

September 2, 1954

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

.....H. Preston James, former dean at Wayland College, is the new dean of the faculty at Ouachita College, Arkadelphia, Ark.

.....Virgil S. Davis, professor of New Testament at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., has been named dean of the institute.

.....Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ramirez, Home Board missionaries to the Spanish-speaking migrants of Deming, N. Mex., will go to Florida to do similar work near Immokalee.

.....Two hundred persons registered for the ninth annual Young Men's Mission Conference which started recently at Ridgecrest.

.....P. Harris Anderson, Jr., for three years director of ministerial extension for Mercer University, will join the administrative staff of the college in September as assistant to the president.

.....J. E. Redding, assistant professor of journalism at the University of Houston, will head the Ouachita College journalism department when the fall school term opens.

.....J. T. Grantham, executive assistant of the Mississippi Baptist Hospital since August, 1947, resigned effective August 31.

.....Miss Betty Freeman, member of the staff of the Woman's Missionary Union of New Mexico, is the new secretary of the Youth Department of the Kansas Baptist WMU.

.....Two hundred and fifty boys attended the first New Mexico Royal Ambassador Congress held in Albuquerque recently.

#### INTERSTATE PASTOR CHANGES

.....Fred Townsend, pastor, Echota Baptist Church, Calhoun, Ga., has accepted the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn.

.....Roy Baxter, former pastor of Chattanooga Valley Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., accepted the pastorate of St. Elmo Baptist Church, St. Elmo, Ill.

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CONGRESS ADOPTS SBC  
SOCIAL SECURITY SUGGESTION

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Congress adopted the suggestions made by the Southern Baptist Convention in amending the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of ministers as self-employed persons on an individual voluntary basis.

C. C. Warren, president of the Executive Committee, Charlotte, N. C., H. H. Hobbs, chairman of the special committee on Social Security for the Executive Committee, Oklahoma City, Okla., and Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn., appeared before committees of the House and the Senate to outline the views expressed by the Southern Baptist Convention in its St. Louis session.

The House version of the bill included ministers with all other groups, but the recommendation of the Senate Finance Committee called for the inclusion as self-employed persons on an individual voluntary basis, so that the church would not be involved. The conference committee adopted the Senate version and this was then adopted by both houses.

Senator Robert S. Kerr, Oklahoma, former vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and member of the Senate Finance Committee, has released the following statement regarding the inclusion of ministers under the terms of the Act:

"The Social Security Act of 1954 will permit ministers, Christian Science practitioners, and members of religious orders who have not taken a vow of poverty, whether employees or self-employed, to secure coverage as self-employed persons but on an individual voluntary basis.

Ministers and members of religious orders and Christian Science practitioners, who are citizens of the United States, employed outside the United States by an American employer would be covered on the same voluntary basis. They would not be covered if employed by a foreign employer outside the United States. Self-employed ministers and Christian Science practitioners outside the United States would be treated like other self-employed citizens of the United States who are in a foreign country.

The Social Security Amendments of 1954 provide the procedure to be followed for voluntary coverage under which the individual must elect coverage within two years. A certificate must be filed by the individual on or before the due date of his tax return for the second taxable year ending after 1954 for which he has

net earnings of \$400 or more. In determining the period during which a certificate may be filed there shall not be included any taxable year for which the individual has no income from the performance of service as a minister of Christian Science practitioner. Likewise in determining such period there is not counted any year in which his total self-employment income from whatever sources totals less than \$400. An election to participate in the Social Security program "shall be irrevocable."

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TEX. MUSIC HEAD  
DIES IN ABILENE

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--J. D. Riddle, 59, Texas Baptist church musician died August 28 in an Abilene hospital. Director of the Church Music Department for the Baptist General Convention of Texas since 1945, Riddle became ill the week before his death while directing music activities at a Baptist encampment. He contracted pneumonia while in the hospital and had been under an oxygen tent for several days before his death.

From 1923 to 1945 Riddle served as educational and music director in churches in Mangum, Okla., Amarillo, Abilene, and Lubbock, Tex.

He is survived by his wife, three daughters, and one son.

Funeral services were held in Abilene and Dallas.

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WACO CITY JUDGE NAMED LEGAL  
COUNSEL FOR TEX. BAPTISTS

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--George L. Shearin, Waco city judge, has been named associate secretary and legal counsel for the endowment department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. His appointment, effective September 1, was announced by L. Taylor Daniel, endowment secretary.

Shearin, a native of Memphis, Tenn., received the LL.B. degree from Baylor University in 1950 and started practicing law in 1951. He was appointed assistant city attorney for Waco in 1952 and served until April, 1954, at which time he was made city judge.

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