

October 23, 1958

### 500 Enrolment Expected At Little Rock School

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--Enrolment of 500 to 750 students was expected for class in a newly-created "Baptist High School" to be operated here temporarily under the direction of Ouachita Baptist College.

Ouachita, located in Arkadelphia, Ark., is the four-year college owned by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Authorization of a secondary school division of Ouachita in Little Rock during an "emergency situation" came from trustees of the college.

In announcing their action, Ouachita President Ralph A. Phelps Jr. emphasized: "We are interested solely in the education of children. The opening of this school is not to be taken as an involvement in segregation or intergration as such, nor an involvement in any political aspects.

"We believe that the children are innocent victims of a struggle beyond their control," Phelps continued.

Trustees opened the school on a segregated basis, explaining that "This is the only basis on which a school can be set up in Little Rock at the present time because of the climate there. Too, none of the churches offering their buildings for classrooms would have been available on other than a segregated basis."

Grades 10, 11, and 12 will be taught at three churches--First, Second, and Gaines St. Baptist Churches. Phelps said several other Baptist churches offered their facilities but the three were chosen because of their central location and their nearness to each other.

Baptist students were to get first preference in the Ouachita Baptist College set up, Phelps explained. Students of other denominations were to be admitted as much as possible.

Phelps said that the cost of operation would be borne from tuition and direct contributions. Tuition rates of \$20 per month will be charged for the first child from any given family who enrolls at the school. The charge will be \$15 for the second child from the same family, \$10 for the third, and \$5 for the fourth, to reduce the financial burden on families having several high school-age children.

No funds from the Arkansas convention are to be used.

Public school funds, even if they should be available, will not be accepted by the Ouachita school since that would violate the Baptist principle of separation of church and state, Phelps said.

J. W. Cady, dean of students at Ouachita, who is a former high school principal and former employee of the Arkansas state department of education, will be acting principal. Phelps said Cady would be replaced if it appears the temporary school set up will be an extended affair.

There was no indication at the time Ouachita trustees acted as to when public high schools in the city of Little Rock would re-open. They have been closed by action of Governor Orval Faubus under a law passed last summer.

Phelps said that Cady and other Ouachita officials are presently recruiting

a faculty. A school opened at Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, two weeks prior to Ouachita's was to merge with the Ouachita secondary system. It had 14 faculty members and 45 students.

Public school teachers are not available as faculty for the special Ouachita school because of a court injunction, Phelps said.

Ouachita officials said that Little Rock's Baptist high school would be operated as "long as necessary" during the public school crisis. There were no plans to make the school permanent.

Trustees of Ouachita took their action, according to Phelps, in "response to requests from a large number of people, principally Baptist parents."

The school has no connection with a private school corporation, Phelps added.

Classes, scheduled to start Oct. 27, would be limited virtually to a core curriculum, Phelps said. A way has been found to offer biology and physics but not chemistry, he continued.

Portable equipment from Ouachita will be brought to Little Rock for students in biology and physics courses, and on Saturdays the students will commute to Arkadelphia---72 miles away---for laboratory work.

The school will receive accreditation from the Arkansas state department of education, Phelps said. "We are working closely with them."

"If the Baptist college can't help our people, it would be derelict in its duty," the president said in further explanation of the trustee action.

In an editorial written for the Arkansas Baptist, weekly journal of the state convention, Editor Erwin L. McDonald commented:

"In a situation involving so many angles, finding the wise course is not an easy matter. That the Ouachita trustees acted within their right as set out under the charter of the college, there seems little room for doubt.

"Only if the college had been moving toward establishing a school on a permanent basis with permanent buildings and with support from the state convention would approval have been necessary from the state convention."

"Our people will have varying opinions to whether or not the addition of another private venture in the field of secondary education in Little Rock at this time will make any contribution to the final solution of the public school problem.

"Regardless of individual feelings about the wisdom of the move, now that Ouachita has entered the field she should have our prayers and our hearty support for maximum success."

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'Door Left Wide Open'  
For Work With Students

DALLAS--(BP)--A breaking away from traditional religions by foreign college students has "left the door wide open for evangelical Christianity," a Texas Baptist leader said here.

W. F. Howard, of Dallas, secretary of the Texas Baptist student department, has just completed a two-month, glob-circling trip to study the opportunities for student work by Baptists.

"Many of the college students in the Pacific area and in Asia have a total disregard for religion," he said.

Howard said in many countries evidence was found of a secularization movement among the college students. "They aren't fighting the Christian

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movement--they're just ignoring it, which is even more dangerous," according to Howard.

The Baptist leader reported encouraging facts about the Christian movement in South Korea, Formosa, and Indonesia.

Howard said he was told that less than 10 per cent of Jewish young people in Israel are active in their religious practices.

In regard to establishing Baptist student centers, he said that students, school administrators, and mission personnel were far more responsive than he had hoped.

The 19-country tour was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

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Stassen, Graham Aid  
Stetson Convocation

DELAND, Fla.--(BP)--Two internationally-known men will visit DeLand in mid-November for the diamond jubilee convocation of Stetson University, the oldest university in Florida.

They are Billy Graham, who has been in an evangelistic crusade in Charlotte, N. C., and Harrold E. Stassen. Stassen is former governor of Minnesota, former president of the University of Pennsylvania, and former assistant to the President of the United States.

Billy Graham will speak Nov. 16 in DeLand's Municipal Stadium. The 6300-seat stadium is expected to be filled to overflowing.

Stassen will give the diamond jubilee convocation address.

The special weekend convocation observance begins Nov. 14.

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20 Convention Laymen  
To Visit In Alaska

MEMPHIS--(BP)--A team of 20 Southern Baptist Convention laymen will be in Alaska next summer to conduct "denomination week" in Baptist churches there.

The laymen will be selected by the Brotherhood Commission of the Convention, at the request of the Convention's Home Mission Board. The Home Mission Board directs Southern Baptist work in Alaska.

Dates for the visit are July 19-25. The laymen will give emphasis to the broad areas of work supported through the Cooperative Program. They will bring messages and give demonstrations of how laymen can participate in denominational progress through their churches.

Members of the team will visit in different churches each night.

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