



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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76-178

**Bluefield College Urged  
To Avoid Federal Funds**

BLUEFIELD, Va. (BP)--A member of the board of trustees of Bluefield College here urged the Baptist school's governing body to avoid "courting federal funds" for the construction of badly-needed college facilities.

Citing the current turmoil within the Baptist College at Charleston (SC) and the South Carolina Baptist Convention because of federal funding guidelines, Charles B. Nunn said, "Bluefield College has consistently refused federal funds for construction but has allowed individual students to receive funds from the federal government." Nunn voiced no objection to federal aid to individuals who need help to meet the needs of college education.

Recently, a South Carolina Baptist committee charged that changes made by the Baptist College at Charleston to comply with federal guidelines against sectarian teaching and worship have made "it impossible to carry out the purposes of the college as it relates to the South Carolina Baptist Convention."

The Government Funds Evaluation Committee said "continual monitoring of college activities" by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) "creates an intolerable atmosphere for the operation of a Christian college."

Nunn, pastor of Bluefield's First Baptist Church, speaking at the trustees' semiannual meeting, characterized the Virginia Baptist state convention as Bluefield College's "strongest asset."

"Bluefield College," he continued, "was begun by Virginia Baptists. Bluefield College has always sought to maintain a clear identity to Virginia Baptists."

"The Baptist College at Charleston is in deep trouble," Nunn continued. "We don't need any federal interference in operating this school. The Baptist College at Charleston has HEW personnel sitting in classrooms evaluating classes in terms of sectarian or non-sectarian instruction."

"We must maintain this posture of not receiving or courting federal funds," Nunn urged. "If the small, evangelical Christian college is to maintain a growing, vital relationship . . . it must maintain a strong commitment and identity to state Baptists," Nunn concluded.

Meanwhile in Columbia, S. C., attorney Preston Callison, who spoke for the South Carolina Baptist Convention's Government Funds Evaluation Committee, said dependence on government funds by Baptist colleges poses "a long-range threat to the usefulness of the institutions as a part of our missions program."

Callison, addressing the convention's general board in annual session, urged college trustees and the convention to "exercise restraint" in expansion of institutions in response to government programs.

"There is grave danger that Christian colleges may lose their unique value to the denomination and to the state as a result of the trend toward secularization," Callison's committee report said.

## Baptists Join Festivity Of Botswana's Anniversary

GABORONE, Botswana (BP)--At the invitation of the Botswana government, Southern Baptist missionaries, a Baptist singing group and Southern Baptist leaders from the United States participated in the 10th anniversary celebration of Botswana's independence.

The Baptist Mission of Botswana (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) received the invitation to participate, through contacts by missionary Roy C. Davidson Jr., and other Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board personnel.

Davidson called the Baptists' role "significant" in the 10-day celebration,

Baptists participated in three different cities--Gaborone, Francistown and Selebi-Pikwe.

"The New Directions" singing group from the First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., performed several times during the celebration. The 11 singers were directed by Paul Royal, the church's minister of music.

Lloyd Corder of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, a ventriloquist, and his dummy, "Joe the Baptist," entertained. Abner V. McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., was guest lecturer throughout the celebration, including a session at the Botswana University.

Participation included the national worship service, an open air concert in the capital cinema, concerts and guest appearances in secondary schools, a booth at the trade fair, and an art exhibit.

The booth at the trade fair won third prize. The Botswana Baptist Mission launched its Bible Way Correspondence School ministry there with an initial enrollment of 220.

An art exhibit by Baptist artist Bob Harper was on display at the invitation of the Botswana government. Harper, art editor for "The Commission" magazine published by the Foreign Mission Board, had visited Botswana on an earlier trip.

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## Hobbs, Johnson Named to Head \$10 Million Seminary Campaign

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, and Wallace E. Johnson, recently retired vice chairman of the board of Holiday Inns, Inc., were named as co-chairmen of a \$10 million endowment and capital needs campaign of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Seminary president Duke K. McCall, who announced the appointment, indicated that the financial campaign would officially begin in the spring of 1977, the 100th anniversary of the seminary's move to Louisville. Its theme will be "Resources for Excellence."

Hobbs, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is best known as the speaker for 18 years on "The Baptist Hour," a radio program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and heard on several hundred stations throughout the United States and abroad.

The retired pastor has been active in a number of denominational and civic responsibilities, including vice president of the Baptist World Alliance. He is a graduate of Howard College and Southern Baptist Seminary.

Johnson, co-founder of the Holiday Inn chain, is also chairman of the board of Medicenters of America, Inc., a health-care facility chain based in Memphis, Tenn. An active Baptist deacon, he was named Lay Churchman of the Year in 1965 by Religious Heritage of America, Inc. He has also served on the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Johnson has received honorary degrees from a number of colleges and universities, and is the recipient of many honors and awards from business, civic and religious groups, including the national Horatio Alger award.

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Southern Baptist Seminary, with a total enrollment of more than 2,400 students last year, is the largest private institution of higher education in the state of Kentucky, and the largest seminary of any denomination in the eastern United States.

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Record Increases at Two  
European Seminaries

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RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--Record enrollments for the fall semester at the Baptist seminary here and in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, were reported by European Baptist Press Service (EBPS).

The Novi Sad seminary enrolled 43 students to more than double its previous high of 17 registrants. The Ruschlikon seminary enrolled 58 students for "official credit, with about 10 more participating in classes," EBPS said.

Last year, the Yugoslav seminary began providing theological education on differing levels to all members of the country's Baptist Union and now offers classes for full-time and lay pastors and other lay persons.

Sixteen of the Yugoslav seminary students are also enrolled full-time at the University of Novi Sad.

The Ruschlikon enrollment represents 19 countries and six continents, with a record 31 enrolled in the bachelor of divinity degree program, said EBPS.

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\$100,000 Challenge Gift  
To Southeastern Seminary

Baptist Press  
10/20/76

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Three gifts to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary--including one of \$100,000 to endow a professorship of evangelism--were announced during the schools board of trustees meeting here.

The \$100,000 gift made anonymously by a North Carolina family, a seminary spokesman said, was accepted by the trustees as a challenge gift, to be matched \$2.00 for \$1.00 to endow the professorship.

The other two gifts for \$10,130 and \$6,085 were from First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., in cooperation with the Florida Bar Association, and from the Harold C. and Francine C. Fechner Charitable Trust, respectively.

Trustees voted to establish a J. Nixon Daniel Scholarship Fund in memory of the Pensacola churchman and lawyer who was a Southeastern trustee from 1966 until his death in 1975. He was former chairman of the deacons for First Baptist Church, Pensacola. An existing scholarship fund of \$7,515 was merged with the Pensacola gift, the Southeastern spokesman said.

The Fechner Trust gift was made in the name of the St. Louis, Mo., couple and will assist in endowing the seminary's Carver-Barnes lectures.

In other action, the trustees elected Tom Brandon, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sherman, Tex., as chairman for 1976-77; vice chairman, Frank Campbell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Statesville, N. C.; treasurer, Edgar Wyatt, a Raleigh, N. C., businessman; and secretary, John Howell, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

Authorization was granted for the seminary to confer an "associate degree," previously designated the "certificate in theology." The degree, the spokesman said, will be awarded to persons who complete an approved two-year course of study.

Further, trustees approved the creation of a development council for the Baptist school. A council of 30 businesspersons from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and the Northeast, will assist in the seminary's institutional development program, the spokesman said.

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Trustees also toured the seminary's \$1 million Denny Library building scheduled for dedication at Southeastern in March, 1977.

Included in the long range planning process at Southeastern is a one-year data-gathering center for studies in urban ministries, scheduled to operate during 1977 in Washington, D. C., the spokesman noted.

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Missouri Baptists Debate  
Religious Liberty

Baptist Press  
10/20/76

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (BP)--The Missouri Baptist Convention, in annual session here, considered resolutions on religious liberty and undesirable television programming, voted a record \$6.5 million budget, and met jointly with three black Baptist bodies.

Elected "messengers" to the 142nd annual convention also elected Milton Morales, a Kansas City businessman, as president and heard a motion on prayer for U. S. presidential candidates withdrawn before a vote was taken.

That motion asked the convention to hold a special prayer for the candidates "and in particular (for) Jimmy Carter, a fellow Baptist, asking God to grant his special guidance."

But the maker, Herbert Quentin, who had apparently received private negative feedback after the motion was made, withdrew it, saying "this has apparently been misunderstood as a political issue."

"The Bible tells us to pray for the saints (Christians)," he said. "I feel a need to lift up those I feel are Christian." He said the convention could not pray for his motion since the convention was not in agreement. "We must be in agreement to pray," he asserted.

The motion had drawn no public debate, pro or con, observers report.

Religious liberty discussion occupied most of the messengers' attention in what observers called a "smooth and harmonious" convention. One proposal on it was referred for further study and two were passed.

Referred for further study, after debate, was a bylaw recommendation which said: "No (state Baptist) educational agency shall participate in any program of public aid which requires non-discrimination on religious grounds in hiring administrators, faculty or staff or in admitting students or which requires isolation of religion from the rest of the school's program or which gives government the power to monitor courses or to take other actions to impose a secular standard of government . . ."

But the messengers adopted a motion empowering its executive board to issue court suits in certain areas of religious liberty and adopted a resolution asking its agencies to "support this American principle (religious liberty) in all their relationships (with government entities)."

The convention also expressed appreciation for the recent defeat of a proposed state constitutional amendment which would have allowed public aid to parochial school. The body thanked the 684,818 persons "who worked and voted against this threat to religious liberty" and noted that the defeat was the result of "the combined efforts of many religious, civic and professional organizations."

The meeting with three National (black) Baptist bodies came at two joint inspirational evening sessions, while the four bodies were holding simultaneous annual meetings. W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, and Gardner Webb, pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, were featured speakers at the joint sessions.

The resolution on television programming supported the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Christian Life Commission's efforts to develop "appropriate and effective responses to undesirable television programming."

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In other action, the messengers opposed a proposition under consideration by the Missouri legislature to hold presidential preference primaries on Sundays. The state now has no presidential primary but is considering one. The convention's vote expressed neither approval nor disapproval of the idea of a primary--only opposition to holding it on Sunday.

Of the record 1977 budget of \$6.5 million, Missouri Baptists will give 33.33 percent of each undesignated dollar to worldwide causes of the Southern Baptist Convention through the SBC's national Cooperative Program unified budget. That's a one percent increase over 1976 gifts.

A convention spokesman noted that the election of Morales to the convention presidency is the first time since 1950 that the body has elected a layman to that post.

First Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo., will host the next annual session, Oct. 24-26, 1977.