



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355

W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jamason, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Richard T. McCartney, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) L. Bracey Campbell III, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798

RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

March 13, 1979

79-41

SBC Annuity Board Launches \$25 Million Fund Campaign

DALLAS (BP)--An endowment thrust to raise \$25 million by 1988 has been launched by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Darold H. Morgan, board president, said the campaign represents a new way for the board to acquire funds to undergird its protection programs.

B. J. Chenault, a senior vice president directing the newly created endowment department, will head the campaign, using "Project: Partnership" as the theme.

During the next decade, the new department hopes to accomplish three major objectives, Morgan said: 1. stabilize protection plan reserves during volatile investment times; 2. assure an annual "14th Check" for extra benefits for board annuitants where annuities are very small; 3. help smaller churches in pioneer areas enroll their ministers in board programs.

"Our main concern in this endowment emphasis is to have enough earnings to be able to share equitably a supplemental income with our annuitants," explains Morgan. "We will call it a '14th Check.' It can help as we face the continual problems of inflation and the reduction of fixed incomes."

The board, during times of good investment experience, has issued a "13th Check" above the regular monthly checks to annuitants.

Morgan said investment earnings at the Annuity Board can never be used to accomplish these type goals. This is why the endowment department was begun.

Under Chenault, the endowment department will pursue gift annuities, trusts, estates, wills and other endowment sources.

The department will seek help through Annuity Board trustees, the agency's 17 field representatives, annuitants, ministers, laymen, agencies, state conventions, state foundations and other key SBC personnel.

-30-

Mississippi Baptist Executive Plans Wedding

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (BP)--Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Marjorie Rowden, vice president for college relations at William Carey College, will marry in a private ceremony in Hattiesburg, Miss., March 17.

Kelly became a widower in January, 1978, when his wife, Amanda Harding Kelly, died of cancer, leaving three school age children.

Mrs. Rowden, a former missionary to Israel who also serves as associate professor of religion at William Carey College, was widowed in 1959 when her husband, Paul, died of cancer. She has four children.

Kelly, who served as pastor of churches in Indiana and Mississippi before becoming executive secretary, is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned bachelor of divinity and master and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Mrs. Rowden is a graduate of Agnes Scott College and earned the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

-30-

Denny Proposes Baptist
Delegation Visit China

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance is seeking permission to bring "a small international delegation" of Baptists to the People's Republic of China "for the purpose of expressing international fellowship, peace, and greetings to our fellow believers."

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of BWA, said he is in correspondence with officials of the World Religion Institute at Beijing (Peking), an office established by the Chinese government for the study of religions.

Earlier, three Southern Baptist Convention leaders met with Chai Tse Min, the new Chinese ambassador to the U. S., in Washington to express Southern Baptist interest in re-establishing a Christian witness in China.

They were Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Texas, president of the SBC; Porter W. Routh of Nashville, Tenn., executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee; and Baker J. Cauthen of Richmond, Va., executive director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and a former missionary to China.

"The Baptist World Alliance is a voluntary association of 111 national Baptist groups with a total membership of over 30 million," Denny wrote. "Our people live in more than 100 nations and enjoy friendship and understanding without regard to race, nationality or political ideologies of the countries in which they live."

He explained that David Y. K. Wong of Hong Kong, "who was born on the mainland," is president of the Alliance, and that BWA's 12 vice presidents are from the various continents.

"We are interested in re-establishing friendly and peaceful relationships with our fellow believers and all peoples of the People's Republic of China," said Denny, who noted he was writing on Wong's behalf. He suggested a spring or summer date for the proposed visit.

About 123,000 Baptist Christians lived in China at the time the Communist government came to power in 1949. Reports indicate that personal religion has survived, though churches apparently ceased to exist under the new regime.

Denny said that BWA efforts to renew relationships with Baptists in China began as early as 1970 when V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia was elected president of the Alliance. Hargroves had once taught school in China.

Wong visited China as an individual in October 1975 shortly after his election as BWA president. William R. Tolbert, president of the Republic of Liberia and a former president of BWA (1965-70), was able to meet with a small group of Christians during an official state visit to China in July 1978.

-30-

Nishikawa Named
Editor in Hawaii

Baptist Press
3/13/79

HONOLULU, Hawaii (BP)--Sue Nishikawa, associate editor of the Hawaii Baptist since 1970, was elected editor of the paper at a meeting of the executive board of Hawaii Baptist Convention, becoming the only woman editor among the 34 editors of Southern Baptist state papers.

Edmond Walker, state executive secretary-treasurer, has been editor of the paper since 1965.

She is believed to be the first woman elected as permanent editor of a state Baptist paper among Southern Baptists, although several women have served as acting or interim editors and several currently serve in associate roles.

-more-

Mrs. Nishikawa, a native of Wahiawa, Oahu, Hawaii, will continue working as state Woman's Missionary Union director, a position she had held since 1954. She has also held other positions on the convention staff.

Before becoming state WMU director she was educational director of Olivet Baptist Church, Honolulu. She is a member of the Waikiki Baptist Church and is involved in resort missions through her church.

The new Hawaii editor is a cum laude graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and has a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

She is the author of "In Aloha Land" and of numerous articles and study materials in Southern Baptist periodicals.

-30-

(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers, March 14, by Baptist Press.

Lineberry Heads Seminary
Fund Raising Campaign

Baptist Press
3/13/79

WAKE FOREST, NC. (BP)--Albert S. Lineberry Sr. has been named general chairman of a three-year effort by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to raise \$3.5 million for capital improvements and endowment.

Lineberry, president of Hanes-Lineberry Funeral Service, Greensboro, N. C., will be joined by Theodore F. Adams of Richmond, Va., general co-chairman; and Mrs. A. Harrison (Christine) Gregory of Danville, Va., as vice chairman.

Adams, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Richmond, is a former president of the Baptist World Alliance and former visiting professor of preaching at Southeastern Seminary. Mrs. Gregory is president of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention.

-30-

They Like 'Flexitime'
At Woman's Missionary Union

Baptist Press
3/13/79

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--After a year of study and testing the executive board of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention has instituted a new method of scheduling for its 105 employees called "flexitime."

Using flexitime, workers choose their hours within a framework. At WMU, the framework hours are 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, making the WMU building in Birmingham open to employees 55 hours a week. Of that time, everybody must work the 37½ hours of their choice but observe certain "core hours" to facilitate teamwork.

In addition, they must take a mid-day lunch break of at least one-half hour. If they wish, they can take off up to two hours in the middle of the day.

Loosening the work schedule was a personal priority Carolyn Weatherford brought to WMU when she became its executive director in 1974.

"Maybe it's because I disliked being regimented to work during hours that I could not be most productive," she said. "If I felt that way, so did others." She also believed that WMU should make things easier for its predominantly woman staff, many of whom juggle families and church work along with careers. "Men like freedom of choice too," she noted.

Taking a cue from several progressive businesses across the country, WMU investigated flexitime. Some wondered how co-workers would ever get together to confer. They solved this problem by instituting the core hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., during which everybody must be present, except for lunch. Meetings must be scheduled during that time bracket.

-more-

During two trial periods employees came to regard flexitime as a great fringe benefit. They were unanimous in voting their preference for flexitime. Some were hesitant, realizing that established car pools and work habits could crumble, but they soon realized they could choose to continue their conventional schedule.

"We are here to provide a service, and we cannot let our personal preferences for schedules interfere with work," Miss Weatherford reminded employees. So employees balance and stagger their schedules. The result is that WMU has been able to expand its "open for business" hours.

"Every public-related function of this building will be available beginning at 7:30 a.m. Central Standard Time and continuing until 4:30 p.m.," Miss Weatherford announced.

The expansion of hours will put WMU in business at the same time as major SBC agencies in the Eastern Time Zone. Baptists in the Central Time Zone may telephone WMU long distance at reduced rates prior to 8 a.m., and there will be no reduction in the time WMU is accessible to the west, a WMU representative said.

While WMU feels the public benefits from the flexitime program, it apparently makes the staff the happiest.

"We can beat the traffic coming and going," one said. "We can schedule personal appointments without using leave. We can have more time with our families. We can relax more. We like it."

-30-

Southern Trustees Approve
Religious Education Degree

Baptist Press
3/13/79

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The trustee executive committee of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has approved a three-year program in religious education, leading to a master of divinity in religious education degree.

The new plan combines features of the current master of religious education degree and the master of divinity degree. It requires the same biblical studies core and historical-theological studies core as the present master of divinity program. The major difference occurs in the third core area which will include educational courses currently included in the present master of religious education.

Students in the new program will be under the advisement of the faculty of the School of Religious Education.

The new program is for church staff members and others who do not plan to be pastors. It is particularly designed for those who would serve as ministers of education, ministers of administration, ministers to youth, ministers to children, campus ministers, editors, curriculum writers and others who desire the greater content and depth available in a three-year program of study.

The seminary will continue to offer the two-year master of religious education degree.

In addition to 18 hours in both the biblical studies core and historical-theological studies core, the new program will offer 34-37 hours in an educational ministries core. Controlled electives of six or seven hours and eight hours of free electives will complete the 85 to 87-hour requirement.

-30-