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Southwestern trustees
transfer Hispanic Seminary

By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary approved the transfer of Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary to the Baptist General Convention of Texas and voted unanimously to support a sister seminary during their fall meeting Oct. 17-18.

Southwestern's trustees gave approval to transfer Hispanic Seminary in San Antonio, Texas, to the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The school had been part of the Texas convention until 1982, when it became a component of Southwestern, located in Fort Worth, Texas. Since becoming part of Southwestern, Hispanic Seminary has received accreditation and increased its endowment.

But the Texas convention asked Southwestern to transfer the school back to the BGCT as part of the Bold Mission Texas evangelism/church-starting campaign. The action "moves it (Hispanic Seminary) back into a mission context rather than the academic setting," said Southwestern President Russell Dilday.

Hugo Lindquist, a trustee from Oklahoma City, offered an amendment to the motion requesting that Texas Baptists not use the term "seminary" in the school's new name. The amendment was added to the original motion.

In a recommendation from the board's academic affairs committee, trustees voted to "convey to Southeastern (Baptist Theological) Seminary, its board of trustees, administration, faculty and its new president, Dr. Lewis Drummond, our prayerful undergirding and best wishes for a most successful academic year."

"What we're saying in this motion is that we want to support Southeastern Seminary," said Drew Gunnells, a trustee from Mobile, Ala., and chairman of a subcommittee that wrote the statement. "We recognize that all of our seminaries are a part of the work of God in training people in this convention.

"We wanted to say from this institution to that institution that we are praying for you and we want this to be a good year. It has all kinds of possibilities, and we are praying that the positive side of that will take place."

The statement was drafted as a response to recent events at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., which inaugurated Drummond as its new president Oct. 11 amid protests by some faculty and students. Both Southwestern and Southeastern, along with four other theological seminaries, are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Trustee Ron Lewis of Nashville, presented a motion that Southwestern's board "congratulate and affirm Russell Dilday" on his recent election as president of the Association of Theological Schools. Board members unanimously approved the motion.

Dilday responded to the action by thanking the board for a "very constructive and positive meeting. It has been encouraging."

During his report to the board, John Newport, vice president for academic affairs, assured trustees of Southwestern's commitment to presenting the broad spectrum of theological education.

"I think Southwestern has done a good job," Newport said. "We have many things we could improve. But we were, as far back as the 1950s, dealing with (biblical) inerrancy."

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Dilday, in his annual report, said the past year had been "good, positive, upbeat. It shows clearly the Lord's blessings on this school." A highlight of the year has been the 80th anniversary of Southwestern and his 10th as president, he said.

Dilday expressed concern about the recent zero-growth budget of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, approved by the convention's Executive Committee for 1989-90. Southwestern will receive nearly \$61,000 less as a result of the action because of the seminaries' allocation formula, he said.

In other action, the board:

-- Approved and named two professorships/chairs. They are the O.D. Martin Professor/Chair of Church Administration/Stewardship and the John P. Newport Chair/Professorship of Philosophy of Religion.

-- Named the visitors' center section of the projected visitors' conference center for Lucille Loyd Meadows of Dallas.

-- Named the new music library in honor of Kathryn Sullivan Bowld of Memphis, Tenn.

-- Voted to award the B.H. Carroll Award, the seminary's highest honor, to Lucille Glasscock of Corpus Christi, Texas; Robert and Ruth Glaze of Dallas; and Robert and Goldia Naylor of Fort Worth.

-- Approved two new classes in the School of Theology. They are "Strategies for Working-Class Churches" and "Pastoral Leadership in the Church."

-- Promoted Robert Burton from professor of conducting to distinguished professor of conducting and Robert Smith from assistant professor of piano to associate professor of piano. Smith also was given tenure.

-- Approved the annual audit reports by Arthur Young and Company.

-- Amended the seminary's supplement to the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

-- Set the 1990 trustee meeting dates as March 12-13 and Oct. 15-16.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary

Iowa enters 5-year plan
to increase mission gifts

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OTTUMWA, Iowa (BP)--The Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship increased Cooperative Program unified budget gifts and elected officers for 1988-89 during its annual meeting in Ottumwa Oct. 14-15.

Messengers adopted a 1989 budget of \$944,176. Iowa Baptist churches are expected to raise \$236,054 of that amount, with the balance to come from the Southern Baptist Home Mission and Sunday School boards, the Missouri Baptist Convention, the Iowa Baptist missions offering, the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission, individual gifts and interest earned on investments.

The fellowship will share 16 percent of the contributions from its churches with Southern Baptist Cooperative Program mission causes outside the state, a 1 percent increase over the previous budget.

A 1 percent annual increase is planned through 1994, when the fellowship will share 21 percent of its receipts with the national Cooperative Program.

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If the 1988-89 budget is met and the goals for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions are met, the combined budget and special mission offerings will exceed \$1 million for the first time. The combined amount will be \$1,027,006.

Ty Berry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bettendorf, was elected president of the fellowship. He has been vice president during the past year.

Other new officers are Vice President Barry Stewart, pastor of Albia Road Baptist Church and host pastor for this year's annual meeting, and Recording Secretary Eugene Linn, pastor of Sioux Rapids Baptist Church in Sioux Rapids.

The 1989 annual meeting will be held Oct. 20-21 in Ames at Grand Avenue Baptist Church.

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Southern Baptist chaplain
honored for POW ministry

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ARLINGTON, Va. (BP)--Former U.S. Air Force Chief of Chaplains Maj. Gen. Robert Preston Taylor, a Southern Baptist, received the Prisoner of War medal during ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery.

During World War II, Taylor survived 42 months in Japanese prison camps after participating in the infamous Bataan "Death March."

Congress recently authorized the Prisoner of War medal for any person who served honorably as a prisoner of war after April 5, 1917. An estimated 142,000 U.S. servicemembers were held as prisoners in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Taylor previously was cited for bravery and awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action for his services in the Battle of Bataan. He was one of 38 chaplains who became prisoners of the Japanese during World War II.

After the surrender of the American forces in Bataan, Taylor was chaplain in the prison camp hospital at Cabanatuan, where he ministered to 10,000 patients.

According to the medal's citation, Taylor "became the best-known person in the camp because of the ministry of strength and comfort he provided his fellow prisoners of war as they withstood the rigors of captivity. This ministry was evident not only in his prayers, sermons and pastoral counseling but also in his action to provide, at great personal risk, daily provisions of food and medicine for his fellow prisoners."

Taylor was Air Force chief of chaplains from September 1962 until his retirement from active duty in July 1966. He later became director of development at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Taylor currently lives in Arlington, Texas. He holds degrees from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary.

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Seminary trustee stresses
need for sound doctrine

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
10/19/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--When Pat Campbell pleads for doctrinal truth in Southern Baptist seminaries, he knows what he is talking about.

A trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Campbell became a Southern Baptist out of a Jehovah's Witness background. He shared his testimony with students and faculty in a chapel service Oct. 18 during the fall meeting of the seminary's board.

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Campbell, a Southwestern graduate and pastor of Ridgcrest Baptist Church in St. Charles, Mo., used his experience as an example of the importance of sound doctrine.

"When I hear someone say that doctrine is not important, I almost do a backflip," he said. "Doctrine is very important, because false doctrine can lead you into darkness and hell."

The gospel of Jesus Christ is constantly being "perverted, twisted and distorted" by different sects and pseudo-religious groups, Campbell said. He told of the Jehovah's Witnesses' doctrines, including denial of the deity of Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Trinity and the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A relative introduced him to those doctrines during his early teen-age years, he said. He quickly became indoctrinated.

"They denied all of the basic, fundamental, evangelical Christian doctrines that we stand upon," Campbell said. "Little wonder that for five years I stumbled in darkness."

As a young man, he lived a moral life, "but deep down inside, there was an emptiness, a void that only God can fill through Jesus Christ the Lord," he recalled.

Campbell accepted Christ 24 years ago after two Southern Baptist pastors shared the gospel with him.

"The spirit of God began to move on my heart so powerfully that I could not remember what I believed as a Jehovah's Witness," Campbell said. "The spirit of God in two nights shattered all of that false doctrine and brought me to a place where I believed that Jesus was the Christ, was the Son of the Living God, was the resurrected Lord."

On the same night of his conversion, Campbell said, he also received the call to preach. He later enrolled at Southwestern and also received degrees from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary

Church celebrates 20 years in
New York's largest housing project

By Joe Westbury

Baptist Press
10/19/88

NEW YORK (BP)--Sandwiched between the glistening skyscrapers of New York City and LaGuardia Airport, the 17-story red-brick apartment buildings of LeFrak City stand as a symbol of high density living in the nation's most crowded metropolis.

But they also stand as testimony to Southern Baptist resolve to reach the cities for Christ, three home missionary couples who ministered there in separate terms of service during the past two decades related.

The couples were part of a reunion of Baptists from around the country who gathered in New York City in mid-October to celebrate the anniversary of United Trinity Baptist Church at LeFrak City, one of the nation's largest private apartment complexes.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed the first missionary couple to the massive housing complex in 1967, and the church was begun the following year.

The 20 buildings, which house nearly 25,000 residents, are home to more than gangs, drug dealers and breadwinners down on their luck. LeFrak also houses people in need of a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, the missionaries said.

"LeFrak is not a success today because of street corner preaching -- it exists because people were loved one-on-one through a personal relationship," said Don Rhymes, who began the ministry with his wife, Goldie, in 1967.

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As Rhymes, currently minister of evangelism at First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., spoke of the past, nearly 300 residents filled a basement room borrowed for the anniversary service. The crowd was too large to fit into the two small apartments where the 57-member congregation regularly meets for worship services.

The Rhymeses were trailblazers in home missions when they first moved into LeFrak, a prestigious upper-middle-class community that promised a self-contained lifestyle in an otherwise hostile urban environment.

"We were the first home missionaries Southern Baptists ever assigned to minister in an apartment complex. Since there were restrictions against any kind of ministry in those days, we moved in as tenants to establish ourselves with the community," Rhymes recalled.

Early attempts to borrow a community room for worship services was met with antagonism by the management, who countered with steep rental fees to discourage the request. So, the couple began Sunday morning Bible studies in their apartment.

LeFrak, which offered residents complete shopping, dining, medical and entertainment facilities on the the grounds, quickly developed an international flavor, as employees of the United Nations moved into the community. "You could be born, live your life, and die and never need to leave the complex," Rhymes remembered.

But that sense of heaven-on-earth quickly turned into a living hell.

Within a year, the first major outbreaks of vandalism had gained a foothold in the community. The management, who remembered the couple's request for a place to worship, had a change of heart and offered the Rhymeses free space for their previously banned ministry.

Those early days with 11 founding members have now grown into two decades of service with a church membership of nearly 60 members representing 15 nationalities. And it continues to provide the only Baptist ministry in the community of 25,000 residents.

One of the congregation's first ministries -- day care for preschool children -- remains a popular ministry of the church.

Barbara Brewer, who first visited LeFrak on a summer missions trip from Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenville, N.C., has coordinated the effort for the past seven years as a volunteer missionary. More than 30 children now are enrolled in the Bible teaching ministry.

As the congregation has grown, so have her responsibilities. Today Brewer's job description includes church administration as well as helping develop leadership for the church.

At least 60 summer missionaries have served at LeFrak since the Rhymeses left and were followed by Jack and Phyllis Merritt, now of Atlanta, and current missionary couple Avery Sayer from Fairburn, Ga., and Myra Sayer of Hong Kong.

Sayer, who has ministered in the complex since 1973, said increased security has relieved some of the worry of past years, but things never are completely safe.

"A few months ago someone drove through and sprayed the entrance with bullets from an Uzi," a popular Israeli-made machine gun, he explained.

But such happenings do not discourage the couple from their ministry. He and Mrs. Sayer, whose Chinese grandparents were introduced to Christ by Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, now carry on the ministry to internationals as well as native New Yorkers.

"We have worked with 27 nationalities in the last 15 years, and they keep coming," she said. Her Chinese heritage opens doors with foreign residents who may be new to the country and are unfamiliar with American ways. After she gets to know them, she introduces them to the church and its varied ministries.

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After 20 years, United Trinity continues to show growing pains and is looking to God for future direction. "We've outgrown our facilities and cannot expand any further. We may add a second service, but that would be a temporary solution," Sayer said.

The congregation has thought about purchasing property and constructing its own sanctuary, but that might be a few years away.

"Only God knows our future. It's all in his hands," Sayer reported.

Until that plan is revealed, United Trinity will continue to share the gospel in the manner that has been most successful -- one-on-one through personal witnessing.

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Parents' alcoholism
hurts kids, prof says

Baptist Press
10/19/88

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Helping adult children of alcoholics should be "an ongoing ministry" of churches today, a Southern Baptist educator in church social work emphasized.

Patricia Bailey, assistant professor of church social work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., noted that with an estimated 28 million adult children of alcoholics in the United States, Baptist churches are full of people who have been emotionally damaged by alcoholic parents.

The problem is made worse when children of alcoholics don't have an opportunity to talk about their hurt, she added.

"Without help, that brokenness stays with the person," Bailey told an October meeting of the seminary's Ethics Luncheon, a student-led forum on moral issues. "That person may stay a teetotaler because of their unhappy experience (with alcoholic parents), but part of them never heals without getting some help."

Describing some of the symptoms of adult children of alcoholics, Bailey said they often are "unsure what normal is" in such areas as their feelings, job performance and relationships.

Adult children of alcoholics tend to assume excessive responsibility, she added, noting, "Everything is a heavy load for them." They also tend to be overachievers who are never satisfied with their accomplishments, she said.

Ministers should try to be sensitive to the special problems of adult children of alcoholics, Bailey said. She encouraged pastors to recommend support groups where those people can share their feelings with others who have experienced similar struggles.

A good starting point for ministering to families affected by alcoholism is an awareness of the nature of the problem, Bailey said: "Ministers need to sensitize their congregations that alcoholism is a disease. Many times I address ministers who have no idea that alcoholism is a disease."

Alcoholism, she explained, is a genetic illness. Therefore, "if your parents are alcoholics, there's a good chance you will be an alcoholic should you decide to drink."

Alcoholism also is a progressive disease, meaning alcoholics "will surely die if they don't get help," she added.

That help, she pointed out, should take the form of spiritual, emotional and physical support, including a reputable treatment program for the alcoholic.

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