

October 25, 1954

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

KY. PASTOR NAMED TO
HEAD VIRGINIA BAPTISTS

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--Lucius Polhill, pastor of Deep Park Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., has been nominated to succeed James R. Bryant as executive secretary of Virginia Baptists. Since Polhill had made plans to attend the Baptist World Alliance meeting in London in 1955, the board further recommended "that the General Association send him as the representative of Virginia Baptists."

Polhill, a former Virginia pastor, is a native of Georgia. He holds the M.A. degree from Mercer University, the Th.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Polhill left the pastorate for a while to become professor of Bible and dean at Bessie Tift College. Returning to the ministry he served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Americus, Ga., before going to his present pastorate.

He is a member of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Committee on Theological Education.

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VA. BAPTIST TEACHER FIRED
FOR NOT TEACHING DANCING

ALEXANDRIA, Va.--(BP)--A Virginia Baptist physical education teacher in an Alexandria public school has been dismissed by the city board of education for refusing, on religious grounds, to teach dancing.

The board voted to discharge Walter A. Kirk, Jr., a former professional baseball player from his position as gym instructor at Jefferson Junior High School. "Much sin and ungodliness is committed on public dance floors," Kirk told the school board, and that "his religious scruples would not permit him to teach the "evil element" of dancing to teenagers.

Kirk said that he had been offered another teaching post. He added that he would not take the issue to court although he has been promised support from Baptist leaders eager for a legal test of his dismissal.

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Nashville, Tennessee
October 25, 1954

Baptist Press

H. LEO EDDLEMAN INAUGURATED 19th
PRESIDENT OF GEORGETOWN COLLEGE

GEORGETOWN, Ky.--(BP)--Approximately 1,600 people were on hand to witness the inauguration of H. Leo Eddleman as nineteenth president of Georgetown College recently.

L. R. Cooke, newly elected president of the school's board of trustees, presided over the session.

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TEMPERANCE BROADCAST ON
NATION-WIDE HOOK-UP

TOPEKA, Kans.--(BP)--Sam Morris, San Antonio, Tex., will make a nation-wide broadcast over N.B.C. on "Liquor--A Curse to America," November 7, 1954, at 6:00 p.m., Central Standard time, according to Roy S. Hollomon, superintendent of the Kansas United Dry Forces, Topeka, Kans.

"This is the most thrilling thing that has happened to the temperance cause since repealment," Hollomon said in making the announcement. "Up to the present time none of the radio chains would either sell or give time for a temperance broadcast," Hollomon added.

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.....Hollis Burge, pastor, Balboa Park Baptist Church, San Diego, Calif., is making slow improvement following a heart attack which he suffered recently.

.....Weekly circulation of the California Southern Baptist has passed the 16,000 mark.

.....Walter F. Bisbee, associate in the California Baptist Brotherhood Department, has been made director of that department.

.....Miss Josephine Norwood, associate secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia, is the new executive secretary of the WMU of Maryland.

.....Board of directors of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma will recommend to Oklahoma Baptists in annual session in November that authorization of a \$350,000 loan be given for construction of a \$600,000 girls' dormitory at Oklahoma Baptist University.

.....John Strutton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Idabel, Okla., for the past five years, has been named administrator of the new Bristow Memorial Hospital.

.....Mrs. Robert B. Troutman, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is the new secretary to Eldred M. Taylor, superintendent of Missions Department of Kentucky Baptists.

BAPTIST FEATURES

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PREACHERS GOING WEST
BY: A. C. Turner

One of the signs by which we are certain that God has his eye on the West is the large number of godly preachers who tell us that they feel called to move West. We have been delighted the past few years, particularly, to note that so many who come West are preachers with good records of successful ministry in the South. Today the West feels no embarrassment in any company over the caliber or the character of her preachers.

There is need for a better understanding back South of our pastoral situation here in the West. Many illusions seem to prevail that sometimes work disappointment to preachers who want to come West. It is possible that the mission work in the West has been over glamorized by propaganda, though unintentionally, and this attracts many of superficial consecration. It takes only a short time for these to be disillusioned, and they soon return to greener pastures, but it works a hardship on them which we would like to spare if possible. Mission work in the West is about as glamorous as grubbing stamps.

Our field seems to stimulate the imagination of the inexperienced who thinks that our lost multitudes (and this is not imagination) are milling about looking for a preacher to preach to them. They write us, "We long to go where we can preach to multitudes of lost people. We have won all the lost here." Now, if you can catch up with our multitudes going sixty miles per hour you might preach to them, but they are not consciously waiting for someone to preach to them. They, too, must be won, one by one.

The impression about the scarcity of preachers in the West is likewise misleading. Many get the idea that we have a large number of churches needing pastors, but that there are no preachers available for them to call. As a matter of fact, we have more preachers than we have churches. True, some of our preachers, just as in other areas, would embarrass us if they tried to preach, but our chief shortage is in churches.

Our Baptist groups and the Protestant denominations which have been working out here through the years have not kept pace with the growing population in the establishment of new churches. At the present time there are hundreds of urban and suburban areas of from 5,000 to 50,000 population without a Baptist church. Many of these areas have almost no church of any kind and some have absolutely

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none. Of course, this does mean a scarcity of preachers, but support for more preachers is our real scarcity. We could use 500 well trained, consecrated, Spirit-filled pastors in 1955 if they could support themselves and finance the beginning of new churches in areas where church sites cost from \$15,000 to \$75,000. Do you know of any who can qualify?

If large churches in the South would underwrite good strong preachers who feel called to this field, this great West would become a Baptist empire in the years to come. But don't send us your misfits. We need your best men--"Give me men to match my mountains" (inscription on the California state capitol building). Whoever builds Sunday schools in the West and preaches a positive New Testament gospel can win the West and we know of no people on earth better qualified for these very things than Southern Baptists. Thus far the burden of our mission work has rested upon the shoulders of God-fearing preachers and their families. It is time that mission minded churches come to their help. Without any question, the future of our country is vitally related to the development of the West in which she is already pouring millions of her most energetic citizens. The same can be said for the future of Southern Baptists. We were ten million people late in getting started out here but we are now on the ground floor, getting ready for the twenty million yet to come.

In conclusion there are preachers back South who, perhaps more than anyone else, need to be disillusioned. I refer to those who have been coming West to escape their past. They probably will not read this, but we hope someone will tell them because it will save them and us much trouble. No preacher can run fast enough nor far enough to escape his past. Many have tried it only to find their ugly past waiting for them on their doorsteps when they arrived. There is hardly a community in America that does not have one or more former citizens living in California. Not all of these belong to our churches, but they still hear from home. Any time a preacher back there "blows a moral fuse" the news reaches California before next Lord's Day. These dear Baptists may not have any interest in locating faithful preachers in the West but they take a lively interest in shutting doors against the unfaithful ones trying to come in, and we are nearly always forewarned. It can be safely said that preachers with a past in the East have no future in the West. Now and then one slips by the screen but they rarely ever last long. It is the old story of "the crooked man who walked a crooked mile" simply because he couldn't walk straight..