

March 14, 1959

History Writers'
Conference Planned

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A History Writers' Conference for church historians, the first of its kind, will be held June 18-24 at the Baptist assembly in Ridgcrest, N. C.

Sponsor of the conference will be the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

"This conference is a 'must' for those already commissioned to write the history of a church, an association, a convention, or an institution in the denomination," Norman W. Cox, Nashville, executive secretary of the sponsoring commission said.

"The conference should be attended by any who may possibly be called upon in the future to write such a history, as well as those who are just interested in Baptist history, whether or not they will ever be called upon to write it," he added.

Heading the conference personnel is Robert A. Baker of Fort Worth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will be assisted by Lynn E. May of Nashville, research director of the Historical Commission.

"Every aspect of history writing will be discussed, including such phases as getting a start, what an individual should do to prepare himself to write, making adequate research, locating historical documents, verifying information, classifying materials, and layout of the publication containing the history," Cox said.

A clinic at the close of the conference will be scheduled, enabling conference participants to ask questions about problems.

The History Writers' Conference will coincide with Foreign Missions Conference, sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board; Writers' Conference, sponsored by the Sunday School Board, and Brotherhood Conference, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission.

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Life Dedication Day
Scheduled In April

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Sunday, Apr. 12, will be observed as "Life Dedication Day" in many Southern Baptist Convention churches, since they will be closing the annual observance of "Youth Week" on that day.

It is expected that several hundred young persons will dedicate themselves to some church-related vocation in life at these services.

Young persons dedicating themselves to church-related vocational work need to receive literature and other information which will help them as they prepare for their life service.

These young persons may be placed on mailing lists for this material if their names are forwarded to John M. Tubbs, church-related vocations counselor at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Since the summer of 1957, when the Convention began a concerted effort to keep in touch with its young people called into church-related vocations, the names of more than 14,000 young persons have been forwarded to Tubbs's office here.

"Each of these is now receiving an information bulletin, published quarterly, on church-related vocational opportunities and needs." Tubbs said. "In addition, a series of free pamphlets on individual vocations is available to any person or church desiring them."

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Louisville Weather
Unpredictable In May

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--What about weather conditions in Louisville for the middle of May?

In a special report to Southern Baptist Convention messengers, the weatherman has this to say: The average high and low temperatures in the city for the third week of May are 79 and 45 degrees respectively, making the mean temperature for that week 67.5.

For the entire month of May, the average humidity ranges from 90 per cent at daybreak to 20 at night. Humidity averages 30 to 40 per cent in the afternoons.

Average collective rainfall for the month is 3.93 inches. Normally, this precipitation falls during 11 days of the month with thunderstorms on six of the 11 days.

The strongest winds are usually associated with storm activity while the prevailing direction of the wind is southerly with velocity averaging under 10 miles per hour.

Louisville's weather is subject to frequent changes, being influenced alternately by the high-pressure area of Bermuda and that of southern Canada.

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Louisville During May
---Water-Tight Topcoat

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--In planning a wardrobe for your convention trip to Louisville May 18-22, "preparedness" should be your guide.

Try to include medium-weight clothing which can be worn with a jacket or sweater to add warmth. A topcoat for the men and spring coat for women is necessary --- all the better if it is water-repellent.

Local clothing styles certainly will not frown on any messenger's Sunday attire. And don't forget to stick a pair of comfortable shoes in your bag for shopping tours and sightseeing.

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Atlanta Buys Acreage
For Baptist College

ATLANTA--(BP)--Atlanta Baptist Association of churches will buy a 452-acre tract of land near here for a Baptist college site. Cost of the property is \$690,475.

The executive committee of Georgia Baptist Convention at its March session approved the association's purchase plans. The convention treasury will be a clearing house for funds raised in a \$3 million campaign for the Atlanta Baptist school.

The association plans to borrow \$150,000 as a down payment on the tract, located on an expressway 12 miles northeast of the heart of the city.

The \$3 million which the association hopes to raise in the special drive will pay for the property, provide capital for \$1 million administration building, and leave a sum for operations and for endowment.

The school will be an affiliate of Mercer University, the convention's senior college in Macon, Ga.

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Maryland Editor Warns
Of Legislative Action

BALTIMORE--(BP)--The Maryland Baptist, in its Mar. 15 edition, warned Baptists of this state about efforts being made in the Maryland legislature to divert public tax funds to aid church-related schools.

In a page 1 editorial, editor Gainer Bryan, Jr., said that efforts are under way "to provide bus transportation for parochial school pupils as

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taxpayers' expense in two countries---Garrett and Anne Arundel."

The editorial did not say what religious affiliation the parochial schools had.

"Every time a non-public school pupil rides a public school bus, whether on regular or altered routes, the citizens of the county affected must pay extra tax money," Bryan wrote.

"Parochial schools," he added, "are more than institutions of learning ---they are centers of sectarian religious training. Whenever public tax funds are used to support the propagation of any religion it is a violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution. That amendment guarantees the separation of church and state."

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Stewardship Conference This Summer Announced

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A conference on stewardship, church finance, and the use of the Forward Program of Church Finance will convene at Ridgecrest, N. C., Aug. 20-26.

Merrill D. Moore, secretary of stewardship promotion for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, announced the conference.

The conference, first of its kind, will coincide with Bible Conference at the assembly in the North Carolina mountains.

Principal speakers at the stewardship-church finance conference will be Gaines S. Dobbins, distinguished professor of church administration at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif., and Ralph A. Herring, pastor, First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N. C.

"Biblical teachings on stewardship, fundamental principles of church finance, proven methods of enlistment, and specifically, the Forward Program of Church Finance will be studied," according to Moore.

Moore said that the conference will be open to pastors and denominational workers as well as to laymen and women.

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Folks & facts

.....Chauncey R. Daley, Louisville, editor of the Western Recorder, weekly Baptist publication in Kentucky, and trustee of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be the featured speaker at the Southeastern Seminary Alumni Breakfast. It will be held May 21 at 7:30 a. m. in the grand ballroom of the Sheraton-Seelbach Hotel in Louisville, Ky.

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Top-Level Conference
Called At Southern

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--A top-level conference will be held at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here Mar. 30 with 12 dismissed Southern professors invited to attend.

Baptists leaders present will be the seminary trustees, its president and faculty, and a special committee of Southern Baptist Convention presidents.

The trustees said the joint conference was called "for the purpose of effecting a reconciliation within the total seminary faculty."

The nature of things to be discussed at the conference was not disclosed.

Calling of the conference was announced jointly by the trustees of the seminary, the administration, and the special committee of presidents.

The committee of presidents met first on Jan. 8. Since that time it has "spent many hours in face-to-face conference with members of the present faculty of the seminary, the dismissed professors, President (Duke K.) McCall and the trustees, and representatives of the alumni and the student body."

In its progress report, the committee noted further:

"We have witnessed, throughout these progressive conferences, increasing hope for solution for this crucial situation at the level of New Testament reconciliation."

Louie D. Newton, pastor, Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, is chairman of the committee. Other members are Convention President Brooks Hays and former presidents J. W. Storer of Nashville, J. D. Grey of New Orleans, C. C. Warren of Charlotte, and R. G. Lee of Memphis.

The trustees issued their statement at the conclusion of their regular March meeting of the full board. The Mar. 30 session of the full board is a specially called one.

The Southern trustees also announced the promotions of five faculty members and the transfer of four others into new subject areas of teaching.

Promoted were:

Robert Allen Proctor, Jr., from assistant to associate professor of educational psychology.

G. Maurice Hinson from assistant to associate professor of church music.

William C. Bushnell from assistant to associate professor of church music.

Vernon L. Stanfield from associate to full professor of preaching.

Herbert C. Jackson from associate to full professor of comparative religion and missions.

The four transferred and their old and new subject areas are:

Nolan P. Howington, associate professor, from preaching to Christian ethics.

Eric C. Rust, professor, from Christian apologetics to Christian philosophy.

William A. Mueller, professor, from philosophy of religion to church history.

Joseph A. Callaway from Old Testament interpretation to Biblical archaeology.

The trustees elected a new chairman, J. Lamar Jackson, pastor, Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., succeeding Wade H. Bryant of Roanoke, Va.

Jackson said the trustees' regular March meeting, at which some phases of the seminary crisis were discussed, "was characterized by a genuine brotherly spirit and by a deep sense of dedication to the discharge of responsibilities."

The special committee of six presidents called on Southern Baptists to pray especially for the joint conference on Mar. 30.

FORMAL PROGRESS REPORT OF PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE

Since the initial meeting of the committee on January 8, we have spent many hours in face-to-face conference with members of the present faculty of the seminary, the dismissed professors, President McCall and the trustees, and representatives of the alumni and student body.

We have approached every person in every situation in earnest prayer that the Holy Spirit direct our every thought and word, and we have been impressed with the generally fine spirit with all with whom we have dealt.

We have witnessed, throughout these progressive conferences, increasing hope for solution for this crucial situation at the level of New Testament reconciliation.

We now face a joint conference of the administration and trustees, the present faculty, the dismissed professors, and our committee on Monday evening, March 30 at the seminary.

With this brief report to Southern Baptists, we link the earnest appeal that you will pray daily for this vitally important and urgent situation, so dear to the hearts of all our people, and that on Monday night, March 30 you, and each of you, be in special prayer for the meeting in Louisville. Thanks.

Louie D. Newton, Chairman
Brooks Hays, Vice-chairman
J. W. Storer, Secretary
J. D. Grey
C. C. Warren

(R. G. Lee unable to attend meetings.)

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H. I. Hesters Endow
Midwestern Lectures

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--The president of the trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here--H. I. Hester--announced that he and Mrs. Hester will endow a lectureship on preaching at the new seminary.

Hester made his announcement at the March meeting of the board. "The first historic series of lectures resulting from this gift will be presented in the spring of 1960 on the new seminary campus," President Millard J. Berquist said.

Hester is vice-president of William Jewell College, Baptist senior college located in nearby Liberty, Mo.

At their meeting, trustees also elected a new faculty member. H. C. Brown, Jr., of Fort Worth, who has been professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for 10 years, was elected professor of homiletics at Midwestern.

Brown will assume his new position Aug. 1. He is a native of Louisiana, and a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, La., and both Southern and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminaries.

Trustees were told that construction of the four initial buildings for the new seminary is progressing. They are expected to be ready for occupancy by September. An enrollment of more than 300 students is expected in the fall, President Berquist said.

Until the buildings are ready, Midwestern is using facilities provided by Calvary Baptist Church here. The new campus is on a 99-acre site in the northern part of the city.

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March 14, 1959

Baptist Women Speak On Marriage, Family

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn.--(BP)--Baptist women of east Tennessee have voiced their feelings about courtship, marriage, and family life---not only for themselves but for their sons and daughters.

Their sentiments are summarized in an article by two Carson-Newman College professors here, Herbert J. Miles and Ray F. Koonce. Carson-Newman is the Tennessee Baptist Convention's senior college for east Tennessee.

Miles's and Koonce's survey, upon which their findings are based, brought in replies from 613 women.

The two professors concluded there are five "rather major weaknesses of Tennessee Baptist Women as related to courtship, marriage, and the family:"

1. Family devotions are not observed in almost half of the homes represented. A fourth reported that grace is not said at mealtimes.

2. Two out of three women do not share regular recreational activities with their husbands.

3. Regular family conferences are not held in about two-thirds of the cases.

4. A higher than the average number of women---43 per cent---work outside the home for pay.

5. Three of every four women give only occasional, if any, supervision to their children in the spending of children's allowances.

On the other hand, Miles and Koonce continued, there are a half-dozen points which the women should be commended:

1. Joint checking accounts for husband and wife prevail in more than two of three instances. Joint financial decisions are reached in 84 per cent.

2. "The women have some realistic concepts concerning child discipline." Application of the paddle for punishment of children aged 6-12 is okayed by four out of five women surveyed. Over 95 per cent require children 9-12 years of age to attend Sunday school and church.

3. "They set the normal time for youth to have their first date at not sooner than their 15th birthday and the normal time for youth to start going steady at not sooner than their 18th birthday." This precludes "steadies" while in high school. They want their children's courtships to last from 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 years and for them not to marry before 21.

4. Nine-tenths feel that sex education should be given in college, and eight of ten believe it should be given in highschool. A slightly less number--75 per cent---of the women feel that the church has a responsibility in this area.

5. "There is abundant evidence that the homes of these women are centered around church life." Regular habits in attendance, holding of church offices, and tithing were noted in a high percentage of cases.

6. Would they marry again if they could choose over? Yes, say 98 per cent. Would they marry the same fellow if the choice were theirs again? Sure, said 97 per cent of the women. "The survey seemed to reveal that Tennessee Baptist women enjoy an abundance of happiness in marriage."

Some interesting sidelights on the survey findings were that the younger women (29 and under) in the survey married when 19 or 20, while older women (above 60) were 22 years of age or older when they married. This is based on an average age.

Only 13 per cent approved of a woman taking the initiative in courtship.

Hubby helps with the housework only irregularly, or never at all, 78 per cent of the time.

Most of the women had two or three children, and they felt the ideal family would have three or four children.

Meals are more oft-blessed by prayer in the city than in the country. For city families, it's 83 per cent against 67 per cent for rural families.

About one in five of the women had had prayer with her husband before they married.

The majority---65 per cent---think it best that the husband be three to five years older than the wife. In actuality, 71 per cent of the women in the survey were younger, 15 per cent were the same age, and 14 per cent were older than their husbands.