



BAPTIST PRESS

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Seminary Growth Reflects
God's Movement, Allen Says

By Michael Duduit

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Today's skyrocketing enrollments at all six Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) seminaries are the result of a decade-long movement of God at the grassroots level, the president of the SBC said here.

Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., and president since June of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, spoke on the campus of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. During his visit, he said that growing enrollments today reflect the work of God in churches in the late 1960s.

"We had in the late 60s a breakthrough of God into various cultural patterns," Allen said. "The movings of God that some of us were feeling at the local church level 10 years ago are just happening--God is producing a new wave of people."

Allen asserted that this grassroots movement is just now appearing at the seminary level. He believes Southern Baptists should have acted earlier to prepare their seminaries for the dramatic influx of students.

"This is no late phenomenon. What I haven't understood is why we didn't get ready for it...I fault us as Southern Baptists because we didn't recognize, perceive and respond to that as we should have," Allen said. He believes that the denomination should act now in "opening up new opportunities for God's people who have been called to do his service."

Many of these new places of service, Allen indicated, must be in areas with a weak evangelical witness. The SBC Home Mission Board has spotted some 600 counties in the United States with no evangelical witness.

"We have to get the resources and strength of our strong areas into the places where we're weak and the challenge is large," the denominational leader urged, reflecting on the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust plan to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world in this century.

All of this will involve "retooling" the minds of seminarians who have planned to return to areas of traditional Southern Baptist strength following their education. Students must be shown, Allen indicated, that "you don't really have to wait til the brick church in the county seat town or the major residential area calls you before you discern a place of service."

These new opportunities for service will increasingly involve bi-vocational ministry (in which the pastor of a church also holds a secular occupation), Allen explained. Over 9,000 ministers of SBC churches (out of over 35,000 churches) are bi-vocational, and he thinks the attitude of the denomination toward such roles must be changed.

"We have had them (bi-vocational ministers) all along--we just haven't been proud of it. We need to lift to the level of denominational approval and appreciation the bi-vocational minister," he said.

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Bi-vocational pastors have been part of the strength of Southern Baptists historically and Allen said. "The denominations which have lost the lay preacher have lost the momentum of their forward thrust.

"So what we need to do now as a denomination is to say to the seminarian: the fact that you have a graduate degree in theology doesn't mean that there is some neat place for you already carved out," he explained. "There are places for you to go in a pioneering fashion. You may have to make a living, like as a tentmaker. Paul wasn't too good to do it...you may do it.

"But we're going to be glad about that. We're not going to be ashamed of it and tell you you've failed. We're going to be proud of you and tell you that's where the action is."

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Southwestern Elects Dilday, Increases Fees

FORT WORTH (BP)-- The election of a new president, the approval of increased student fees, the establishment of an endowed professorship, and election of its first woman trustee officer highlighted the semi-annual meeting of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees here.

Russell H. Dilday Jr., 47, pastor, Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., was elected the sixth president of the 70-year old seminary. Dilday, named president-elect effective Jan. 1, 1978, will assume official duties on Aug. 1, 1978, succeeding Robert Naylor, 68, who will retire July 31.

In a related action, the board elected Naylor, who will complete 20 years in the presidency, as president emeritus, effective Aug. 1.

Dilday's election was unanimous, although the trustees went into closed executive session to consider the nomination from the floor of Huber L. Drumwright, dean of the school of theology. The nomination was made by Leon Simpson, a trustee from Kentucky.

The board routinely approved an increase to \$150 a semester of student matriculation fee, a joint action by all six Southern Baptist seminaries. Students do not pay tuition, which is underwritten by the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. The matriculation fee covers administrative costs.

Trustees voted to charge non-Southern Baptist students an additional \$250 per semester. Officials noted that this fee would affect less than 10 percent of the more than 3,500 students enrolled.

The additional fee charges, expected to offset higher operating costs, are anticipated to become effective with the fall semester, 1978.

The board voted to accept \$101,000 in contributions from the members of Houston's South Main Baptist Church to establish the E. Hermond Westmoreland Professorship in Preaching. The professorship becomes the first of its kind to be established at the Fort Worth seminary, according to officials.

Westmoreland, now deceased, served the Houston church as pastor from 1938 to 1971. A noted preacher of the gospel, he preached in churches and mission outposts around the world.

In other action, the board elected new officers. Ray L. Graham Sr., a Baptist layman and clothier from Houston, was elected chairman. Mrs. Gladys Lewis, a free lance writer from Midwest City, Okla., was elected vice chairman. Mrs. Lewis becomes the first woman in the history of the board of trustees to be elected to a leadership post.

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The board accepted a recommendation to name Charles Tidwell to fill a newly created Chair of Denominational Relations. The chair, to be underwritten by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for each of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, will interpret the board's extensive facilities, programs, literature and services. Tidwell, a professor of church administration, has served on the Southwestern Seminary faculty since 1965.

Charles Ashby of Corsicana, Tex., was elected as an instructor in foundations of religious education, effective Jan. 1, 1978. Ashby is currently completing requirements leading to the doctor of education degree.

In other personnel matters, the board voted to name Joe Davis Heacock dean emeritus of the seminary's School of Religious Education. Heacock, second dean of the school, first joined the faculty in 1944. He was elected dean in 1956 and served until his retirement in 1973.

The 36-member board also approved two recommendations to establish memorials in the seminary's new physical fitness center currently under construction. The gymnasium was named in honor of former U. S. Postmaster General, W. Marvin Watson, who serves as national chairman for the seminary's "Eight by Eighty" fund drive. A baseball field adjacent to the new center will be called Berry Field. It honors Kendall Berry of Arkansas, retired executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foundation, Nashville, and his son, Alan Berry, a business executive in Nashville.

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Relief Funds Released
For Argentina and India

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RICHMOND (BP)--An additional \$9,000 has been authorized by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here for disaster relief work in Argentina and India.

Missionaries in Argentina requested \$5,000 to begin work among victims of the Nov. 23 earthquake in the northwestern province of San Juan. Government reports put the death toll at 70. At least one Baptist church was damaged by the quake, which also destroyed several thousand homes. Missionaries indicated that further requests would be made for repair work on the church.

The remaining \$4,000 will supplement a previous allocation of \$6,000 for relief in India. The worst cyclone in over a century left thousands dead and many more homeless in Andhra Pradesh State. Located in the midsection of the India Ocean coastline, the disaster area is about 300 miles from the nearest Southern Baptist missionaries. The \$10,000 total given for relief will be administered through American Baptist missionaries who have been serving in the area for many years.

W. Eugene Grubbs, hunger relief and disaster response coordinator for the board, emphasized that Southern Baptists are only one of a number of groups working to provide for relief needs in India. Grubbs said that in both countries the board stands ready to release additional funds if needed.

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Dilday Outlines His Vision
For Seminary Education

By Don Hepburn

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FORT WORTH (BP)--Noting a sense of awe and a feeling of humility at his election as the sixth president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, Russell H. Dilday spoke of his dreams and visions.

The Atlanta, Ga., pastor, after a formal introduction to the 36-member board of trustees, was greeted by a standing ovation.

"I have the feeling of being a newcomer filled with idealism and the spirit of a neophyte," he told the board. "I have a vision and enthusiasm of what this institution can be. It is a strategic time in our denomination, with the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis to proclaim the message of Christ to all the world.

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"My vision includes a strong spirit for the relationship which must exist between the seminary's three schools, the local association, the state convention, and other Southern Baptist agencies," Dilday said. "I seek a new relationship between trustees, administration, faculty and students."

Dilday, pastor of Atlanta's Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, spoke of a second vision for a strong faculty--"committed to faith in Jesus Christ and committed to the local church." He said the faculty "should be academic heavyweights" and work with adequate compensation.

The new president-elect said his third vision for the seminary is for a strong curriculum with specialized studies for the diversified interests of students preparing for the ministry. "It is my commitment for a Biblically based curriculum with the Bible on every reading list. It is also my hope that our training will be practicalized.

"I would like to see an idea bank or depository for creative ideas in ministry, gleaned from research and from people involved in ministry how to more effectively reach people for Jesus Christ," the veteran pastor said.

Dilday expressed concern for his vision for stronger placement assistance provided to the seminary's graduates. "We have more people preparing for ministry than in the history of the world and yet there is a world filled with people crying for Jesus Christ. We must have a better way to bring together these graduates and the opportunities."

Another vision he cited was the need for the seminary to have strong financial support. He noted his excitement for the capital needs commitment of Southern Baptists and the possibilities of tapping the resources identified in the seminary's "Eight by Eighty" fund drive to raise \$8 million by 1980.

His final vision, he told the board, was for himself to be a strong model in ministry for the seminary students. "As a denominational leader, pastor, and now as seminary president, I want to be a model through my stewardship, tithe and personal witnessing. And I think our faculty should be models. How we teach is as important as what we teach."

Addressing his successor, seminary president Robert Naylor said, "We think God has made a choice. This is an argument for your dreams, it's an argument for your selection, and it's an argument for what must be done."

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Missionary Kids Lose Possessions In Fire

RICHMOND (BP)--Seven college freshman missionary kids (MKs) and their resource leader lost personal possessions when their cabin burned during a weekend retreat at Camp Hanover near here.

The Thanksgiving weekend retreat is sponsored annually by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for children of Southern Baptist missionaries in the U. S. for their freshman year in college.

No one was injured in the Nov. 25 fire, but the eight women lost possessions with an estimated value of \$6,385. The group of more than 130 students and their resource leaders were meeting in a Friday evening session when the blaze of undetermined origin was reported. Fire officials were able to contain it.

Six of the cabin occupants lost their pocketbooks, including passports, drivers' licenses, plane tickets back to college and other documents. Also lost were clothing, school books and small appliances, such as hair dryers, cameras and tape recorders.

The board replaced the lost plane tickets. Officials of the board are consulting with Camp Hanover, which is working on coverage of the losses with its insurance company.

The seven MKs who lost their possessions were Rebecca A. Clark, daughter of Ann Evanos (Mrs. G. Harold) Clark, assigned to Malaysia, and the late Mr. Clark; Kerri L. Corwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Corwin of Indonesia; Deborah and Diane Davis, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Davis Jr., formerly assigned to Vietnam and serving in Texas with refugees; Jenny R. Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby D. Evans of Malaysia; Hope Hayes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman P. Hayes of Indonesia and Sherrie Willis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Avery T. Willis of Indonesia.

The resource leader was Mary Kay (Mrs. Fred) Linkenhoker, a teacher from Bristol, Va., and a former Southern Baptist missionary journeyman to Vietnam.

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CORRECTION

In BP story, mailed 11/28/77, entitled "Baptist Conference Delegates Find Little Accord On Issues," change byline from Mary Ann Wood to Mary Ann Ward.

Thanks--Baptist Press