



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Malesovas Succeeds Williams In Executive Committee Post

NASHVILLE (BP)--Billy D. Malesovas of Dallas, Tex., has been elected by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee here as director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer.

Malesovas, who will succeed John H. Williams, will join the Executive Committee staff Jan. 1, one month before Williams retires after 17 years in the post and nearly 41 years in denominational work. Williams was the first to hold the Executive Committee position.

Williams, who served for nearly 24 years with the Baptist Sunday School Board before joining the Executive Committee, will be asked to serve in an advisory capacity at the 1976 annual session of the SBC next June in Norfolk. One of the duties of the assistant to the treasurer involves arrangements for the physical facilities and exhibits for the annual meeting.

Malesovas, 46, has been controller and assistant treasurer of the two-million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas since 1971. Before that, he was controller of Dallas Baptist College, 1969-70; assistant business manager and chief accountant for Baylor Dental College, Dallas, 1965-69; an accountant for British American Oil Co., Dallas, 1961-65; and an employee of Tenneco Oil Co., Shreveport, La., 1957-61.

"We feel the professional competence, denominational experience, and complete dedication to Christian service equip Mr. Malesovas in an unusual way for this important assignment," said Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee. "We regret to lose Mr. Williams, but we welcome Mr. Malesovas to Nashville."

As director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer, Malesovas, a Waco, Tex., native, will serve as Routh's principal financial planning and budget assistant.

He will provide staff liaison with committees, such as the Executive Committee's Finance Committee, and review and appraise the financial policies and practices of SBC agencies to the extent with which the Executive Committee is concerned with them.

Other duties include providing staff assistance in the formulation of over-all financial policies and procedures appropriate to the responsibility of the Executive Committee, serving as chief accountant, and providing long-range planning and financial analysis. He will also supervise SBC Building mailroom and maintenance personnel.

A layman, Malesovas has served in local churches as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and choir member. He is a U. S. Air Force veteran and holds a bachelor of business administration degree from Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

He married Kathleen Leftwich in 1957 and has one son, Russell, 15.

(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist papers.

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Illinois Baptists Set Up Evangelism Internship

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)-- A two-year internship in evangelism was established by the board of directors of the Illinois Baptist State Association (IBSA) in its semiannual meeting here. The salary for an intern-in-evangelism will be provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, with program funds coming from the IBSA budget.

The role calls for an intern, age 25-35, who will serve two years, similar to US-2 missionaries of the Home Mission Board, who have had two-year assignments in the state.

State evangelism director Kenneth E. Carter said the intern will help develop a program of youth evangelism, involve and train persons in personal witnessing and assist him in other evangelistic emphases.

"We're enthusiastic about this addition to our staff," Carter said, "for we are just now working on a program of youth evangelism for our state."

The board also created two other positions on the state staff--a social worker in the child care program, with an office in Carbondale, and an assistant in the office of communication.

The board recommended to the state convention, which meets in Springfield in October, a proposed budget for 1976 totaling \$3,529,736, including a Cooperative Program unified budget goal of \$2 million.

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College, Seminary Launch Advance Credit Program

Baptist Press
9/24/75

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Gardner-Webb College, a Baptist school in Boiling Springs, N.C., has become the first college to take part in a program through which its religious education graduates may receive credit for selected college courses at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here, seminary officials said.

The program of advance standing credit allows a Gardner-Webb graduate who enters New Orleans Seminary to qualify for a maximum of 16 semester hours of credit for selected courses in religious education.

Basic criteria, agreed upon by representatives of a majority of the seminaries operated by the Southern Baptist Convention, are designed to insure that the student has developed identifiable seminary level competencies. The documentation of such competencies is provided for by such procedures as a letter for each student from the academic dean, transcripts listing courses and grades and an interview with each student by an appropriate seminary professor.

While this is the first such formal agreement between a Southern Baptist seminary and a college, the action represents the cooperative effort of religious education professors of Southern Baptist seminaries and colleges over several years.

In 1974, Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, and Allen B. Comish, director of the church services and materials division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board jointly sponsored a meeting of the religious educators from both Baptist colleges and seminaries in Nashville.

Basic criteria for college participation in the advanced standing program were established at that meeting.

New Orleans Seminary officials said the following criteria, which will be used to evaluate college participation in its advanced standing credit program, are:

--The college must have a department of religion (Bible or Religious Education) in which a major or integrated program in religious education is offered, and an academically qualified faculty is assigned to teach.

--Students committed to religious education must be identified as religious education ministers in training, with religious education organizations encouraged.

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--Library resources must be available for the training of religious education students and procedures for ordering current materials must be available to religious education professors

--A minimum of one year (6 hours) or the equivalent must be offered in religious field education.

--Copies of current course syllabi must be made available to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Such syllabi would normally contain the course title and number, description, objectives, educational procedures, resources and method of evaluation.

At the meeting in Nashville, the seminaries were encouraged to plan regional meetings with the colleges for the purpose of reviewing criteria, relating them to competencies essential for religious education ministries, and to work out procedural details.

Representatives of the religious education faculties of Louisiana College, Mississippi College, Mobile College and William Carey College met at New Orleans for a regional meeting in May of 1974. J. Hardee Kennedy, dean of academic affairs at the New Orleans Seminary, presided over the meeting at which the area colleges discussed the program and how it would benefit graduates of the represented schools.

Additional conferences were held with individual schools including Gardner-Webb. Several other institutions are studying the process of relating programs to the basic criteria as set forth in the 1974 Nashville meeting.

Graduates of schools that have not yet met the basic criteria may qualify for master's degree credit by establishing seminary-level proficiency through written, oral and in some cases, performance skill demonstrations.

"By developing these procedures for training and evaluating the student at both the college and seminary levels, a program has been developed to insure that the students are thoroughly trained for the ministry, that precious time is not wasted, and that every effort is being made to provide an adequate number of well qualified staff members for the churches and the denomination," Kennedy said.

The program is seen as a positive step forward by Dean Thomas J. McGraw of Gardner-Webb who said "It enables our students to coorelate better their total preparation for Christian ministry."

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Baptist Agency Urges
Strong Hand Gun Control

Baptist Press
9/24/75

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, in the aftermath of the second-presidential assassination attempt, has urged government leaders to support strong hand gun legislation.

The plea came in a letter mailed to the president and vice president of the United States, the majority and minority leaders of the U. S. Senate and the U. S. House of Representatives and Tennessee senators Howard Baker and Bill Brock. Commission Executive Secretary Foy Valentine, who signed the letter, read it during a meeting of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee here.

"The second Presidential assassination attempt this month underscores a grim reality: the United States needs immediate and effective legislation to control the abuse of hand guns," the letter said. "The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention urges you to support strong hand gun control legislation to help protect the lives of the President and others who are victimized by gun violence. We also urge you to take this action to help save our democracy from intimidation and coercion. We plead with you to give priority to this legislation. Please do not wait to act until tragedy strikes again.

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Executive Committee Sets
Budget; Elects Staffer

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee here approved a 1976-77 budget goal, heard reports from SBC agency heads, commended the SBC Home Mission Board for work in refugee resettlement and elected a new staff member.

The Executive Committee also granted approval to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, to borrow \$1.6 million for improvements of its Seminary Village and allowed Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, to launch an \$8.5 million capital needs campaign, which would begin in its local community and radiate out to the state of Texas and the nation between 1976 and 1979.

That motion sparked some debate about whether approval of the Southwestern request, based on a comprehensive survey of its long-range needs, would prevent or get in the way of the other five SBC seminaries raising funds on a national basis for their pressing financial needs.

But the Executive Committee emerged from a parliamentary tangle and decided not to limit Southwestern but launch an effort to study how all the SBC seminaries could work together in a fund raising effort to underwrite long-range needs.

The 1976-77 Cooperative Program unified budget goal of \$53 million, approved unanimously, would represent a \$2 million increase over the 1975-76 budget and a \$13 million increase over 1974-75. The 1976-77 budget would set aside \$46,112,400 for operating needs of SBC agencies, \$1,080,000 for agency capital needs and \$5,807,600 in "challenge" funds.

The statement on the Home Mission Board, which has settled some 1,741 refugees through mid-September, commended the agency "for its policy of purchased services (through Church World Service) in the resettlement of refugees." It encouraged the board to continue its study of "the best way to meet the tragic needs, recognizing at all times the need not to compromise Baptist convictions and polity."

The Executive Committee honored John H. Williams, who will retire Jan. 31, 1976, after nearly 17 years as director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer and nearly 41 years in denominational work.

Billy D. Malesovas, 46, current controller and assistant treasurer for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was elected to succeed Williams. He will begin duties on Jan. 1.

In other action, the Executive Committee approved a 1975-76 Executive Committee budget of \$569,000 and 1975-76 Southern Baptist Convention operating budget of \$817,000. The latter includes such items as expenses for operating the annual SBC, annual contributions to the Baptist World Alliance and Religion in American Life (RIAL) and other items.

The committee also passed resolutions honoring W. Perry Crouch, who will retire as general secretary of the North Carolina Baptist Convention on Dec. 31, and L. H. Moore, who will retire as editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger next March 31.