

March 31, 1956

Richmond, Virginia---The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board reported that 2250 churches overseas related to Southern Baptist Convention baptized 24,342 converts last year. The Convention at the end of 1955 had 1020 foreign missionaries in active service. The churches contributed an equivalent total in American money of \$1,582,388 during the year.

-0-

Enugu, Nigeria---Miss Josephine Scaggs, Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria, received the "Member of the British Empire" award from Britian's Queen Elizabeth II in ceremonies here. She is the first Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria to receive such an award from the ruling sovereign in person.

-0-

Jakobstad, Finland--R. Paul Caudill, pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee (U.S.A.) will be guest speaker here June 21-24 when Finnish Baptists observe their centennial. The theme of the observance is "O Lord, Revive Thy Work in the Midst of the Years." Finnish Baptist work began in 1856 in the Aland Islands.

-0-

Havana, Cuba---Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lambdin toured Cuba recently working with Baptist Training Unions. Sixty-nine Southern Baptist Convention churches in Cuba have BTU's. Lambdin is secretary of Training Union work for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Lambdin also is a Training Union worker for the Board.

-0-

Phoenix, Arizona---The United States Congress recently passed a special law permitting a Baptist college professor of Chinese birth to stay in the United States. The special law favored Shih Ming Wang, who teaches mathematics and science at Grand Canyon College. The college is operated by Arizona Southern Baptists. The professor's wife and son are in Java, but hope to join him in the United States later.

-0-

Fort Worth, Texas---A Baptist deacon who also attained prominence as a British government official has sold a collection of 9000 rare books to Southwestern Baptist Seminary, located here. Ernest W. Brown, who served in four British cabinets including that of Winston Churchill, was the seller. Brown has served as president of the British Union of Great Britian and Ireland. He is a member of Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, London.

-0-

Belton, Texas---Amelia K. Lee, grand-daughter of Korea's last king, will enter Mary Hardin-Baylor College here this Fall to study music. Miss Lee, who already has a B. A. degree from Ewha Girls' School, Seoul, Korea, will be sponsored by R. E. Streetman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Coleman, Texas. Her grandfather, Emperor Yi, abdicated his throne in 1910 when Japan annexed Korea. Texas Baptists operate Mary Hardin-Baylor.

-0-

Dallas, Texas---Texas Southern Baptists have employed someone for full-time work among the state's 1200 foreign college students. The worker is Miss Eunice Parker, a former teacher at European Baptist Seminary, Zurich, Switzerland. One of Miss Parker's main duties will be to help form bonds of friendship between the visitors from other countries and American-born Baptist students.

-0-

Nashville, Tennessee---There are 1133 regular employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. About one-half of those work in the Board's main offices in Nashville. The remainder work in Baptist Book Stores across the Convention and at two assemblies. The Baptist Sunday School Board prepares lesson material and other publications. It also provides non-publishing services such as architectural advice to churches.

-0-

Tulsa, Oklahoma---The Southern Baptist Convention, which presently operates five seminaries, will be asked this year to give conditional approval to a sixth seminary. Conditions to be met are first, that a suitable location be found, and second, that a way of financing it be worked out without impairing existing Convention activities. J. W. Storer, Tulsa pastor, is chairman of the theological education committee making the recommendation.

-0-

Wichita, Kansas---The Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists, which represents the denomination in that state, celebrated its 10th anniversary during March. It was organized March 19, 1946, at Chetopa, Kansas. There are 19,500 Southern Baptists in Kansas.

-0-

Atlanta, Georgia---According to Courts Redford, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Southern Baptists have their greatest home missions challenge in nearly 100 years. The rapid expansion of Southern Baptist work into new areas in the United States has greatly increased the Home Mission Board's opportunity for service, he said.

March 31, 1956

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

RILEY RESIGNS NEGRO
SEMINARY PRESIDENCY

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Ralph W. Riley, for 12 years the president of American Baptist Seminary here has resigned effective June 1 and will re-enter the pastorate.

Victor T. Glass has been chosen acting president of the seminary. He is the first white man ever to serve as head of the seminary, which trains Negro religious workers.

The seminary is jointly supported by the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Riley will become pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, Newark, N. J. Before coming to Nashville, Riley served as secretary of the benefit board for the National convention, a Negro convention. He also was pastor of Dexter Ave. Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala.

Glass, a native of North Carolina, has been with American Baptist Seminary since 1946 as professor of New Testament and Christian ethics. Since 1952, he has been academic dean.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southern Baptist Seminary.

-30-

NOEL TAYLOR HAS
10TH ANNIVERSARY

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--Noel M. Taylor, executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association (convention), was recently honored by employes and the executive committee of the state association.

The occasion was his 10th anniversary as executive secretary of Illinois' Southern Baptists.

During the decade since 1946, the number of Illinois Southern Baptist churches has increased from 577 to 734 and membership from 92,023 to over 131,000.

In 1946, gifts for missions and benevolences were \$375,168 and in 1955, the same gifts were \$830,042.

-30-

ILLNESS PREVENTS RAY
FROM MOVING TO DENVER

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--Willis J. Ray, newly-elected executive secretary for the Colorado state convention, is reported suffering from a heart ailment.

Doctors said Ray will have to rest and later undergo surgery. The diagnosis prevented his moving from Phoenix to Denver to assume duties with the Colorado convention.

Ray, who is the immediate past executive secretary of the Arizona convention, was to have taken the Colorado office effective Mar. 15.

Barry Garrett, editor of the Baptist Beacon, newspaper of the Arizona convention, is serving as interim executive secretary in Arizona.

-30-

folks & facts.....

.....M. Russel Noel, for four years director of Baptist Training Union and student work for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, has resigned to become director of religious education for Second Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Tex.

-0-

.....Robert W. Crapps has become pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Hickory, N. C. He came to the church from serving as resident chaplain at Kentucky State Hospital, Danville, Ky.

-0-

BAPTIST FEATURES

Released by BAPTIST PRESS
127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn.

March 31, 1956

POLITICIANS ARE PEOPLE
By Hon. Raymond Gary
Governor of Oklahoma
A Baptist Press Feature

EDITOR'S NOTE: Another in the series on the crusade for Christian Morality.

Is there honesty and integrity in American government today? My answer is a resounding "Yes."

Since most of my adult life has been spent in politics, as county superintendent of schools, as a state senator, and now as governor of Oklahoma, I feel qualified to speak on this subject.

People working in government are no different from people anywhere else. Some are good, some bad and some mediocre. I have found the majority to be strictly honest.

A few people in any group do more things wrong than right. But is it fair to criticize an entire group for the sins of a few?

People in politics get far more publicity than others. Politicians are fair game for accusation, whether true or not.

Politics and Publicity

A man successful in politics must have publicity. This need for publicity is what causes many of the front page charges and countercharges, usually between opponents or potential opponents for political office. The charges may or may not be true, but they serve the useful political purpose of making well-known the person who issues them.

Unfortunately, the result of all this publicity-seeking is that the public gets a distorted view of the people who run our government. Not all are publicity-seekers. Not all are connivers. Yet there is so much notoriety attached to a comparatively few people in politics, the public can be excused for not seeing the forest because of these few trees which stand out so glaringly.

Actually, I think it's probably harder to be dishonest in government than almost anywhere else. Almost everything a public official does is immediately known to the public. We in public office have far more people peering over our shoulders, watching every move, than is true in any other business.

Because of this close public scrutiny, public officials are naturally criticized more than other people. It's a rare private citizen who doesn't have at least a few ready-made formulas for changing the government to suit him better.

Whatever a public official does or recommends, someone is sure to consider it foolish. There's nothing wrong with this constant criticism. So long as we keep the proper perspective, it's healthy.

more

Some must criticize, and others must present a better plan of operation before we get improvement.

A public office is a public trust, and should be watched carefully by the press and public. I believe this is being done. If we had this same close public scrutiny of other kinds of business, followed by statewide or nationwide publicity, I'm sure there would be equally heavy criticism of people there, too.

Just As Honest

I believe we have just as much honesty and integrity among people in government as in any other business, sometimes more. What you read in the papers are exceptions rather than the rule.

It should also be remembered, I feel, that when corruption does seep into government, it's usually the result of some outsider seeking to exert undue influence.

There can be no bribe-taker without a bribe-giver. In my mind, both are equally guilty. Yet we usually don't hear much about a businessman who may try to buy government favors. Most publicity is reserved, as perhaps it should be, for the government employee who may succumb to his wiles.

In my experience, these people are few in number. Unfortunately, they give everyone in politics a black eye. In spite of the frequent unfavorable headlines, I hope people understand that honesty and integrity are the general rule in government.

Your government is on at least as high a plane as other segments of our society--no worse and in many cases much better.