

July 23, 1958

Extension Department  
Employs Eugene Fleming

(With head shot to Baptist editors)

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--The Seminary Extension Department of Southern Baptist seminaries here has employed Eugene M. Fleming to direct its correspondence program and to set up extension education centers in Mississippi.

Fleming is pastor of First Baptist Church, Portland, Tenn., and has been assisting the department as correspondence course instructor since 1951. He will move to Jackson Aug. 15, Department Director Lee Gallman said.

Fleming is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. For the past 10 years, he has been pastor of churches in Mississippi and Tennessee. He has been with the Portland church since 1955.

He is also a member of the executive board of Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Gallman said he will join the department as an associate director of extension work.

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William Morton Heads  
Midwestern Department

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--William H. Morton will head the department of archaeology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, according to Seminary President Millard J. Berquist.

"He has been touring the Near East but will be back in time to assume his responsibilities at the opening of the school session on Sept. 8," Berquist reported.

Morton is a native Missourian. He is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State Teachers College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Until June 12, Morton was a member of the faculty of Southern Seminary at Louisville.

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# BAPTIST FEATURES

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Albert McClellan, *Director*  
Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

July 23, 1958

Intermediates Conduct  
Thimble Theatre Play

(with photo)

GREENVILLE, S.C.-(BP)-A group of Intermediates here are the manipulators of a new theatre play, "Baptist Milestones," written and produced by Mrs. Ollin J. Owens of Greenville.

The stage is but a few feet wide and no higher. It does not lack because of its size, however, any of the trappings or the glamour and excitement of a little Broadway.

It is known as Thimble Theatre. Across its stage, under various colored spot-lights, move many famous characters from the past---Roger Williams, Samuel and John Adams, James Madison, John Leland, William Carey, Luther Rice, and William Bullein Johnson.

For an hour and 10 minutes, the audience is transported from one setting to another rich in Baptist history. Some typical scenes are these:

Courageous Thomas Helwys is snatched from his home by an English magistrate in 1611 because he wrote boldly that the king had no divine right to set spiritual lords over his people. For this, he was cast into Newgate Prison where he died.

William Screven transplanted a congregation of Maine Baptists to Charleston around 1690 seeking freedom of worship. It grew ultimately to become the First Baptist Church of Charleston and the first Baptist church in the South.

James Madison, a future president of the United States, assures John Leland, a Baptist minister and fellow Virginian, that he will introduce a bill in the new Congress in 1789 to provide for religious liberty. This led to the inclusion of the Bill of Rights.

William Carey talks with his wife in 1787 about the need for Baptist missions, in a day when his fellow Baptists failed to see the missionary imperative as did Carey. Luther Rice, in his little sulky, travels 6600 miles in the years around 1817, making Baptists in the United States aware of the need to support foreign missions.

And William Bullein Johnson in 1844 leaves the Triennial Convention of Baptists. The next year, the Southern Baptist Convention is organized, with Johnson its president.

The writer-producer of this show is better known in Baptist circles as Loulie Latimer Owens, or simply as "Minnie Belle," after a fictional pastor's wife she has created and about whom she writes humorous articles.

The characters in her dramatic presentation are marionettes, built and costumed by members of the Eastlan Baptist Church here, where Mr. Owens is pastor. Intermediates in the church "pull the strings," making the marionettes come to life.

The play is adapted from Mrs. Owens' own study course book by the same title. It was written for Baptist Training Union study by Intermediate-age youth. The study course book is a part of the Baptist Heritage series produced for study by all age groups, portraying Baptist history.

This is the first religious production from Thimble Theatre, following several productions from secular literature, also adapted for use by Mrs. Owens. "Baptist Milestones" was produced principally for the 1958 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Historical Commission in Nashville.

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It was previewed a week before, however, during one of the Training Union assemblies at Ridgecrest, N. C.

Mrs. Owens said that narration, dialouge, and interlude music were all recorded on tape and that the Intermediates moved the marionettes through their scenes in timing to the recording.

Such a production requires time, effort, and co-operation of many people, but, according to Mrs. Owens, it is not expensive.

Mrs. Owens herself, while not a newcomer to Baptist historical and literary circles, is fairly new at marionette theatre production. It started a few years ago when Mr. Owens was pastor of a church at Winnsboro, S. C.

She introduced it at Eastlan Church here as a handwork project for Intermediates in Vacation Bible School.

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Baptist Press

CUTLINES

BAPTIST MILESTONES---One of the milestones in Baptist history is the organization of the Baptist World Alliance in 1905. The founding of the Alliance is portrayed by marionettes in a play, "Baptist Milestones," written and produced by Mrs. Ollin J. Owens of Greenville, S. C. The symbol of the Alliance---with the letters BWA---is in the background, while marionettes in different costumes represent Baptists from many nations who have joined in fellowship through the Alliance. The play "Baptist Milestones" was adapted from a Baptist Training Union study course book of the same name written by Mrs. Owens for Intermediates. Teen-agers from Eastlan Baptist Church, Greenville, "pull the strings."---Baptist Press Photo.

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