

(BP)**-- BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 25, 1978

78-174

Southwestern Seminary
Elects Elder, Newport

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Additions to the administrative staff and faculty and changes in title nomenclature and assignment for several administrative officers highlighted action of the board of trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The board also adopted a proposal for a new seminary library, reviewed the seminary budget, heard annual reports from the president and vice presidents and celebrated the inauguration of Russell H. Dilday Jr. as sixth president of Southwestern.

It was Dilday's first meeting with the board since becoming president on Aug. 1, 1978.

Lloyd Elder, assistant to the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was named executive vice president, effective Nov. 15, 1978.

John P. Newport, professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern, 1952-76, will return to the faculty, Jan. 1, 1979, and will become vice president for academic affairs and provost, Aug. 1, 1979.

Newport, currently professor of religion at Rice University, Houston, succeeds Jesse J. Northcutt, who will retire as vice president for academic affairs, July 31, 1979, and become Westmoreland Professor of Preaching, Aug. 1.

A change in nomenclature was made for John Seelig, vice president for administrative affairs, who became vice president for public affairs effective with the action of the board.

Felix M. Gresham, dean of student affairs, received a new assignment as seminary chaplain and director of student aid.

New faculty members appointed, effective Jan. 1, 1979, were William A. (Budd) Smith instructor in foundations of education, and Thomas D. Lea, associate professor of New Testament.

Elder will serve as liaison officer for the seminary with all other Southern Baptist agencies and institutions. He will coordinate budget preparation and long range planning and will teach in the department of pastoral ministries. Elder will join the other four vice presidents in the organizational structure of the seminary.

Prior to his appointment to the Texas Convention staff in 1975, Elder served as pastor of the Gambrell Street Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Northcutt, vice president for academic affairs since 1973, previously served as dean of the seminary's School of Theology. The Westmoreland professorship was endowed by members of the South Main Baptist Church in Houston in memory of the late E. Hermond Westmoreland, pastor of the church for more than 30 years.

Seelig has served on the seminary staff since 1960. He was assistant to the president before being named vice president for administrative affairs in 1973. His responsibilities include public relations, student recruitment, development and fund raising, alumni activities, and special events.

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DARGAN-OANVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Gresham has been associated with the student affairs division of the seminary since 1955. In addition to his new responsibilities as chaplain, he will handle financial aid and scholarships and loans, as well as student employment opportunities.

Smith, a December candidate for the doctor of education degree, currently serves as an adjunct teaching assistant at the seminary. Lea is pastor of the Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

The seminary trustees elected Ray L. Graham Sr. to a second term as board chairman. Graham, a Houston businessman, is a member of the South Main Baptist Church there.

Mrs. Gladys Sherman Lewis, a free lance writer and member of the First Baptist Church of Midwest City, Texas, was elected vice chairman.

The trustees also adopted a proposal regarding a new learning resource center for the seminary, which recommended that a separate library building be constructed to house the current academic library, music library and audio visual center.

The current library is housed in three locations on the seminary campus--The Fleming Library within the Memorial Building, the Music Library in Cowden Hall, and the Audio Visuals Learning Center in Price Hall.

The administration will begin preliminary planning for the center immediately and make a full recommendation regarding construction and specifications at a later meeting of the board.

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Norwegian Sunday Schools
Thrive on Cooperation

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
10/25/78

NASHVILLE (BP)--A unique spirit of cooperation in Norwegian Sunday Schools extends literally and figuratively to all non-Lutheran churches in that country.

All churches in Norway, except the Lutheran Church, the country's state church, have formed an alliance to aid them in spreading the gospel and training their members. The alliance includes Baptists, Methodists, Assembly of God, Salvation Army, Evangelical Free Church and Church of Christ.

Johnstein Janoy, production manager for the Norwegian Baptist Sunday School Union, said during a visit to the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, that all the denominations use the same Bible study quarterly.

But Janoy, on a two month U. S. tour to gather information about publishing Bible study curriculum materials, said the Bible lessons include only facts about doctrines such as baptism and communion. Teachers in local congregations take responsibility for application of doctrine as taught by individual denominations.

Passages from the Bible are generally quoted without theological comment, Janoy said, because it's an evangelical Bible curriculum, not a doctrinal curriculum.

"We have no problem in cooperation," Janoy said, "We have a very good fellowship."

The Norwegian Sunday School Union has the responsibility for producing the literature used by the cooperating denominations and for teaching the training courses.

Janoy said Sunday School is not conducted in summer in Norway because of summer holidays. He explained that Christian camps are held for children during that time, however, and teacher training conferences also are held then for adults.

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He expressed great pride in the fact that every third child attends Sunday School in Norway, but said very few adult Sunday School classes are held.

"We hope we can develop our Sunday School to include adults," Janoy said, "especially in teacher training to recruit more teachers."

Beginning this fall, Janoy will serve as editor of the Sunday School curriculum in the Norwegian Sunday School Union. He had a special interest in visiting the Sunday School Board because Norwegian Baptists will begin publishing curriculum materials for the alliance in 1982.

Presently, they take Swedish Sunday School materials and translate them for the denominations in Norway.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers by the Sunday School Board Bureau of Baptist Press.

Church Members
Move Everything

VIDALIA, La. (BP)--When members of the Bougere Baptist Church move, they take everything.

The congregation recently moved from Bougere, where there were only about 15 families, to nearby Deer Park, a community of about 125 families.

When they moved, they bought the former Monterey First Baptist Church building, packed it on trucks, and moved it to a donated two-acre site in Deer Park.

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Baptist Volunteer
Hooked on Helping

By A. Clark Scanlon

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (BP)--Earl Gibson, a 54-year-old Baptist builder from Erick, Okla., will drop almost anything for foreign missions.

For instance, when James W. Cecil, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's associate consultant on laymen overseas, called him about a need for help, Gibson delayed a house he was finishing to join L. B. Morrow of Tennessee in a two-week assignment in Guatemala.

There Gibson built cabinets in a new missionary residence in Guatemala City--just one in a series of volunteer projects he has done in conjunction with overseas missions.

While in Guatemala, Gibson revisited Tecpan, where he saw the finished church building he and other volunteers had begun in June 1976--just four months following the earthquake that destroyed 15 Baptist church buildings and took the lives of two Baptist pastors. Last February Gibson helped construct a church building in Tembaly, Argentina.

Gibson summarized his faith: "We can go to church on Sunday and hear the gospel this month and next year. I get satisfaction from applying my faith practically. After all, the Bible says, 'Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only.'"

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Scanlon is Southern Baptist field representative for Middle America.

CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 10/23/78, entitled "Meeting Seeks Strategy To Reach Urban Millions," please correct line one of graph two to read "eight nations."

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Woman May Make Olympia
Largest Refugee Settlement

By Everett Hulum

OLYMPIA, Wash. (BP)--Singlehandedly, Fern Powers is likely to make Olympia the largest settlement of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees on the West Coast.

That's the impression left after a visit with Fern Powers, a dedicated Baptist woman in Olympia who has a burden for Asian refugees.

Already she and her husband, Bill, have sponsored more than 50 refugees, helping them find jobs and a new way of life in America. Just recently, she applied to sponsor another 45-plus refugees.

The wife/mother-of-five/grandmother-of-one/school-bus-driver has been deeply involved in an aggressive ministry to international seamen for more than seven years.

When she became aware of the overwhelming needs of refugees from Vietnam/Cambodia/Laos, she jumped into the sponsorship role with vigor and enthusiasm.

Some have come to her direct; she meets them upon arrival at Seattle airport. Others she has helped when their own sponsors failed.

One family she moved from Seattle to Olympia after discovering the woman had given birth in the couple's dirty, ramshackle apartment: they did not know how to find a doctor.

On another occasion, she bailed out of jail a refugee arrested on welfare fraud. The charge proved a misunderstanding. But he told Mrs. Powers, "If you had not come, I would have committed suicide, I am so ashamed."

When they arrive, Mrs. Powers finds the refugees a place to stay. If nothing is available, they stay at the Powers home.

Mrs. Powers helps newcomers apply for welfare and job training benefits under a state refugee-relief program.

"Our church is small," she explains. "We don't have resources to sponsor as many as we need to help. So we don't hesitate to take advantage of state services."

Mrs. Powers has found some sponsors withdraw support when a refugee disappoints them. But she never wavers.

"We can't reject them because they don't fall into the pattern we want," she says. "These people are not perfect when we get them; they're human like the rest of us. We hope they learn by their mistakes. And we stand by them."

Several--though not all--have become Christians. An Phan accepted Christ under the ministry of Doug Kellum at Laem Sing camp.

For almost all refugees, their new lives have proven "very happy experience." Vann Kin says, "I am very pleased in my new home. In my country and in Thailand, we do not have furniture or house like this.

"I am very glad my sponsor, too, she had me everything. She take care of anything I need. My sponsor help me when I have problem.

"My sponsor right away brought me and my family to find God. This make me happy most of all."



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