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127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

July 20, 1957

Owen Starts 6th Term
As Commission Chairman

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Richard N. Owen, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee weekly denominational newspaper, has been re-elected to his sixth term as chairman of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission.

Holding its annual meeting here, the Commission re-elected all its other officers. They are J. P. Edmunds, statistician, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, vice-chairman; H. I. Hester, vice-president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., recording secretary, and Norman W. Cox, Nashville, treasurer.

Cox serves as Commission executive secretary under indefinite appointment.

Owen will serve as chairman of the Historical Commission through May of next year, when his term on the Commission ends. After that date, Edmunds will become chairman.

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M. P. Turner President
Of American Seminary

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Maynard P. Turner, Jr., pastor of Mozart Baptist Church, Chicago, has been elected president of American Baptist Theological Seminary here. He assumes his new duties Aug. 5.

American Seminary is jointly operated by the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., the largest Negro Baptist group in the nation. The seminary trains Negro ministers and other religious workers.

The post of president has been vacant for about a year following the resignation of Ralph W. Riley to re-enter the pastorate. During that time, Victor T. Glass has served as acting president, the first and only white man to head the seminary.

When Turner becomes president, Glass will resume his former position of academic dean.

Turner has been active in both pastorates and educational work in the National Convention. He is a doctor of theology graduate of Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Kans.; former dean at Western Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and Bishop College, Marshall, Tex., and later president of Western Seminary.

Turner has been pastor of Mozart Baptist Church since September, 1955. He is no newcomer to Nashville, having received his bachelor of arts degree from Fisk University here.

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Teacher, Pupils Killed
On Way To Class Picnic

HARRISBURG, Ill.--(BP)--The teacher and two pupils of 12-year-old Sunday school class of McKinley Ave. Baptist Church here were killed recently in a collision while on their way to an outing.

Marion Lasseter, class teacher and driver of the car, had picked up six of his class members a short time before and was driving to nearby Eldorado, Ill. Another car collided with Lasseter's car head-on.

The accident also claimed the life of the driver of the other automobile. The other class members were hospitalized, two of them critically injured.

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BP folks & facts

.....H. Alton Webb resigned pastorate of First Baptist Church, Poteau, Okla., to become pastor of Vickery Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.

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.....On July 14 Thomas C. Christmas began his pastorate of First Baptist Church, Andrews, N. C. He came there after serving as pastor of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Maryville, Tenn.

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.....Albert M. Castell, student at Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, preached the ordination sermon recently when two of his brothers were ordained as deacons. The brothers are members of different Baptist churches in nearby communities in southeastern Indiana. Previously Castell had baptized both his brothers after their conversions.

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Memphis Hospital Calls
Chaplain C. D. McKnight

MEMPHIS--(BP)--Charles D. McKnight will become chaplain at Baptist Memorial Hospital here on Aug. 1. He succeeds Chaplain F. P. Loman who has accepted the chaplaincy of Welborn Memorial Baptist Hospital in Evansville, Ind.

Chaplain McKnight has had extensive training and experience in hospital ministry. A graduate of Mississippi College and the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, he was formerly in the chaplaincy program at Mississippi State Mental Hospital in Whitfield. He comes to Baptist Memorial Hospital from Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta.

Mrs. McKnight is the former Mary Elizabeth McDaniel of Flora, Miss. Chaplain McKnight is a native of Grenada, Miss.

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA: PERFECTION VS. REALITY
Specially written for Baptist Press by
Loulie Latimer Owens, Greenville, S.C.

There must be a lot of Southern Baptists who wonder what goes on when members of their Historical Commission and Historical Society gather for a meeting. They probably visualize a bunch of old gents tying knots in 12-inch beards as they adjust bifocals over moth-eaten documents. That just couldn't be true because five of us are ladies. And the rest --- well, forget about the beards.

Among the variety of items on the July 16-18 agenda in Nashville was a panel on the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists. Mr. Judson Allen, one of the editors and, incidentally, a definitely young man, described the encyclopedia as "a compromise between perfection and reality." This brought on whoops because everybody interpolated that Judson is the perfectionist and Dr. Norman Cox, the Commission's executive secretary who can run circles around any beaver, is the realist.

Dr. William J. Fallis, weary editor of the Broadman Press, who has final charge of the 1,500,000-word manuscript, observed dryly, "If you think four readings will correct all errors in galleys, you don't have a very realistic doctrine of sin."

The enormity of the research required for the encyclopedia was reviewed by Dr. Lynn May, the Commission's research director. Dr. May is known to history circles as "The Bird Dog" for his extra-sensory ability to sniff out material.

One of the encyclopedia's 52 area editors was Dr. Penrose St. Amant, professor of church history in New Orleans Seminary. This brilliant young scholar managed to describe the gigantic undertaking in terms that moved even the Commission and Society, every member of which had sweated over some phase of the work. Said Dr. St. Amant, "The encyclopedia will provide a definition of ourselves for ourselves, our friends, our critics. It is a spontaneous definition. It will tell of our culture. It will reveal the unity, not uniformity, of Southern Baptists."

Concluding his analysis, Dr. St. Amant said, "The encyclopedia is a testimony of free cooperation of a free people in a labor of love. . . .

"It will show the world a side of Baptists they seldom see, our struggle to understand ourselves. . . .

"It will strengthen a sense of history to ourselves. What could be more important than this?

"It will eliminate many distortions of Southern Baptists in the religious and secular presses. We are a people **who stress** many simplicities of the Gospel but we cannot be written off in the theological debate. . . .

"The encyclopedia will provide a ready reference for Southern Baptists without being either official or authoritarian. . . .

"It will provide our people with a vast store of inspiration. . . ."

Dr. Clifton J. Allen, an associate chairman of the editorial committee of the encyclopedia and an effective coat-tail-puller, managed to bring the panel to a close after it had gone only 15 minutes overtime.

And anybody who still thinks that history is dull these days needs to swap off his outmoded ideas. Probably the fastest means of making the swap is to drop in on Commission-Society meetings some hot July day.