

DEC. 14 1981

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 11, 1981

81-190

**SBC Seminary Enrollment
Passes 10,000 First Time**

By Norman Jameson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A modest 2.6 percent increase at Southern Baptists' six theological seminaries pushed total enrollment to more than 10,000 for the first time.

Including the 509 enrolled in non-credit courses, campus enrollment in all categories for the fall 1981 terms is 10,058, up 251 over fall 1980, according to statistics released by the seminaries.

Enrollment in courses expected to lead to graduate degrees, as reported Oct. 1 to the Association of Theological Schools, is 9,298, up 2.9 percent over the 9,033 reported last year. ATS statistics show the remainder enrolled in associate or diploma programs.

Enrollment at the 192 seminaries reporting to ATS was 50,559, an increase of 1.9 percent, according to Marvin Taylor, ATS statistician. The 192 reporting seminaries is a net loss of one over last year because two Catholic seminaries closed their doors and Liberty Baptist Seminary joined ATS as an associate member.

Southern Baptist seminaries account for 18.4 percent of the enrollment in seminaries in the U.S. In 1980, SBC enrollment accounted for 18.2 percent of enrollments overall.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, enjoyed the largest numerical increase among SBC seminaries with 138, showing an increase for the 17th consecutive year and putting their total at 3,934, including 97 non-credit students.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., realized the greatest percentage growth. Its increase to 628 in all programs from 590 was 6.4 percent.

Two seminaries, New Orleans and Midwestern, suffered slight decreases. New Orleans dropped seven to 1,341 including 103 non-credit students and Midwestern in Kansas City, dropped eight to 520 including 38 non-credit students.

Enrollment at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., increased 22 to 1,268 in all programs, which includes no non-credit students.

Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., continues as the second largest SBC seminary with a gain of 68 students to 2,367, including 248 non-credit. Of the six SBC seminaries, Southern's student body contains the largest percentage of both non-credit and women students.

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The 248 non-credit students is 10.5 percent of the reported student body, twice the average among SBC seminaries in that category, primarily because of 208 in evening division courses.

Southern's women compose 26.2 percent of the student body compared to the six seminary average of 19.2 percent. The 67 women at Midwestern compose only 12.9 percent of the student body, the SBC low.

In the ATS statistics from 192 seminaries, 11,683 women compose 23.1 percent of total enrollment, a jump from their 21.8 percent share in 1980 and their 10.2 percent share in 1972.

Female enrollment at other SBC seminaries is 651 at Southwestern, 16.6 percent of total enrollment; 168 at Southeastern, 13.2 percent; 300 at New Orleans, 22.4 percent; and 121 at Golden Gate, 19.3 percent.

The six seminaries graduated 2,282 students between Oct. 1, 1980 and Oct. 1, 1981. That total includes Southwestern, 843; Southeastern, 285; Southern, 576; New Orleans, 338; Midwestern, 108; and Golden Gate, 132.

Enrollment this fall measured in full-time equivalency in SBC seminaries is 8,077.

According to ATS statistics, the average seminary size in the U.S. is 263. With Southern Baptists supporting four of the five largest seminaries, the average size of their six is 1,676.

By comparison, the 48 Catholic seminaries in the U.S. this fall enrolled 5,760 students; nine Episcopal seminaries enrolled 1,072; seven Lutheran Church in America seminaries enrolled 1,430 and six United Presbyterian seminaries enrolled 3,208, of which 1,300 are doctor of ministry students.

SBC seminaries double their outreach through their cooperative effort in the Seminary External Education Division, which this year enrolled 10,347 students in 401 seminary extension centers and through the Independent Study Institute.

The centers are in 40 states, West Germany, Cuba and Diego Garcia, an island in the Indian Ocean. Independent study students live in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia and in 19 other countries.

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Accused Assailant
Can Stand Trial

Baptist Press
12/11/81

DAINGERFIELD, Texas (BP)--Alvin Lee King III, the man charged with killing five people at First Baptist Church of Daingerfield on June 22, 1980, has been ruled competent to stand trial.

King has been confined to Rusk State Hospital for the past 17 months, where he underwent psychiatric examination and is now considered capable of standing trial for murder.

He is accused of bursting into a Sunday morning worship service at the East Texas church and spraying the crowd with bullets. Five persons were killed and 10 injured. King later shot himself.

The competency ruling is subject to appeal.

-30-

Seminary To Appeal
Ruling In EEOC Case

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has filed a petition for certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court requesting that the Supreme Court hear the seminary's four-year-old lawsuit with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The application is the procedure through which the court is asked to hear the seminary's appeal of a decision by the Fifth U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, according to Jenkins Garrett, seminary attorney.

The petition is being filed by Garrett, of Fort Worth, and the firm of King and Spalding of Atlanta, Ga. Former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell is a member of the Atlanta firm and a long-time friend of seminary president Russell H. Dilday Jr.

Also joining the case is Charles Allen Wright of Austin, Texas, an expert in constitutional law.

In a July 17th decision, the Fifth Circuit Court ruled that the seminary is a "wholly" religious institution entitled to the status of the church but that employees who perform tasks "which are not totally ecclesiastical or religious," are not ministers entitled to First Amendment protection.

The ruling was made after the EEOC appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court. A lower court decision by U.S. District Judge Eldon Mahon in Fort Worth in January 1980 had refused to grant EEOC's request to force the seminary to file employee information forms.

The original lawsuit was filed by EEOC in 1977. The seminary officials declined to file Form EEO-6 which gave demographic information on all seminary employees.

Two major questions for review are being presented to the Supreme Court. The court is being asked to decide if the equal opportunity clause of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 authorizes EEOC to have jurisdiction over the religious affairs of the churches. Also, the court is being asked to determine if the religious clauses of the First Amendment forbid EEOC from taking jurisdiction over the religious affairs of the churches.

According to Garrett, the Fifth Circuit Court decision grants EEOC jurisdiction over churches with more than 15 employees. This violates freedom of religion as found in the First Amendment, Garrett said, because the federal court said EEOC would have the jurisdiction to decide which employees perform ministerial tasks and which do not.

"This issue is one which should be an urgent and legitimate concern to the Supreme Court," Dilday said. "The advice and counsel of Dr. Wright and Judge Bell certainly will reinforce the excellent preparations already made by our own attorney in filing this application."

Garrett said the court will consider the application and decide if they will grant permission for the appeal to be filed. If so, attorneys for the seminary and EEOC would file a brief with the court and then present oral arguments if requested to do so. If the Supreme Court denies the request, Garrett said, the case would revert to the Fort Worth court for Judge Mahon to decide how the ruling will be applied.

Rabies Threat Prompts
Vaccine Shipment to Yemen

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has sent 20 doses of human diploid rabies vaccine to Baptist missionaries in Yemen where at least five missionary children were bitten by a rabid cat.

Several Yemini families have lost children and at least one adult has died at the Baptist Hospital, Jibla, said Sarah Thomas, missionary teacher who just returned to the United States on leave.

Rabies is common in Yemen because animals are seldom vaccinated, said Thomas, but the missionary children were bitten when supplies of human vaccine were also low. The U.S. Embassy agreed to provide the first round of vaccine and try to secure another round, she said, but the Foreign Mission Board is sending 20 doses to complete the series.

Hugh Provost, missionary pharmacist appointed in April, will carry the vaccine when he travels to Yemen right after Christmas. Available only through public health departments, the vaccine was obtained through the Virginia Health Department, said Dr. Franklin T. Fowler, the board's medical consultant.

Besides the five children, Thomas said she and several other adults had played with the cat and must take the vaccine.

-30-

Israelis Ask Baptists
To Build in Jerusalem

Baptist Press
12/11/81

JERUSALEM (BP)--Israeli officials capped a "perfect" trip to Israel for Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith with a proposal that Baptists build a study center in Jerusalem.

The proposed site, one and a half acres where Mt. Scopus meets the Mount of Olives, would cost Southern Baptists \$3 million, according to Smith. "We loved the idea and it certainly would be a great place in the land of our Lord for a Baptist presence," he said. "It's a beautiful thought, whether it can be realized or not."

Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., was in Israel Nov. 30-Dec. 9 with 11 other Southern Baptists and nine leaders of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, an organization of Jewish laymen.

He said he would not lead any Southern Baptist attempt to raise the \$3 million but would support such an effort.

Smith's remarks in August 1980 that "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew," the catalyst for the ADL-sponsored trip, was not challenged by Israeli officials during the entire trip, according to Smith. One woman in a private home was the only non-media person that questioned him about it, he said.

A newspaper report from Jerusalem says reporters who asked Smith about his remark found him defending it theologically, but apologizing tactically.

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One account quoted Smith as saying: "My mistake was that I did not say what I was trying to say then very well. What I was trying to say was that our relationship to God must be through Jesus Christ, and I was wrong in singling out the Jewish people. I do believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father. That's my life, and that's what I preach. But I think my statement was not well said. It's a matter of keeping your distinctiveness theologically, but being able to put our arms around a brother in creation."

James T. Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, who accompanied Smith, said he believes Smith's remark has proven "fortuitous" because it initiated lines of communication with Jews. Draper said that during the trip, Jews talked without restraint about Jesus.

Smith did not see Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who had agreed to meet him but was then hospitalized after falling and breaking his leg. Smith held discussions with President Yitzhak Navon; Religious Affairs and Interior Minister Yosef Burg; and Yitzhak Rabin, the former prime minister.

Smith told Baptist Press he feels the greatest accomplishment of the trip was the "learning that took place on both sides. I sat with a rabbi from Chicago and he was amazed in learning what Baptists believe about the Bible and salvation and the total person of Jesus Christ," Smith said.

The trip reaffirmed Smith's commitment to Israel as a nation. "Everywhere we went, people talked about the survival of the state of Israel," Smith said. "And when you talk about the state and its survival, you're talking about everyone in it, including the Arabs.

"We realize half the people of Israel are non-Jewish. I want to underscore our support for all the people. While we were there, we discerned a warmth and respect for the rights of others to live and worship as they please."

Smith met with 32 Southern Baptist representatives in Israel at Baptist Village near Tel Aviv, all of them concerned that Southern Baptist leaders realize Baptists in Israel work with both Arabs and Jews and be cautious about siding with either group.

They also pointed out that Southern Baptists in Israel are concerned for the welfare of their colleagues in the Arab world when Southern Baptist Convention leaders in the United States issue statements which could be considered as turning their backs on the Arabs in favor of the Jews.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said he believes God will use the results of the study mission to open the door for Israel to know Christ. He hopes their visit has made the work of Foreign Mission Board representatives in Israel easier.

Other Southern Baptist participants were: Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston; and Johnny Baker, a member of Young's church; Barry Landrum, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.; Jerry Hagee, layman from Hopewell Baptist Church, Oklahoma City; O. S. Hawkins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Jerry Don Abernathy, director of evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma; Wayne Smith, layman and Bailey Smith's cousin from Sparkman, Ark.; David Taylor, director of media at First Southern, Del City; and Bill Atkinson, businessman from Del City and member of First Southern.

ADL participants were: Ronald Sobel, rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, New York; Mark Briskman, director of Northwest Texas-Oklahoma regional ADL office, Dallas; Saul Besser, rabbi of Temple Shalom, Dallas; Yeckiel Eckstein, co-chairman of the ADL interfaith department; Richard Fogel, Dallas regional board; Theodore Freedman, director of the national program division; Larry Lavinsky, vice chairman of ADL's national commission and Harry Wool, director of ADL's Jerusalem office.



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