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Just Looking Around

For several years Dr. Cecil A. Ray has been the dynamic Executive Secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and is doing a tremendous job in his alpine position, from which he inspires and leads over a million Southern Baptists in North Carolina. Few men in any position — political, religious, educational, or otherwise — exert and maintain a greater influence over "The Old North State" than he does.

However, North Carolina is Dr. Ray's "adopted" State, for he was Texas born, bred, and reared — and it's next to impossible to completely "unTexas" a Texan! Until his acceptance of his North Carolina position, his life and ministry had been Texas based, and he had no idea, I daresay, of ever changing it if left strictly to his own plans and devices.

But the Lord "moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform," and to get the average Texan to move to North Carolina usually takes a mysterious Divine wonder in full operation. So, it took God, and God only, to move Dr. Cecil Ray to North Carolina!

We have the sure word on this fact from a most reliable source — Dr. Gene Garrison, pastor of the sprawling First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In speaking to a state-wide gathering of Baptists in Greensboro, Dr. Garrison, who is a long-time friend of Ray's and himself a Texan, related a story about the affair that made the rounds out in the Southwest which dramatically showed the "behind-the-scene" workings which finally produced the decision by Dr. Ray to sadly forsake the Texas Longhorns and joyfully take up getting Tar on his Heels.

Seems that back when North Carolina Baptists were searching for a good qualified replacement for the retiring Dr. Ray, God

of Divine revelation.

But Ray, at that time the Director of Stewardship for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, decided that he had better do some consulting with the Divine for himself, also; so he approached the Good Lord in humble petition and asked, "Lord, do You really want me to leave a place like Texas and go up to North Carolina?"

"Yes, I do," answered the Lord in straight, certain terms.

"Well," replied the hesitant Ray, "give me some time to think about that."

Three days later, after a terrible inner struggle and much serious thought, Dr. Ray came back to the Lord and said, "Lord, I'll go up to North Carolina on just one condition."

"What's that?" inquired the Lord.

"That You go with me," requested Ray.

"Well," replied the Lord, "give me some time to think about that."

The deep-rooted Texan returned to the Lord after four days to settle things once and for all. "Now, Lord, if I forsake Texas and head for North Carolina, will You go up with me?" he asked anxiously.

In reply, the Good Lord spoke seriously and solemnly, "All right, Cecil, you head on up to North Carolina, and I faithfully promise that I surely will go with you — as far as Atlanta, Georgia!"

Well, North Carolina Baptists are mighty grateful that, somehow, Dr. Ray made it the rest of the way on his own! //

SALE

Dr. Cecil Ray to speak at First Baptist

Dr. Cecil Ray, general secretary of the ~~Baptist~~ State Convention of North Carolina, will speak at First Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and his topic will be the state convention's work in missions.

The address is open to the public and members of the church are invited to a reception for Dr. Ray from 6 to 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

Dr. Robert C. Bailey is pastor of the host church.

The son of a pastor, Dr. Ray was born in Ft. Worth, Tex., and received his education from Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex. where he received the A.B. degree.

He also has a Th.M. degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Ft. Worth and received his honorary doctorate from Howard Payne University.

During his 10-year pastorate at Arnett - Benson Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., membership grew to 1,500.

He was superintendent of missions for the San Antonio Baptist Association, was selected Texas Baptist Father of the Year, secretary of the cooperative program and church finance department in the Baptist General Convention of Texas and was director of the stewardship division until 1975.

Dr. and Mrs. Ray have a son and daughter, both married.



Dr. Cecil Ray

Concord Tribune
Dunn Record
Durham Herald
Durham Sun
Elizabeth City Advance
Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville Times
Gastonia Gazette
Goldsboro: News-Argus
Greensboro Daily News

SEP 11 1977

FEB-12-85

Baptist: Wrong Leaders Can Endanger Convention

By VIRTIE STROUP
Sentinel Religion Reporter

The Rev. Cecil A. Ray warns that the Southern Baptist Convention's future can be at stake if the wrong convention presidents are elected.

Ray, writing in the current issue of Baptist History and Heritage, said "a fickle electorate ... can destroy" convention goals.

The comments by Ray, former general-secretary of the Baptist State Convention, appear in an issue of the journal published by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission devoted to the examination of "The Leadership Heritage of Southern Baptists."

Ray's article notes that great leaders have been behind every major Southern Baptist achievement. He said leadership is critical because history shows the denomination went the way of its leaders — "what happens to a denomination eventually happens to its churches."

Ray is now national director of the Planned Growth in Giving project, a 15-year plan to challenge Southern Baptists to increase their giving to the local church and to mission causes.

Ray's comments are of striking importance since they are coming out just before the annual convention June 11-13 in Dallas.

The Rev. Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta and current convention president, is subject to re-election. Although he is pastor of one of the convention's largest churches, Stanley's congregation is reported to be a minimal supporter of the Cooperative Program budget.

Stanley is considered a voice of the convention's fundamental or ultra-conservative members, who have for the past five years maintained control of elections.

In a Baptist Press report on the article, Ray is quoted as saying: "Periods of growth and harmony in the denomination have come when the purposes of leaders and people have been united toward a common goal."

Yet, Ray warns, "A fickle electorate ... can destroy its goals. More than once, a Baptist convention has climaxed a long study by prayerfully adopting a worthy program or goal, only then to destroy the effort by electing a convention president uncommitted to it."

For example," he said, "to adopt a great goal for mission support through the Cooperative Program and then elect key leaders who have demonstrated little support for the Cooperative Program is to negate the goal."

Ray's editorial offered five guide-

Churches, Religion

lines for matching elected leaders with convention objectives:

- "The purpose question — What does he/she want to accomplish most if elected?"

- "The unity question — Is he/she known for creating unity or divisions?"

- "The loyalty question — Is this person known for supporting the denomination and its financial lifeline, the Cooperative Program?"

- "The knowledge question — Does he/she understand how the convention functions and what work it does?"

- "The identification question — Who wants this person elected and why?"

He also identifies three critical issues facing Southern Baptists and their leaders:

- Qualifications.

A person's qualifications, Ray said, are judged by identification — the people and movements he is aligned with; by demonstrated ability; by loyalty; and by the characteristic of being a peacemaker.

- Purpose.

Ray questions if the elected messengers (delegates) come together "to chart Baptists' course in Christian missions or to state positions on doctrinal, moral, social and political issues?" He said convention interest is shifting toward issues rather than its stated goal of missions.

- Concern.

While Southern Baptists once were a rural people in the South, mostly of Anglo-Saxon extraction, Ray said, today Southern Baptists are urban and rural nationwide, a cross-section highly and poorly educated, rich and poor, professional and blue-collar and people of all races.

"Almost all these Baptists," he said, "agree on the central doctrines of the Christian faith while maintaining differences on such matters as the method of divine inspiration, how God created the world, and how God will bring time to an end."

Some Baptists like this diversity, Ray said, while others find it "distasteful, even frightening."

RECORD
HICKORY, N. C.
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NOV 5 - 83

Need For More Churches Challenges N.C. Baptists

By DAVID BOREN
Record Religion Writer

HUDSON — While Baptists already play a major part in North Carolina's religious life, they must be willing to work hard if they are to reach the state's growing population.

That is the view of Dr. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Ray, who will leave the state convention office in January for a national Baptist position, preached Sunday at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Rt. 3, Hudson.

"With so many Baptist churches in the state, it easy to think we don't need any more. But that isn't so," Ray said during an interview after the service.

Most of all, he said, Baptists need to concentrate their efforts on the state's rapidly growing urban areas.

Although the state already has



Dr. Cecil
A.
Ray

more than 3,400 Southern Baptist churches, Ray said a recent convention survey showed the need for 700 more during the next few years.

A native of Texas, Ray said he "had some very effective years" as general secretary-treasurer since assuming the job in 1976.

He listed an expanded missions emphasis as foremost among the accomplishments of his administration.

During his tenure, the convention undertook substantial missions projects in West Virginia, Togo, Africa, and the European Baptist Convention.

Ray said he also is proud of the strengthening of the convention's relations with its various institutions — including hospitals, colleges and universities, and nursing homes — during his tenure.

As far as the convention's future, Ray said he expects "no major directional changes" from the its

emphasis on missions.

He said the convention will, and should, continue to become involved in social issues involving the state.

But Ray said the future leaders of the convention must be careful not to lose sight of the convention's ultimate aim — the spreading of Christianity.

"We must always be involved with social and moral concerns. It's not a question of will we do it, but doing it in such a way as to keep our priorities in balance," he said.

Ray said that although the convention may not always be successful when campaigning on social issues, such as drinking or gambling, the work is rarely a complete loss.

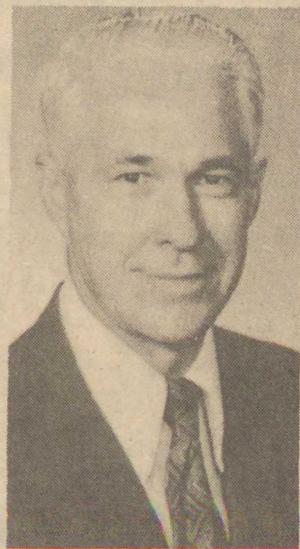
"I think we have an influence (on social issues), and in that sense we're successful."

On Jan. 1, Ray will become the director of planned growth and giving for the Bold Mission Thrust program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He will continue to work in Raleigh.

Ray said the program is an ambitious one, aiming to double the size of the convention's missions programs by the year 2000.

One of his tasks will be to try to increase total income of all convention churches from the present \$3 billion per year to \$20 billion, and to increase the foreign missions contributions from \$300 million to \$2.5 billion.



REV. CECIL A. RAY

Baptist Secretary Selected

ASHEBORO (UPI) — The General Board of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention Wednesday voted unanimously to recommend Cecil A. Ray, 52, of Dallas, Tex., for the position of general secretary-treasurer of the state's Baptists.

Ray, director of the stewardship division for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, is expected to be formally elected and installed at the Baptist State Convention in Asheville Nov. 10-12.

The general secretary-treasurer is the administrative head of North Carolina Baptist work.

Ray has served in the stewardship division of Texas since 1961 and previously was superintendent of missions in the San Antonio Baptist Association. Before that, from 1946-56, he was pastor at Arnett-Benson Church in Lubbock, Tex.

Kannapolis Independent
Kinston Free Press
Lenoir News Topic
Lexington Dispatch
Lumberton: Robesonian
Morganton News-Herald
New Bern: Sun-Journal
Norfolk: Virginia Pilot
Raleigh: News & Observer
Raleigh Times
Reidsville Review

OCT 16 1975

Baptist

The Rev. Cecil A. Ray, Grand Prairie, Tex., met the family leaders of North Carolina Baptists last week and it was a scene of harmony. But next month Ray will meet his future "in-laws" of "outlaws" as some refer to the conservatives in the Baptist State Convention.

Ray has been nominated to become general secretary-treasurer of the convention. The convention's General Board will nominate the 52-year-old director of stewardship for the Baptist General Convention of Texas during the annual convention session in Asheville on Nov. 11.

If elected, he will succeed Dr. W. Perry Crouch of Raleigh, who will retire on Dec. 31 after 12 years as general secretary-treasurer and 40 years in the ministry, most of it in North Carolina.

Under convention rules nominations for the top executive officer of the officer of the convention are to be received from the floor.

W-3 Sentinel

on-Salem, N. C., Saturday, October 25, 1975

t Nominee Faces Vote Test

Conservatives in the convention, known as Baptists United for Spiritual Renewal, announced prior to Ray's selection that if the General Board nominee did not suit them they would nominate their own man and their nominee is the Rev. J. O. Owens of Gastonia, head of Baptists United.

While some who know Ray call him a "fundamentalist," the conservatives here say that this might well be so, but in practice he will not remain true to that title. Ray, in an interview, said he was a theological conservative. He agrees with the Baptists United that baptism by immersion is the only proper way to baptize, but he added that the convention does not have the right to dictate doctrinal practices for its member churches, something the conservatives have sought for four years. But they have been unsuccessful in their attempt to get a constitutional amendment requiring immersion in convention churches.



CECIL A. RAY
... from Texas ...

Ray said the convention is a cooperating body of many churches who pool their resources in order to run their institutions and agencies and

to carry out their mission work.

He said Baptists have refused to become a creedal people and he opposes any efforts by the convention to oust churches because of doctrinal disputes. He said the executive leader of the convention should not be a "doctrinal referee."

Conservatives say these statements indicate Ray may be the choice of the General Board, but he does not represent their viewpoint of baptism by immersion, a basic tenet that sets them apart from other Protestants.

Ray has been described by a Southern Baptist Convention official as an "excellent organizer, highly regarded and committed to Baptist causes" and he has the ability "to bring together divisive theological differences."

A Baptist State Convention official who knows Ray says he "is an extremely hard worker" who is methodical and stays with a task until it is finished.

He also said Ray "can change if he's convinced there is a better way. He has an open mind."

Another Southern Baptist official said Ray "has the ability to make hard decisions. He would be a healing influence in the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. Divisiveness is against his nature."

The search committee which found Ray saw in him a man who has "brought healing, not strife," "one who has dealt with life in a redemptive manner," and a man with "one-to-one approachableness."

When the Rev. Ray W. Benfield of Greensboro, chairman of the search committee, introduced Ray to the General Board last week, he introduced him as "God's man."

He added that he was a man "who was not a god. He is not even a super pastor," but the committee was not "looking for a perfect man." Benfield said, "He thinks like we do and

he serves the same God as we do."

Later Benfield said his being from out of the state could be helpful because he would not be identified with any faction from within the convention.

A native of Fort Worth, Ray has served the Texas convention since 1961. Previously, he was an associational superintendent and a pastor. He is a graduate of Howard Payne University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned a master of theology and received an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Ray and his wife, Charlene, have two children, Susan, 28, a paralytic polio victim, and Lanny, 26, a graduate student in nuclear physics.

Mrs. Ray and her daughter are active members of a Mexican mission and Susan has written a book, "The Baptist Way."

If elected, the Rays would move to North Carolina in early 1976.

BP

October 25, 1975

Economic Resources, upon the recommendation of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management, has asked our congressional delegation to support a House amendment which would prevent air quality standards from being any more stringent than those deemed necessary to protect the public health. At the same time the Board of Natural and Economic Resources, upon the recommendation of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management (DEM), has asked the N.C. Congressional delegation to oppose an amendment pending in the Senate which would prohibit the degradation of existing air

empowers states to enact regulations more stringent than those provided in the national regulations, yet North Carolina chose to give up that right and wed ourselves to the minimum standards of the nation. By repealing the Hardison Amendment, North Carolinians would once again be in a position of deciding for North Carolinians whether national standards were sufficient to protect our public health and maintain our desired quality of life.

The effects of chronic low level pollutants are slowly becoming known and are difficult to pin down. There is evidence

our tourist industry, agriculture and forestry industries, personal property — to say nothing of the intrinsic value to individuals.

By opposing the Senate amendment which could provide for non-degradation of existing North Carolina's air quality standards in such a manner as to place as little restraint as possible on any industry which might consider locating in North Carolina, as if to say industry and clean air are incompatible — that North Carolina could have one or the other but not both. To illustrate its point, the DEM staff said that

circu-
rubbers might allow that power plant to move much closer to the clean air area. The DEM staff did not mention to the NER Board that any of North Carolina's clean industries (Western Electric, Taylor Thermometer, Ciba Geigy, IBM, Burroughs Wellcome, ITT) could locate very close if not right on the border of these clean air areas without degrading the existing air quality.

To say that North Carolina would be at a disadvantage in attracting industry because we have so much federally owned land is open to question. Many states have far more federally-owned land than North

cussed how was the annual national loss in personal property damage because of air pollution — estimated at \$200 million. The relatively minor costs of home maintenance, laundry, even facial and hair care have been shown to be as much as \$126 per person per year because of heavy air pollution.

The DEM has stated that the new monitoring regulations resulting from the Hardison Amendment will not harm North Carolina's air, yet it should be obvious that by deleting the maximum 24 hour concentration of NO₂ and using an annual arith-

crisis in the state's health. The recently publicized plight of textile workers in North Carolina does little to instill confidence in the sense of stewardship industry has toward North Carolina's natural resources and the public health of her citizens.

I am not convinced that the majority of North Carolinians are ready to accept the tradeoffs being made by the State of North Carolina. Our policy should be one of having the cleanest air possible rather than the minimum and standards to satisfy the federal government.

The Tar Heel of The Week

A Man For All Persuasions Heads State's Baptists

By ERNIE WOOD
Staff Writer

It was a terrible cliché. But the Rev. Ray Benfield of Greensboro really did use a variation of the old saw "He puts on his pants one leg at a time just like the rest of us" to describe the Rev. Cecil A. Ray one time.

"We have a man who is not a little god; in fact, he is not even super-pastor," said Benfield. "We were not looking for a perfect man. He puts on his shoes like other folks. Most of all, he serves the same God that we try to serve."

That was back in mid-October and Benfield was recommending Ray for the position of general secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, the top administrative job in the state's largest religious body. Portrayed as "a regular guy" who was a natural for the job, Ray won unanimous approval from the convention's General Board. The Baptist publication *The Biblical Recorder* enthused "Only those who believe in miracles would have dreamed of such unanimity."

The committee which first had found Ray and suggested him for the job circulated a sheet of information about the prospective administrator, including a section of "What Others Say About Cecil A. Ray."

For the Record

CECIL ARMSTRONG RAY

BORN: Dec. 9, 1922, Fort Worth, Tex.
EDUCATION: B.A. Howard Payne College; Th.M. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

PROFESSIONAL: pastor, Arnett-Benson Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., 1946-56; superintendent of missions, San Antonio Baptist Association, 1956-61; secretary of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1961-67; 1967-75, director of the Stewardship Division, Baptist General Convention of Texas; November 1975, elected general secretary-treasurer, North Carolina Baptist State Convention, assumes Office Jan. 1, 1976.

FAMILY: Wife, Charlene; daughter Susan, 28; son, Lanny, 26.

"He has the ability to bring together divisive theological difference," said one official of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"He's the greatest single human factor in the Texas Baptist program. He's an instrument of peace, of common sense," said a pastor from Texas, Ray's home state.

And a month later, Ray, who admitted to having visited North Carolina only once before — on a family vacation to the Great Smokey Mountains — won the job hands down. Split over a doctrinal debate concerning baptismal practices for the past four years, the convention nearly unanimously backed Ray. Three weeks ago in Asheville, Ray won all but about 15 of a possible 3,000 odd votes at the denomination's annual meeting.

"I wouldn't presume to say I'm coming to make Baptists in North Carolina a great people; they already are a great people," he told the convention after his election.

"I would come with the burning desire that North Carolina Baptists would stand as tall for God as possible." And he received a standing ovation.

"It would be one of my great desires to be a unifying force," Ray told a reporter later. "That would be one of the greatest contributions I could make."

"The reason the conservative group (which had promised a fight but put up only weak opposition to Ray's election) was not frightening to me was because I share so many beliefs with them," he said. "The love of the Bible is one thing."

Actually, Ray said Baptists are the same everywhere. Only the issues are different. So while North Carolina Baptists were splitting over baptismal practices, Texas Baptists were feuding over the charismatic movement.

"I can be relaxed around a person who might not agree with me on everything," Ray said.

For that reason, he feels somewhat led to a position of Baptist leadership here. It may be that the denomination's establishment set out to find a man who would be palatable to conservatives, liberals and everyone in the middle of Baptist political life. Or Ray may have been simply the right man at the right time. But he thinks there was more to it than that.

"There's no easy human explanation that says why I'm here," he said. "The leadership of the Lord is the only way I can take it."

Cecil Armstrong Ray was born Dec. 9, 1922, the son of a Baptist minister in Fort Worth, Tex. Perhaps because of his Christian family life, he accepted Christ as savior at the tender age of seven, surrendered to the call of the ministry at 16 and by 17 was pastor of his own congregation.

Graduating from Howard Payne College, a Baptist School in Brownwood, Tex., Ray went on the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where he received his Th. M. degree. Since then, his undergraduate alma mater has conferred an honorary doctorate on Ray.

Ray served as the first pastor of Arnett-Benson Baptist Church in Lubbock, Tex. from 1946-56 as the church grew to 1,500 members. Then, he was named superintendent of missions for the San Antonio Baptist Association, a position he held from 1956-61. From 1961-67, Ray was secretary of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; since 1967, he has been director of stewardship for the Texas convention.

"I still believe," he said, "that the greatest position in Baptist life is the pastor of a church. But for me to have the job that God leads me to is what is important to me."

Though all lifelong Texans, the members of the Ray family apparently believe that their move to Raleigh is the best thing. Ray and his wife Charlene have two children, Lanny, a 26 year old graduate student in nuclear physics at the University of Texas at Austin; and Susan, a 28 year old daughter who was stricken with polio at age four and who has lived in an iron lung ever since.

Lanny, who will be married in January, will remain in Texas to finish his doctoral studies, then will try to find work either at a university or a research project like Oak Ridge, Tenn. or Los Alamos, N.M.; his father said. The move will more directly affect Mrs. Ray and Susan. Though physically handicapped, Susan can travel. Ray made what he believes was the first respirator adapted for use in a car many years ago. (He has, in fact, made an iron lung and special typewriters for his daughter). She has remained mentally and spiri-



Cecil A. Ray

tually active, her father said. "Perhaps a better way to describe Susan is to say she doesn't know she has got a problem," he said. She has written a book entitled "The Baptist Way" and with her mother has been active in a Spanish speaking mission near their home in Grand Prairie outside Dallas.

Giving up that mission work was a disappointment, Ray said. But he notes, "My family has accepted the idea (of moving). Becoming happy in North Carolina will be something they will do."

Ray's call to North Carolina began inauspiciously enough at the national denominational convention in February 1974, when Allen Bailey, president of the convention here at the time, first met Ray.

Favorably impressed on their first meeting, Bailey asked around to get others' opinions on the Texan, then sounded Ray out himself on whether he ever might be interested in coming to North Carolina. Ray responded he would go wherever the Lord called him. Bailey made a note about him in his appointment calendar and left the matter at that.

Then last September, after a special search committee appointed to find a new general secretary-treasurer to replace retiring Dr. W. Perry Crouch had come up empty handed, Bailey ran across Ray's name in his book. He immediately got on the phone, asking around the country for peoples' assessments of the man.

"Of all the people I've ever tried to focus on for a particular position," recalled Bailey, "this man got the highest recommendations of anyone. Almost to a person — and dozens were contacted — people were extremely high on this man and indicated that he had the qualifications to fill the job. The only criticism in the world that we could find of him is one person said he is an extremely strong individual and that maybe we would not want that. But I thought that this is something we needed. Holding onto that office is sort of like hanging onto the top of a mountain in a hurricane. If you're not a man of strength, you'll be blown away."

As Ray sees the job, however, it's something he half knows about and half will learn. "I have been given unusual opportunities to work in Southern Baptist Life," he said, noting that his background in both the pastorate and in administration will help him in his new job. And as a recent member of a convention staff, he hopes to maintain concern for the staff's position here, treating it more as a team and acting as its leader than doing details of convention work himself.

"There is very little actual authority tied with this profession," he said. But he also notes, "There is a great deal of opportunity to influence. Now, the convention elects you to the position, but you have to earn the power to influence."

But Ray already has priorities lined up that he wants to implement when he takes over the job Jan. 1.

Number one priority is development of the local church. Number two is to foster "an intense zeal for people." Number three is to increase the teamwork of the convention staff. Number four is "a real dramatic awakening in support of missions."

These are not new concerns for Ray. "I have been so involved in Texas Southern Baptist life that these are more me," he says.

Earlier this month, when Ray stood up to address the convention after his election, he asked North Carolina Baptists to pray "that we'll find the most effective means in bringing a new era in church growth."

As for himself, Ray told the convention, "The greatest honor would be to have someone say, 'Cecil Ray helped our churches become better churches.'"

Baptist Official Speaks

Here Twice Sunday

Dr. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, will be the guest speaker for the morning worship service at Oxford Baptist Church on Sunday, which has been designated as Baptist Men's Day.

Dr. Ray was born in Fort Worth, Texas, the son of a Baptist minister, W.P. Ray, who served as a pastor for over 40 years. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Howard Payne College in Brownwood, Texas, a master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and an honorary doctorate from Howard Payne University.

He has served as a pastor in Texas and as superintendent of missions of the San Antonio Baptist Association. In 1961 he became the secretary of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and from 1967 to 1975 he served as director of the Stewardship Division of the same convention. He was elected to his present position on Nov. 11, 1975.

In 1960 Dr. Ray was selected Texas Baptist "Father of the Year" with recognition for providing a "new way of life" for his daughter, Susan, who is a victim of paralytic polio.

He is married to the former Charlene Andrews and, besides his daughter, Susan, has a son, Lanny.

Dr. Ray will also be the speaker for the Baptist Men's breakfast at Oxford Baptist at 8 a.m. Sunday.



DR. CECIL A. RAY

Oxford Ledger

JAN 19 1978

Okay Lovers — It's Leap Year

By BILL EAST
Sentinel Staff Reporter

If you're looking for a mate, 1984 should be lucky for you.

It's leap year and according to tradition, not only that extra day in February but the whole year belongs to lovers, who can use it to catch up on affairs of the heart.

Traditionally, those who have not gotten married in the previous three years can take the initiative in leap year.

The idea goes back centuries to a belief that the year was "a catch-up period" for the heart as well as the calendar.

The "catch-up" idea grows out of the fact that it takes just a little more than 365 days for the Earth to complete the trip around the sun each year.

That "little more" — about a fourth of a day — is accumulated and added as an extra day — Feb. 29 — every fourth year. The year comes to be known as "leap year."

Originally, the day was simply an extra Feb. 28, but calendar makers found this difficult to handle and changed the date to Feb. 29.

☆☆☆

Easter in 1984 will be April 22, one of the four latest days on which it can fall.

The lateness of Easter usually means that the spring calendar has to be readjusted for schools and some sports and outdoor events.

There's always a way of moving around. Next year it will

Rewriting of WFU-Baptists Covenant Predicted

Continued from Page 13
be non-Baptists and non-North Carolinians — while forfeiting automatic support from the convention's Cooperative Program budget. North Carolina Baptists must now designate their support to the university.

The convention approved the covenant in 1979; it became effective in 1980. It is to be reviewed every five years. The review will begin this year.

After the review covenant terms can be rewritten, Ray said, and because the covenant is a part of the convention constitution, any changes will require a two-thirds approval vote.

Ray predicted that the cov-

enant will be rewritten. "The time will come. I am impressed to guess what kind of changes, but I think it was written to meet a very critical point in the life of the convention and institution. It is inevitable that there will be changes. What those will be are impossible for me to forecast."

Ray added that the "direction of the relationship in the future will depend to a very large extent on the wish of both the administration and trustees of Wake Forest. What their perceptions are as to the future of Wake Forest and its relationship with the convention will be a major factor."

"What I am saying is this: If the ties are going to be closer

again, I think they are going to have to lead the way; if the ties are going to be lessened, they probably will be the ones to lead the way.

"It is my hope that the harsh kinds of confrontation of the past will not have to be faced again. Having faced it in such a trying time in the past, hopefully what adjustments that come now will come without that deep emotional upheaval for everyone."

"I really think it is a fair assessment to say that Wake Forest really will sort of need to make the next move as to whether they desire to further move away from the convention and churches (or) to closer ties . . .

"What I don't know, of course, is what will surface when the discussion of the covenant itself begins."

Ray said it is fortunate that Dr. Thomas H. Hearn Jr., the university's new president, will have some time to acquaint himself with the life of Wake Forest and the convention before the review.

Ray said it would be "near-

ly impossible for someone that new to weigh all the directions and implications (of the covenant and at the same time) be able to give solid administrative leadership."

Ray perceives Hearn as a "gifted and able educator and obviously a very good communicator." He hopes North Carolina Baptists will give him a chance "to influence the school and keep the strong Baptist ties. Again, this is where his leadership will need to demonstrate both intentions and interests of the university."

"I have heard him say nothing to lead me to think he wants to be disruptive in any way."

Ray said there are some who are disappointed in the selection of Hearn, a Baptist-turned-Presbyterian, but he said, "I think he should be given an opportunity to demonstrate the kind of ties he wants with Baptists and I am more than willing to be supportive of him and give him a chance to take his position."

The year 1983, Ray said, was a critical one for North Carolina Baptists as the denomination moved into its

new headquarters in Cary and three of its institutions — Wake Forest, Wingate College and the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina — received new administrators, "but I think it has gone well."

Baptists, he observed, "have an almost inordinate love for freedom and independence which will keep us forever being a people who are confronted with each other even when it is on a friendly basis. These qualities — individualism and freedom — are such important things to us, it shows in everything we do."

They're a Perfect Match



The Covenant

Convention Official Predicts Agreement Between WFU, Baptists to Be Rewritten

By VIRTIE STROUP
Sentinel Religion Reporter

It is extremely unfortunate that Wake Forest University and the Baptist State Convention have had "a long history of conflict," said the Rev. Cecil A. Ray, for "that kind of disruption is not good" for either the institution or the convention.

The covenant relationship welded between the two, he added, "allowed us to bring an end to the intense conflicts that were harmful."

Ray, 60, stepped down over the weekend from his eight-year tenure as the convention's general secretary-treasurer. This week he became chairman of a new Southern Baptist Convention stewardship program, which hopes to produce over five years \$20 billion for the major American denomination.

Ray will continue to live in Raleigh for at least the next two years, he said in an interview, and then it's possible he will move back to his home state of Texas and begin to direct the SBC program on a part-time basis.

In the interview, Ray was asked basically to talk about the relationship between Wake Forest and the convention.

Over the years, Ray said, he had known of the conflicts between Wake Forest and the convention "simply because I have been an active Baptist and read about them," but he said, "Wake Forest was not an issue in my

coming to North Carolina" — meaning he was not brought here to handle that specific crisis.

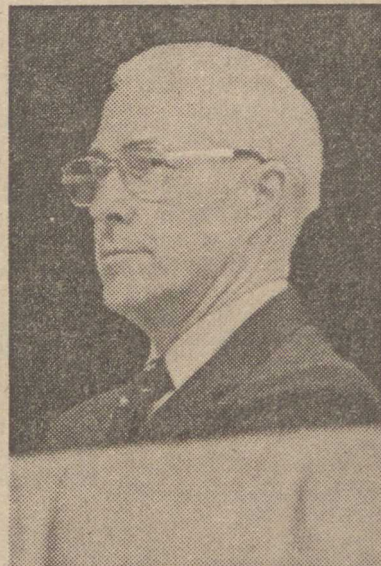
His first contact with the convention's oldest school, he said, came at the invitation of then-President James Ralph Scales and Trustee Chairman Egbert L. Davis of Winston-Salem during the flare-up in 1977 when Larry Flynt, publisher of *Hustler* magazine, received an honor from a campus group and was invited to speak on campus.

Ray recalled it was a very amiable meeting. "I did ask for affirmation on the part of the school and its desire to be closely aligned with Baptists," he said, "and probably asked for more than they felt was right for them to do at that time."

He said the real "conflict" came when the school accepted a federal grant to build a greenhouse and "the convention's stance instructing the university not to take that (federal) money or if they did to restate its usage." The convention's view is that federal grants can be accepted only as payment for services rendered.

"Then when the trustees voted to reject the convention's decision," Ray said, "that's when the issue really broke.

"Earlier, at my request," he added, "we had named the Wake Forest-convention relationship committee and



Sentinel File Photo

CECIL RAY: I did initiate ... what I called a 'compromise,' which allowed the writing of the covenant."

that was totally designed to be a remedial kind of thing to deal with the Larry Flynt kinds of confrontation.

"But we hardly got it surfaced ... before the other problems came."

The covenant concept came from the joint committee, Ray said, "and I thought it was a good idea." He said he did not suggest the covenant idea, "but what I did initiate, which led to the covenant, was what I called a 'compromise,' which allowed the writing of the covenant."

The covenant allows the university to have a diversified trustee board — a fourth of the 36-member board can

See Rewriting, Page 26

Carolina

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SEP -- 5-80

Cooperation.

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Dr. Ray to preach

Dr. Cecil A. Ray, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, will be the guest preacher at Monroe's First Baptist Church



Sunday, Sept. 7, at the morning service of worship at eleven.

A graduate of Howard Payne College and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Ray will give emphasis to the ministries sponsored by the North Carolina Missions Offering to be received this month. Monroe's First Baptist Church hopes to receive \$2,800.00 during September to be divided as follows: Children's Homes, Homes For the Aging, Baptist Hospital, Christian Higher Education, Heck-Jones, and State Missions.

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Baptists given report on moving their base

The Baptist State Convention executive committee got a progress report Tuesday on relocating the convention headquarters, but it took no action.

The committee, meeting at Fort Caswell in Brunswick County, discussed options for moving the headquarters from its location at 301 Hillsborough St. in Raleigh, said the Rev. Cecil A. Ray, the convention's general secretary-treasurer.

The options include remaining in the current building, buying property available in Cary and moving outside Wake County. Ray would not elaborate on Tuesday's discussion.

The Baptists want to move in order to expand their office space and to make the headquarters more accessible. Ray has said the convention cannot move until the downtown building is sold.

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● Dr. Cecil Ray, general secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and Dr. O.D. Martin Jr., director of the convention's stewardship department, will hold a stewardship dialogue at 9:30 a.m. Friday at Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church. 11



RAY

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C., Thurs., Sept. 3, 1981



Cecil A. Ray

... 'not in a fight stance'

Baptists defer decision on site of office

Despite Tuesday's request by the Raleigh City Council that the Baptist State Convention keep its headquarters in the city, a decision on whether to relocate will not be made until the convention meets in Greensboro Nov. 2-4.

The Rev. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the 1.1 million-member group, said Wednesday that the convention appreciated the council's request and that the Baptist organization is "not in a fight stance with the city of Ra-

leigh."

However, Ray said in an interview that he doubted the Baptists would resubmit to City Council a rezoning proposal, denied last July, that the group wanted for a new state headquarters.

The proposed change, submitted by Cary developer David J. Martin, involved rezoning 14 acres on Buck Jones Road at the northwest corner of the intersection of I-40 and the Raleigh Beltline. The Baptists wanted four acres of that par-

cel for their new headquarters.

Ray said the convention's executive committee and general board would meet Sept. 28 and 29 to prepare alternative proposals on what to do about the headquarters. The options will be presented to the full convention in November, he said.

Ray said the possibilities include:

- Remain in the headquarters at 301 Hillsborough St. and make minor mechanical improvements.

- Remain in the headquarters

and undertake major renovations.

- Relocate somewhere in the Raleigh Beltline area, probably at one of the parcels being offered by Martin.

- Relocate outside the Raleigh area.

In its resolution Tuesday, the council requested the Baptist State Convention "take under serious consideration the long-standing relationship which has co-existed between that body and the City of Raleigh."

Tax-exempt status of private schools defended

By RICHARD WHITTLE

Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The general secretary of the North Carolina's Baptist State Convention says he opposes — with many other religious leaders — proposed federal tax procedures aimed at lifting tax-exempt status from private schools that discriminate racially.

Dr. Cecil Ray said in a telephone interview from Raleigh Thursday that he could not agree with Dr. William H. Elder, a Southern Baptist Convention official in Washington who endorsed the new Internal Revenue Service action on Wednesday.

"Basically, my feeling has been one of opposition to the IRS entering into this and using the tax issue as a basis of enforcing integration," Ray said.

"I share with Dr. Elder my opposition to practices of segregation," he said, "but I do feel that the procedure being followed by the IRS is a very dangerous one, both for the institutions they're dealing with and for the good of our country."

The proposed IRS procedure would establish two sets of criteria for gauging whether private schools were engaging in racial discrimination — 14

points to judge by, in all.

The first proposal put forward by IRS encountered so much opposition, IRS spokesman Tony Bombadiere said, that it was revised in February, and public comment was sought between Feb. 9 and April 20.

The IRS is to establish, revise or withdraw the second procedure later this year.

"We haven't had nearly as many complaints, so you'd have to conclude we've satisfied the majority," Bombadiere said.

However, Ray said he and others particularly opposed one part of the IRS proposal that puts the burden on the private schools to prove that they do not discriminate, if they want to keep their tax-exempt status after being accused of discrimination.

"That reverses the legal principle of our nation," Ray said, adding that he spoke for himself, not for the Baptist State Convention. "You're assumed innocent until you're proven guilty, and any reversal of that is another basically dangerous threat to our country."

Bombadiere, on the other hand, said it was the IRS's position that the burden of the proof must lie with the schools because they must seek IRS

"My feeling has been one of opposition to the IRS entering into this and using the tax issue as a basis of enforcing integration."

Dr. Cecil Ray

Baptist leader



approval in order to receive tax-exempt status.

There are 18,000 private schools in the country, Bombadiere said, and 3,500 of those are in areas where the public schools are under court or federally ordered desegregation plans.

The IRS eventually will review all private schools in areas where desegregation orders are in effect, starting with schools that have been found by courts to be discriminatory, he said.

In Raleigh, a federal judge recently dismissed long-standing desegregation suits against the former city and county school systems, which currently are merged.

The IRS's proposed criteria for de-

termining discrimination are divided into two groups of seven. The first is a list of criteria a school could use to show it was not established to avoid desegregation in neighboring public schools. The school could show:

□ Its first students were not drawn in any significant extent from public schools in its area that were under court or federal orders to desegregate at the time the private school opened.

□ Its rate of expansion, if it was open prior to desegregation orders issued for its area, has been no greater than it was in years prior to public school desegregation in the area.

□ Its expansion is attributable to an increase in the school-age popula-

tion in the area.

□ Its expansion results from a merger with another school.

□ Its expansion results from adding grades.

□ "The school was formed or expanded in accordance with a long-standing practice of a religion or religious denomination which itself is not racially-discriminatory to provide schools for religious education."

□ The school had minority students, faculty or board members when it opened or was expanded.

On the other hand, IRS auditors could use some or all of the following criteria to determine that a private school was formed as a reaction to public school desegregation in its area:

□ The school opened or expanded in one or more of the same grades affected by a public school desegregation order.

□ Students who enroll are drawn primarily from public schools.

□ The school uses former public school facilities made available in the course of implementing a public school desegregation plan.

□ The school is a member of an organization that practices or advo-

cates racial segregation in schools.

□ The school, its founders, officers, substantial contributors or trustees have engaged in efforts to oppose desegregation of public schools.

□ The school, in practice, has limited enrollment to students from a specific geographic area with few or no minorities, and this limitation coincides with a public school desegregation plan ordering an exchange of students between that area and one with substantial numbers of minority students.

□ White faculty members added to the school's staff when it was formed or expanded were drawn primarily from the public school system subject to a desegregation order.

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Baptist Leader: Money Pessimism Harmful

By VIRTIE STROUP
Sentinel Religion Reporter

Churches and Religion

"The Great Commission (to Christ) is obviously not tied to the Gross National Product.

"We must proclaim Christ Lord to everyone under all economic conditions."

This statement from the Rev. Cecil A. Ray, executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention, is from the first of three articles he will write for the convention's Biblical Recorder.

He is writing the series, he said, because earlier published reports "have cast a tone of pessimism about 1981.

"We must be careful not to plan for a bad year for 1982. We must put this economic situation into proper perspective."

Ray conceded that 1981 has been a difficult year for many churches economically because runaway utility costs and double-digit inflation have taken their toll.

The convention ended January with 16 percent less money collected for its budget

than at the end of January 1980, he said. "This was frightening since January is usually one of our best months for Cooperative Program (budget) receipts."

Ray said the "bleak 1981 first-of-the-year picture, however, has definitely improved."

He said the six-month receipts for 1981 are "6 percent ahead of the end of June 1980."

Ray said N.C. Baptists ended last year with a 13.87 percent growth over 1979 and in 1979 "we ended with a 11.44 percent growth. Even in 1975, a bad year economically for the nation, we reported 7.48 percent growth in Cooperative Program receipts."

As a result of the shortfall in income the convention experienced during the early part

of this year, Ray said, the executive committee of the convention's General Board "wisely adopted a policy whereby programs are funded based on actual money received."

Ray explained that certain convention institutions receive a percentage of convention revenue while other causes — such as the Biblical Recorder, Baptist Foundation, Historical Collection (at Wake Forest University) and Christian Action League of North Carolina — had always received dollar allocations.

"These causes were receiving 100 percent of their monthly allocations even if we did not reach the budget for that month. The new policy changes this situation. Now, all causes receive funding in

light of actual monthly receipts."

Ray said no one is surprised that 1981, so far, "is not one of our greatest years economically. We have always shared in the economic ups-and-downs of our state and nation. But when Cooperative Program gifts are up \$600,000 in the first six months (over 1980), this can hardly be called a year of decline."

Nevertheless, at a recent meeting of the executive committee, convention business manager Richard Smith said that gifts to the Cooperative Program through June are over \$1 million behind in meeting budget requirements.

The 1981 convention budget of \$19.25 million is based on a 10 percent increase over the 1980 budget. To meet the current budget, N.C. Baptists must give over \$1.6 million per month.

Smith also reported that the N.C. Missions Offering has

reached \$421,877 to date, which is a decline of \$4,551 over this period last year.

Baptist Official: Don't Act Quickly

2/26/79
By VIRTIE STROUP
Sentinel Religion Reporter

The Rev. Cecil A. Ray believes "to act too quickly without wisdom holds little promise of success" in settling differences between Wake Forest University and North Carolina Baptists.

Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, said in the latest issue of the Biblical Recorder that he believes the convention's General Board "acted decisively last January by setting a course of action for a solution" between the convention and university.

He said several follow-up actions "will bring together a full presentation of facts and alternatives for the convention prior to next November's meeting" which will be in Winston-Salem.

He called 1979 "a year of decision. I sense that both General Board and members of various committees (involved in the settlement) see this year as one for decision. Another year — after 1979 — is not acceptable for extended

study. We need clear decisions which must be effective and characterized by divine wisdom."

In the days ahead until solutions are found, Ray is suggesting Baptists study and stay informed on the subjects under study. He said there have been "numerous calls for a special convention to deal with the Wake Forest issue. These requests have not been ignored."

He added that the General Board has the authority to call such a session, but the reason for not doing that is the "need for facts — such as the legal position of the convention (in withholding funds and trustee selection) as to what can and should be done. Also, the months ahead will give time for dialogue and the development of alternatives."

Names

• The Rev. Rick Cash, associate pastor of Mineral Springs Baptist Church, has announced his resignation, effective March 4.

Cash is resigning in order to

complete his master of theology degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest. He has served the congregation for over five years.

• The Rev. Bob Kintner, director of development for Santree, a retirement center being developed by the N. C. Convention of Christian (Disciples of Christ) Churches in eastern North Carolina, has resigned. He and his family will be returning to Lexington, Ky., on June 1, where he will become minister of music at Central Christian Church. He came to Winston-Salem initially to serve as the pastor of First Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church here.

• Paul M. Stevens, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission, has announced he will retire Oct. 31. He is taking early retirement — he will be 64 on Oct. 6 — because of health

problems.

The interim officer will be Harold E. Martin, former chairman of the commission and now executive vice chairman.

Church Notes

BP

Winston-Salem Journal, Win

Southern Baptist Board Nominates Texan



CECIL A. RAY
... unanimous choice ...

By Virtie Stroup
Staff Religion Reporter

ASHEBORO — A Texas Baptist who had never been to North Carolina is the unanimous choice of the General Board of the Baptist State Convention for the top executive office in the convention.

The board will nominate the Rev. Cecil A. Ray of Grand Prairie, Tex., for general secretary-treasurer next month at the annual convention in Asheville.

Dr. W. Perry Crouch of Raleigh, who has held the position 12 years, will reach mandatory retirement on Dec. 31. Yesterday the board, meeting at nearby Camp Caraway, voted to grant Crouch an added \$2,000 per year retirement benefit, effective until his

death, since his limited convention retirement plan will only give him about 28 per cent of his salary, or \$5,628 annually.

A retirement dinner for Crouch is planned for Dec. 4 at Meredith College, and he will be honored during the Asheville convention.

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In other action yesterday, the board, which handles convention affairs between annual sessions, approved the basic 1976 budget for \$11 million and

a goal budget for \$12 million.

The full convention must approve the budget, but it does not need to approve Crouch's added retirement benefit.

Last year the board appointed a 23-member committee, headed by the Rev. Ray Benfield of Greensboro, to find a successor to Crouch. The search committee's unanimous choice was Ray, 52, director of the stewardship division for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The board also gave Ray its unanimous support.

The election of the general secretary-treasurer of the convention will be Tuesday morning, Nov. 11, at the convention, and Ray will be nominated then. Nominations also may be received from the floor. Conservatives within the

convention say they will nominate the Rev. M. O. Owens of Gastonia, if they feel the board nominee will not represent their point of view, especially on baptism by immersion.

In an interview, Ray defined himself as a theological conservative because "I accept the Bible as divine authority."

However, he said, he is not tradition bound. "I don't like to be tied in with ways things have always been done."

He believes in baptism by immersion, because this is the way it is presented in the Bible, "but in a state convention, doctrine is not primary; mission is." Baptists, he said, never have and never will completely agree, but "we have the ability to be different and

still work together."

Texas, he said, is like North Carolina and does not have a doctrinal position in its constitution on baptism by immersion. Historically, he said, Baptists have never been a creedal people.

As for the Baptist view on autonomy, Ray said he not only believes in it, "I cherish it."

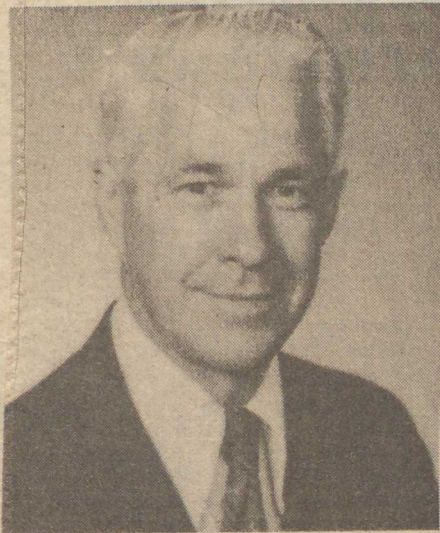
W-S Journal 10-16-75

BA

12

WILMINGTON MORNING STAR

SATURDAY, OCT. 18, 1975



NOMINATED — Cecil Ray of Dallas, Tex., has been unanimously recommended by the General Board of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention for the position of general-secretary-treasurer of the state's Baptist Convention. The general secretary-treasurer is the administrative head of North Carolina Baptist work.

Cecil Ray Proposed For Office

RALEIGH (AP) — Cecil Ray has been recommended by the general board of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention to be named the convention's general secretary-treasurer.

Ray, 52, would succeed Dr. W. Perry Crouch, who is retiring. The unanimous recommendation came Wednesday. The general secretary treasurer handles the administrative of all the convention's work.

Ray is director of the stewardship division for the Baptist State Convention of Texas. His name will be submitted to the convention's general meeting in Asheville next month.

A pastor in Lubbock, Texas, Ray was superintendent of missions in the San Antonio Association for five years.

Davidson: Mecklenburg Gazette
Denton Record
Dunn Dispatch
Eden News
Edenton: Chowan Herald
Elizabethtown: Bladen Journal
Elkin Tribune
Entfield Progress
Fairmont: Times-Messenger
Farmville Enterprise
Forest City Courier-Sun

OCT 16 1975

MOCKVILLE

10B - DAVIE COUNTY ENTERPRISE RECORD, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1977

Baptist Official To Speak At Fork Sunday

The general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will speak at the Fork Baptist Church at the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday, September 18.

Dr. Cecil A. Ray will be visiting Fork Baptist Church as a part of the special state mission offering emphasis among North Carolina Baptist.

Receiving his A.B. degree from Howard Payne College of Brownwood, Texas, Dr. Ray received his Th. M degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He also has an honorary doctorate degree from Howard Payne University.

Dr. Ray served as pastor of the Arnett-Benson Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, for ten years (1946-1956). Starting with this church in its



Dr. Cecil A. Ray

beginning, the membership grew to about 1500 with a Sunday School enrollment of over 1300 and an average attendance of nearly 700 in the ten year period.

From March 1956 to April 1961, he served as Superintendent of Missions for the

San Antonio, Baptist Association. In 1960 he was selected Texas Baptist "Father of the Year" with recognition for providing a "new way of life" for daughter, Susan, a victim of paralytic polio.

From 1961-1967 he was secretary of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department, Baptist General

Convention of Texas. He assumed his present position of general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of N.C. on January 1, 1976.

The Rev. Yates Wilkinson, pastor, and the congregation of the Fork Baptist Church invites the public to attend this service.



DR. CECIL A. RAY

State Baptist Official Will Speak Sunday

Second Baptist Church of Hamlet will have Dr. Cecil A. Ray, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention as guest preacher Sunday. Dr. Ray, speaking in one of four mission Sundays at Second Baptist, will relate the work of the Baptist State Convention to the theme of "Bold Mission Thurst."

Dr. Ray is a native of Texas and is the son of a preacher. He and Mrs. Ray (Charlene) have two children. He is a graduate of Howard Payne College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Ray served as pastor for ten years, as Superintendent of Missions for five years, and served the Baptist General Convention of Texas as Secretary of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department and as Director of the Stewardship Division. He came to North Carolina in 1975.

In 1960, Dr. Ray was elected as Texas Baptist "Father of the Year" with recognition for providing a "new way of life" for his daughter, Susan, a victim of paralytic polio.

The Rev. Scott Turner Jr., pastor of Second Baptist, invites all of the community to hear "this outstanding leader." Dr. Ray will preach at the 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. services Sunday.

Rockingham: Richmond Co. Journal
Roanoke Rapids Herald
Rocky Mount Telegram
Salisbury Post
Sanford Herald
Shelby Star
Statesville Record & Landmark
Tarboro Southerner
Thomasville Times
Tryon Bulletin
Washington Daily News
Wilmington News
Wilmington Star
Wilmington Star-News
Wilson Daily Times
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem Sentinel
Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel

AUG 19 1977

Texan May Be Named to Head N.C. Baptists

By Virtie Stroup
Staff Religion Reporter

The committee searching for a new executive officer for the Baptist State Convention may have a nominee when it makes a report to the General Board during its pre-convention meeting tonight and Wednesday at Camp Caraway near Asheboro.

The search committee did not have a candidate to nominate about two weeks ago, but now the Rev. Ray Benfield of Greensboro, chairman of the committee, said there is "a good possibility" that the committee will be ready to report.

Other Baptists said that the

Rev. Cecil Ray, director of stewardship for the Texas Baptist Convention, was being considered for the position over the weekend.

Benfield's committee has had 10 months to seek a successor to Dr. W. Perry Crouch of Raleigh, general secretary-treasurer of the convention who will retire Dec. 31 at the mandatory retirement age of 68.

The General Board, if it approves of the committee nominee, will present the candidate to the full convention for consideration and vote when it meets Nov. 10-12 in Asheville.

The conservative Baptists in the state, Baptists United for Spiritual Renewal, have already gone on record saying they will nominate the Rev. M. O. Owens of Gastonia, chairman of their group, from the floor for the office if they do not feel the committee's

nominee will represent their point of view, the strongest of which is baptism by immersion.

The General Board will have dinner at 6 p.m. today and its quarterly meeting will begin at 7:15 p.m. when the budget for 1976-1977 will be presented.

There will be reviews of the work of Baptist institutions, agencies and colleges. No vote on any report or recommendations will be made tonight.

Wednesday's business session will begin at 9 a.m. with the full budget report.

Recommendations from the

executive committee of the board and others will be considered, followed by the report from Benfield and his 23-member search committee.

The meeting is expected to end at noon with a short talk by Crouch.

W-S Journal Oct. 14, 1975

Top Baptist: Defeat Liquor by Drink

The executive officer of the Baptist State Convention, the Rev. Cecil A. Ray, has called for the defeat of liquor by the drink.

In his weekly column in the Biblical Recorder, Ray said beverage alcohol is the nation's No. 1 drug problem, and if it were just being discovered today, "it would be labeled a dangerous substance by the federal food and drug administration."

He said liquor by the drink also gives alcohol a place of honor and respectability in the community, makes it easier to obtain, and glamorizes its consumption.

How Charlotte votes next Friday, Ray said, "will eventually influence the lives of the entire state. The decision is not between 'liquor' or 'no liquor' but rather the place of liquor in the community."

He complimented Christian and other leaders in the Charlotte area who are work-



CECIL RAY

... in paper ...

ing "diligently to defeat LBD," whose basic issue, "in my opinion is a moral one."

Wilson Daily Times
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem Sentinel
Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel

SEP 1 1978

Southern Baptist Board Nominates Texan



CECIL A. RAY

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He believes in baptism by immersion, because this is the way it is presented in the Bible, "but in a state convention, doctrine is not primary; mission is." Baptists, he said, never have and never will completely agree, but "we have the ability to be different and

still work together."

Texas, he said, is like North Carolina and does not have a doctrinal position in its constitution on baptism by immersion. Historically, he said, Baptists have never been a creedal people.

As for the Baptist view on autonomy, Ray said he not only believes in it, "I cherish it."

A Man For All Persuasions Heads State's Baptists

By ERNIE WOOD
Staff Writer

It was a terrible cliché. But the Rev. Ray Benfield of Greensboro really did use a variation of the old saw "He puts on his pants one leg at a time just like the rest of us" to describe the Rev. Cecil A. Ray one time.

"We have a man who is not a little god; in fact, he is not even super-pastor," said Benfield. "We were not looking for a perfect man... he puts on his shoes like other folks. Most of all, he serves the same God that we try to serve."

That was back in mid-October and Benfield was recommending Ray for the position of general secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, the top administrative job in the state's largest religious body. Portrayed as "a regular guy" who was a natural for the job, Ray won unanimous approval from the convention's General Board. The Baptist publication *The Biblical Recorder* enthused "Only those who believe in miracles would have dreamed of such unanimity."

The committee which first had found Ray and suggested him for the job circulated a sheet of information about the prospective administrator, including a section of "What Others Say About Cecil A. Ray."

For the Record

CECIL ARMSTRONG RAY

BORN: Dec. 9, 1922, Fort Worth, Tex.
EDUCATION: B.A. Howard Payne College; Th.M. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

PROFESSIONAL: pastor, Arnett-Benson Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., 1946-56; superintendent of missions, San Antonio Baptist Association, 1956-61; secretary of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1961-67; 1967-75, director of the Stewardship Division, Baptist General Convention of Texas; November 1975, elected general secretary-treasurer, North Carolina Baptist State Convention, assumes Office Jan. 1, 1976.

FAMILY: Wife, Charlene; daughter Susan, 28; son, Lanny, 26.

"He has the ability to bring together divisive theological difference," said one official of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"He's the greatest single human factor in the Texas Baptist program. He's an instrument of peace, of common sense," said a pastor from Texas, Ray's home state.

And a month later, Ray, who admitted to having visited North Carolina only once before — on a family vacation to the Great Smokey Mountains — won the job hands down. Split over a doctrinal debate concerning baptismal practices for the past four years, the convention nearly unanimously backed Ray. Three weeks ago in Asheville, Ray won all but about 15 of a possible 3,000 odd votes at the denomination's annual meeting.

"I wouldn't presume to say I'm coming to make Baptists in North Carolina a great people; they already are a great people," he told the convention after his election.

"I would come with the burning desire that North Carolina Baptists would stand as tall for God as possible." And he received a standing ovation.

"It would be one of my great desires to be a unifying force," Ray told a reporter later. "That would be one of the greatest contributions I could make."

"The reason the conservative group (which had promised a fight but put up only weak opposition to Ray's election) was not frightening to me was because I share so many beliefs with them," he said. "The love of the Bible is one thing."

Actually, Ray said Baptists are the same everywhere. Only the issues are different. So while North Carolina Baptists were splitting over baptismal practices, Texas Baptists were feuding over the charismatic movement.

"I can be relaxed around a person who might not agree with me on everything," Ray said.

For that reason, he feels somewhat led to a position of Baptist leadership here. It may be that the denomination's establishment set out to find a man who would be palatable to conservatives, liberals and everyone in the middle of Baptist political life. Or Ray may have been simply the right man at the right time. But he thinks there was more to it than that.

"There's no easy human explanation that says why I'm here," he said. "The leadership of the Lord is the only way I can take it."

Cecil Armstrong Ray was born Dec. 9, 1922, the son of a Baptist minister in Fort Worth, Tex. Perhaps because of his Christian family life, he accepted Christ as savior at the tender age of seven, surrendered to the call of the ministry at 16 and by 17 was pastor of his own congregation.

Graduating from Howard Payne College, a Baptist School in Brownwood, Tex., Ray went on the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where he received his Th. M. degree. Since then, his undergraduate alma mater has conferred an honorary doctorate on Ray.

Ray served as the first pastor of Arnett-Benson Baptist Church in Lubbock, Tex. from 1946-56 as the church grew to 1,500 members. Then, he was named superintendent of missions for the San Antonio Baptist Association, a position he held from 1956-61. From 1961-67, Ray was secretary of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; since 1967, he has been director of stewardship for the Texas convention.

"I still believe," he said, "that the greatest position in Baptist life is the pastor of a church. But for me to have the job that God leads me to is what is important to me."

Though all lifelong Texans, the members of the Ray family apparently believe that their move to Raleigh is the best thing. Ray and his wife Charlene have two children, Lanny, a 26 year old graduate student in nuclear physics at the University of Texas at Austin; and Susan, a 28 year old daughter who was stricken with polio at age four and who has lived in an iron lung ever since.

Lanny, who will be married in January, will remain in Texas to finish his doctoral studies, then will try to find work either at a university or a research project like Oak Ridge, Tenn. or Los Alamos, N.M.; his father said. The move will more directly affect Mrs. Ray and Susan. Though physically handicapped, Susan can travel. Ray made what he believes was the first respirator adapted for use in a car many years ago. (He has, in fact, made an iron lung and special typewriters for his daughter). She has remained mentally and spiri-



Cecil A. Ray

tually active, her father said. "Perhaps a better way to describe Susan is to say she doesn't know she has got a problem," he said. She has written a book entitled "The Baptist Way" and with her mother has been active in a Spanish speaking mission near their home in Grand Prairie outside Dallas.

Giving up that mission work was a disappointment, Ray said. But he notes, "My family has accepted the idea (of moving). Becoming happy in North Carolina will be something they will do."

Ray's call to North Carolina began inauspiciously enough at the national denominational convention in February 1974, when Allen Bailey, president of the convention here at the time, first met Ray.

Favorably impressed on their first meeting, Bailey asked around to get others' opinions on the Texan, then sounded Ray out himself on whether he ever might be interested in coming to North Carolina. Ray responded he would go wherever the Lord called him. Bailey made a note about him in his appointment calendar and left the matter at that.

Then last September, after a special search committee appointed to find a new general secretary-treasurer to replace retiring Dr. W. Perry Crouch had come up empty handed, Bailey ran across Ray's name in his book. He immediately got on the phone, asking around the country for peoples' assessments of the man.

"Of all the people I've ever tried to focus on for a particular position," recalled Bailey, "this man got the highest recommendations of anyone. Almost to a person — and dozens were contacted — people were extremely high on this man and indicated that he had the qualifications to fill the job. The only criticism in the world that we could find of him is one person said he is an extremely strong individual and that maybe we would not want that. But I thought that this is something we needed. Holding onto that office is sort of like hanging onto the top of a mountain in a hurricane. If you're not a man of strength, you'll be blown away."

As Ray sees the job, however, it's something he half knows about and half will learn. "I have been given unusual opportunities to work in Southern Baptist Life," he said, noting that his background in both the pastorate and in administration will help him in his new job. And as a recent member of a convention staff, he hopes to maintain concern for the staff's position here, treating it more as a team and acting as its leader than doing details of convention work himself.

"There is very little actual authority tied with this profession," he said. But he also notes, "There is a great deal of opportunity to influence. Now, the convention elects you to the position, but you have to earn the power to influence."

But Ray already has priorities lined up that he wants to implement when he takes over the job Jan. 1.

Number one priority is development of the local church. Number two is to foster "an intense zeal for people." Number three is to increase the teamwork of the convention staff. Number four is "a real dramatic awakening in support of missions."

These are not new concerns for Ray. "I have been so involved in Texas Southern Baptist life that these are more me," he says.

Earlier this month, when Ray stood up to address the convention after his election, he asked North Carolina Baptists to pray "that we'll find the most effective means in bringing a new era in church growth."

As for himself, Ray told the convention, "The greatest honor would be to have someone say, 'Cecil Ray helped our churches become better churches.'"

High Point Enterprise
Jacksonville Daily News
Kannapolis Independent
Kinston Free Press
Lenoir News Topic
Lexington Dispatch
Lumberton: Robesonian
Morganton News-Herald
New Bern: Sun-Journal
Norfolk: Virginian Pilot
Raleigh: News & Observer
Raleigh Times
Reidsville Review



NOV 30 1975

PSU Baptist Student Union: Many Built It

By GENE WARREN
PEMBROKE — "This is the building that Baptist people built. It has your fingerprints and marks all over it, and that's what makes it beautiful."

These were the words of Dr. Cecil Ray, so eloquently spoken, as the \$210,000 Baptist Student Union, nicknamed "The House," was dedicated Nov. 14. It is a 4,000-square foot, one-story building located on Baptist property across the Philadelphus Road from Pembroke State University's Performing Arts Center.

Over 200 people were present for the dedication ceremonies. Many of the more than 200 Baptist men from across North Carolina who donated their labor for the past eight months to construct the facility came back to see the finished product. Their names are listed in a "Book of Remembrance" displayed on a table at the entrance of the building. Next to that book is a picture album showing photos of the building going up at different stages.

Dr. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the N.C. Baptist State Convention, said as he circulated around the building in meeting different men — and women — who worked on it, "I heard one man say, 'I put down this board.' Another said, 'I worked in this corner.' And to them, I say, 'This is your building.'"

More than anything else, Dr. Ray pointed out this building says of North Carolina Baptists: "We care what happens to students — the nurturing that takes place to dream the right dreams, receive proper nurturing, experience spiritual growth, find that bit of encouragement needed at the right time. This building stands as a way of saying there are a lot of people across North Carolina who care. But it is how we use the building that is most important."

His was only one of the great talks — and inspiring prayers — rendered at the dedication which was followed by a pig-picking for all who attended.

The occasion — music by a special PSU group, speeches, prayers, pig-picking — was, as Mike Everhart of Lexington (Baptist Student Union president) described it,

really a "Victory Celebration."

Chancellor Paul Givens, in explaining "The University's Hope for Campus Ministry," welcomed all visitors, saying: "We are glad to see all of you here for the dedication of this 'House,' which will become known and felt as the spiritual home of students in this area — and not only students but adults as well." He added that PSU is "concerned about the intellectual, social, and physical development of its students — and we are also concerned about their spiritual development."

The Chancellor closed by saying: "As one said the other day: 'If a mind can conceive it, a heart can believe it, I can achieve it.' This building is a realization of that kind of commitment."

Also speaking with great imagery was Henry Meares of Lumberton, representing N.C. Baptist Men, when he said: "Speaking for Baptist Men state-wide, I pray that this building will be a shining beacon, a lighthouse that might attract a young life, guide him safely through the rocky waters of college days into a safe harbor of life."

Mrs. Alberta Locklear, Women's Missionary Union director of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, said she hopes the new Baptist Student Union will be a place "where students can be with other young people of like faith, where they can have something to believe in, something to turn to,

someone to turn to."

The front yard of the building is beautifully landscaped. But the structure itself, designed by Christian layman John McCulloch of Charlotte, is what impresses visitors. It has a winding

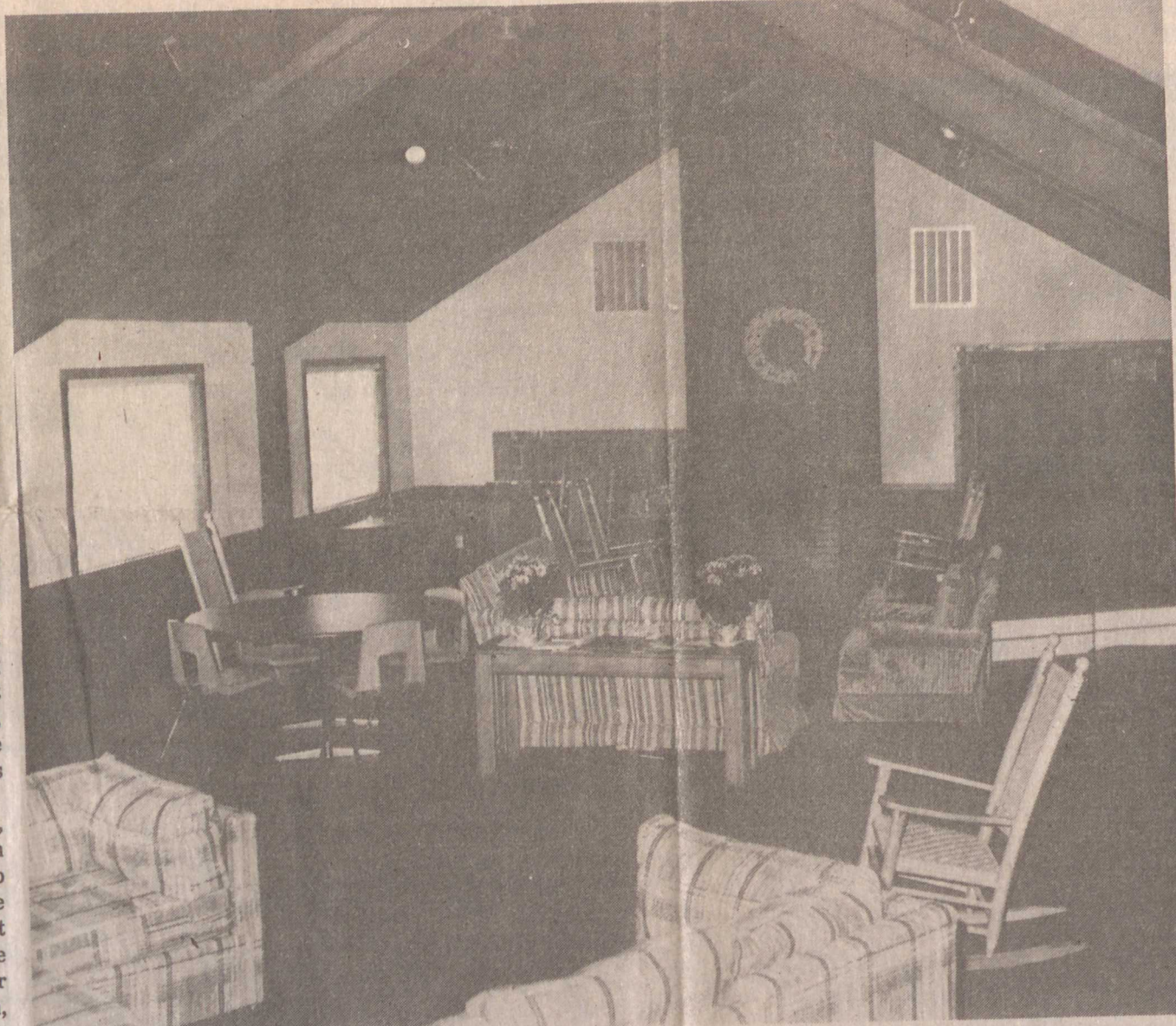
front porch, much like that of a beach cottage, with an abundance of space for rocking chairs. A breeze always seems to be sweeping across the porch.

Inside is the huge 54x24-foot meeting room, equipped with

a fireplace and able to accommodate 150 people, perhaps more. The furniture in that room includes huge, comfortable sofas, obtained at rock-bottom prices from a Baptist layman, Curtis Greene of North Wilkesboro.

There is a smaller meeting room, which serves as a worship center. It has a wooden podium with special carvings on it plus a wooden backdrop which frames the podium. Scripture is also

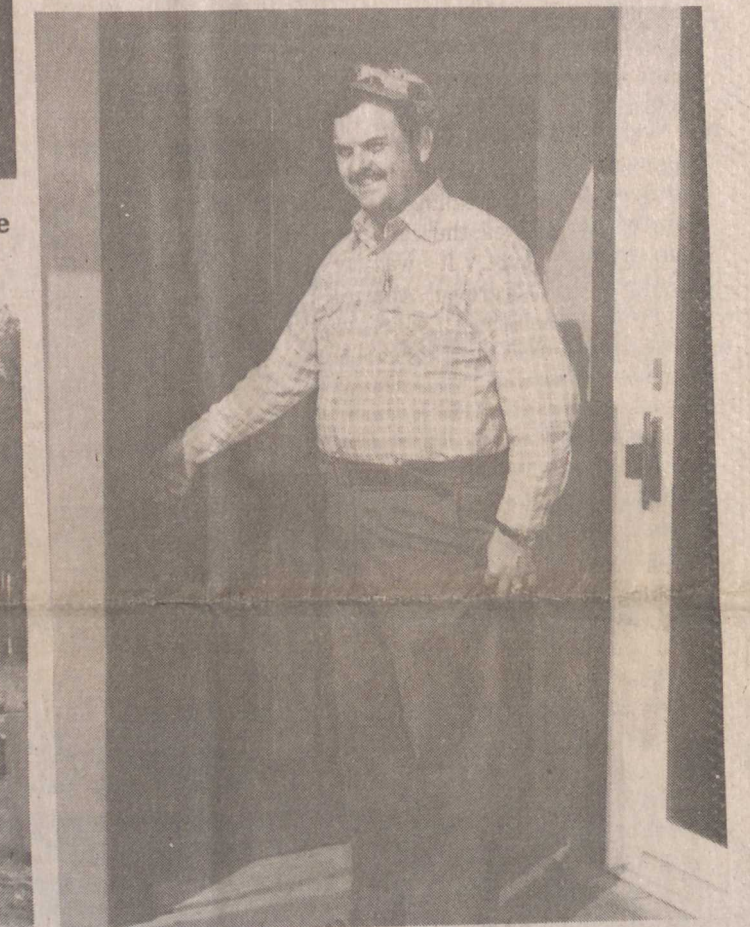
See PSU Page 4D



The 54 x 24-foot MEETING ROOM, already furnished comfortably and carpeted, can accommodate 150 people.



DR. CECIL RAY, general secretary-treasurer of the N.C. Baptist State Convention, enjoys the pig-picking after the Nov. 14 dedication of Pembroke State's new Baptist Student Union, built by Baptist men from across North Carolina. Over 200 were served at the barbecue.



This was the real "foreman" of the many volunteers constructing the new PSU Baptist Student Union. His name: BILL BRISSON of Parkton. He also did double duty in helping with the barbecuing for the pig-picking following the Nov. 14 dedication of the building.



The landscaped front of "The House," as the new Baptist Student Union at Pembroke State University, has been affectionately nicknamed. The sign at the front was put there under the direction of Billy Dees, PSU engineer.



Smaller Prayer Room with Worship Center, for observances such as communion services.



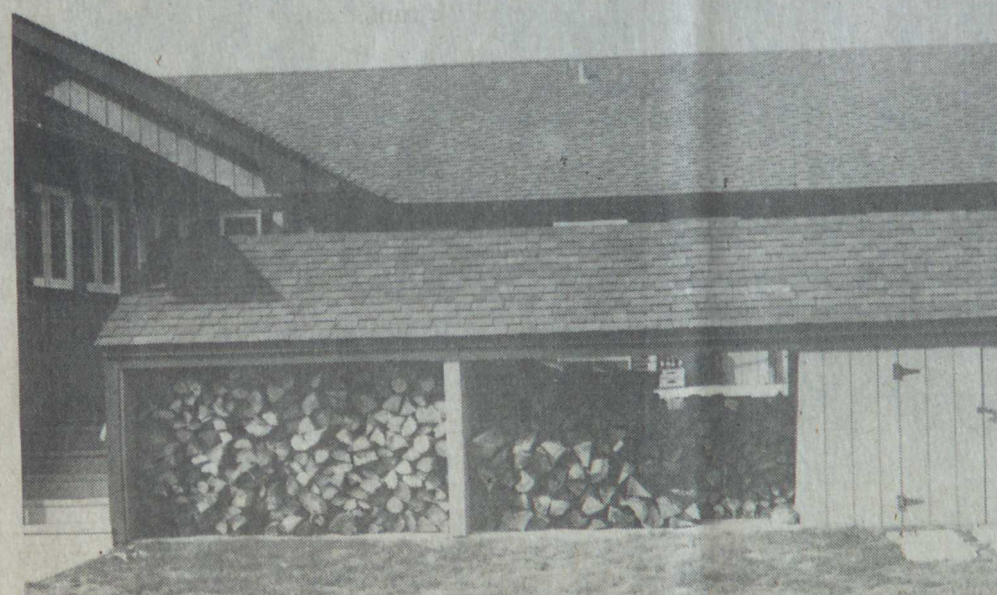
WINSTON HARDMAN, Pembroke State University's Baptist campus minister who had a dream of a Baptist Student Union three years ago and worked to make it a reality with the help of many.



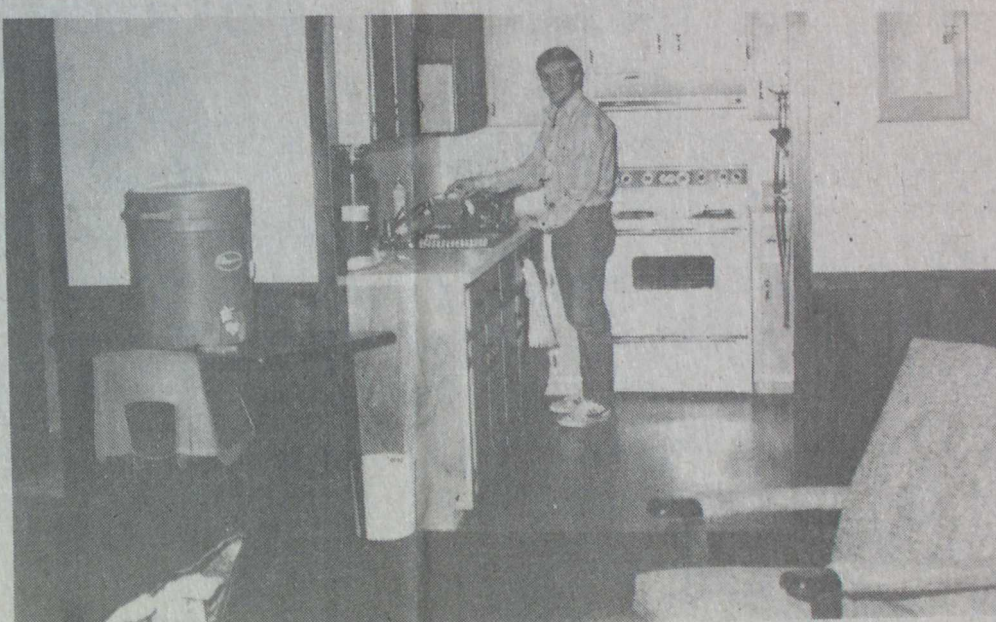
Lobby area of Baptist Student Union at PSU.



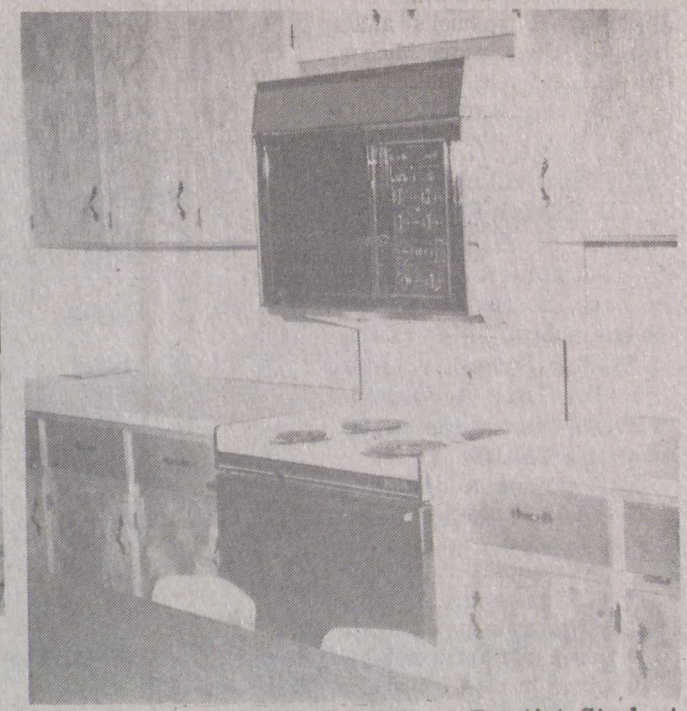
Rocking chair time on front porch of new PSU Baptist Student Union: With view of Pembroke State University's Performing Arts Center.



Loads of wood for the fire places in "The House" have been cut and stored under this special shelter in the back of the PSU Baptist Student Union.



MIKE EVERHART of Lexington, president of the PSU Baptist Student Union, resides with BILLY OXENDINE of Pembroke in the apartment section of the new building. They are responsible for looking after the facility when Winston Hardman is not present. These are the kitchen facilities in their area.



Main kitchen area of the new Baptist Student Union adjacent to Pembroke State University.

Photos By
Bill Hunt

PSU Baptist Student Union: Many Built It

By GENE WARREN

PEMBROKE — "This is the building that Baptist people built. It has your fingerprints and marks all over it, and that's what makes it beautiful."

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See PSU Page 4D



N.C. Baptists consider Texan as Convention officer

By EDNA MAE HERMAN
News Herald Staff Writer

When messengers from the 78 Baptist churches in Burke County attend the annual session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in Asheville Nov. 10-12 they will join in voting on a 52-year-old Texan as the convention's new general secretary - treasurer.

Dr. Cecil A. Ray, now director of the Stewardship Division for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will be recommended to the convention by the General Board as its nominee to succeed Dr. W. Perry Crouch.

The 68-year-old Crouch has served as general secretary-treasurer for the past 12 years. Due to his age, his retirement is mandatory and he leaves the position Dec. 31. He is a former pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Morganton.

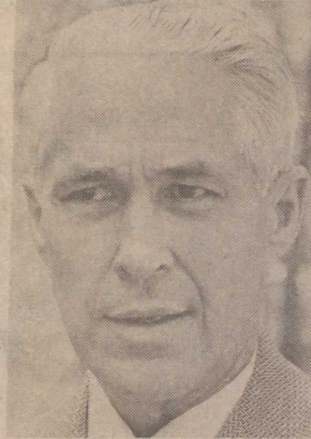
Dr. Ray was just selected last week as the General Board's nominee. He was chosen after a year-long search by a 23-member search committee,

elected by the General Board in October 1974.

He was unanimously recommended to the General Board last Wednesday by the search committee, according to the committee chairman the Rev. Roy W. Benfield, pastor of Lindley Park Baptist Church in Greensboro. He met with the General Board at its meeting at Camp Caraway and also received its unanimous vote.

Although the search committee considered over 50 names submitted by committee members and other North Carolina Baptists, Dr. Ray was the only candidate who was offered the committee's nomination," Mr. Benfield said in an interview with The News Herald.

"The committee turned toward Dr. Ray for several reasons," he said. "The fact that he is an 'outsider' to Baptist affairs in North Carolina was one factor in his consideration. One factor in his consideration. bring a new perspective to our work from a sister convention



Dr. Cecil A. Ray

with similar situations."

"However, the major factor was related to his background of an even temperament, his education, and his experience. The committee determined that here was a man who could bring healing, not strife," Mr. Benfield said. "His experience as a pastor and director of association missions and a

denominational staff member on the state level served to qualify him as an excellent administration."

If the 3,000 or so messengers expected at the convention select Dr. Ray as the general secretary - treasurer, he will serve as the chief executive officer of about 1,070,000 North Carolina Baptists for an indeterminate period.

About 23,000 of this number are Burke County Baptists, who are members of 54 churches in the Catawba River Association, 19 in the south Mountain Association and five in the Theron Rankin Association.

The Baptists in Burke will be represented at the convention by their messengers elected by the local churches.

The election of the new general secretary-treasurer will take place on Tuesday morning (Nov. 11) of the three-day convention at Asheville's Civic Auditorium. A simple majority of messengers present and voting will elect him.

Mr. Benfield pointed out that

after Dr. Ray's name has been placed in nomination by the General Board, the floor will be open for nominations by any messengers.

"However, I would say that it is highly unlikely that another nomination will be made in view of the overwhelming support of the official nominee by the Search Committee and the General Board," he said. "I believe that this same unanimity of support will be demonstrated in Asheville."

If Dr. Ray is called he will be available to begin work in North Carolina on Feb. 1, 1976, Mr. Benfield said.

A Fort Worth, Texas, native, Dr. Ray is the son of a minister who served Texas churches for over 40 years. He and his family live at Grand Prairie, Texas, near Dallas. There are two children, Susan, who is in an iron lung at home, having had paralytic polio for 24 of her 28 years, and Lanny, 26, a graduate student in nuclear physics.

Dr. Ray made an iron lung for Susan and also a typewriter so that she could write the book,

"The Baptist Way," published last year by the Texas Convention. In 1960 he was selected as the Texas Baptist "Father of the Year" with recognition for providing "a new way of life" for his daughter.

He is a graduate of Howard Payne College, a Baptist college in Brownwood, Texas, which has conferred upon him an honorary doctorate. He received the master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Dr. Ray was the pastor of the Arnett-Benson Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, 1946-56, then became superintendent of Missions for the San Antonio Baptist Association 1956-61. From 1961 to 1967 he was secretary of the cooperative program and church finance department in the Texas Baptist Convention. He has held his present position since 1967.

The search committee which selected Dr. Ray was made up of 23 Baptists from throughout North Carolina, from Edenton to

Murphy and included pastors and laymen. Mr. Benfield said the committee had 12 full committee meetings with an average attendance of 20 members at each meeting. There also was one telephone conference when 21 members of the committee conferred together on the phone.

At its first meeting the committee made up a composite of qualifications the nominee should possess and used this as a guide in its consideration, the chairman said. The committee spent many hours at other meetings discussing the names submitted and narrowing the list through a series of straw ballots. Persons whose names had been submitted were from several states and even included some committee members, according to Mr. Benfield.

"In the final analysis only four or five candidates stood out above the rest," Mr. Benfield said. "We had full-fledged interviews with four. We also did thorough background studies on all serious candidates."

"The committee sensed from the very beginning the strategic nature of its task, since the general secretary - treasurer helps to determine, perhaps more than any other person, the direction of Baptist work in North Carolina," he said.

The Search Committee voted unanimously on Oct. 13 on Dr. Ray's nomination to the General Board meeting on Oct. 15.

The General Board is the administrative body of 108 members elected by the convention who act for the convention between sessions in most business matters.

The Rev. Charles Midkiff, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Valdese, serves on the General Board from the Catawba River Baptist Association, and attended the board meeting last week. The Rev. Edsel Mull, pastor of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Eastern Burke County, is the member from the South Mountain Association, and the Rev. Roy Beals, retired pastor of Highland Baptist at Hickory, from the Theron Rankin Association.

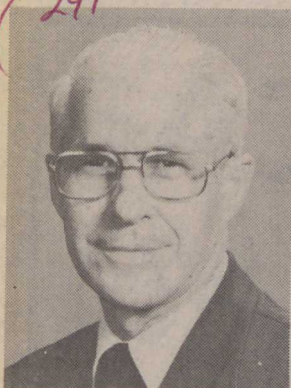
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DAILY INDEPENDENT
KANNAPOLIS, N. C.

SEP-12-80

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1980



DR. CECIL RAY



HERB MEADOWS

Baptist Officer Revival Speaker

Dr. Cecil Ray, general secretary and treasurer of the North Carolina State Baptist Convention will be the speaker at the concluding service of the Centerview Baptist Church Golden Jubilee Revival Crusade at 11 a.m. Sunday.

Herb Meadows, a singing evangelist from Greensboro, will sing at the service.

Dr. Ray is a native of Ft. Worth, Texas. He is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Texas, and received the Master of Theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He received the honorary doctorate degree from Howard Payne University.

Prior to becoming superintendent of missions for the San Antonio Baptist Association in 1956, he served as pastor of a church in Lubbock, Texas, from its beginning in 1946. The

membership grew to 1,500 and had a Sunday School enrollment of over 1,300 and an average attendance of nearly 700.

In 1969 Dr. Ray was selected Texas Baptist Father of the Year with recognition for providing a "new way of life" for his daughter, Susan, a victim of paralytic polio.

From 1961-67 he served as secretary of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department of the Texas Baptist General Convention. 11

The North Carolina Board of Natural and Economic Resources, upon the recommendation of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management, has asked our congressional delegation to support a House amendment which would prevent air quality standards from being any more stringent than those deemed necessary to protect the public health. At the same time the Board of Natural and Economic Resources, upon the recommendation of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management (DEM), has asked the N.C. Congressional delegation to oppose an amendment pending in the Senate which would prohibit the degradation of existing air

The federal Clean Air Act allows and empowers states to enact regulations more stringent than those provided in the national regulations, yet North Carolina chose to give up that right and wed ourselves to the minimum standards of the nation. By repealing the Hardison Amendment, North Carolinians would once again be in a position of deciding for North Carolinians whether national standards were sufficient to protect our public health and maintain our desired quality of life.

The effects of chronic low level pollutants are slowly becoming known and are difficult to pin down. There is evidence

nored the economic value of clean air to our tourist industry, agriculture and forestry industries, personal property — to say nothing of the intrinsic value to individuals.

By opposing the Senate amendment which could provide for non-degradation of existing North Carolina's air quality standards in such a manner as to place as little restraint as possible on any industry which might consider locating in North Carolina, as if to say industry and clean air are incompatible — that North Carolina could have one or the other but not both. To illustrate its point, the DEM staff said that

scrubbers might allow that power plant to move much closer to the clean air area. The DEM staff did not mention to the NER Board that any of North Carolina's clean industries (Western Electric, Taylor Thermometer, Ciba Geigy, IBM, Burroughs Wellcome, ITT) could locate very close if not right on the border of these clean air areas without degrading the existing air quality.

To say that North Carolina would be at a disadvantage in attracting industry because we have so much federally owned land is open to question. Many states have far more federally-owned land than North

Carolina and tourist industries was not discussed nor was the annual national loss in personal property damage because of air pollution — estimated at \$200 million. The relatively minor costs of home maintenance, laundry, even facial and hair care have been shown to be as much as \$126 per person per year because of heavy air pollution.

The DEM has stated that the new monitoring regulations resulting from the Hardison Amendment will not harm North Carolina's air, yet it should be obvious that by deleting the maximum 24 hour concentration of NO₂ and using an annual arith-

metic to cut back production voluntarily during a crisis and several, including the major polluter, refused. The recently publicized plight of textile workers in North Carolina does little to instill confidence in the sense of stewardship industry has toward North Carolina's natural resources and the public health of her citizens.

I am not convinced that the majority of North Carolinians are ready to accept the tradeoffs being made by the State of North Carolina. Our policy should be one of having the cleanest air possible rather than the minimum and standards to satisfy the federal government.

The Tar Heel of The Week

A Man For All Persuasions Heads State's Baptists

By ERNIE WOOD

Staff Writer

It was a terrible cliché. But the Rev. Ray Benfield of Greensboro really did use a variation of the old saw "He puts on his pants one leg at a time just like the rest of us" to describe the Rev. Cecil A. Ray one time.

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Actually, Ray said Baptists are the same everywhere. Only the issues are different. So while North Carolina Baptists were splitting over baptismal practices, Texas Baptists were feuding over the charismatic movement.

"I can be relaxed around a person who might not agree with me on everything," Ray said.

For that reason, he feels somewhat led to a position of Baptist leadership here. It may be that the denomination's establishment set out to find a man who would be palatable to conservatives, liberals and everyone in the middle of Baptist political life. Or Ray may have been simply the right man at the right time. But he thinks there was more to it than that.

"There's no easy human explanation that says why I'm here," he said. "The leadership of the Lord is the only way I can take it."

Cecil Armstrong Ray was born Dec. 9, 1922, the son of a Baptist minister in Fort Worth, Tex. Perhaps because of his Christian family life, he accepted Christ as savior at the tender age of seven, surrendered to the call of the ministry at 16 and by 17 was pastor of his own congregation.

Graduating from Howard Payne College, a Baptist School in Brownwood, Tex., Ray went on the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where he received his Th. M. degree. Since then, his undergraduate alma mater has conferred an honorary doctorate on Ray.

Ray served as the first pastor of Arnett-Benson Baptist Church in Lubbock, Tex. from 1946-56 as the church grew to 1,500 members. Then, he was named superintendent of missions for the San Antonio Baptist Association, a position he held from 1956-61. From 1961-67, Ray was secretary of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; since 1967, he has been director of stewardship for the Texas convention.

"I still believe," he said, "that the greatest position in Baptist life is the pastor of a church. But for me to have the job that God leads me to is what is important to me."

Though all lifelong Texans, the members of the Ray family apparently believe that their move to Raleigh is the best thing. Ray and his wife Charlene have two children, Lanny, a 26 year old graduate student in nuclear physics at the University of Texas at Austin; and Susan, a 28 year old daughter who was stricken with polio at age four and who has lived in an iron lung ever since.

Lanny, who will be married in January, will remain in Texas to finish his doctoral studies, then will try to find work either at a university or a research project like Oak Ridge, Tenn. or Los Alamos, N.M.; his father said. The move will more directly affect Mrs. Ray and Susan. Though physically handicapped, Susan can travel. Ray made what he believes was the first respirator adapted for use in a car many years ago. (He has, in fact, made an iron lung and special typewriters for his daughter). She has remained mentally and spiri-



Cecil A. Ray

tually active, her father said. "Perhaps a better way to describe Susan is to say she doesn't know she has got a problem," he said. She has written a book entitled "The Baptist Way" and with her mother has been active in a Spanish speaking mission near their home in Grand Prairie outside Dallas.

Giving up that mission work was a disappointment, Ray said. But he notes, "My family has accepted the idea (of moving). Becoming happy in North Carolina will be something they will do."

Ray's call to North Carolina began inauspiciously enough at the national denominational convention in February 1974, when Allen Bailey, president of the convention here at the time, first met Ray.

Favorably impressed on their first meeting, Bailey asked around to get others' opinions on the Texan, then sounded Ray out himself on whether he ever might be interested in coming to North Carolina. Ray responded he would go wherever the Lord called him. Bailey made a note about him in his appointment calendar and left the matter at that.

Then last September, after a special search committee appointed to find a new general secretary-treasurer to replace retiring Dr. W. Perry Crouch had come up empty handed, Bailey ran across Ray's name in his book. He immediately got on the phone, asking around the country for peoples' assessments of the man.

"Of all the people I've ever tried to focus on for a particular position," recalled Bailey, "this man got the highest recommendations of anyone. Almost to a person — and dozens were contacted — people were extremely high on this man and indicated that he had the qualifications to fill the job. The only criticism in the world that we could find of him is one person said he is an extremely strong individual and that maybe we would not want that. But I thought that this is something we needed. Holding onto that office is sort of like hanging onto the top of a mountain in a hurricane. If you're not a man of strength, you'll be blown away."

As Ray sees the job, however, it's something he half knows about and half will learn. "I have been given unusual opportunities to work in Southern Baptist Life," he said, noting that his background in both the pastorate and in administration will help him in his new job. And as a recent member of a convention staff, he hopes to maintain concern for the staff's position here, treating it more as a team and acting as its leader than doing details of convention work himself.

"There is very little actual authority tied with this profession," he said. But he also notes, "There is a great deal of opportunity to influence. Now, the convention elects you to the position, but you have to earn the power to influence."

But Ray already has priorities lined up that he wants to implement when he takes over the job Jan. 1.

Number one priority is development of the local church. Number two is to foster "an intense zeal for people." Number three is to increase the teamwork of the convention staff. Number four is "a real dramatic awakening in support of missions."

These are not new concerns for Ray. "I have been so involved in Texas Southern Baptist life that these are more me," he says.

Earlier this month, when Ray stood up to address the convention after his election, he asked North Carolina Baptists to pray "that we'll find the most effective means in bringing a new era in church growth."

As for himself, Ray told the convention, "The greatest honor would be to have someone say, 'Cecil Ray helped our churches become better churches.'"

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Mr

Cecil Ray in Running for Texas Job

By VIRTIE STROUP
Sentinel Religion Reporter

The Rev. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, is reported to be among the four or five remaining candidates being considered for the same post with the Texas Baptist Convention.

Ray could not be reached in Raleigh this morning for comment on the report, which was

confirmed by other convention sources.

Ray was head of the Texas convention's stewardship division when he came to North Carolina to become convention executive in 1975.

Among the others being considered for the general secretary's post are Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Jesse C. Fletcher,

president of Hardins-Simmons University and formerly with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

However, it is understood that neither of these candidates is interested in leaving their present work.

If selected, Ray, 59, would succeed James H. Landes, who served about 10 years.

Ray would be well received in Texas, friends say, because

he has done a commendable job in North Carolina. As a stranger to the workings of N. C. Baptists, he came in and took on things that had been left undone — such as updating the charters the convention's schools and universities. While the handling of this matter was not well received by some Baptists, other say it needed to be finished, and that it took a newcomer to complete the task.

At the moment, the largest projects before the state Baptists — the Here's Hope evangelistic plan to convert the unsaved in North Carolina and the relocation of the Baptist headquarters — have developed far enough along that they can be completed under current Baptist leadership.

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DAILY NEWS
GREENSBORO, N. C.

JUN 17-83

State's Baptists May Lose Ray To Stewardship Post

By CECILE HOLMES WHITE

Religion Writer

PITTSBURGH — Dr. Cecil Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, might end up leaving the state to become what Baptists are calling the new "stewardship czar" of the Southern Baptist Convention.

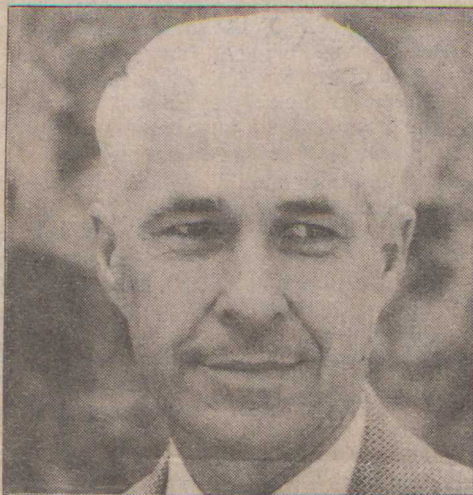
Widely circulated reports during the final days of Southern Baptists' annual meeting in Pittsburgh indicate Ray, 60, is the leading contender for a new Nashville-based post. A decision on who will fill the post may come in September, when the convention's Executive Committee meets.

The job would entail heading up a stewardship program to encourage Baptists to contribute more to the denomination's Cooperative Program, which finances Baptist mission work on local, state, national and foreign levels through contributions from all member churches.

Baptist leaders from North Carolina decline to confirm whether Ray is the candidate for the new post. But they do say he would be well-qualified as one of the architects for the new national stewardship program.

"I think that Cecil Ray is the best qualified person among Southern Baptists for this job," the Rev. Alton McEachern of Greensboro said Thursday.

Ray, who became general secretary-treasurer for North Carolina Baptists in the mid-1970s, has a strong background in stew-



Dr. Cecil Ray

ardship, or encouraging religious people to make good use of their talent and material possessions. Before going to Raleigh, he was director of the Texas Baptist Stewardship Division. He also has written several articles and two books on stewardship.

In a telephone interview late Thursday, Ray confirmed that reports are circulating that he is the leading candidate for the stewardship post. "The answer is 'yes,' it's a true rumor, but I don't know any more than

(See Ray, A11)

the rumor," Ray said. He said he has not been asked to take the position.

Describing the program he helped plan, Ray said Baptists hope to increase the annual collections of the more than 36,000 Southern Baptist churches from \$3 billion to \$20 billion over 15 years. The money would come in from local churches to the denomination, but be used by both local congregations and the national convention. About \$2.5 billion a year would go to the national body, Ray said.

Ray described the program's goal as a "major move forward" for Baptists.

The new post has been in the works for a long time but was not officially created by the convention until this week.

Dr. Harold Bennett of Nashville, one of two people to whom the stewardship leader would report, said Thursday in Pittsburgh that there is "nothing concrete at all" to reports that Ray is the prime candidate for the post.

But he said Ray "certainly would be one of the persons" considered for the job. Bennett said contenders should be people who "are thoroughly acquainted with our current stewardship program, participate in the Cooperative Program" and "are knowledgeable in our denominational life."

Ray has many of the qualifications Bennett outlined. But Ray declined to say whether he would accept the post if offered. "It would just be premature for me to respond," he said.

Ray declined to say how he feels about the possibility of leaving North Carolina. When asked if he has been happy here, he said, "Yes, it's been a good work."

Ray Calls for Leadership in the '80s

“Southern Baptists stand on the threshold of greatness in missions, yet are faltering due to a controversy smoldering from within,” according to the Rev. Cecil Ray of Raleigh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention.

The main controversies he is referring to are the issues of biblical inerrancy and doctrinal integrity.

Ray made the observations in his annual report to the convention, which was to be given at the closing of the three-day convention Wednesday at Greensboro's War Memorial Coliseum. But the handling of resolutions kept Ray from giving his talk.

This report is taken from his prepared address.

“Never have all the conditions been so ready and so urgent for the leadership of great churchmen,” Ray said. “If ever a people were in need of a broad base of noble leadership, it is now.”

He listed six reasons:

- “Southern Baptists stand on the threshold of greatness in missions, yet we are faltering

due to a controversy smoldering from within.

- “The Bold Mission challenge forms the greatest set of goals ever undertaken by Southern Baptists.

- “Inflation, shortages, world hunger now threaten the American way of life, and a frightened American people are asking, ‘Can life ever be good again if we lose the good-life?’

- “A ministry in unrest characterizes our denomination, and the stress existing between laity and pastors limits the effectiveness of the churches.

- “Churches immobilized by the lack of clarity of purpose and mission necessitates the call for a renewal of churchmanship. A renewal and the rising of a people captured by the mission of Christ is the number one need we face in the '80s.

- “Convention-institution relationship issues continue to limit the effectiveness of both the convention and the institutions sponsored.”

Ray said his message was

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CECIL RAY
... Baptist leader ...

“an unapologetic call for vigorous leadership by willing church members. Greatness in churchmanship, if we have it,

must now rise and manifest itself to deal with the great call of the day.”

He added, “leadership graced with vision and the skills of asking, modeling, and expecting are often glaringly scarce.”

He outlined the kind of churchmen needed for these times, ones who are “faithful, living in a style designed by Christ, committed to missions, communicating God’s message and caring.”

He said if he were to present a “Christian’s award of the Lord” — similar to the movie industry’s “Oscars,” he would look for certain characteristics.

- “The Christian leader is equipped not only to give the right answers, but to help people start by asking the right question ... so “the award of Christian leadership goes to the churchman who is faithful to the distinctive Christian life and lifts up, by example and word, the great ideals of a new person in Christ living the new life in Christ.”

- The Christian life is a very

style-conscious way of life. The winners of the leadership style award are those who dress themselves in a way of life that gives credence to their faith” and designed “according to his Lord’s values and ways ... The Christian life features different values, aims, activities and ways of responding. The central truth of the Christian way of living is that all life and material things derive their value from their relationship to Christ. ... To live by this life-shaping truth means the Christian will struggle for a lifestyle designed by Christ. ... The problem is not a lack of ability to overcome secularism but that instead we ‘will’ succeed by secular ways and values. We want to count in the secular arena and that is the problem. ... Christians cannot achieve Christian life goals by the ways of secularism.”

- “Faced with the issues and challenges of the eighties, the test of Southern Baptist leadership will likely be at this point — what is on the Baptist agenda. Keeping missions

central to denominational life will require the ablest of leaders ... Keeping the agenda is not easy. Leaders of whatever view, now confront the test of maintaining the strengths of voluntary cooperativeness while facing a controversy over doctrine and control. But keeping the denomination strong and the love of missions alive is important to all who love the denomination.”

- “The churchman cares what happens to other people ... In every generation, there are crises in the lives of people caused by persecution, war, natural calamities, social injustices, diseases and now world hunger. ... We need a clear Southern Baptist strategy for dealing with hunger. We need creative churchmen to help us meet the needs of the whole person and not just give a bowl of rice. Dealing with hunger is certainly a matter of giving money, but it is also a matter of dealing with Christian ethics, lifestyle, and finding many creative ways to help the

hungry achieve a wholesome life.”

- “The churchman who can implant the urgency of God’s expectations in the lives of people is truly a Christian leader. ... It is always a leadership flaw to permit Christians to live beneath their potential. The serious Christian has deep within himself the desire to be what Christ expects and wants to be asked to work to achieve that expectation. ... The churchman communication award will go to those leaders who articulate ‘expectancy’ ... No Christian leader has the right to ask for less than Christ does.”

Ray said North Carolina Baptists can “go our own way and do some good. The great and daring task of Bold Mission will, however, only be possible for churchmen who pull together.”

He said that the present conditions “make a new quality of leadership and unity our priority need.”

Ray possible 'stewardship czar'

By CECILE HOLMES WHITE
Religion Writer

PITTSBURGH — Dr. Cecil Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, might end up leaving the state to become what Baptists are calling the new "stewardship czar" of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Widely circulated reports during the final days of Southern Baptists' annual meeting in Pittsburgh suggest Ray, 60, is the leading contender for a new Nashville-based post. A decision on who will fill the post may come in September, when the

convention's executive committee meets.

The job would entail heading up a stewardship program to encourage Baptists to give more to the denomination's Cooperative Program, which finances Baptist mission work on local, state, national and foreign levels through contributions from all member churches.

Baptist leaders from North Carolina decline to say whether Ray is the candidate for the new post. But they do say he would be well-qualified as an architect of the new program.

"I think that Cecil Ray is the best qualified person among Southern Baptists for this job," the Rev. Alton McEachern of Greensboro said Thursday.

Ray, who became general secretary-treasurer for North Carolina Baptists in the mid-1970s, has a strong background in stewardship, or encouraging religious people to make good use of their talent and material possessions. Before going to Raleigh, he was director of the Texas Baptist Stewardship Division. He also has written several articles and two books on stewardship.

In a telephone interview late Thursday, Ray confirmed that reports are circulating that he is the leading candidate for the stewardship post. "The answer is 'yes,' it's a true rumor, but I don't know any more than the rumor," Ray said. He said he has not been asked to take the position.

Describing the program he helped plan, Ray said Baptists hope to increase the annual collections of the more than 36,000 Southern Baptist churches from \$3 billion to \$20 billion over 15 years. The money would come in from local churches to the denomination, but be used by both local congregations and the national convention. About \$2.5 billion a year would go to the national body, Ray said.

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as a "major move forward" for Baptists.

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Dr. Harold Bennett of Nashville, one of two people to whom the stewardship leader would report, said Thursday in Pittsburgh that there is "nothing concrete at all" to reports that Ray is the prime candidate for the post.

But he said Ray "certainly would be one of the persons" considered for the job. Bennett said contenders should be people who "are thoroughly acquainted with our current stewardship program, participate in the Cooperative Program" and "are knowledgeable in our denominational life."

Ray has many of the qualifications Bennett outlined. But Ray declined to say whether he would accept the post if offered. "It would just be premature for me to respond," he said.

Should Ray leave North Carolina, his move could affect leadership among Baptists in this state, where he has played a middleman role between conservative and moderate factions that have squared off in the last decade in the denomination.

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Raleigh man will fill Baptist post

Dr. Cecil Ray of Raleigh, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, was elected without opposition Tuesday night to a national stewardship post with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ray was nominated and elected during the September meeting of the 68-member SBC Executive Committee at Nashville, Tenn., Dan Martin of Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, said today.

Martin said Ray was selected for the job by A.R. Fagan, executive director and treasurer of the SBC Stewardship Commission, and Dr. Harold C. Bennett, executive director of the Executive Committee. Bennett nominated Ray for the post.

In the job, Ray, a 60-year-old Texas native, will oversee a new SBC "Planned Growth in Giving" program.

The project is designed to lead Southern Baptists to increase their contributions to the denomination from \$3 billion to \$20 billion annually by the year 2000.

Ray is meeting with a task force for the project today and Thursday in Nashville. He will not formally begin his new job until January. He will maintain his current home in Raleigh and travel to Nashville as necessary, Martin said.

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SEP 21 83

N.C. Baptist official gets national position

By DIANE WINSTON

Staff Writer

Dr. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the N.C. Baptist State Convention, was named Tuesday to a key administrative position with the national Southern Baptist Convention.

Meeting at Southern Baptist Convention headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., the convention's executive committee elected Ray as national director for planned growth in giving. The chief executive officer of the North Carolina Baptist group since 1975, he had been the only candidate recommended for the new post.

In a statement released after the election, Ray said the convention's goal was to increase Southern Baptist giving to \$20 billion a year for church support and \$2.5 billion a year for mission support before 2000. The current levels are \$3 billion for church support and \$300 million for missions.

Ray called the drive "the greatest missionary undertaking in our history."

He also will work to achieve a larger commitment of Baptists' time and money in the denomina-

tion's "Bold Missions" program.

The program aims at enlarging the number of countries with foreign missions to 125 from 100; increasing the number of career missionaries to 5,000 and sending out another 10,000 missionaries each year for short-term projects; and increasing the number of Southern Baptist churches in the United States to 50,000 from 36,000 by the year 2000.

North Carolina Baptists expressed pleasure at Ray's appointment as well as sorrow over his departure.

"I hate to see him go; I don't think he's finished the work the Lord called him to do in North Carolina," said Henderson Belk of Charlotte, first vice-president of the Baptist State Convention.

The question of who will succeed Ray is already causing a buzz, some state Baptist leaders say.

Although Ray will not leave his North Carolina job until Dec. 31, he will officially resign from his position at a Sept. 26-27 meeting of the Baptist State Convention's general board.

After he resigns, the board will name a search committee to find a



Dr. Cecil A. Ray

successor. Several candidates have been mentioned, including the Rev. Frank R. Campbell, president of the state convention, who will step down in November; the Rev. Roy J. Smith of Raleigh, the convention's second-ranking administrator as associate general secretary-treasurer; and the Rev. Coy C. Privette of Kannapolis.

The Rev. Ernest W. Glass, pastor of Shamrock Drive Baptist Church in Charlotte and president of the state convention's general board, said speculation on Ray's successor was premature because the search committee had not been named.

Many Baptists say that who is selected to be on the search committee will be crucial to determining the direction that the state convention will take in years ahead.

"The search committee is extremely important," Glass said. "I feel it ought to be representative of North Carolina Baptist geography, theology and church size."

SENTINEL
WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

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Ray Elected to New Stewardship Post

By VIRTIE STROUP
Sentinel Religion Reporter

The Rev. Cecil A. Ray of Raleigh, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, has been unanimously elected to a newly created post in the stewardship division of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He will become national director of the Planned Growth in Giving effort of Southern Baptists on Jan. 1.

His selection to the post had been expected, but did not become official until the vote of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention Monday night in Nashville, Tenn.

Ray, 61, will officially turn in his resignation to the state executive committee next week, but he said in a telephone interview yesterday that he expects to continue his present work until the end of the year.

The Baptist State Convention's General Board, through its chairman, the Rev. Ernest Glass of Charlotte, will name a committee to search for Ray's successor. When the board has a candidate, it will present him or her to the full convention for election.

The selection is not expected to be completed in time for

Churches and Religion



CECIL RAY

this year's annual convention in November. The candidate either can be elected at a called meeting of the convention or at the 1984 convention.

Ray said he will be "working with the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in the promotion of the Planned Growth Giving, which is a plan of commitment from Baptists to support our Bold Mission objectives."

Among those goals, he said, is one to get the churches of the Southern convention to in-

crease their income giving from the current annual \$3 billion to \$20 billion by the year 2000.

Another goal is to increase the Cooperative Program budget giving, now about \$300 million a year, to \$2½ billion by the year 2000.

Ray said it is "a distinct honor" to have been selected to lead this program. He said the name, Planned Growth in Giving, indicates how the 15-year plan will operate. It has been devised, he explained, so that individual Southern Baptists and Southern Baptist churches can plan for steady, but manageable, increases in giving.

Ray said and his family will continue to live in Raleigh.

In the early stages he will be on the road working with Southern Baptist and state convention leadership in implementing the program. He will be assisted by a volunteer 15-member tasks force, composed of pastors, laymen, directors of missions, SBC agency personnel, state executive directors and state stewardship leaders.

Planning Retreat

The Winston-Salem United Methodist District Council on Ministries will have a retreat this weekend, beginning with supper at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow at Kingswood United Methodist Church in Rural Hall.

After supper, the council will review the work of the district for the past year, consider the 1984 budget, consider nominations, hear reports and see a district mission film.

On Saturday, the retreat will begin with breakfast at 8 a.m. and continue through about 3 p.m. Through small group discussions, the council will plan the work for the current year.

In other news, the council has planned a tour of some of the mission projects in the Winston-Salem area. It will be held Oct. 9 in conjunction with Laity Sunday.

The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the chapel of the Children's Home and will continue with a bus tour of these ministries: Contact of Winston-Salem, Crisis Control Ministry Inc. and its Samaritan Soup Kitchen, Bethlehem Center, Downtown Church Center and the Triad United Methodist Home.

N.C. Baptist official expected to resign, take national post

From Staff and Wire Reports

Dr. Cecil A. Ray is expected to resign as general secretary-treasurer of the N.C. Baptist State Convention to take an administrative position with the national Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist leaders say.

Ray is expected to be named next month to a new church position, national director for planned growth and giving. The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee is scheduled to fill the position at a Sept. 19 meeting in Nashville, Tenn. North Carolina Baptist leaders said Ray was the only person mentioned for the

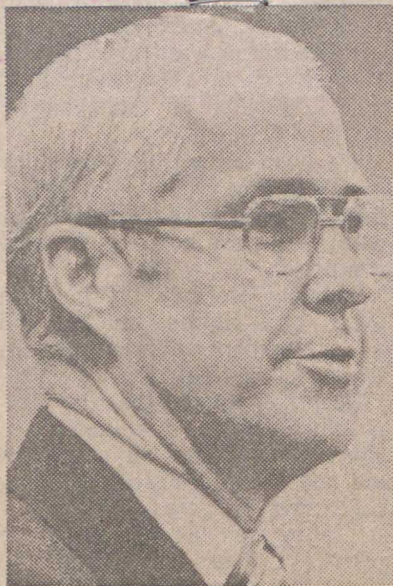
post.

If Ray takes the position, the 1.1 million-member church state convention will lose its chief career administrator in the same year it changes presidents.

Possible successors to Ray include the Rev. Frank R. Campbell, president of the state convention, who will step down in November after two one-year terms; the Rev. Roy J. Smith, associate general-secretary; and the Rev. Coy Privette of Kannapolis.

Campbell said in a telephone interview that it was too early to

See N.C. BAPTIST, page 2C



Dr. Cecil A. Ray

Dr. Cecil Ray To Preach

Dr. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, will preach at the Oak Grove Baptist Church on Sunday at 11 a.m. The public is invited to be present, and the service will be broadcast over Radio Station WATA.

Ray has been a pastor, director of associational missions, and a member of the staff of the Texas Baptist General Convention before coming to lead North Carolina Baptists in 1978.

During the years as general secretary-treasurer, he has endeared himself to people across the state through his dedication to the cause of Christ and his commitment to missions. Under his direction, Baptists of North Carolina have set goals of doubling mission gifts and increasing

Sunday School enrollment by 150,000 by the year 1982.



CECIL RAY

Boone: Watauga Democrat
Brevard: Transylvania Times
Bryson City: Smoky Mtn. Times
Burgaw: Pender Chronicle
Burnsville: Yancey Record
Canton: Enterprise
Carthage: Moore County News
Cary: News
Chadbourne: Columbus Co. News
Charlotte: Post
Cherokee: One Feather
Cherryville: Eagle
China Grove: S. Rowan Times
Clarkton: Southeastern Times
Clayton: News
Clemmons: Courier

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N.C. Baptist official is expected to resign

Continued from page 1C

speculate on who might succeed Ray. He said Ray had done an excellent job in North Carolina and was the best-qualified Baptist for the new national position.

"I think he's the most qualified person in the whole convention," Campbell said. "Dr. Ray's whole background has been in stewardship. He came to us from the top stewardship position in the Texas convention. He's almost doubled our cooperative giving program in the eight years he's been here."

Campbell said Ray had helped design the new national program. Its chief duty would involve working with Southern Baptists to increase church income from \$3 billion in 1982 to \$20 billion in 2000.

"The job is the matching side of Bold Mission," Ray said in a telephone interview.

Bold Mission is an ambitious evangelical program to preach the gospel to every person on earth before 2000. Specifically, the program aims to increase foreign missions and spur domestic church growth. Ray said he had consented to have his name submitted for the national post, but he declined to say whether he was the only candidate.

Dr. R.G. Puckett, editor of The Biblical Recorder, North Carolina's Southern Baptist newspaper, said Ray was an excellent choice

for the position.

"They've chosen wisely a man whose commitment is appropriate to the task," Puckett said. He said he doubted the changing of two top state leaders would affect North Carolina Baptist life.

"I don't think the position will be filled until 1984," said Puckett, explaining that Dr. Ray's resignation would be effective Dec. 31. After that, he said, "it will require months of search, prayer and evaluation before someone is nominated" to succeed Ray.

Ray said that if he did move into the national spot, he probably would not leave Raleigh. He said the choice between the two positions would be a difficult one.

"If this is offered to me, it's a difficult decision, because it's not easy to change," Ray said. "But the new position would be challenging."



CECIL RAY

... "open to talk" ...

Florida Baptists Talk To Cecil Ray

By VIRTIE STROUP

Sentinel Religion Reporter

Florida Baptists, who are without a full-time executive officer, have been to Raleigh to interview the Rev. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, about the job.

Ray, contacted in Raleigh today at the Baptist headquarters, said, "I have just been tentatively interviewed," but "I have not been offered the position."

Asked if he would be interested in the Florida post, Ray replied, "I'm open to talking with them."

The post of executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention became vacant when the Rev. Dr. Harold Clark Bennett, 55, was elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Bennett, a 1949 Wake Forest University graduate, succeeds the Rev. Dr. Porter W. Routh, who had held the position for 28 years. Bennett, a native of Asheville, took over the position last week. He will conduct his first meeting on Sept. 17-19 in Nashville, Tenn. Routh has begun two years of teaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Ray, 57, became the 11th full-time executive of the North Carolina convention in January 1976, succeeding Dr. W. Perry Crouch, who had held the position for 12 years.

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Ray came to North Carolina from Texas where he was director of stewardship for the Texas Baptist Convention.



CECIL RAY

... "open to talk" ...

Florida Baptists Talk To Cecil Ray

By **VIRTIE STROUP**

Sentinel Religion Reporter

Florida Baptists, who are without a full-time executive officer, have been to Raleigh to interview the Rev. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, about the job.

Ray, contacted in Raleigh today at the Baptist headquarters, said, "I have just been tentatively interviewed," but "I have not been offered the position."

Asked if he would be interested in the Florida post, Ray replied, "I'm open to talking with them."

The post of executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention became vacant when the Rev. Dr. Harold Clark Bennett, 55, was elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Bennett, a 1949 Wake Forest University graduate, succeeds the Rev. Dr. Porter W. Routh, who had held the position for 28 years. Bennett, a native of Asheville, took over the position last week. He will conduct his first meeting on Sept. 17-19 in Nashville, Tenn. Routh has begun two years of teaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

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Ray came to North Carolina from Texas where he was director of stewardship for the Texas Baptist Convention.

Winston-Salem Sentinel
Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel

AUG 7 1979

Top Baptist: Defeat Liquor by Drink

See 9/1/78
The executive officer of the Baptist State Convention, the Rev. Cecil A. Ray, has called for the defeat of liquor by the drink.

In his weekly column in the Biblical Recorder, Ray said beverage alcohol is the nation's No. 1 drug problem, and if it were just being discovered today, "it would be labeled a dangerous substance by the federal food and drug administration."

He said liquor by the drink also gives alcohol a place of honor and respectability in the community, makes it easier to obtain, and glamorizes its consumption.

How Charlotte votes next Friday, Ray said, "will eventually influence the lives of the entire state. The decision is not between 'liquor' or 'no liquor' but rather the place of liquor in the community."

He complimented Christian and other leaders in the Charlotte area who are work-



CECIL RAY

... in paper ...

ing "diligently to defeat LBD," whose basic issue, "in my opinion is a moral one."

291
C10 Greensboro Daily News, Thurs., Sept. 22, 1983
Nic.

Southern Baptists pick Ray for stewardship job

Dr. Cecil Ray of Raleigh, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, was elected without opposition to a national stewardship post with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ray was nominated and elected Tuesday night during the September meeting of the 68-member SBC Executive Committee at Nashville, Dan Martin of Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, said Wednesday.



Ray

Martin said Ray was selected for the job by A.R. Fagan, executive director and treasurer of the SBC Stewardship Commission, and Dr. Harold C. Bennett, executive director of the Executive Committee. Bennett nominated Ray for the post.

C10
After his election, Ray, a 60-year-old Texas native, will oversee a new SBC "Planned Growth in Giving" program.

After his election, Ray said in a telephone interview from Nashville that Baptists will be "embarking upon perhaps the boldest effort in our history" with the new stewardship program.

The project is designed to lead Southern Baptists to increase their contributions annually from \$3 billion to \$20 billion by the year 2000. Ray said the project is an effort to bolster another long-range Baptist program, "Bold Mission Thrust," which calls for the denomination to present the Christian gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

Ray is meeting with a task force on the stewardship program Wednesday and today in Nashville. He will not formally begin his new job until January. He will continue to live in Raleigh and travel to Nashville as necessary.

similarly to Secretary of State (Henry) Stimson's closing of a code-breaking unit in the Department of State in the 1920s with the comment that 'gentlemen do not read each others' mail,' " he said.

mechanism, was sentenced to prison and also given eight years probation last month for running his sports car into the Klan rally at President Carter's hometown July 2. Some 30 people were injured.

costs into the stratosphere. Instead of the two-year accreditation that hospitals cherish as a seal of approval, all these hospitals were given

See Substandard, Page 2

Mr. Yuk is used in about 20 center said.

In Illinois, the state is experimenting to replace the skull and crossbones bared and was chosen after it was the one with which children

Baptist Official Wants WFU Accord

12/27/77
By VIRTIE STROUP
Sentinel Religion Reporter

"If I have any criticism of Wake Forest University," said the general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, "it is that it has moved with an intensity for academic excellency to the neglect of the insistence upon Christian quality."

"They have not rejected it," explained the Rev. Cecil A. Ray. "They have neglected it and I think there is a distinction."

Ray, who is completing his second year as the convention's executive officer, was asked in an exclusive interview with The Sentinel about Wake Forest and the recent decision by its trustees to accept all of a controversial \$300,000 grant to the biology department from the National Science Foundation.

The convention had directed the trustees not to accept a portion of the grant that is designated for the construction of a plant-animal facility on campus.

The trustees said they voted to accept

the money in order to honor the contract with the foundation. Baptist leaders said they should first honor convention principles entrusted to them — namely, accepting no federal funds unless a service is rendered in return.

University trustees also said the convention is inconsistent in its rules on accepting federal funds. Bowman Gray School of Medicine is able to accept federal funds for buildings while its senior institution can't. Ray concedes the trustees are right on this point.

The General Board of the convention will meet in Raleigh Jan. 23-25 and will discuss the Wake Forest issue then.

Ray said the majority of letters he has received since the Dec. 9th decision by the trustees do not call for a separation between the convention and the university, but "rather that remedial efforts (should be made) toward an acceptable relationship between the convention and the convention's purposes and the way Wake Forest is operated."

Ray also said he hears "no indication that Baptists are open to a lessening of ties" between the two.

But, he said, "there are recommendations coming from various places about the type of financial support we give. Obviously, future support will have to be dependent upon proper solution to this."

"I don't see any signs of willingness to support (Wake Forest) indefinitely without . . . some acceptable solution to our problem of relationship."

Ray said "the way people see Wake Forest and the way they feel our relationship to Wake Forest actually is will determine the kind of financial support. There is no way you can separate a people's willingness to support an institution and the way they think that institution is fulfilling its specific purpose."

Ray did not want to speculate on whether the convention would lessen its ties with its senior college. "At this point," he said, "I'm not entertaining but

See Baptist, Page 2



CECIL A. RAY

... "Christian manner" ...

Baptist-WFU Accord

Baptists honor 150th anniversary

LEXINGTON — Baptist ministers, church staff and laymen from all over Davidson County gathered near here Tuesday for a special presentation honoring the 150th anniversary of the Baptist State Convention.

A team of four speakers headed by Dr. Cecil Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the convention, led the day-long 150th anniversary rally at Jersey Baptist Church.

The meeting was part of an effort by the Baptist State Convention to present all phases of denominational work to each of the 80 Baptist associations in North Carolina during the next few months. Tuesday's meeting was for the Liberty Association, which includes all Southern Baptist churches in Davidson County.

Ray noted that the purpose of the event is to "provide a time for celebrating the 150 years of the convention."

"We're using the occasion to increase the understanding of Baptist work and to unify our support," he said.

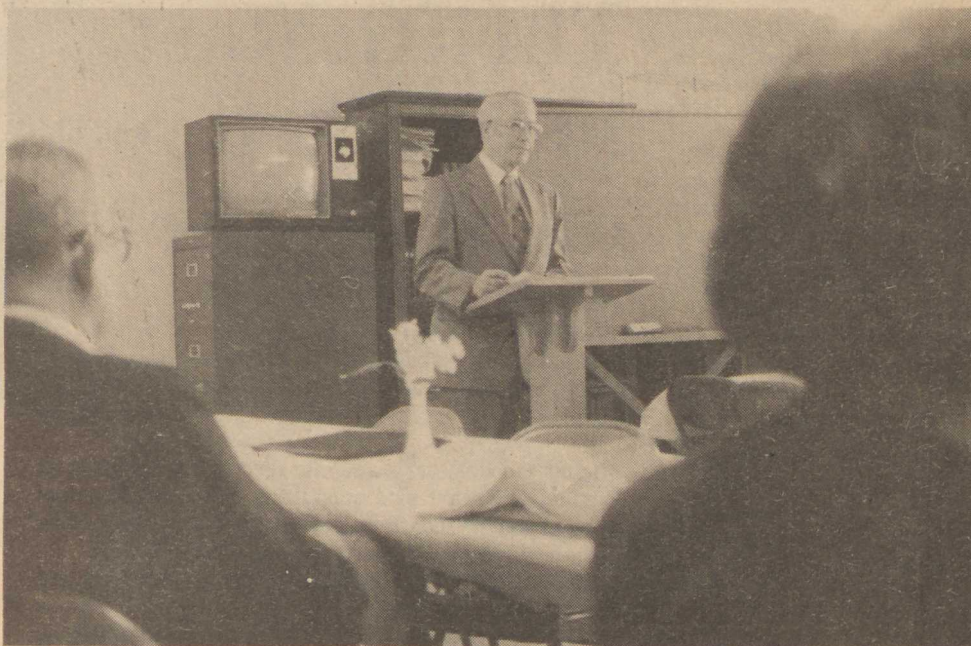
The local event began with morning and afternoon sessions focusing on the

study of a new book published by the convention and entitled, "North Carolina Baptist Working Together." The day sessions were designed primarily for pastors and church staff, while an inspirational session in the evening was open to all area churchmen.

Other program leaders, in addition to Ray, were Lewis

Myers, associate director of the overseas division of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board; Harold White, stewardship development associate for the North Carolina convention; and Glain S. Pennell, director of missions for the South Fork Baptist Association in Lincoln.

Jersey Baptist Church was selected as the site for the event because of its prominent place in the history of Baptist work in North Carolina. The "Jersey Settlement" was where Baptists from New Jersey came in 1753 and began the earliest congregation known to have gathered in North Carolina.



Dr. Cecil Ray addresses gathering on "Baptists Working Together"

Wilmington Daily News
Wilmington Star
Winston Daily Times
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem Sentinel

MAR 20, 1980

Report Card to Baptist Convention: Two A's and a 'Lousy'

By VIRTIE STROUP
Sentinel Religion Reporter

GREENSBORO — North Carolina Baptists got two "A's" and one "lousy" yesterday when the Rev. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer, graded the Baptist State Convention in his final address to the body.

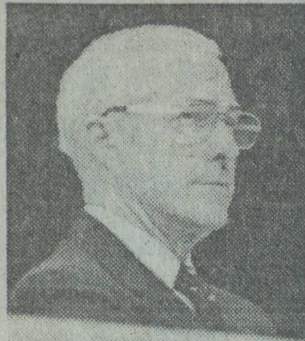
Ray, who will leave the convention staff at year's end, was also honored by the convention. He will become the first national director of a new stewardship program for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Last night the retiring convention president, the Rev. Dr. Frank Campbell of Statesville, presented Ray with a gift certificate allowing him to buy his 1981 Chevrolet convention car and with a plaque of appreciation.

Ray was given a lengthy standing ovation. "I love you, I appreciate you, I thank you. God bless you" was all he could manage to say.

The Rev. Ernest Glass of Charlotte, chairman of the convention's General Board, said during the tribute: "You taught us and you learned from us."

Campbell, who has served on the General Board during Ray's eight years as convention executive, said: "We have



Sentinel Staff Photo by Allie Brown

CECIL RAY: "I love you, I appreciate you, I thank you."

the most open convention in the Southern Baptist Convention and this is a tribute to Cecil Ray."

Ray said in his final address that he leaves "this position with mixed emotions." While he is excited about the new work, he added, he will continue to be with N. C. Baptists "in person and in prayer."

He said he is deeply satisfied with two things: "a reviv-

ing notion" in church growth and a strengthening in the relationship between convention and associational staffs.

By the same token, he added, he was deeply dissatisfied with two things: the fact that he did not do everything "that God, I think, wanted Baptists to do" in North Carolina; and "my deepest disappointment (is) the inability that has been mine and yours to overcome the lack of trust among Baptists — perhaps our greatest issue — ... and the inability to bring about a greater unity."

Ray said that he rejoices with the "openness I think has developed," especially within the General Board, its executive committee and staff.

He said he also has "a sense of pride in the strong developing, warm team relationship" between the convention staff and the elected leaders of the associations. He said he was "grateful for the progress made in church growth, not a

phenomenon, but a turn from decline," and for the "reduction of tension between this convention, the churches and Wake Forest University, a tension that hurt this body, all the other bodies involved and the university for a good many years."

He announced another source of pride: as of this week the convention "has no indebtedness to any lending firm anywhere period."

He explained that the convention has internal debts ".... (which) we owe to ourselves and must be prepared for in budgeting processes in the next few years, which we will repay."

While reducing the indebtedness, he explained, the convention was "increasing our assets at Fruitland, Caswell, Caraway and the Baptist Building in the neighborhood of \$5 million and I compliment you for that progress."

Ray then got around to the "dismal points:"

He suggested that the most prominent issue before the convention is "whether we will live with some of our differences and allow the centrality on the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost world, which is our mission, to unite us."

He said N. C. Baptists have three opportunities before them, and called on the convention to allow its differences "to become strengths rather than becoming forces of destruction."

He further challenged the convention "to greater trust and affection ... I would say to you that the trust opportunity is one of such magnitude as to command your interest." And the third opportunity, he said, "is what I call the accountability opportunity. We do our work by the trust system, and there are three very important elements of the trust and trustee system:"

• The selection and election system.

"You give much attention to that ... (and) I give you a good grade, not because I think you always do it well but because you do it with such a high level of importance." He gave the convention an "A" for that.

• The virtue of trusteeship.

That must be done well, he said, and that is to trust people to perform their tasks with proficiency and dedication, and for this he gave an "A" plus.

• Reporting and accounting.

"I started to say you do this poorly," Ray said, "but you do it lousily, in my assessment of trusteeship. All three must be done well or you are in trouble."

He gave the convention and its messengers lousy marks because "you don't want your trustees to account to you ... You don't want to give them any time to do it and if they do, you're bored to death. So the blame is on you. You are

forfeiting a number one fundamental responsibility by being unwilling" to allow trustees to give an accounting and "the trustees don't want to report either. So all around, there is a serious problem in one of the qualities of trusteeship. Your opportunity is to excel in all three and I hope you will do all three."

Since the fault lies within the convention, he said, the correction "must be yours and I hope you will give attention to how to do this one well."

He said over recent years Baptist haven't changed

much in their giving patterns. There was a time, he said, when close to one-half of the churches made no gifts to the Cooperative Program (budget). When he came, he said, the percentage was 23 and it was now down to 14 percent, which is "deplorable" and the poorest record in the Southern Baptist Convention.

He called on the convention to give its interim director, the Rev. Roy Smith, loyalty and cooperation. "If you mistreat him," Ray said, "I will ask the Lord to deal with you justly ... He deserves your confidence and support."

Baptists To Dedicate New Church On Sunday

The First Baptist Church of Southern Pines will hold their Dedication Service for their new building on Sunday, May 1, at 3 p.m.

The afternoon time was established in the hope that it would better allow for the attendance of other church congregations and of the general public.

The service will feature the Dedication Sermon to be delivered by Dr. Cecil A. Ray, General Secretary-Treasurer, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Dr. Ray is a native of Texas where he has served as a pastor, a superintendent of missions, and as secretary of the cooperative program and church finance for the Baptist State Convention of Texas. Prior to coming to N. C. in 1975, Dr. Ray was director of the Stewardship Division of the



Dr. Cecil A. Ray

Baptist State Convention of Texas, 1967-1975.

The Dedication Service will also feature statements by the architects, Hayes-Howell and Associates, T. T. Hayes, Jr., speaking; the Building Committee, Dr. Raymond Stone, chairman, speaking; the Church Trustees, Harold Fowler, chairman, speaking; and the pastor, the Rev. John D. Stone.

The Adult Choir will sing three anthems: "Thou Who Wast God" by K. K. Davis; "How Firm a Foundation" by P. L. Anderson; and "God of Grace and God of Glory" by P. T. Langston. Haskell Duncan is choir director, and Ruth Sinclair is organist.

The new buildings include the sanctuary; the church hall (education and social-dining); a church kitchen; and music room. The new sanctuary contains regular seating for 400 people, with space for another 100 people in extra chairs. The church hall will seat at table 200 people, and will contain Sunday School space for grades 7-12 and the Mary Richardson Women's Class.

Two committees played special roles in the planning and financing of the building program actually spanning the past seven years. The Building Committee is composed of: Dr. Raymond Stone, chairman; Curtis Bettini, Bill Deaton, Gay Duncan, Harold Fowler, Rebecca Seymour, Lois Thomasson, Bill Toney, and Don Traylor. The Building Finance Committee is composed of Dr. Clay C. Daughtridge, Jr., chairman, Bill Deaton, Haskell Duncan, Bill Toney, Don Traylor, and Dr. Raymond Stone. Another church member who has given a great stewardship of time, counsel, and hard work is Mattison W. German, Church Treasurer.

Southern Pines Pilot
Southport: State Port Pilot
Sparta: Alleghany News
Spring Hope Enterprise
Spruce Pine: Tri-County News
St. Paul's Review
Sylva Herald
Tabor City Tribune
Taylorsville Times
Troy: Montgomery Herald
Valdese News
Wadesboro: Anson Record
Wadesboro: Messenger & Intelligencer
Wake Forest: Wake Weekly

APR 27 1977

Top N.C. Baptist Going to New Job?

By VIRTIE STROUP
Sentinel Religion Reporter

The Rev. Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention, is expected to be named next month as chairman of a new Southern Baptist stewardship plan.

His name will be suggested to the executive committee of the national convention when it meets Sept. 19-21 in Nashville, Tenn.

Letters announcing that a candidate will be placed in nomination have gone to members of the committee. While the official letter does not name Ray, other letters have gone out separately saying he will be the nominee for the full-time job.

Ray, who has been on vacation, mostly in his home state of Texas, was not available for comment.

It has been no secret in North Carolina

circles that the job was tailor-made for Ray, who came to the state eight years ago to take over the highest executive post in the state convention.

His name has been associated with the stewardship post since it was first discussed last year. Since Ray serves on the executive committee, his work style is well known by the committee members.

In the post, Ray would supervise a plan designed to bring in \$20 billion by the year 2000. He would work through state conventions and churches to enlarge stewardship contributions by Southern Baptists.

Ray, 60, was director of stewardship for the Texas state convention before coming to North Carolina, and stewardship has continued to be one of his keen interests.

If Ray accepts the position, he will probably work through the end of the

year with the state convention, beginning the new job in early 1984.

Also, if plans go as now projected, Ray's resignation will probably be received officially during the fall meeting of the N. C. convention's executive committee and General Board meeting Sept. 27-28 at Camp Caraway.

However, the subject probably will be brought up — informally at least — when the executive committee of the General Board holds its August meeting next week.

Filling Ray's post could be handled several ways by the General Board:

- The board could authorize the Rev. Ernest Glass of Charlotte, its president, to appoint a search committee, which would nominate a candidate to be voted on at the 1984 convention.

See New, Page 18



CECIL RAY

... stewardship ...

New Post for Baptist Leader?

Continued from Page 15

• It could request this year's convention, which will meet Nov. 14-16 in Greensboro, to appoint an interim executive, namely the Rev. Roy J. Smith, associate general secretary, to serve until a successor is named.

• Or, the General Board could call for a special session of the convention, probably in Greensboro next spring, to vote on a new executive.

A 23-member committee headed by the Rev. Ray Benfield, formerly of Winston-Salem, unanimously nominated Ray in October 1976 as the successor to the Rev. W. Perry Crouch, who had to take mandatory retirement after holding the position for 12 years.

The 1976 annual convention in Asheville elected Ray without opposition.

☆☆☆

Discussions with a number of Baptist leaders throughout the state sum up Ray's approach to his work as being by the book: the book of Baptist polity.

Ray has approached his work and his life in a systematic way, they say.

First he had to learn the history of Baptists in North Carolina and as he did this he began to point out their failures to translate their convention decisions into definite actions.

If the rule was in the manual, it had to be followed; if it was not going to be followed, it should be dropped.

He never encouraged exceptions to the rule — except in cases dealing with people.

Being a Texan, he was

more prone to missions — and the visible measurements of increases in church membership, baptisms or stewardship — than to the North Carolina approach to services — to children, to the elderly, to the sick and lame, to the education of young people.

Ray's insistence on translating rules into regulations probably cost Wake Forest University more than any other institution or agency; and yet, the agencies of the convention probably were abiding less by the rules and regulations than the colleges and universities.

One reason Ray and Wake Forest had such a wide-ranging battle, some observers say, could be because it was a Texan squaring off with an Oklahoman (Dr. James Ralph Scales, Wake Forest's president).

It took a while, but Ray came to realize that Wake Forest doesn't belong just to the Baptists, but to North Carolina. Wake Forest's wealth is in its alumni bank, loyalists to the brink. And when Ray turned the endless spotlight onto Wake Forest, he found out how much respect this state has for the school.

One statement often attributed to Ray provides an assessment of the man.

When an issue would be discussed at the executive level, Ray would turn to his co-leaders and say, "I don't see it that way now. You'll have to give me some time." He could bend, he did bend; he could stand firm, he did stand firm.

Being willing to listen and properly assess his position has been an advantage as he went about his job, working

with the various constituencies within the state. He has served as a good bridge between the mainstream and the inerrants or, as others define it, between the conservatives and liberals. This is a viewpoint shared by both camps.

Observers say his tenure in the state has been most productive in two ways:

• He is a dreamer, an idea man and a goal-setter.

He wanted to double the Cooperative Program budget and he probably would have gone from \$12 to \$24 million, but the economy dampened his hopes somewhat. The budget is at the \$22 million mark.

He wanted to turn around membership figures that for two decades had stayed, more or less, on hold, and he did. In 1982, North Carolina Baptists' showed increases in the number of churches, church members, Sunday school enrollment, baptisms, contributions.

• He is a programmer.

In this area, his results are not as easily measured.

Often the programs he envisioned were not as visible because they were geared to make Baptists better Christians, better Baptists, better stewards. But here, again, the dreamer may not have communicated his programs well enough for his staff to translate the ideas.

Ray is mostly a loner. He works hard and long in the Baptist Building, on the road and when at home.

Observers say this lack of many friends may have caused him to be even more solicitous of others, particularly staff members, during

their hours of personal trouble. Here he was capable of showing leniency with the rules.

On a whole, Ray sought to increase the salary and benefits of the Baptist staff, arguing you could not secure — and keep — good programmers if they weren't paid for their contributions and weren't happy on the job.

He backed a location outside the downtown Raleigh area for a new headquarters building because it was advantageous for the staff, as well as promising to be more economical.

He encouraged and supported state officials as they envisioned the need to shore up convention facilities at Fruitland Bible Institute, Camp Caraway and Caswell.

He never got into the doctrinal arguments some Baptists like to spin their wheels on; he saw that element of the faith as the primary function of the local church and associations.

Dr. Cecil Ray

To Be At Baptist Student Center



Dr. Cecil Ray

Dr. Cecil Ray, executive secretary of the State Baptist Convention of North Carolina, will be the featured speaker at the Baptist Student Center in Cullowhee at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5.

All pastors in the Tuckasegee Baptist Association have been extended a personal invitation to be with Dr. Ray and the students of the Baptist Center.

There will be no charge for the dinner; however, those pastors attending are asked to call Joe David Fore at 293-9030 or 586-2447 to confirm reservations by May 3.

"The purpose of the dinner is for an informal time of sharing with Dr. Ray, pastors and students," said the announcement.

Sylva Herald

Tabor City Tribune

Taylorsville Times

Troy: Montgomery Herald

Valdese News

Wadesboro: Anson Record

Wadesboro: Messenger &
Intelligencer

Wake Forest: Wake Weekly

APR 28 1977

CECIL ARMSTRONG RAY

The Installation of
CECIL ARMSTRONG RAY
as the Eleventh
General Secretary-Treasurer
of the
Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
99 NORTH SALISBURY STREET
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
7:30 P.M.
MARCH 30, 1976

Date: Wed, 20 Aug 2008 13:56:21 -0500

From: "Walker, Lindsey" <LWalker@swbts.edu>

To: "postcl6@wfu.edu" <postcl6@wfu.edu>

Subject: Dr. Cecil A. Ray

Part(s):  2 C.A.Ray.pdf application/pdf 790720 KB 

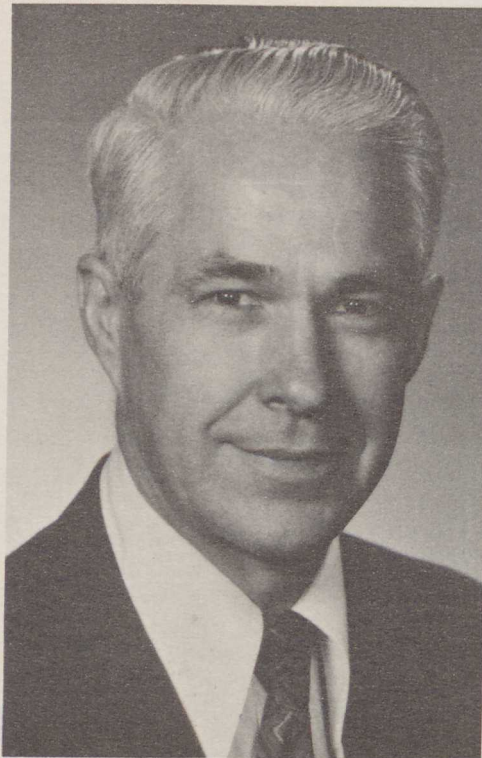
Cindy Good,

I have attached the Bio sheet I had on file for Dr. Cecil A. Ray. The only other thing we have in our system for him is three or four articles he wrote for the Baptist History & Heritage between 1985-1991. I can email those to you also if you would like, just let me know. I did have an address for him on file, it was in a 1989 letter where someone else was requesting information on him. The address is: 3110 Cavu, Georgetown Tx., 78628. The only other person I can think of that might have information on him is Alan Lefever at the Texas Baptist Historical Collection, that number is 972-331-2237.

Please email & let me know if you would like those articles emailed to you & if I can help you with anything else.

Lindsey Walker

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
817-923-1921 ext. 3330
lwalker@swbts.edu<mailto:lwalker@swbts.edu>



CECIL ARMSTRONG RAY, A.B., Th.M., D.D.

Cecil A. Ray was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1922 to the Reverend Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Ray. The elder Ray, now deceased, served as pastor of Baptist churches in Texas for over forty years.

Dr. Ray is married to Charlene Andrews. The Rays are the parents of a daughter, Susan, and a son, Lanny. In 1960, Dr. Ray was selected as the *Texas Baptist Father of the Year* with recognition for providing a "new way of life" for his daughter, a victim of paralytic polio.

Dr. Ray received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard Payne College (now University) in Brownwood, Texas; the Master of Theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree from Howard Payne College.

He served as pastor of the Arnett-Benson Baptist Church of Lubbock, Texas from 1946 to 1956. He was Superintendent of Missions of the San Antonio (Texas) Baptist Association from March, 1956 to April, 1961. From 1961 to 1967, he was the Secretary (Director) of the Cooperative Program and Church Finance Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. In 1968, he became the Director of the Stewardship Division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

On November 11, 1975, he was elected General Secretary-Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina at the Convention's annual session in Asheville.

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Presiding: The Reverend Mr. Coy C. Privette, President
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

ORGAN PRELUDEMrs. James C. Long, Organist, First Baptist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina

INVOCATIONMrs. A. Leroy Parker, Second Vice President
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

HYMN NUMBER 265“God of Grace and God of Glory” Fosdick

SCRIPTURE AND PRAYERThe Reverend Mr. Bob D. Shepherd, President
General Board, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

GREETINGS AND RECOGNITIONS:

State of North CarolinaThe Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor

The Religious CommunityThe Reverend Dr. John W. Cobb
North Carolina Synod, The Lutheran Church in America

General Baptist State Convention ofThe Reverend Dr. O. L. Sherrill
North Carolina General Secretary

Southern Baptist ConventionThe Reverend Dr. Porter Routh
Executive Secretary, Executive Committee
Southern Baptist Convention

ANTHEM“The Lord’s My Shepherd” Crimond
Combined Choirs from the Raleigh ChurchesJoseph O. Stroud, Director
Church Music Department
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

INTRODUCTION OF CECIL A. RAYThe Reverend Dr. Grayson Glass
Chairman, Executive Board
Baptist General Convention of Texas

ADDRESSThe Reverend Dr. Cecil A. Ray
General Secretary-Treasurer, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

PRAYER OF DEDICATIONThe Reverend Dr. Randall Lolley
President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

CHORAL POSTLUDE“Battle Hymn of the Republic”
Instrumentalists, Campbell College Arranged by Ringwald

BENEDICTIONThe Honorable Charles B. Deane, Jr.
First Vice President, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Reception Honoring Dr. and Mrs. Ray
Fellowship Hall

THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes:
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forever more
My dwelling place shall be.

Amen.

Tune: CRIMOND

Text: Psalm 23

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

God of grace and God of glory,
On thy people pour thy pow'r;
Crown thine ancient church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us,
Free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
For the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces
In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor thee!

Amen.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick

Greetings from the Religious Community

"We have always had a good relationship among the leaders of the various jurisdictions of the Christian Church in North Carolina and I believe that this is not only important but imperative.

"I send my best wishes to Dr. Ray and we will pray for a fruitful and happy ministry in the name of our Lord."

Most sincerely,

(The Rt. Rev.) THOMAS A. FRASER
The Bishop of North Carolina
Episcopal Diocese of Central N.C.

"SHALOM,

the biblical Hebrew word for peace is the greeting I extend to North Carolina Baptists and to Dr. Cecil Ray on his installation as Executive Secretary of the Baptist State Convention.

"May God guide his heart and his hand that under his blessed administration each member shall seek the peace of his neighbor; that the great spiritual treasure of our scriptural heritage which we share as Jews and as Baptists may strengthen the bonds of good will and peace which unite us; that the dynamics of peace for all the children of God shall be brought to greater perfection: 'Seek peace and pursue it; there is a future for the man of peace'."

RABBI MAX SELINGER, D.H.L.
President
Greater Carolinas
Association of Rabbis

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Cecil Ray to North Carolina. It has been my pleasure to work with Dr. Crouch in the last four years, and I am sure that the same cordial relationship will exist between Dr. Ray and our denomination. We have read about him in the newspaper and are impressed that North Carolina Baptists have called such a distinguished churchman to this high office. I look forward to many happy associations with him in the future."

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT M. BLACKBURN
Bishop, North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

"My dear Baptist Sisters and Brothers:

"I am very pleased to be able to send to you my congratulations upon the installation of Dr. Cecil Ray as executive secretary of your Baptist State Convention. I also take this opportunity to extend my sincere best wishes to Dr. Ray on the occasion of his installation.

"We live in a world filled with people who need God and who are hungering for some experience of God in their everyday lives. True interior personal conversion, as well as service to our brothers and sisters, should be the special signs of any group that is named after Jesus Christ. May the Baptist and the Roman Catholic people of North Carolina be faithful to their call as God's People.

"It is my sincere hope that working together all the Christian denominations of our state of North Carolina can be a powerful force for good. May God bless and strengthen you and your people for His work."

Fraternally in the Lord,
F. JOSEPH GOSSMAN
Bishop of Raleigh
Roman Catholic Church

"Presbyterians of the Synod of North Carolina rejoice with our Baptist sisters and brothers in the coming of Dr. Cecil Ray to his new ministry among us. As we welcome Dr. Ray to this position of leadership, we look forward to growing ties of fellowship and service in our common mission for Christ in this region."

VERNOL ROBERT JANSEN, JR.
General Secretary
Synod of North Carolina
Presbyterian Church in the United States

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OFFICERS

Coy C. Privette, President
Charles B. Deane, Jr., First Vice-President
Sarah Parker, Second Vice-President
Lamar Brooks, Recording Secretary
Ted Williams, Assistant Recording Secretary
Norman A. Wiggins, Parliamentarian
Cecil A. Ray, General Secretary-Treasurer

INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES OF THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

Date Founded	Institution or Agency
1833	<i>Biblical Recorder</i> , Raleigh J. Marse Grant, Editor/Business Manager
1834	Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem James Ralph Scales, President
1848	Chowan College, Murfreesboro Bruce E. Whitaker, President
1856	Mars Hill College, Mars Hill Fred B. Bentley, President
1885	Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Thomasville W. R. Wagoner, President
1887	Campbell College, Buies Creek Norman A. Wiggins, President
1891	Meredith College, Raleigh John E. Weems, President
1896	Wingate College, Wingate Thomas E. Corts, President
1905	Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs Thomas J. McGraw, Acting President
1919	North Carolina Baptist Foundation, Raleigh Edwin S. Coates, Executive Secretary
1922	North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem John E. Lynch, Director
1951	North Carolina Baptist Homes, Winston-Salem William A. Poole, Executive Director

INSTALLATION PROGRAM COMMITTEE

William H. Boatwright, Raleigh
James C. Cammack, Fayetteville
Helen Cashwell, Raleigh
John M. Lewis, Raleigh
Coy C. Privette, Kannapolis
Bob D. Shepherd, Sanford
Alton H. McEachern, Greensboro, *Chairman*

GENERAL BOARD STAFF

J. Z. Alexander, Cooperative Ministries
 Susan Dills Arch, Cherokee Missions
 Steve Barbee, Campus Ministry
 Betty Barham, Youth Ministry
 William H. Boatwright, Public Relations
 Betty Boggs, Church Ministries and Training
 Alex L. Booth, Jr., Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute
 Davis Bowen, Youth Ministry
 Bobby Boykin, Communications
 Tony Brewington, Mission Ministries
 Tommy Bridges, Mundo Vista
 Nathan C. Brooks, Jr., Church Programs
 Robert H. Bruhn, Pastor/Church Relations
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 Joyce Burchette, Brotherhood
 Velora Buchanan, Maintenance
 Yates Campbell, City Missions
 Marvin Chapman, Baptist Assembly
 Barbara Chason, Sunday School
 Hope Christian, Evangelism
 Doris Clark, Public Relations
 Jack Clark, Church Building Planning
 W. Harry Clarke, Sunday School
 F. Joseph Clontz, Campus Ministry
 W. Douglas Cole, Church Ministries and Training
 Corbin Cooper, Cooperative Ministries
 K. Maurice Cooper, Church Ministries and Training
 Calvin Craig, Jr., Cooperative Ministries
 Nancy Curtis, Woman's Missionary Union
 Sandra Dillard, Woman's Missionary Union
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 Janie Ellis, Church Programs
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 Richard Everett, Evangelism
 Pearl Eversole, Baptist Assembly
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 Tommy L. Fewell, City Missions

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 Charles S. Gatwood, Church Music
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 James Y. Greene, Campus Ministry
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 Henry W. Greer, Campus Ministry
 Lloyd Hales, City Missions
 Ed Hall, Jr., Mail Clerk
 Wyanne Hall, Church Ministries and Training
 Rena Harrod, Data Processing
 Sara Ann Hobbs, Woman's Missionary Union
 Kay Huggins, Campus Ministry
 I. Jolene Ivey, Woman's Missionary Union
 B. W. Jackson, Camp Caraway
 Frances Jones, City Missions
 Lillian Jones, Business Office
 Sallie Jones, Church Programs
 Irene Joyner, Sunday School
 Esther Kidd, Communications
 Yoo Bai Kim, Korean Missions
 Avenelle King, Data Processing
 William C. Lamb, Evangelism
 James Lambert, Town & Country Missions
 Candy Lane, Church Music
 David Langford, Brotherhood
 C. R. Larsen, Campus Ministry
 Betty Lawson, Communications
 Burrell Lucas, Sunday School
 Georgia Ann Lynch, Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute
 Isa Matsumoto, Japanese Missions
 Mary Lou Maynard, Mission Ministries
 Pina Maynard, Woman's Missionary Union
 Hilda Mayo, Sunday School
 Annie S. McDonald, Receptionist
 George McDonald, Baptist Assembly
 Marie McKay, Christian Life
 Elizabeth E. Mercer, Business Office
 Geneva Metzger, Campus Ministry

Ed Middleton, Campus Ministry
 David Moore, Campus Ministry
 Frances Morelock, Campus Ministry
 Doris Morgan, Church Ministries and Training
 Jimmy Morriss, Communications
 T. Robert Mullinax, Higher Education
 Nga Than Nguyen, Vietnamese Missions
 Evelyn Norman, Stewardship/Cooperative Program
 Rosa Oakley, Maintenance
 Sam O'Neal, Insurance and Annuity
 Luther Osment, Town & Country Missions
 Judy Faye Ownby, Cherokee Missions
 José Perez, Spanish Missions
 Quentin Perreault, Town & Country Missions
 Charles Petty, Christian Life
 Neal Peyton, Deaf Ministry
 Robert Phillips, Campus Ministry
 Ronald Pinkerton, City Missions
 Janet Poole, Woman's Missionary Union
 C. Burt Potter, Sunday School
 Jerry Potter, Deaf Ministry
 Betty Pruitt, Campus Ministry
 Cecil A. Ray, Administration
 Joyce Rickman, Pastor/Church Relations
 Frances Riley, Communications
 Robert Riley, Building Superintendent
 Patsy Ritchie, Woman's Missionary Union
 Juanita Robertson, Town & Country Missions
 Dorothy G. Rodger, Church Building Planning
 Toni Toyoko Romine, Oriental Missions
 Judith Scarborough, Data Processing
 Rebecca Scott, Cooperative Ministries
 Kathleen Short, Camp Caraway
 Dorothy Smith, Insurance and Annuity
 Fred J. Smith, Baptist Assembly
 P. H. Smith, Jr., Print Shop
 Richard D. Smith, Business Office

(General Board continued)

Roy J. Smith, Town & Country Missions
Marvin Southard, City Missions
Josephine Steinbeck, Chaplaincy Ministries
Joseph O. Stroud, Church Music
Aileen Taylor, City Mission
Deborah Teates, Stewardship/Cooperative Program
Lynn Tharrington, Brotherhood
Alonzo Tomlinson, Maintenance
Richard Traylor, Church Ministries and Training

Ernest Upchurch, City Missions
Moses Valdes, Spanish Missions
Monroe Vaughn, Business Office
Suthell Walker, Woman's Missionary Union
Sylvia Walkingstick, Cherokee Missions
Martha Watson, Maintenance
Robert E. Watson, Brotherhood
Joseph Watterson, Chaplaincy
Harold M. White, Stewardship/Cooperative Program
Linda Wiggins, Cherokee Missions

E. Cleve Wilkie, Stewardship/Cooperative Program
Virginia C. Williams, Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute
Leo Williams, Jr., Cooperative Ministries
Ruth Williams, Administration
Ted W. Williams, Data Processing
Richard Wright, Cooperative Ministries
Edith Yelverton, Business Office
Grace Yow, Higher Education

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Mrs. W. L. Martin, Jr., Lexington
James O. Mattox, Rutherfordton
Alton McEachern, Greensboro
Ansel McGill, Kannapolis
E. W. McMurray, Moravian Falls
Elwin L. Melton, Havelock
Charles Midkiff, Valdese
O. C. Mitchell, Durham
A. C. Moody, Boone
Richard Muri, Burnsville

Elwyn G. Murray, Jr., Rose Hill
Charles E. Neill, Jr., High Point
Paul C. Nix, Wrightsville Beach
Jack Noffsinger, Winston-Salem
Edd Nye, Elizabethtown
Mrs. A. L. Parker, Greensboro
Larry Patton, Peachland
Mrs. Thomas Petty, Shelby
Coy Privette, Kannapolis
J. Neal Pyatt, Asheville
Lloyd T. Ramsey, Banner Elk
Frank Read, Louisburg
Billy G. Rivers, Hamlet
Jeff G. Roberts, Salemburg
Guy Rogers, Taylorsville
Sanford Sampson, Pembroke
Clifford O. Scott, Dobson
Michael Sepaugh, Sparta
Bob D. Shepherd, Sanford
C. Frank Sitton, N. Wilkesboro
Maynard A. Shaver, Goldsboro
Richard Spencer, Caroleen
Robert Spivey, Windsor
Henry B. Stokes, Buies Creek
Horace Story, Lenoir
Gwyn P. Sullivan, Connelly Springs
Murray Tate, Jr., Hickory
Gary B. Thompson, Washington
Fred H. Troutman, West Jefferson
Raiford Troutman, Concord
A. J. Walker, Roxboro
Marshall White-Hurst, Roanoke Rapids
Harry D. Wood, Eden
Ed Worley, Whiteville
Wade Yates, Asheboro

STATE Texas

OPERATION BAPTIST BIOGRAPHY DATA FORM FOR LIVING PERSON

Please read carefully the *Instruction Sheet* and then list the appropriate information as it directs.

1. NAME RAY CECIL (First) ARMSTRONG (Last)

Give full names. For a married woman please put maiden name in parentheses.

[EXAMPLE: Cole, Mary Ann (Smith).]

MAILING ADDRESS 162 Mink Drive, San Antonio, Texas2. BIRTH Fort Worth Tarrant Texas Dec 9, 19223. PARENTS William Paul Ray and Anne (Armstrong) Ray (Dad and Mom)Father's occupation Baptist Minister Mother's occupation Minister's Wife4. BROTHERS (4) List full names and year of birth
(Living or deceased) NumberTruett Ray (December 2, 1906) Kyle Ray (1908 - died in infancy)Junius Ray (August 3, 1917) Another brother died in infancy5. SISTERS (4) List full names and year of birth
(Living or deceased) NumberMrs. Burnie (Mary Ruth) Cervenka (1910) Margaret (1922 - died at age 7)Mrs. Arthur (Annie Beth) Hunsinger (1929) Anna (Date of birth unknown - died in infancy)

6. CHILDHOOD RESIDENCE: (Please list each residence of 3 years duration or more, up to the time of the 18th birthday)

Type of Community	Post Office	County	State	Dates
Rural (R); town under 2500 pop. (T); city 2500 or more pop. (C). Check one.				

R ☒ T ☐ C ☐	<u>Eldorado</u>	<u>Schleicher</u>	<u>Texas</u>	<u>1923-1926</u>
R ☐ T ☐ C ☒	<u>San Angelo</u>	<u>Tom Green</u>	<u>Texas</u>	<u>1926-1933</u>
R ☐ T ☒ C ☐	<u>Llano</u>	<u>Llano</u>	<u>Texas</u>	<u>1933-1939</u>

7. EDUCATION:

Grammar school: Graduate? Yes () No () Year graduated 1935High school: Graduate? Yes () No () Year graduated 1939School attended: Llano High School Llano Texas (state)

(Whether graduate or not; if more than one was attended, show the last one.)

College: Years attended: None () One () 2-3 () Graduate ()
Whether graduated or not, list college(s) attended: (EXAMPLE: 1935-'38)San Angelo College San Angelo Texas (State) 1939 (Years attended) (Degree)Howard Payne College Brownwood Texas (State) 1939-1942 (Years attended) (Degree)Graduate-level: List college(s), seminary(ies), etc. attended; earned degrees
(Name) (Place) (State) (Years attended) (Degree)Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas 1943-1946 Th. M.

8. SPECIAL AWARDS OR RECOGNITION RECEIVED: (Honorary degrees, such as: D.D., Howard College, 1948; citations, such as: *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*, 1939; honorary positions, such as: "Man of the Year"—Pryor, Okla., 1943; etc.)

9. MARITAL INFORMATION:

Spouse	Birthdate of Spouse	Place of Marriage (Town and State)	Date of Marriage
(1) <u>Charlene (Andrews) Ray</u>	<u>Jan. 6, 1923</u>	<u>San Angelo, Texas</u>	<u>June 15, 1942</u>
(2)			

Number of children (2). List their full names and birthdates: (an example of a married daughter would be: Mrs. John Alan (Mary Lou) Ross, 3-7-1918)

Barbara Susan Ray - July 14, 1947

Robert Landon (Lanny) Ray - September 10, 1949

10. VOCATIONAL HISTORY (List all vocations, occupations, trades, or professions engaged in for two or more years)

Teacher in Public School,

Pastor, Association Superintendent of Missions

11. RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE:

Conversion 1929 7 Baptism 1929 Immanuel San Angelo, Texas
(Date) (Age) (Date) (Church) (Location of Church)

List any church, other than Baptist, with which formerly affiliated

Ordained as: Minister (x) Deacon () Other

August, 1940 Immanuel Baptist San Angelo Texas
(Date ordained) (Church) (Place) (State)

12. LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVITY, *UNSALARIED* (Place the number of years service, in the space provided, for each office ever held.)

Gen. Supt., Director, President	Dept. Supt., Director, Circle Chm.	Teacher, Counselor, Sponsor, Leader	List below other offices or service, such as: Sec., Assoc. Supt., etc.	Other Offices (give number of years service)	
				Deacon	Ch. Treas.
				Trustee	Ch. Library
				Usher	Ch. Recreation
				Ch. Clerk	Choir Mem.
				Other	Choir Direc.
				Ch. Committee Chm.	
				List completed Study Course diplomas (Indicate related organizations, such as: S.S., T.U., etc.)	

13. DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE, *UNSALARIED*. (Please list positions held in Baptist associations, conventions (state or Southern), national and world-wide organizations, such as; moderator, president, clerk, trustee, board, commission or committee members; etc.)

Example: S.S. Superintendent Bethel Association Kentucky 1942-1944
(Position) (Organization, board, agency, etc.) (State) (Date)

Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, Brotherhood President Lubbock Assoc. Texas 1946-1956

President, Business Manager Plains Baptist Assembly Floydada, Texas 1950-1956

Executive Board Member Baptist General Convention of Texas 1951-1954
District 9 Stewardship Chairman - Lubbock, Texas 1956

Chairman Boy Building Committee (BSU- Texas Tech) Lubbock, Texas 1953

14. TO BE FILLED OUT ONLY BY THOSE WHO ARE, OR HAVE BEEN, IN SALARIED CHURCH-RELATED VOCATIONS. (Including pastors, denominational workers, missionaries, ministers of education and music, church secretaries, faculty members or employees of Baptist institutions, agencies, etc.)

TYPE AND LENGTH OF SERVICE: List all positions of such service with one or more years of duration; check F (full-time) or P (part-time). Examples:

(Position)	(Church, agency, area, institution, place of service)	(Date of service)
F ☐ P ☒	1. pastor County Line Baptist Church, Turkey Creek, La.	1925-1929
F ☒ P ☐	2. missionary Ogbomosho, Nigeria, W. Africa	1930-1952
F ☐ P ☒	Pastor Bennett Baptist Church Llano, Texas	1941
F ☐ P ☒	Pastor Hatchell Baptist Church Rt 2, Winters, Texas	1942
F ☒ P ☐	Pastor Rowena Baptist Church Rowena, Texas	1942-1944
F ☐ P ☒	Pastor Star Ridge Baptist Church Sulphur Springs, Tex.	1944
F ☒ P ☐	Pastor Alexander Baptist Church Alexander, Texas	1944-1945
F ☒ P ☐	Pastor Arnett-Benson Baptist Church Lubbock, Texas	1946-1956
F ☒	Missionary San Antonio Baptist Association, S.A. Texas	1956 to present

15. OTHER TYPES OF RELIGIOUS SERVICE: (In associations, assemblies, colleges, conventions (state or Southern), national or world-wide meetings, such as: speaker, music director, committee chairman, etc.)

(Position)	(Place of Service)	(Date of Service)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

16. AUTHORSHIP (Include books, booklets, lesson courses or curriculum material, and tracts)

(Book, item, etc.)	(Publisher)	(Date published)
Holy Spirit and His Ministry	Story Book Press, Dallas, Texas	1952
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

17. CLUB OR GROUP MEMBERSHIP: (Service organizations, fraternal, P.T.A., Civic, etc.) List important positions of leadership held

Optimist Club (Chaplain), Lubbock, Texas
SERTOMA (Chaplain), San Antonio, Texas

18. HOBBIES AND LEISURE INTERESTS:

Favorite Designing and building equipment for daughter who is a polio victim. Others _____

19. PUBLIC SERVICE: (Military, educational, political, etc. not previously listed)

1. Asst. Scout Master, B.S.A., Rowena, Tex. 2. Cubmaster, B.S.A., Lubbock, Tex.
3. Literature Decency Committee, Lubbock, Tex. 4. Chairman County Right of Ways Committee, Lubbock, Texas.

The information for items #1-19 has been filled in by Cecil A. Ray

Mailing address 162 Mink Drive, San Antonio, Texas

Sources used in compiling the information are: (Example: personal knowledge; minutes, Calvary Baptist Church, Wisner, La.; Court Records, Copiah County, Miss.; etc.)
Personal knowledge

(This space to be filled in by one other than the subject of the biographical data)

20. DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERIZATION (Please read special instruction sheet and sample descriptive characterizations carefully before proceeding.)

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERIZATION OF CECIL A. RAY

Cecil A. Ray (1922-), a dedicated minister of the Gospel possesses unusual abilities in the area of organization and promotion of denominational work.

The youngest son of a Baptist preacher, Rev. Ray answered the call to the ministry during his freshman year of college. He pastored five rural churches before completing his education at Southwestern Seminary.

He married Charlene Andrews, a devoted Christian, in 1942 and she has been a real source of strength to him in his ministry. They have two children, a daughter, Susan, and a son, Lanny.

Starting with the Arnett-Benson Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas in its beginning, the membership grew to 1,500 during his ten years as pastor there. He led in the construction of buildings to accommodate over 800 in the auditorium and Sunday School. It was while in Lubbock that their daughter, Susan, was stricken with crippling polio. Out of love and appreciation for the pastor and family, the members of his congregation, along with others who had heard of their plight, built a parsonage with a room for Susan especially designed to meet her needs. Since that time, Rev. Ray has designed, built and patented numerous devices such as portable iron lungs, special chairs and portable respirator units to make life easier for Susan.

In March, 1956, Rev. Ray accepted the work of Superintendent of Missions for the San Antonio Baptist Association. Every phase of the Baptist work has shown remarkable growth through his planning and direction. He is an excellent counsellor to the local pastors and congregations and having been a pastor qualifies him to readily understand their duties and problems.

Shortly after his arrival in San Antonio, he saw the opportunity and need for enlarging the work with the Latin American people. Soon a Spanish-speaking minister was selected to assist him in the promotion of this work.

Much of the credit for the beautiful new Baptist Building in San Antonio which provides office space for the Association staff and the staff of District Six goes to Rev. Ray. It was largely the results of his vision and long-range planning that a Bond Program was launched to finance the construction of the building.

Rev. Ray's fine spirit and sincere desire to further the Master's work inspires the respect and cooperation from those with whom he labors.

Name of person writing the above characterization Mrs. Buna W. Burnett
P. O. Address 1930 West Mulberry, San Antonio 1, Texas
Return to:
Name _____
P. O. Address _____

Date: Wed, 20 Aug 2008 13:56:21 -0500
From: "Walker, Lindsey" <LWalker@swbts.edu>
To: "postcl6@wfu.edu" <postcl6@wfu.edu>
Subject: Dr. Cecil A. Ray
Part(s):  2 C.A.Ray.pdf application/pdf 790720 KB 

Cindy Good,

I have attached the Bio sheet I had on file for Dr. Cecil A. Ray. The only other thing we have in our system for him is three or four articles he wrote for the Baptist History & Heritage between 1985-1991. I can email those to you also if you would like, just let me know. I did have an address for him on file, it was in a 1989 letter where someone else was requesting information on him. The address is: 3110 Cavu, Georgetown Tx., 78628. The only other person I can think of that might have information on him is Alan Lefever at the Texas Baptist Historical Collection, that number is 972-331-2237. Please email & let me know if you would like those articles emailed to you & if I can help you with anything else.

Lindsey Walker

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
817-923-1921 ext. 3330
lwalker@swbts.edu<<mailto:lwalker@swbts.edu>>

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 2008 09:49:52 -0500
From: "Copeland, Phil" <PCopeland@swbts.edu>
To: Cindy Post <postcl6@wfu.edu>
Subject: RE: Alumni info request

Cindy,

The current address in the Alumni file for Dr. Cecil A. Ray is:
11403 January Dr.
Austin TX 78753.

I did forward your request to the Archive Department in our library and also to the Communications Department here at school to see if they have any additional information for you. They may contact you directly. Should they send any information to me, I will send it to you.

Blessings,

Phil

-----Original Message-----

From: Cindy Post [mailto:postcl6@wfu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 10:44 AM
To: Copeland, Phil
Subject: Alumni info request

Hello Mr. Copeland,

My name is Cindy Good. I'm working in the North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University. I am compiling information on the former General Secretaries for the N.C. Baptist State Convention. I am looking for any information on Dr. Cecil Armstrong Ray. My records end in 1983 when he left NC and the State BC to move to Nashville to work for the national Baptist Association. If you have any information about further accomplishments and his current status, I would appreciate your sending it to me at this email address. If you have a source, please note that, otherwise I will cite you as the source. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cindy Good
postcl6@wfu.edu