

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 26, 1977

77-76

**Ethiopia Missionaries  
 Continue Baptist Work**

**RICHMOND (BP)**-- Southern Baptist missionaries stationed in Ethiopia presently plan to continue their work, using the capital, Addis Ababa, as their base.

No missionaries have had to leave Ethiopia as a result of recent political developments which caused the Ethiopian government to request some American government personnel to leave. Also, missionaries to Ethiopia, now on furlough in the U. S., plan to return as scheduled.

In a telephone conversation, April 25, with Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, missionaries indicated they do not plan at this time to move back into the countryside, but they will be working in the rural areas from Addis Ababa.

Missionaries in recent weeks have moved their families, at the request of the Ethiopian government, from bases in rural areas affected by political upheavals.

Plans are continuing for Charles A. Hampton, missionary associate who has just completed missionary orientation, to go to Ethiopia in the immediate future to become pastor of the English-language congregation at Christ Chapel in Addis Ababa.

"Even with some American personnel leaving, there are enough English-speaking people in Addis Ababa to make Hampton's ministry very important and timely," Saunders said.

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Indiana Baptists Pick  
 Gene Medaris As Editor

Baptist Press  
 4/26/77

**INDIANAPOLIS (BP)**--Edward Gene Medaris of Fairbanks, Alaska, has been elected editor of the Indiana Baptist, news publication of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, effective in mid-June.

Medaris, 47, succeeds Alvin C. Shackelford, who resigned after 11 years to become editor of the Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee Baptist news publication, Brentwood, Tenn., Nov. 1, 1976. E. Harmon Moore, executive secretary for Indiana Baptists, has served as interim editor.

Currently serving as religion editor of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Medaris, has been a pastor, Southern Baptist foreign missionary and teacher.

He has served as pastor of two churches in Alaska, and of churches in Denison, Texas; Maracaibo, Venezuela; and Lewiston, Idaho. He and his wife, who have two children, were missionaries in Trinidad, West Indies, for several years.

Medaris has also taught New Testament and served as a Baptist Student Union director at the University of Alaska, taught Old Testament at Tanana Valley Community College in Alaska and taught in the orientation program for workers on the Alaska pipeline.

He has served on the executive board and as second vice president of the Alaska Baptist Convention; as president of the Alumni Association of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; president of the Fairbanks Ministerial Association; and moderator of the Tanana Valley Baptist Association.

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A veteran of two tours of duty in the military service, he was in the U. S. Army, 1946-49, and in the U. S. Air Force, 1953-63, as a communications officer with the rank of captain.

He holds two bachelor of arts degrees--one in journalism from the University of Alaska and another in religion and history from Baylor University, Waco, Tex. He has also earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary and has completed resident work for a master of arts in history from Baylor.

Other study includes periods at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and Sul Ross State College, Alpine, Tex.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Even Carter Can't Cut  
Red Tape of Religion

Baptist Press  
4/26/77

PLAINS, Ga. (BP)--Washington's government offices are not the only offices in which the wheels of change grind slowly. It occurs in Baptist churches also.

President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter applied for membership in Washington First Baptist Church on Sunday after his January inauguration.

But as of April 21, the Washington congregation had not yet requested the President's letter of membership transfer, said Hugh Carter, the President's cousin and clerk at the Plains church, according to a report in the Christian Index, Georgia's state Baptist newspaper.

In Washington, Charles Trentham, pastor of First Baptist Church, told Baptist Press, the delay offers no cause for concern and that the Carter's membership application went through normal channels.

"Baptist churches have different membership procedures," he said, "but in our church we have quarterly meetings which vote final approval to all who have applied and have been recommended by the membership committee and the deacons.

"President and Mrs. Carter are official members of our church," he said. "Final approval took place in our quarterly meeting last Wednesday night (April 20). The letter was put in the mail today (April 26) to the Plains church notifying it of the action."

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New English Bible Joins  
White House Library

Baptist Press  
4/26/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--The White House library now has a copy of the New English Bible, thanks to President Carter.

At a recent service in First Baptist Church of Washington, where the President joined the Sunday following his inauguration, the Charles Sanks Jr., associate minister, noticed that Carter was following the Scripture reading carefully in his Bible.

After the service was over, Sanks told the President, "I noticed that you followed the Scripture reading within the service and thought you might like to have a copy of the translation I use."

Carter accepted the gift of the New English Bible with thanks, and said, "I am putting this Bible in the White House library."

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Govt. 'Strangulation'  
Endangers Private Colleges

Baptist Press  
4/26/77

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Overdoses of government regulation and guidelines have made the private college as we know it today an endangered species, Mercer University President Rufus C. Harris said here.

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"It seems time to ask, is it regulation of strangulation?", Harris said in his report to the trustees of the Baptist university at their spring meeting.

"We are suffering through a most dangerous crisis," he said. "Businesses bigger than colleges have crumbled when decisions that affect solvency are made by bodies that bear little if any of the financial responsibility."

Government regulations now in effect or pending are influencing in some measure every area of college management and operation today, Harris said.

Bureaucrats don't care "whether we employ competent teachers and scholars, so long as we employ the percentages they prescribe," the Mercer president said.

"Our practices of employing or discharging personnel from the lowest to the highest ones; paying them; how we release them or pay them, are now controlled. Permits and licenses must cover everything.

"Our premises are subject to inspection from agencies that govern ways we dispose of waste, the ways we protect against fire, the ways we make secure the campus, the ways we maintain sanitary conditions.

"Other promised regulations seek to restrict us in the matter of the students which we can and we cannot accept, the persons and percentages of those whom we may employ."

"With it all, we have become the nation's whipping boy, flailed for our 'inability to contain costs' when indeed our regulators are a major part of that problem," he said.

Some regulation would be expected, Harris said. "No one could oppose adequate wages for personnel, good working conditions, financial aid for the indigent, or the goal of equal access for all to quality education at reasonable cost."

But what actually is happening, he said, in many instances is that the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare "is obviously attempting to determine the admitting practice of the colleges and whether their practices are discriminatory.

"We should become weary of affirming over and over and over again that we voluntarily desegregated this college," (Mercer's board of trustees voted on April 18, 1963, without legal compulsion, to admit all qualified students without regard to race.)

"Discriminate" means more than acting on the basis of prejudice, Harris said. "It also means the ability to make a clear distinction, and in modern education that distinction must remain in the hands of those best qualified to do so."

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Court Hears Arguments  
In Ohio School Aid Case

Baptist Press  
4/26/77

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--Attorneys for proponents and opponents of aid to parochial schools argued their cases before the U. S. Supreme Court here in a key church-state cast involving so-called "auxiliary services" to such schools.

Since 1967 the state of Ohio has funneled millions of tax dollars to nonpublic--mostly sectarian--elementary and secondary schools through a variety of programs designed to overcome constitutional limitations set by the high court. And, one by one, Ohio's plans have been rejected by the courts.

The case has attracted widespread interest among various groups who filed "friend of the court" briefs on both sides of the issue.

Those asking the high court to strike down Ohio's newest effort include the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. (Southern Baptists).

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The Baptist Joint Committee joined numerous other religious and civil liberty groups in its brief, while the Ohio state convention joined the Churches of God in Ohio. The Ohio Free Schools Association and the Ohio Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists. Yet another group seeking the overthrow of the Ohio program is the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The office of the U. S. Solicitor General and 21 Ohio independent schools filed briefs on the other side.

The state's new attempt to fund parochial schools calls for providing a wide variety of services, also available to public schools, including textbook loans; loans of "secular, neutral and nonideological" instructional materials; loans of instructional equipment, speech and hearing diagnostic services, and physician, nursing, dental, and optometric services.

Also included are therapeutic psychological, speech, and hearing services; guidance and counseling services; remedial services in various areas; standardized tests and scoring services; programs for the deaf, blind, emotionally disturbed, crippled, and physically handicapped; and field trip transportation.

In previous test cases, the Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional such broadly-based auxiliary services packages. The court has upheld plans to provide transportation and textbook loans for parochial schoolchildren.

Two years ago, in a Pennsylvania case, the high court struck down a plan containing essentially the same programs as the Ohio Plan. After that decision, Ohio's legislature designed its new plan in an attempt to meet the court's objections to Pennsylvania's program.

In their arguments before the court, attorneys for Ohio, including Thomas V. Martin, assistant state attorney general, contended that the new law provides such services not to schools, but to pupils, Martin told the justices that loans and services are not provided automatically, but only on request from students or their parents.

Some of the justices, including Thurgood Marshall and Potter Stewart, repeatedly asked Martin how the state could distinguish between providing materials, such as wall maps, to schools and to children. Martin conceded that the instructional value to pupils would be the same whether the materials were given directly to the parochial schools or to their pupils.

Another of Ohio's attorneys, David J. Young, admitted under close questioning, that actual provision of the materials is often made on parochial school premises by state-employed clerk-librarians, although in other instances parochial schoolchildren are released to public schools to use the materials.

Joshua J. Kancelbaum, a Cleveland attorney who argued the other side, accused Ohio's legislature of constructing "ingenious" designs to get around previous high court rulings denying aid to parochial schools. He noted that the new law came in the wake of the decision two years ago to strike down Pennsylvania's auxiliary services plan.

Kancelbaum said the law, which provides \$88 million to nonpublic schools during the current two-year period, merely "purports" to aid pupils rather than sectarian schools. He noted that of 720 nonpublic schools in the state, only 29 are nonsectarian.

Perhaps the biggest legal problem facing the justices in the Ohio case is deciding where to draw the line regarding what kinds of public aid can be given nonpublic schools without violating the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

In its 1975 Pennsylvania ruling, the court reiterated its three-part test in aid cases, saying that for such programs to pass constitutional muster, they must (1) have a secular legislative purpose; (2) have a "primary effect" that neither advances nor inhibits religion; and (3) avoid excessive governmental entanglement with religion.

The problem facing the court is that since 1947, some forms of aid have been permitted, most notably transportation and textbook loans. At one point in this oral argument, attorney Kancelbaum asked the justices to consider reversing itself on its textbook loan decision.

The likelihood of that occurrence is dim, however. Responding to Kancelbaum's suggestion, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger replied icily that such an action would amount to "burning down the house to get rid of the mice."

Observers of the court are predicting a tight vote in the Ohio decision, which will probably come down by the end of June. Benson A. Wolman, executive director of the Ohio American Civil Liberties Union, told Baptist Press after the hearing that he sees three firm votes on each side.

Wolman, who brought the original suit against the Ohio plan, said that in his view the chief justice, along with Justices Byron R. White and William H. Rehnquist, would vote to uphold Ohio's plan. He said that Marshall, William J. Brennan Jr. and John Paul Stevens are likely to vote to strike it down.

If that assessment of those justices' positions is accurate, the "swing" votes of Justices Stewart, Harry A. Blackmun, and Lewis F. Powell will decide the outcome.

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Louie Newton Still  
'Plowing Furrows' at 85

Baptist Press  
4/26/77

By Jack U. Harwell

ATLANTA (BP)--At an age when most of us would be thankful just to be alive, Louie DeVotie Newton of Atlanta is still looking for new furrows to plow.

His family and friends tried to slow him down for at least one day, on April 27, when he turned 85, so that he could note the anniversary.

On May 5, a movie about the life of the Southern Baptist statesman, will premiere at Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, where he was pastor for almost 40 years, before retiring in 1968.

Typically for Newton, University of Georgia experts who produced the movie got hours of "choice film in the can" but had to cut the film to 30 minutes for telecasting on the statewide educational network (channel 8).

Tennessee Ernie Ford, long-time friend of Newton, narrated the film. Financing came from the Warren P. Sewell Foundation in Bremen, Ga.

Chuck Bowen of Athens, Ga., producer of the "Great Georgians" series for educational television, said :

"Our entire crew was astounded to find a man with so many talents, so many interests and so many involvements. If we had the money or the sponsors, we could have made a six-hour film. Dr. Newton is the most versatile and resilient man I have met."

Here's a glance at the things which have happened to Newton within the past 12 months:

1. Last May, Mercer University named him its outstanding alumnus, especially chosen for the nation's bicentennial year.
2. Last September, Truett-McConnell Junior College launched a campaign to inaugurate a Louie D. Newton Chair of Practical Christian Ministries.
3. In October, Tift College acquired a \$100,000 organ given in honor of Newton and his late wife, Julia Carstarphen Newton, a Tift graduate.
4. All year long, Newton has worked with Bowen and others in production of the movie of his life.
5. Last fall, he was honored at a special convocation at Mercer, when he presented a pulpit Bible to Mercer worship Center (formerly Tattnell Square church), for the Jesse Mercer pulpit.

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6. In February, he was a featured speaker for the annual meeting of Southern Baptist Press Association in Charleston, S. C.

7. All year long, Newton, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, has worked extensively with the Southern Baptist Historical Commission in the largest oral history project that commission has ever undertaken.

8. He has met repeatedly with Robin Smith, a post-graduate student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, who is doing a doctoral dissertation on the contributions of Louie D. Newton to Baptists of the world.

9. He has preached an average of three Sundays per month in churches all over Georgia, an average he has maintained since retiring in 1968.

10. He still goes to Georgia Baptist Hospital almost every day, helping to raise money for free and part-free care there.

11. During the Georgia General Assembly, he wrote countless letters, made numerous phone calls and talked to many pastors and legislators, helping to defeat the proposed pari-mutuel gambling bill and to strengthen bingo gambling restrictions.

12. He writes a weekly column for The Christian Index, a feature now for almost 50 years. (He is a former editor of the Index, weekly news publication for Georgia Baptists.)

13. Every Monday, without fail, Newton attends the Atlanta Baptist Pastors' Conference and gives a detailed report on ministers in the hospital; he has personally visited every minister for whom he reports, plus many other patients.

14. He has spoken and traveled in several cities raising money to help Mercer restore its administration building.

15. He has assisted with dozens of funerals for beloved friends from Druid Hills church, and for ministers and others across the state.

16. He still speaks every week on the Louie D. Newton Hour on WGST Radio, a feature on that station for 48 years, one of the longest running religious broadcasts in the nation.

On top of all these "religious" activities, Newton has maintained daily care for his beloved sheep and chickens, cultivated one of the most productive gardens in metro Atlanta and personally groomed some of the finest flower gardens in the state in his back yard.

Mrs. Catherine Robertson, his daughter, told The Christian Index: "Daddy wears us all out, just trying to can and freeze all the fruit and vegetables he raises in the back yard. He never stops working, away from home or at home."

Such non-stop activity for the 85-year-old Baptist preacher is not surprising to those who have followed his illustrious career.

He has held almost every elective post Baptists can offer, has been one of the most powerful public figures in Georgia history, has been a Baptist World Alliance giant for five decades, has written books and columns for dozens of years, has been a relentless fighter for public decency and church-state separation . . . the list goes on and on.

But, at age 85, his health seems to be robust, his spirit undaunted and his calendar crowded for months to come.

"God and Baptists have been awfully good to this Screven County farm boy," he said. "As long as they want a South Georgia mule who doesn't know how to do much except to stick his head between the rows and keep plowing, then I'll try to plow a few more furrows."

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Harris Named President  
Of Clarke College

NEWTON, Miss. (BP)--S. L. Harris of Fort Worth has been elected president of Clarke College, a Baptist junior college here, succeeding W. L. Compere, who will retire, effective July 1.

Compere has served as the school's president since Jan. 1, 1955.

Harris' wife, the former Fleta Nell Lindley, will become librarian at the college, succeeding Miss Ann Boutwell, who resigned to be married and will move from Newton.

Harris has been counselor and associate professor of sociology at Tarrant County Junior College's northeast campus in Fort Worth for the past nine years.

A native of Miles, Tex., Harris has served as administrative consultant in the National Student Ministries work of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Baptist student director and Bible teacher at Sam Houston State Teacher's College, Huntsville, Tex., and Texas Technological Univ., Lubbock; dean of students and instructor of sociology at Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., and pastor of several Texas churches.

He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex.; the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; the master of arts degree from Sam Houston State Teachers College, and the doctor of arts from Western Colorado University, Grand Junction.

Mrs. Harris, a graduate of Howard Payne with a bachelor of arts, also holds the master of library science degree from East Texas State University. She is currently librarian at Watauga Junior High School, Fort Worth.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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NCTE TO EDITORS:

The Baptist Press interview with SBC President James L. Sullivan will be mailed Wednesday, April 27, rather than Tuesday, April 26.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press