



**-- BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 2, 1981

81-170

Rust Nominated  
For SC Position

By Larry Crisman

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Ray P. Rust, president of Anderson College in Anderson, S.C., will be recommended to the General Board of South Carolina Baptist Convention to succeed A. Harold Cole as executive secretary-treasurer of the state convention.

Rust, president of the two-year, Southern Baptist college since March 1978, will be presented to the 79-member General Board in a special Nov. 9 meeting which precedes the 161st session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Nov. 10-11 in Charleston.

The board will vote on the recommendation of a seven-member search committee that Rust succeed Cole, who retires Feb. 28, 1982, after more than 12 years in office, as the chief executive officer of the 1,719-church convention--the largest religious denomination in the state.

If the board votes favorably, Rust's nomination will go to the convention for a vote of messengers attending the Wednesday afternoon (Nov. 11) session.

Kirk L. Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sumter, S.C., and chairman of the search committee, said Rust has agreed to become the ninth executive secretary-treasurer of the convention provided his nomination is approved by the General Board and a majority of messengers attending the annual convention.

"Dr. Rust is the committee's choice as the nominee to become Dr. Cole's successor because of strong educational qualifications and experience which make him one of the most widely-respected Southern Baptist leaders in our state," Smith said.

Rust, ninth president of Anderson College, was announced as the committee's selection after a year's search.

Elected last fall, search committee members began the search after Cole's retirement announcement in October 1980.

Smith said the committee went through an involved process before deciding on Rust. The search, he said, included "numerous interviews, discussions, a review of more than three dozen candidates, 22 meetings and fervent prayer."

Rust came to Anderson College from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he served seven years as assistant to the president and executive vice president. He was

acting president of New Orleans Seminary from February 1974 to Jan. 1, 1975.

Rust was a pastor in Louisiana and Mississippi churches for 28 years before entering Christian education in 1971 at New Orleans Seminary.

A native of Northwest Shreveport, La., Rust is a graduate of Louisiana College (B.A.) and New Orleans Seminary (B.D.). He was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree by Louisiana College and the Doctor of Humanities degree by Furman University.

Rust's denominational experience on both state and Southern Baptist Convention levels includes terms on the SBC Executive Committee and the SBC Resolutions Committee.

He is married to the former Joy Lucille Stagg of Lake Charles, La. The couple has two children--a son, Larry Rust, of Alexandria, La., and a daughter, Mrs. John H. (Jory) Watson of Garland, Texas.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by South Carolina Baptist Convention.

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Drumwright, Arkansas  
Executive, Dies At 57

Baptist Press  
11/2/81

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--Huber L. Drumwright Jr., 57, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, died at 1 a.m. Nov. 2 after suffering an apparent heart attack.

Drumwright preached Sunday (Nov. 1) at First Baptist Church of El Dorado, Ark., and had experienced chest pains during the afternoon. However, he preached the evening service.

He and his wife, Minette, returned to their home, where he had severe pains about 11 p.m. Little Rock Fire Department paramedics were summoned and efforts were made to resuscitate him for nearly an hour.

He was taken to Baptist Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead at 1 a.m., after further efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Drumwright became executive of the Arkansas convention May 30, 1980, after 28 years on the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, seven as dean of the school of theology. He was professor of New Testament.

He was born in Walters, Okla., and a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary. He had done post doctoral work at Princeton Seminary and the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece.

During World War II, Drumwright saw combat duty as a naval officer with the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the South Pacific.

He had been pastor of churches in Allen, Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, and Ada, Okla., and interim pastor of 21 churches while at Southwestern.

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Survivors include his wife, Minette; two daughters, Minette Evalyn and Debra Kay, both of Waco, and a sister, Mrs. Rubye Pulley of Dallas.

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Traveling the World  
She Tells the Word

by Jacqueline Durham

Baptist Press  
11/2/81

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--When Marsha Whitten became a Christian 11 years ago, her prayer was, "Lord, let me tell the world that I'm a Christian."

Today, as a flight attendant with a major airline, Whitten believes God definitely answered that prayer. As she logs thousands of air miles, she feels that God uses each trip to bring her in contact with persons to whom she can minister or witness.

"Sometimes that person is another attendant or crew member, a passenger, a bellboy, or a bus driver," she says.

Occasionally, opportunities to witness present themselves in remarkable ways.

In one city where she had a layover, Whitten went to a local park to jog. She noticed a derelict sitting on a bench, reading. He kept watching her.

Before she left the park, she approached him and said, "I don't know why I'm telling you this, but God loves you."

The man's eyes filled with tears, as he said, "I know the Lord." He shared his story of former wealth, of present discouragement, and of hope for a better future.

Of experiences like these, Whitten says, "I'm more and more aware of how many people are in need."

A petite blonde, Whitten grew up in the small city of Florence, Ala. During her years at the University of Alabama, she majored in social work because she wanted to help people.

However, since she also possessed an intense desire to travel, she sought a job as a flight attendant.

"The night before the job interview I prayed, 'Lord, either give me this job or take away my desire to travel,'" Whitten said.

She interprets her subsequent employment as God saying, "I'm going to give you this job, but it's not the end. It is the means to the end."

Whitten's first assignment was a 10-month stint in the New York City area. She says she was shocked by what she saw there, and was concerned about being a Christian in that kind of environment.

"Then I realized that God was bigger than all that," she says, "that he places people in all walks of life to use them there."

Today Whitten is based in Atlanta where she is an active member of First Baptist Church.

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As she faces day-to-day stresses and demands of her job, Whitten says she depends heavily on prayer "for grace to handle those situations."

"People tell me I'm naive and innocent," she says. "I don't want to lose that. I don't want to become hard and bitter because of the stress and irritation of the job. I want to be strong—strong like iron."

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Adapted from November 1981 Contempo magazine.

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Steps No Longer  
Obstacle For Strand

Baptist Press  
11/2/81

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. (BP)--The 73-year-old woman who regularly climbed 28 steps to church services at the Templo Bautista Ven-A-El has since climbed the "golden gates" to Heaven.

Faith Strand, who was featured in an Oct. 26 article in Baptist Press died Oct. 19 according to the Moline Daily Dispatch.

Because of arthritis, Mrs. Strand climbed on her hands and knees to attend church. After services, she sat on the top step and then scooted to the bottom, step by step.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) mailed 10/26/81, "Husband and Wife Ordained To Ministry By Georgia Church," please change the lead to read:

DECATUR, Ga. (BP)--Oakhurst Baptist Church ordained members Nancy and Ken Sehested to the gospel ministry Oct. 25, in a rare ordination of both husband and wife in the same service in a Southern Baptist Church.

Insert a new graf after the second graf:

The ordination of a husband and wife team has happened on at least one other occasion, when Ocean View Baptist Church of Myrtle Beach, S.C., ordained Thomas and Nancy Smith to the gospel ministry on Sept. 11, 1977.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press