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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 26, 1979

79-181

Southwestern To Launch
\$15 Million Campaign

By Philip Poole

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have approved a \$15 million campaign to finance a new library, a world missions/church growth center, a continuing education center and additional endowment.

The recommendation was among 12 objectives adopted by trustees at their fall meeting as part of the seminary's long-range plan for 1980-85. Seminary President Russell Dilday Jr. will present the capital campaign proposal to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee at its February meeting.

The board also heard the first annual report presented by Dilday since his inauguration as president of Southwestern in 1978, elected new officers, approved 22 new courses for the curriculum and heard from SBC President Adrian Rogers.

Rogers affirmed his support for Southwestern Seminary and told trustees: "There is not one faculty member here whose theology I would question. I have always been grateful for Southwestern and frequently recommend students here."

Rogers emphasized his concern for revival among Southern Baptists and called for a "baptism of love and power that will melt us together."

Trustees elected Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, as chairman of the board for a one-year term.

The proposed \$8 million learning resource center, to be located on the east side of the campus, would accommodate approximately 700,000 volumes and more than 1,000 students when completed. The 77,000 sq. ft. building would house the seminary's main library, the music library, archives and other research resources.

The recommendation included plans to renovate the present Fleming Library to house the world missions/church growth center, a continuing education center, the seminary's student affairs division, library support services, classrooms and faculty offices.

Other recommendations approved by trustees for 1980-85 included goals of an average yearly student enrollment of 4,000; an average of 750 graduates during each academic year; a student-faculty ratio of 1 to 20; a financial resources plan to meet budget demands which are expected to top \$14 million by 1985; and a continuing self-study and planning program.

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

The world missions/church growth center will focus the resources of the seminary's schools of theology, religious education and church music to prepare students in the principles of church planting, church growth, urban outreach, evangelism and world missions strategies.

The center will provide basic courses of study for all students but will offer special emphasis for those preparing for foreign mission service or church growth ministries in the United States.

Resources will allow missionaries on furlough and others to do research in mission strategy, and continuing education conferences will be offered to pastors and church leaders.

Both the world missions/church growth center and the continuing education center will include on-campus guest facilities for program participants.

A proposed organizational structure for the student affairs division was adopted for full implementation by 1985. The division will be headed by a vice president for student affairs and will include existing functions of the seminary chaplain/director of counseling, dean of men, dean of women and director of the recreation/aerobics center.

New positions to be added during the five-year period are director of vocational placement, planned for 1982, and director of financial aid and student employment, planned for 1984.

Also adopted were plans for an expanded placement center which will "focus on the ministry needs of the churches and denomination, as well as the calling, spiritual gifts and skills of the minister."

The center will provide readiness for ministry assessment and testing procedures; research and records information; assistance to ministers and search committees concerning position descriptions, effective interviewing and other ministry aspects; and opportunities for continuing education.

Trustees approved an updated campus master plan which calls for construction of additional parking, student housing and other facilities, as well as the purchase of land and properties essential to the completion of the plan.

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Pastor Speaks Out
On Atlanta Crime Problem

Baptist Press
10/26/79

ATLANTA (BP)--An angry young pastor who believes in "going public" with his feelings has led in erection of a huge sign in downtown Atlanta in an effort to help stem the tide of murders there.

The sign is located near Atlanta Stadium, where east-west and north-south interstate highways meet. It is one of the most visible locations in Atlanta.

The big sign reads: "Stop and Think. Human Life is Precious. Thou Shalt Not Kill."

Ronnie West, pastor of Cliftdale First Baptist Church led his congregation to contract for erection of the sign. It will stay up 12 weeks, at a cost of \$3,400.

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The sign is located in a spot where another Atlanta citizen wanted to put up a sign warning visitors not to enter Atlanta, because of alleged improper police protection.

The sign company refused to erect that sign and instead erected the sign underwritten by Cliftondale First Baptist Church.

Atlanta's major crime rate has increased by 26.2 percent in 1979 over 1978. The homicide rate increased 52.7 percent. The great majority of the homicides are domestic quarrels, not street murders.

West, a former policeman, said, "Our sign is just one effort to sensitize people to the precious value of a human life. All of us, and that includes church members and church leaders, have a vital stake in Atlanta.

"We need to do everything possible to proclaim the sacred value of human life and human personality. Maybe our sign will cause just one person to rethink human values."

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Routh Brings First-Hand Knowledge to Classroom

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Porter W. Routh, recently-retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, says interpreting the denomination to seminary students from an insider's viewpoint is a challenge.

"It is one thing to be involved in denominational life on a day-to-day basis but it's another thing to translate this involvement into principles in social science so it becomes relevant," he says.

Routh is teaching Baptist heritage and denominational administration courses at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary this fall. He will teach similar courses at Midwestern, Southeastern and Golden Gate Baptist seminaries in succeeding semesters.

Routh, executive secretary-treasurer for 26 years, says he notes more readiness among students to "accomplish something" in the denominational system.

The native Texan is just as optimistic about the Southern Baptist Convention's future as he is about seminarians' futures. "Our dynamics and future are not in our bigness but our smallness," he says.

Referring to the church as the unit of smallness within the convention, Routh says seminaries should train ministers to help the church find new ways of letting hurt people know it cares.

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BYW Joins The Army

WEST POINT, N.Y. (BP)--As a plebe, Brynnen G. Sheets wanted to be accepted as one of the boys at West Point. But in three years, her view has changed.

Now Miss Sheets is interested in her identity as a woman and the place of women as women at the United States Military Academy.

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While America celebrated 200 years of history in July 1976, Miss Sheets helped make history as she and 120 other women began training as "new cadets," the first women to enroll at West Point. Female cadets now number about 300 in a total enrollment of 4,400.

Miss Sheets and a small group of other West Point women wrote Baptist history within the pages of the academy when they organized a Baptist Young Women's group on campus. They feel a Christian organization for women students is a big step forward in strengthening their identity as women.

Home missionary Fairy Harpe, who with her husband Alton are campus ministers to the cadet corps, helped start the group. As a long-time Woman's Missionary Union activist, Mrs. Harpe was aware of a national pilot project testing Baptist Young Women on college campuses.

The group allows a place where the women can be people instead of plebes, where they can step outside the regimented life of the military academy for a brief respite. The Harpes insist that distinctions between plebes and upperclassmen be left outside when students come to BSU activities.

Evidence of military strictness emerged as students planned a lunchtime Baptist Young Women's meeting. They were going to sign out for lunch (you don't just casually skip a meal). Mrs. Harpe was to bring hamburgers from off campus. But they had to be careful in selecting a site for the picnic style meeting (you don't eat just anywhere on campus).

Baptist Young Women is not restricted to West Point women. Peggy Brett, a senior at nearby Ladycliff College, was a charter member.

Nor is Baptist Young Women limited to Baptists. Marjorie Sullivan was a nominal member of another denomination. Through the Baptist Student Union, she found a meaningful, personal faith in Christ. She, too, was a charter Baptist Young Women's member. Chaplain Harpe baptized her before she left West Point.

Once past the gray cadet uniforms and the military courtesy of prefacing every sentence with "sir," the West Pointers seemed like most other Baptist Young Women members. They study the same literature, pray for missionaries on their birthdays, and lead out in offerings for missions. Last spring they reached their goal of \$150 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions on one Sunday.

Miss Sheets believes Baptist Young Women strengthens Baptist witness on campus as women emerge in leadership positions. Though she plans to have her degree and commission and be in the army when it happens, she hopes in another year women will be elected officers of the Baptist Student Union.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story mailed 10-25-79 entitled "Southern Baptists Step Up Aid to Starving Cambodians" please change all "million" references in fifth paragraph to hundred thousands. Thus, 100,000 Cambodians have crossed into Thailand...there are an additional 100,000 refugees...and about 200,000 more behind those.

Thanks,

Baptist Press

(BP)

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