



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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McGlothian Named ABTS President

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Odell McGlothian Sr., an executive of the publishing arm of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., has been elected 11th president of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville.

Charles E. Boddie, president since 1963 of the school, which is owned and operated jointly by the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and the Southern Baptist Convention, has been named chancellor. American Baptist Theological Seminary is a predominately black undergraduate ministerial training school organized in 1924.

McGlothian, 50, will become chief administrative officer of the seminary June 1. The Vaiden, Miss., native is currently director of publications at Nashville's Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. He is also pastor of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in nearby Hendersonville.

He is a graduate of Judson College, Elgin, Ill.; Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Oak Brook, Ill.; and earned the master and doctorate degrees in education from Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

A former teacher and counselor in the Detroit public school system, McGlothian has been director of educational services of the Detroit Urban League.

While in Detroit, McGlothian was for 11 years pastor of the Church of Our Father Baptist Church. He has also been pastor of churches in East Chicago, Ind., and Milwaukee, Wis.

He and his wife, the former Gloria D. McDonald of Detroit, have five children.

As chancellor of the seminary, Boddie will serve the school in a public relations capacity. A well-known civic and religious leader, Boddie served as church pastor in New York and West Virginia for 21 years before joining the staff of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies in 1956.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

Missionaries Resume
Labors in Surinam

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4/8/80

PARAMARIBO, Surinam (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries have returned to their normal activities following a Feb. 25 military coup in Surinam.

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Church services, Sunday schools and Bible clubs are meeting at regularly scheduled times. Missionaries continue, however, to maintain a low profile, according to missionary Harold Lewis. He said the national military council has set up a civilian government and the country has been promised that changes will bring a "paradise" atmosphere to the former Dutch colony north of Brazil.

Certain restrictions remain, said Lewis, including a midnight to 5 a.m. curfew.

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Congress To Shape
New Refugee Law

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
4/8/80

ATLANTA (BP)—President Carter took only a few seconds to sign into law a bill which almost triples the number of refugees allowed into the United States each year. But Congress may spend months deciding who gets the benefits.

That's an important concern for Heng Cheng, president of Cambodia from 1970 to 1972.

"The number of refugees the U.S. government allows to enter the country should be in proportion to the populations of their native lands," said Cheng, now a refugee resettlement worker in Houston. "Carter and Congress raised the quota from 17,000 to 50,000, but that will be effective only if they set new standards for admission."

"There are 700,000 Cambodians in holding camps along the Thailand border," he said. "But most of them cannot move to the United States because the U.S. government says, 'You don't have the qualifications to come here.'"

Instead, Vietnamese and Laotians—whose problems "are not as grave as those of Cambodians"—have been given privileged access to the United States, Cheng charged.

"Thousands of Cambodians are starving, most of them are afflicted with disease, and many, many are orphans," he said. "Cambodians have more problems than the boat people. However, Americans have seen the boats. They have given their attention to people on them, and Vietnamese refugees to the United States outnumber Cambodian refugees four to one."

Ratios of refugees already admitted reflect U.S. commitment to former alliances, rather than mere sentiment for endangered people, responded David Passage, state department spokesman.

"The United States was involved in Vietnam for 12 years," he explained. "We employed Vietnamese and fought alongside them. Consequently, we feel a special responsibility for their welfare and for their families."

Since the United States cannot accommodate every refugee, the government is forced to "take the most pressing problems, judged according to priorities set by Congress," Passage added. "Very few Cambodians meet the criteria for entrance established under the former law."

The law—under which all recent refugees have been admitted—gives top priority to immigrants whose blood relatives already live in the United States. Then it provides for persons who have worked for the U.S. government or who have been closely identified with U.S. presence. Next come high-risk individuals—persons not necessarily associated with the United States but who held positions in deposed free governments. Finally, it provides

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for all others, giving preference to people who have distant relatives in the United States, who are educated and speak English and who have marketable skills.

How Congress will re-write these stipulations concerns Cheng, and that's for good cause, said Gene Tunnell, refugee resettlement coordinator for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"These new regulations will determine the full implication of the law," Tunnell said. "We'll be following that closely, pushing for new categories so that a broader range of people are eligible for admission into the United States."

Tunnell is optimistic both for the increase in the baseline quota and because the law makes the U.S. definition of refugees conform to the United Nations' definition. "In the past, he said, "the United States only considered as refugees those persons fleeing communist countries. Provision now has been made for non-communist, but oppressive, nations."

While Congress struggles to develop regulations for refugee admission, Southern Baptists can help refugees already in the States, Tunnell said. "The president has less than 60 days to grant parole authority to Haitians living in the United States, or else legal problems for them to remain in the United States will be compounded."

"Baptists should write the president or their congressmen and urge parole authority for the Haitians," he said. "This is a cause we have long supported through the Home Mission Board, and this action is an expressed desire of the people in Florida, where most of the Haitians have settled."

Baptists also can help persons already approved for entrance into the country, he added.

Because of the government's family reunification program, most new refugees are joining their relatives, settling in areas where refugee concentration already is high. "Baptists can become partners in sponsorship by linking their resources with churches which already sponsor families—so these churches can sponsor more," he said. "By becoming partners, churches which might never have direct access to refugees can help sponsor them."

"Other Baptists who are located in areas where refugees already live can contact them directly and offer to help them sponsor their families. Still others need to volunteer to be indefinite sponsors. We need churches which will make themselves available to take in families when the need arises, not just specific timetables."

"Finally, Baptists need to be aware of the needs of all refugees," Tunnell said. "Almost everyone knows about Indochinese refugees, but some 10 million persons are displaced throughout the world at any given time. We must recognize the needs of all refugees and try to help them—whatever their national origin."

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Cothen at Home,
Progressing Well

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4/8/80

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen has checked out of the hospital and is reported progressing very well after surgery to remove a malignancy involving 70 percent of his stomach.

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Doctors say the surgery was successful and they plan no further treatment for Cothen, who is recuperating at home. He's gaining strength, eating regular food and walking around the house and yard during his first few days at home.

All of Cothen's commitments were cancelled through the end of April when it became known that surgery was necessary. He's expected to be back in the office in early May.

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Bomb Threat Empties
Sunday School Board

Baptist Press
4/8/80

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board was evacuated for more than an hour April 3 after a bomb threat was telephoned to the personnel department shortly after noon.

Metropolitan police took almost an hour to search the five-building complex with dogs trained to sniff out explosive materials. Nothing was found and employees returned to work for the remainder of the day.

This is the third threat of this nature in which the Sunday School Board has had to be evacuated and searched. The first was in 1966 and the second in 1974.

James W. Clark, executive vice president of the board and acting chief executive officer during President Grady Cothen's surgery recovery period, made the decision to evacuate the premises. Clark said measures are being taken to keep the board from being harassed by such incidents. Guilty parties in violation of the law will be prosecuted, according to Clark.

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EEOC Appeals Southwestern
Seminary Lawsuit Ruling

By Philip Poole

Baptist Press
4/8/80

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has appealed a January decision in a two-year-old lawsuit involving Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

District Judge Eldon Mahon of Fort Worth ruled Jan. 25 that EEOC did not have jurisdiction over the seminary, thereby denying EEOC the right to seek employee records at the Southern Baptist institution.

By agreement, the outcome of the suit filed in May 1977 against Southwestern will govern the claim of jurisdiction by EEOC over the other Southern Baptist seminaries in Kansas City, Mo., Louisville, Ky., Wake Forest, N.C., Mill Valley, Calif., and New Orleans, La.

EEOC had contended that the seminary is required to follow federal guidelines because it is an institution of higher learning employing more than 15 persons.

In a letter to presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, Jenkins Garrett, attorney for the seminary, said he was "disappointed, but not surprised" that EEOC made the decision to appeal to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Garrett explained in his letter that EEOC, in its brief filed with the district court, took the position it has jurisdiction over the church itself with the sole exception that the church can require its employees to be of like faith.

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"In view of this broad claim of authority, it is not surprising that EEOC would claim jurisdiction over the seminaries, even though they constitute an integrated function of the Southern Baptist Convention and its churches in the training of its ministers," Garrett said.

A spokesman in Garrett's firm said no date had been set for hearing the appeal. A record of the Fort Worth trial will be sent to the appeals court and both EEOC and the seminary will file briefs stating their positions in the suit. After these are filed, the appeals court will determine if it will hear oral arguments or make a decision based on the written briefs and trial transcript.

"We have confidence in the excellent preparation made by the seminary attorneys which resulted in the affirmative decision last January," said seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. "The facts entered in the appeal will be based on the same preparation."

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Missionary Tom Law Jr.
Dies of Cancer at 51

Baptist Press
4/8/80

HOUSTON (BP)--Thomas L. Law Jr., Southern Baptist missionary to Spain, died of cancer April 3 at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Services were held April 5 at South Main Baptist Church, Houston, followed by graveside services in Cameron, Texas.

Law, 51, who had served as a field evangelist in Spain since 1964, had flown from Spain to Houston on Jan. 19, and was operated on for cancer four days later. He was released from the hospital and began receiving chemotherapy treatment before reentering the hospital March 20.

A Texan, Law was born in Houston and also lived in Wharton and Bryan. Before he was appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1962, he had been superintendent of missions for the Lower Rio Grande Baptist Association.

Previously, he had served in Cuba with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for eight years, working among British West Indians, Americans and Cubans. During that time he was pastor of two English-language churches and a Spanish-language mission and taught in the Cuban Baptist Theological Seminary.

He attended Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas, and was graduated from North Texas State University, Denton. He received the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Freeman Law, also a missionary to Spain, and four sons, Dick, Charles, Stephen, and Tom III, a Southern Baptist missionary to Paraguay.

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