"As we struggle with our imperfections and immaturities toward growing into the fullness of the stature of Christ, we watch for the signs of the fruits of the spirit--love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, meakness, patience," he said.

"For it is when these fruits are accompanied by service to others that we give authenticity to our claim to be a Christian. 'To be and not to seem'--this is the desperate need of our time. Both the vertical and horizontal di mensions of the gospel are needed for credibility.

"The authentic Christian is called to demonstrate, in every facet of human experience, the practical application of the gospel described in such phrases as 'to bind up the broken hearted,' 'to visit the widows and the orphans,' 'to give a cup of cold water,' 'to proclaim liberty to the captive,' 'to feed the hungry,' 'to love mercy and deal justly.'

"Churches too often have interpreted these statements as applying only to spiritual concerns. Or, if any lifestyle application is made, it is applied only to 'looking after our own.' This travesty of the gospel tends to make it incredible to others. Churches exist to build men in the mood of faith, not doubt; of hope, not despair; of love, not denunciation or fault-finding."

The Christian Life Commission award, given eight previous recipients, cited Hensley as a "courageous pioneer, effective fellow laborer, tireless champion of family life, compassionate friend, faithful steward of the gospel and consistent doer of the word." It was presented by commission executive secretary, Foy Valentine.

Previous winners were Brooks Hays, former SBC president; T. B. Maston, professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; A. C. Miller, former head of the SBC Christian Life Commission; Henlee Barnette, professor of Christian ethics at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex.; and Walker Knight, editor of Home Missions, and Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary, both of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

Hensley, a native of Missouri, holds a bachelor of arts degree from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; and master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City.