

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 9, 1984

C-N

84-55

**Chafin To Teach Preaching  
At Southern Seminary**

By Craig Bird

**HOUSTON (BP)**--Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston since 1972, has resigned to become the first Carl Bates Professor of Christian Preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. this summer.

Chafin read a one-and-a-half page letter of resignation to the church April 8 aft r deciding to make the move the week before.

Among the "minuses" he listed were the love affair he has had for South Main ("It is my Philippians--I have a wonderful support system here") and the fact that all three of his adult children live in Texas (two of them still in college).

"But I have been unable to shake the conviction God was leading me this way," he said. "There is a very real feeling of stewardship of the experience God has let me have with preachers down through the years. Also the classroom gives you a better context for writing and I have been convicted of a need to do more writing."

Chafin has been a long-time friend of Bates, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, whom Chafin described as "one of the great preachers in Southern Baptist history."

Chafin also noted that, at age 57, the different pace of the seminary campus was appealing. "Of course there is also a simpler lifestyle." Reportedly, Chafin's salary at Southern seminary will be about half of his present salary.

The faculty position is in Southern's newly established National Center for Christian Preaching. Roy Honeycutt, seminary president, said Chafin "brings to this post superb pastoral experience, an understanding of the authentic Baptist heritage, and a commitment to the denomination. We know his participation in developing the National Center for Christian Preaching will bring strong dividends to our students."

Last November Chafin was told his name was "on a list" of people being considered for the preaching post. After admitting the 12 years in the pulpit had given him a "greater appreciation of the importance of preaching for churches" he asked that his name be removed from the list because he did not want to leave South Main.

"From that time onward I could not shake the feeling that God was working this out," Chafin said. "I spent a lot of time praying and studying and finally decided I should talk to the committee. Every step of the way I felt I was approaching a Macedonian door."

Chafin came to South Main after spending two-and-a-half years as director of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board. During that time, the division trained more than 100,000 laymen in evangelistic outreach programs across the country.

Also, for 15 years he was dean of the Billy Graham School of Evangelism. "We had 70,000 pastors attend those schools--I was very aware of the needs of the minister," Chafin said.

Chafin was on the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth for 13 years, including five as head of the evangelism department of that school. He was the first Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Southern Seminary, 1966-71.

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He is the author of four books, including The Reluctant Witness and Is There A Family In The House?

During his 12 years at South Main, the downtown church grew from 5,700 members to 7,000, consistently was among the leaders in mission giving to Southern Baptist causes and became known for innovative programs (including one of the first singles ministries in the Southern Baptist Convention).

He is presently chairman of the board of trustees at Southwestern Seminary.

He earned both his bachelor of divinity and his doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern and his bachelor of arts from the University of New Mexico.

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Religious Educators To Feature  
Hendricks, Enrichment Conferences

C-N

Baptist Press  
4/9/84

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Theologian William Hendricks will speak three times and eight enrichment conferences will be offered at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, June 10-11 in Kansas City.

The conferences will offer specific training in the areas of family life, leadership, stress, professional growth, social security changes, physical fitness and discovering prospects for the church.

Hendricks is professor of systematic theology and philosophy of religion at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Also Paul Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas and Dennis Parrott, minister of education at the same church, will have a presentation on staff relations. Featured musicians will be Phil Briggs, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Rosemary Hoover, a layperson from Kansas City, Mo.

The 1984 theme is "Being!...Becoming!" The meeting will meet Sunday afternoon, Sunday evening, Monday morning, Monday afternoon and Monday evening. All sessions will be at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Kansas City.

The SBREA also will present the annual Distinguished Leadership Awards and the Officer Choice Recognitions during the meeting.

Officers are: president, Gary Ellis, minister of education, Germantown (Tenn.) Baptist Church; president elect, Bruce Powers, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; vice president, Phil Stanberry, minister of education at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.; secretary-treasurer, Joy Haynes, consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; and assistant secretary-treasurer, Judy Stamey, minister of education and administration, Ridglea West Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

June 10-11, 1984

Adam's Mark Hotel--Kansas City, Missouri

THEME: "Being!...Becoming!"

June 10, 1984

Sunday Afternoon

1:30--Registration

--Pre-session Fellowship

2:00--Orientation for New Members

3:00--Pre-session music--Phil Briggs, professor of youth education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Rosemary Hoover, housewife, Kansas City, Mo.

--Theme Interpretation

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- Welcome
- Introductions
- Special Music
- Message--William Hendricks, professor of systematic theology and philosophy of religion, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.
- Testimony

### Sunday Evening

- 7:00--Overview of Enrichment Conferences
- Enrichment Conferences
  - "How To Be an Educator, a Spouse and a Parent"
  - "The Minister and Social Security Changes"
  - "The Educator and Physical Fitness"
  - "Personal Growth for the Educator"
  - "Leadership: Qualities, Enlistment and Retention"
  - "Stress in Ministry"
  - "New Areas of Personal Financial Management"
  - "Eighty-Nine Ways of Discovering Prospects for Your Church"
- Fellowship Sponsored by Missouri Baptist Religious Educators

June 11, 1984

### Monday Morning

- 8:30--Pre-session music--Phil Briggs and Rosemary Hoover
- Theme Interpretation
- Special Music
- Message--William Hendricks
- Presentation on Staff Relationships--Paul Powell, pastor, Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas; Dennis Parrott, minister of education, Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas
- 11:00--Future Feature
- Business Session

### Monday Afternoon

- 3:00--Overview of Enrichment Conferences
- Enrichment Conferences

### Monday Evening

- 6:30--SBREA Banquet
- Entertainment featuring Phil Briggs and Rosemary Hoover
- Presentation of Distinguished Leader Awards
- Special Music
- Concluding Message--William Hendricks

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C-F

Kansas City Baptists  
Minister To Community

By Sandy Anthony

Baptist Press  
4/9/84

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Kansas City area is nearing 1.5 million in population, pushing outward in all directions. With growth comes change, and with that change comes the need for Southern Baptists to alter and expand their ministry programs.

Churches in the Kansas City area are armed with the resources of three Baptist associations, a Baptist seminary, college and hospital. Together, these institutions have quite an impact.

For instance:

● In Oak Grove, Mo., east of Kansas City local church members voluntarily staff the chaplain's office at the busy Oak Grove Truck Stop.

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Volunteers from local churches were trained to minister to truck drivers, but soon found themselves ministering also to vacationers, transients, local residents and truck stop employees. They distribute Bibles and tracts and keep a log of all contacts they make.

Ken Taylor, director of Christian social and special ministries for Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association, is excited about truck stop ministry. "During the first month, the volunteers led a trucker from Pennsylvania to the Lord," Taylor said. "We contacted a Baptist church in his hometown to follow up on the man's decision."

Volunteers hope to staff the chaplain's office 24 hours a day.

● Arcade ministry is another unusual ministry program designed for people who frequent video arcades. In the midst of flashing lights, buzzes and beeps, local church members become friend and witness to people caught up in the excitement of video games.

Ellen Riffe, a divinity student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, pioneered the arcade ministry program in Kansas City.

Riffe believes there is tremendous potential in arcade ministry. In "Arcade Ministry Manual" Riffe writes, "Nearly all ages have come to know Christ, including a little four-year-old girl who was hardly able to reach the Pac-Man game to a thirty-year-old divorced woman with two children whose lifestyle has been changed by salvation, friendship and Bible study--all a result of the arcade ministry."

According to Riffe, as many as 15 to 20 local churches have adopted neighborhood video arcades and minister to arcade visitors by witnessing, leaving tracts and befriending them.

● Covenant Baptist Church in downtown Kansas City is dedicated to ministering to the needs of transients and street people. As many as 150 transients crowd into covenant Baptist Church every Sunday morning at 7:30 for coffee, doughnuts and companionship.

Church members talk with the street people and befriend them. Some break into small groups for a prayer time and others eat, enjoy the warmth of the church and leave. "All who come to the fellowship are invited to attend the Sunday morning worship service," says Darrell Rickard, pastor of Covenant Baptist Church. "Forty to 60 usually stay for our morning service. The response has been very positive. We're re-building bridges that have been broken down through the years."

The church is in the process of renovating an old apartment building to house street people who become Christians and are serious about changing their lives.

● Other programs for single adults, senior adults, handicapped persons, ethnic groups, youth and shut-ins are active throughout the Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association. Resort ministry, literacy missions, disaster relief programs and emergency assistance programs also operate in the area.

Clay-Platte Baptist Association stretches from northern Kansas City to St. Joseph, Mo. The association stays busy trying to meet technical, specialized needs of urban churches while also assisting rural churches with basic needs.

Bob Perry, director of missions for Clay-Platte Baptist Association since March 1, 1984, plans to strengthen and intensify existing ministry in multi-family dwellings and resort areas and increase training for disaster relief teams in addition to providing general support and assistance for churches.

"Baptists are doing more now than they ever have," Perry said. "We are making substantial difference in the community. Because of the growth of the area, we're large enough to have strength, yet small enough to work efficiently. Clay-Platte Baptist Association is in a good position to grow and do some good things."

Kansas City (Kansas) Baptist Association also encompasses rural and urban areas. The association supports special programs for seven ethnic groups, a local truck stop and a deaf congregation, a prison ministry and a hunger program.

Sunday services are held at Leavenworth Federal Prison and Kansas State Penitentiary, according to Steve Aycock, mission action/ministries consultant for Kansas City, Kan., Baptist Association. A special service for Spanish-speaking inmates at Leavenworth attracts 40-45 inmates each Sunday. In the past year, more than 60 inmates made professions of faith.

Wyandotte Ministry provides assistance for the poor and hungry. Local churches furnish food and volunteers to help run the ministry, now in its third year. Workers follow up on contacts made, and some aid recipients have become Christians and have joined local churches.

Since its founding in 1957, Midwestern Seminary has emerged as a leader in preparing students for service in missions. More than 725 students representing 37 states and nine foreign countries attended Midwestern during the 1983-84 school year.

More than half of the student body works in area churches. Each year during spring break, student teams travel throughout the Midwest building churches, leading revivals, surveying, ministering through drama, and generally helping small churches get a foothold.

Evening classes at Midwestern attract area pastors and community laypersons. Seminary facilities are used by churches and civic organizations and lectureships and conferences scheduled throughout the year attract many area church members.

William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., with 1,400 students recently celebrated its sesquicentennial. Charles Spurgeon's personal library is kept at the college. The school was ranked third among smaller comprehensive universities west of the Mississippi River by 662 college presidents in a recent survey published in U.S. News and World Report.

Student-led musical and dramatic groups perform in churches throughout the Kansas City area. Campus facilities, including dormitories and the Mabee Center for Physical Education are often used for banquets and church staff and youth retreats.

William Jewell meets many educational needs of the public by offering evening classes at reduced rates, continuing education programs for children, and special seminars for adults.

The Baptist Medical Center, located in south-central Kansas City, is a non-profit acute care health center. Established in 1960, the 401-bed hospital provides comprehensive services for all patients and specializes in ophthalmology, oncology, urology and orthopedic medicines. Recovery CAREUNIT provides a complete rehabilitative program for drug and alcohol dependency.

As part of its Fitness Enhancing Programs, Baptist Medical Center organized the first triathlon ever held in Kansas City. Last summer, 400 men and women participated in the triathlon, which consisted of an .8 mile swim, a 19.25 mile bike race and a 6.2 mile run.

As Kansas City continues to grow, the needs of the community continue to change. Kansas City Baptists plan to work to meet those needs and spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all they encounter.

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Sandy Anthony is a member of the publicity committee of the SBC Local Arrangements Committee for 1984.)

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Southwestern Seminary Names Six Distinguished Alumni," mailed April 4, 1984, in fifth paragraph please change doctor of theology degree in 1973 to master of divinity degree in 1973.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

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