

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor**BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041**DALLAS** Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461**RICHMOND** Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

October 15, 1976

76-174

**York Joins Annuity Board
As Senior Vice President**

DALLAS (BP)--Marvin T. York Jr. has been named senior vice president for investments at the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), according to board President Darold H. Morgan.

York, who will succeed the retiring Frank L. Durham on March 1, joins the Annuity Board after serving more than 13 years with the First National Bank of Dallas, including six years as senior vice president and trust officer.

He will supervise the investment program of more than \$450 million in pension funds which belong to ministers, church and denominational employees in the SBC. The board is the SBC agency which administers retirement and insurance programs for the employees.

York, whose experience includes three years of service on the Annuity Board's trustees, also has held positions with Magnolia Petroleum Company, Oil Well Supply Company, Seaboard Oil Company, Republic Natural Gas Company and Mobile Oil Company.

His professional memberships include the American Institute of Bankers, the Southern Pension Conference, and the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

York holds a bachelor of business administration degree in economics and accounting from Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and a master of business administration degree in retail merchandising from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

The Lufkin, Tex., native is the husband of Kathleen Alkire York. The couple has two children.

-30-

**Evangelicals Cautioned On
Mixing Politics and Religion****Baptist Press
10/15/76**

CHICAGO (BP)--The board of administration of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) has called upon evangelical leaders to "resist attempts to divide evangelical Christians along political lines or issues," in action taken at its annual fall meeting here.

Recognizing the "hazards of mixing politics and religion," and admitting concern "over the counterfact of increasing corruption and crime in American life," the board further urged the NAE constituency to "vote as informed and responsible citizens, pray for nationwide revival, and lead in the efforts for moral and social reform at local, state and national levels."

During sessions at the Arlington Park Hilton, board members also heard reports from NAE commissions and affiliates and staff, reviewed and approved the 1977 budget, and approved preliminary fund raising and construction plans for NAE's new office building in Carol Stream, Ill. The new "Evangelical Center" will house certain affiliated organizations and expanding ministries of NAE's national office.

In a special address to the board, Francis Schaeffer, president of L'Abri Fellowship in Switzerland and internationally known author and scholar, spoke on the issue of biblical authority. Schaeffer expressed concern about the drift away from total confidence in the Bible as the Word of God written.

-30-

Bible Correspondence Course
Planned for Radio and TV

FORT WORTH (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here voted to participate jointly with the denomination's Sunday School Board in Nashville in a project expected to eventually involve as many as 150,000 people in a radio or television Bible correspondence course.

The Radio and Television Commission trustees' vote supports action taken by Sunday School Board trustees in their August meeting.

For the first time in Southern Baptist life it merges the denomination's print media and electronic media in a formal joint effort, a Radio and Television Commission spokesman said.

"One of our Sunday School Board priorities is to encourage indepth Bible study for th masses," said Morton Rose, who presented the Sunday School Board proposal to th Radio and Television Commission trustees.

"In looking for ways to involve as many people as we can in such a Bible study, we look d at the mass media," Rose said. He said a survey of existing Bible correspondence courses offered on the air indicate that one non-Baptist group, which produces a program on 803 stations, has about 66,000 people a year involved in correspondence Bibl study. In 1975, they were leading more than 7,000 of those people into their church yearly.

"We learned that the number one users of this correspondence study are Southern Baptist members," he said, adding that Southern Baptists are the third largest users of a Bible correspondence course produced by another non-Baptist denomination.

H mphasized, "We are not considering a Bible correspondence course to compete with other denominations, but we feel the response to such a course would be so favorable that in about five years we can involve 150,000 to 160,000 people learning the word of God by correspondence."

Chester F. Russell, Sunday school general administration consultant for the Sunday School Board, has been attached temporarily to the board's office of planning as the staff p rson to complete the planning stages of the radio-television Bible correspondenc project.

Rose said the Sunday School Board had set aside \$250,000 for a task force to dev lop direct, and implement this venture. He said the editorial material for the program would be th responsibility of the Sunday School Board "because that is where our expertise lies. The technology of production, marketing, and distribution will be with the Radio and Television Commission because that is where their expertise lies."

Any proceeds over the Sunday School Board's cost of recovery would be divided 75-25, with the Sunday School Board receiving the larger share.

"God may have brought both our agencies to this period in our denominational lives-- each with honed skills and equipment," said Paul M. Stevens, Radio and Television Commission president.

Leaders of the two SBC agencies point out that there are a number of denominationally recognized Bible study efforts, including Sunday School Board programs, the six SBC theological seminaries, the SBC Seminary Extension Department and others.

But, they said, there are other efforts produced by individuals who create radio or television Bible correspondence courses for the general public--free or for sale--which aren't necessarily produced under careful guidelines and can easily create long range advers effects.

"The Southern Baptist Convention," Stevens said, "has an active radio and television ministry which isn't able to operat adequately in th world of Bible study alone."

"Many people live in our society who will not be reached by the individual radio or television preacher on the one hand or a theological institution on the other," said Stevens. "But they might be reached through a radio-television Bible correspondence ministry which is Sunday School oriented.

"The Southern Baptist Convention," Stevens continued, "has an active radio and television ministry, which isn't able to operate adequately in the world of Bible study alone.

"So what happens is the marrying of the skills of two agencies in the same work of a single denomination, when the Sunday School Board--skilled in Bible teaching for Sunday School programs--and the Radio and Television Commission--with a skill and expertise to put it together on the air--can work together. I'm as excited as Grady Cothen (Sunday School Board president) about the possibilities. I believe God is in it."

Agency leaders expect it to take two years to research, prepare, produce, and air the first correspondence course.

Trustees also voted to accept a recommendation from a study committee that a "Baptist Hour" preacher be engaged nine months a year and a summer replacement engaged for three months. No "Baptist Hour" speaker would be allowed to succeed himself without at least a year's interval. The "Baptist Hour" is a modified worship service produced by the commission.

Trustees also previewed "Listen" and "The Athletes," the commission's two new television series which will be launched in January and marketed in tandem.

"Listen" is a series of 13 quarter hour documentaries dealing with topics of general interest to all members of the family. Charles G. Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., is host. "The Athletes" is a series of quarter hour biographies of contemporary sport stars--men and women who represent sports at all levels.

Pilot productions for the radio department's new stable of programs include two half-hour programs--"Wall to Wall" and "Nashville, Thursday Night." Two new five minute programs previewed were "Good News" and "Mr. Jones Meets the Master."

"'Wall to Wall' and 'Nashville, Thursday Night' are each half-hour radio programs designed to fit stations not presently served by the commission's award winning 'Master Control' and 'Country Crossroads,'" said Edwin Malone, the commission vice president, radio department.

Malone said "Wall to Wall" and "Nashville, Thursday Night" are working titles for the program. "Good News" is a five-minute program featuring religious news highlights of the week. "Mr. Jones, Meet the Master" is a five minute program featuring Christians discussing their faith.

Interviews for the show have been recorded with former Congressman Brooks Hays, U. S. Senator Mark Hatfield, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, newspaper cartoonist Stan Lynd, and other personalities in show business and commercial enterprise.