



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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European Baptists Accept Sponsorship of Seminary

VIENNA, Austria (BP)--The European Baptist Federation Council, meeting in Vienna, voted to accept the sponsorship of financially-troubled Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The rapid devaluation of the dollar over the last several years made it impossible for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to continue to accept total financial responsibility for the seminary, according to J. D. Hughey, area secretary for the board's work in Europe, the Middle East and South Asia.

In June, the Foreign Mission Board voted to limit its subsidy to the seminary to \$300,000 in 1979 and offered administrative and financial responsibility to the European Baptist Federation Council, the governing body of the European Baptist Federation.

An additional \$5,000 per year would be added to the \$300,000 annual subsidy through 1983, when the five-year contract for use of the seminary would be subject to renewal.

Hughey and two board members traveled to Vienna for the federation council meeting. Besides accepting the sponsorship of the international seminary, the council placed the administrative responsibility in the hands of an executive board composed of European and American representatives.

Guidelines for the new cooperative agreement recognized that the Foreign Mission Board, as owner of the property, is ultimately responsible for the Ruschlikon Seminary. The land was purchased for \$240,000 in 1948 and is now worth, by some estimates, several million dollars. Board action is necessary to ratify the agreements.

European Council President Knud Wumpelmann called acceptance of the seminary sponsorship "a great moment" in European Baptist history.

M. Hunter Riggins Jr., chairman of the administrative committee of the Foreign Mission Board, and Raymond L. Spence Jr., chairman of the board's subcommittee on Ruschlikon Seminary, also took part in the Vienna meeting. "Everybody seems to have the spirit of 'Let's make it work,'" Riggins said. "We have a new partnership arrangement, but we (the board) are the junior partners." The sponsorship assumed by European Baptists includes both financial and trusteeship responsibilities.

The council expects to raise 100,000 Swiss francs (\$62,500 U. S.) toward this year's budget of 875,000 francs. Half of the additional \$62,500 is available in gifts or firm pledges. This represents an increase of 82,000 francs over the European contribution to the seminary last year.

The president's secretary is the only full time staff member and food service has been temporarily discontinued to cut costs.

"European Baptists have expressed tremendous stewardship," Riggins said. "They're now taking a step on faith, continuing to work for the needed funds." Riggins said the seminary is a unifying force, a common goal drawing European Baptists together. "Europeans, not just churches but entire unions, are committed to keeping the seminary open."

Top Executives Urge Women
To Work Through SBC System

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Participants in a Consultation on Women in Church-Related Vocations were urged by several Southern Baptist agency heads to work through the denominational political system to influence the appointment of more women as trustees.

Top executives or their representatives from boards, seminaries, and state Baptist conventions participated in a symposium and responded to questions from some of the 300 professional and lay leaders attending the consultation.

"The climate toward more women trustees is changing but not very fast," said Carolyn Weatherford, Woman's Missionary Union executive director, adding that six out of 69 members of the SBC Executive Committee are women.

Christian Life Commission executive director, Foy Valentine, reported that four agencies--Historical Commission, Christian Life Commission, Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board--have trustee boards made up of at least 20 percent women.

"Make your wishes known to your two state representatives to the Committee on Boards," said Sunday School Board president, Grady C. Cothen. "The competition is keen to serve on committees and boards."

Martha Gilmore, who serves on a Texas children's home board, said she was invited to serve by a man, already a board member. After eight years, she is now a member of the nominating committee and is in a position to influence the selection of other members."

In other matters, the leaders were asked whether they ever speak out publicly about the need for changes in attitudes about women in ministry.

"No, I don't think I am as conscious as I should be," said Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "I am participating in this meeting to try and be more aware."

Miss Weatherford said she has a platform to speak about women because of her position in WMU. "But the real changes will happen because of words and actions from people in churches, not because of what agency heads say," she noted.

Symposium moderator Harry N. Hollis Jr. described the issue surrounding women in church-related vocations as "a revolution for genuine human freedom for women and for men that will not be stopped and ought not to be stopped.

"The question is whether we are going to sense that this revolution is a part of God's timing for humanity and that we can help shape the revolution for good," said Hollis, associate executive secretary and director of family and special moral concerns, Christian Life Commission.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary president, Randall Lolley, pledged the efforts of his institution in helping women in ministry "get over the hurdle of acceptance..." "If God is calling you to a teaching ministry and if you'll prepare for biblical studies, you'll be employable by one of our six seminaries," Lolley said.

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Gaines Dobbins Had
No Plans To Leave

Baptist Press
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Gaines S. Dobbins, who died Sept. 22 at the age of 92, had no intention of taking leave of Southern Baptists when he did.

The trend-setting Southern Baptist educator had his 34th book in the works and was casting a sharp and experienced eye at Southern Baptist Convention events. But sometimes he got so busy that routine events were lost in the rush.

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"I was so busy attending the 'booths' and 'banquets' at (the 1978 SBC meeting in) Atlanta that I failed to turn in my messenger credentials," Dobbins said in a letter, Sept. 4, to Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

"Please give the enclosed (messenger registration) card to the right secretary, with the request that I be mailed the 1978 convention Annual," wrote Dobbins, who liked to keep abreast of current events.

Routh, who sent Dobbins the Annual before his death, noted: "If Dr. Dobbins hadn't been too busy at the convention to register before registration officially closed, he would have been involved in another Southern Baptist 'first' by becoming messenger 22,873." The record-smashing Atlanta meeting officially registered 22,872 messengers, far outdistancing the 18,637 set in Norfolk in 1976.

'Firsts' for Dobbins, the first Southern Baptist to teach Christian journalism, pastoral care, psychology of religion and church administration during his years as a seminary professor, didn't surprise those who knew him.

He always looked to the future, confident that he would be part of it.

"We're going to miss you from the (executive) secretary's office," the 92-year-old Dobbins told his 67-year-old protege, Routh, who will retire Aug. 1, 1979, as the Executive Committee's chief executive. "I remember with pride how I helped get you started at Southern (Baptist Theological) Seminary."

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Baptist Law School Gets
\$4.5 Million Building

Baptist Press
9/27/78

CLINTON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi College School of Law has received the donation of a \$4.5 million building from the United Gas Pipe Line Company and a \$500,000 pledge from two business leaders.

The five-story United Gas Building in downtown Jackson, Miss., is easily adaptable to the requirements of a law school, said Lewis Nobles, president of the Baptist college. "The building is within a few blocks of the Mississippi Capitol complex, including the Supreme Court, the state Law Library, and the federal and municipal courts," he said. "The donation of this building is a positive step toward the accreditation of the Mississippi College School of Law by the American Bar Association."

The \$500,000 gift came from Robert M. Hearin and Leon Hess for the specific purpose of supplementing the law program by the addition of faculty.

Mississippi College has operated the school of law on its campus in Clinton, Miss., acquiring the Jackson School of Law in 1975 and moving it from the downtown Jackson area. The donation of the United Gas Building will give the school a permanent home in Jackson.

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Psychiatry as Religion
Said Dangerous, Idolatrous

By Michael D. Creswell

Baptist Press
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COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--Psychiatry and psychology can become dangerous and idolatrous when seen as religions, warned psychiatrists and a chaplain at a conference on "Psychology and Psychiatry As Religion."

L. D. Johnson, chaplain and professor of religion at Furman University, agreed that psychiatry and its skills help the Christian counselor, but told the 500 participants that "when psychiatry becomes a religion it becomes an idolatrous system from the biblical viewpoint. Idolatry is whatever replaces the Lord God in one's thought and life. If one's ultimate concern is not concern for the ultimate, you have idolatry."

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Karl Menninger, co-founder of the Menninger Clinic in Kansas City, still active and alert at age 85, decried the distorted uses of psychology advocated by persons who have become millionaires in the process.

"These men have written books read by millions of people, and they have sects of followers almost like Protestantism," said Menninger.

He said such teachings are opposed to Christianity, because they basically enable the individual to elevate his own self-esteem or self regard at the expense of things such as helping one's neighbor, visiting people in prison or considering the poor and children.

"The theory of self-ism is to quit thinking about all these things and pay attention to number one. Think how important you are, or how important you could be if you had a little more self-respect," he said.

Johnson said some practitioners of psychotherapy make claims of ultimate concern and value as religion does. "Lay persons like ourselves, clergy, if not especially clergy, tend to accord psychiatry a kind of idolatrous worship and invest psychiatrists and other psychotherapists with a kind of religious authority, a kind of religious authority which they may neither claim nor want," he said.

Johnson acknowledged the Christian counselor's direct and indirect indebtedness to psychiatry and psychotherapy, and balanced his critique by observing that not all psychiatry is idolatry nor all psychiatrists and psychotherapists idolaters.

He suggested ministers and psychiatrists serve as team members in bringing emotional and physical health to people who hurt. But he advised clergymen against having too much reverence for psychiatry. "We ought to quit bowing and scraping, backing off the stage," he said.

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Petty Accepts
N. C. Position

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RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--Charles V. Petty, executive director of the Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since March 1, 1973, has resigned effective Oct. 4 to accept appointment as director of Gov. James B. Hunt's Office of Citizen Affairs.

Petty, 38, who originally turned down the appointment, said that Hunt wanted a minister to work with the 10,000 churches in North Carolina "encouraging people to be involved in the hurts of others."

A native of England, Ark., Petty is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and earned the bachelor of divinity and the doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Seminary, FortWorth, Texas. He is a former associate director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

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Baylor Receives
Ham Radio Gear

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WACO, Texas (BP)--Children of missionaries attending Baylor University will soon be able to contact their parents in Central and South America, using ham radio equipment recently installed on the Baptist campus.

The transmitting equipment, valued at about \$3,000, was presented by Milton O. Davis, retired minister in Tyler, Texas, who led the drive to finance the equipment. A 1930 Baylor graduate, Davis has helped provide ham radios for more than 30 missionaries throughout the world.

As soon as the antenna is installed atop Sid Richardson Science Building, messages will be transmitted daily between Baylor students and missionary parents, as well as other parents in foreign countries who have children at Baylor.

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