Historic Virginia Seminary holds 95th Commencement on Lynchburg campus

Lynchburg vice mayor receives honorary Doctor of Laws degree

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Many were the highlights of the 95th annual commencement of the Lynchburg Virginia Seminary held on the campus here May 25.

Noteworthy was the presence of the heads of seven powerful Baptist organizations totaling 2,500 churches who reaffirmed support of the accredited institution established in May, 1886 by the Virginia Baptist State Convention and incorporated by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The colorful 7 p.m. ceremonies attended by relatives, friends and alumni across the nation were held in Humbles Hall with chief adadministrator Dr. A. C. D. Vaughn, Baltimore, presiding and Dr. Robert

DR. MURRELL WARREN THORNHILL, JR. vice-mayor of Lynchburg, Mortician, City Councilman.

A. Laws noted orator and pastor of the largest Brooklyn, N.Y. church, speaker.

Sustained applause accompanied the bestowal of the honorary Doctor of Laws upon Dr. Murrell Warren Thornhill Jr., vice-mayor of Lynchburg, former City Councilman, mortician, and humanitarian.

The presidents of the conventions pledging support and great days ahead for the Seminary are: Dr. John foster, Virginia Baptist State Convention 500 churches Dr. Matthew L. Silver, United Baptist Convention of Maryland, 600 churches; Dr. A. C. D. Vaughn, Baltimore Clergy in Action, 55 churches; Dr. Richard Wood, New York Metropolitan Ministers Conference, (N.Y., Conn. and N.J.) 900 churches; Dr. A. A. Booker, Northern Va., Association (District of Columbia included), 400 churches; Dr. Leroy Fitts, Baltimore Baptist Ministers Conference, the largest longtime supporter, 400 churches.

Also, Dr. Madelean C. Phelps, Forest, Va. Peaks of Otters Womens Convention of over 800 church women, received the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Individual clergymen and citizens pledging support include Dr. J. O. Johnson, retired dean, teacher 50 years and alumnus who attended commencement for the 57th straight year Dr. William E. Gordon, alumnus over 60 years who received a citation; Dr. Willard L. Clayton, acting president three years whose portrait by Ryales was hung in the Hall of Presidents Dr. James Robert Moore, New York and Dr. A. R. Walker all of whom received plaques.

A bronze, silver and gold plaque went to Dr. Vaughn, the chief administrator two years, from the board of managers which he chairs.

Rev. Avery Penn, Baltimore, succeeds Dr. Edward L. Bruce as president of the Seminary National Alumni Association. Dr. Eddie R. Wilson acting dean Baltimore, was elected treasurer and Dr. Langford Hankins, vice president.

Another Doctor of Laws degree recipient is Dr. Richard Wood, Norwalk, Conn., from a family of three Seminary graduates who was a vice president of the National Baptist Convention USA.

Honorary doctorates presented in December went to Dr. Vernon Dobson, Dr. Elizabeth M. Oliver, Baltimore and Rev. Nathaniel Baldwin, South Boston, Va.

The 16 graduates are CONTINUING EDUCATION — Dennis Green Jr., Robert E. Layton, Arthur L. Mercer, George Oliver, Herbert Scott, Keysville Extention BACHELOR OF ARTS - George Bolding Jr., Mary Carroll, Charles Feagin, Fletcher Miller, Lloyd Mills, Otis Richardson and Jacqueline Taylor. MASTER OF DIVINITY - Revs. Lewis Campbell, Alvin Gwynn, Avery Penn, Alex Young.

Others on the program were Dr. Harlie Wilson, Israel Baptist Baltimore pastor; Dr. Milton Foster, director of the Keysville Extention; Dr. Cleveland Freeman, St. Johns, Porthmouth; Mrs. Janet Lockhart, South Boston; Dr. Wilson and E. L. Bruce, awards.

Dr. Vaughn, Dr. Clayton, Dr. Wilson, Dr. W. D. Tyree the treasurer, and Dr. Harry Ferguson, awarded certificates and degrees.

Music was by the Lynchburg Community Choir and benediction by Rev. James A. Braxton, vice president, Va. Baptist State Convention.

Lynchburg, Va. campus shows Dr. A. C. D. 95TH COMMENCEMENT SCENE May 25 at 7 p.m. in the Humbles Hall Auditorium on the Vaughn, chairman of the Board of Managers presiding.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Board of Managers includes: First row center, Dr. William L. Clayton, Baltimore, acting president; Back Row (C), Board Chairman Dr. A.C.D. Vaughn, Baltimore; (L to R) Dr. William Tyree, Norfolk, treasurer; Dr. Clayton, Dr. John Foster, Norfolk; Dr. Cleveland Freeman, Portsmouth; Dr. Leroy Fitts, Baltimore, chair administrative committee; Dr. Vaughn, Dr. Eddie R. Wilson, acting dean and Dr. L. W. Chase, Virginia Beach, vice - chairman.

2,500 Baptist Churches stand behind Seminary

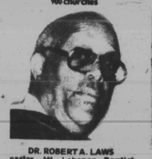
DR. A. C. D. VAUGHN chairman of the board, president, Baltimore Baptist Clergy in Action 55churches

DR. JOHN FOSTER president, Va. Baptist State Convention 500churches

DR. MATTHEW L. SILVER president, United Baptist Convention of Md.; Seminary board member 600churches

DR. RICHARD WOOD president, N.Y., Conn., N.J., Metropolitan Ministers Conference 900churches

DR. MADELEAN C. PHELPS Doctor of Humane Letters, president, Peaks of Otters Women's Convention, Virginia. 800churches



DR. ROBERT A. LAWS pastor, Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., commencement address

DR. J. O. JOHNSON retired dean, teacher 50 years.

DR. HARRY FERGUSON Seminary instructor, retired Lynchburg principal.

MRS. SALLY THORNHILL administrative assistant to board chairman and chief administrator Vaughn.

DR. THOMAS EDWARD HOLMES

President-elect serves on Yale, New Haven Seminary faculties

Dr. Thomas Edward Holmes, 51, New Haven, Conn., a Seminary graduate with bachelor, master and doctorate degrees from the college, is the president-elect as announced this week.

Dr. Holmes, on the faculty of Yale University and The New Haven Theological Seminary dean, is pastor of Community Baptist Church, New Haven and pursuing a doctor of Ministry Degree at Princeton University.

He is slated to take the Virginia Seminary post at the opening of the September term.

He has served as full-time and part-time instructor at the Seminary and extension school and has held pastorates at Memorial Baptist, South Boston, Va.; Boston Union Baptist, Dillwyn, Va. and Pilgrim Baptist, Roanoke, Va.

DR. THOMAS E. HOLMES

THEOLOGY GRADS include Rev. Lewis Campbell, Master of Divinity who is founder of Longs Memorial Baptist Church at North and Druid Hill, Baltimore; Rev. Avery Penn, Master of Divinity, Baltimore insurance executive; Alvin Gwynn, Master of Divinity, Baltimore, who was elected president of the alumni association; Rev. Alex Young, Master of Divinity, pastor of East Baltimore's Mt. Carmel Baptist Church (not shown) and Rev. Mrs. Jacqueline Taylor, Baltimore (not show); Rev. George Bolding Jr., Bluefield, W.Va.; Mrs. Mary Carroll, Charles Feagin, Fletcher Miller, Lloyd Mills, Otis Richardson, all Baltimore, all Bachelor of Arts in Theology.

HONORS BESTOWED upon special persons included a plaque each presented by (R) Dr. Eddie R. Wilson, Dean and director of the Maryland Baptist Extension School, and Dr. William Tyree, Seminary treasurer, went to Dr. William E. Gordon, 60 years a Lynchburg businessman; Dr. James Moore, 53 - year pastor, Amity Baptist Church, Jamaica, L.I., N.Y.; Dr. A. R. Walker, minister of Portsmouth, Va., 49 years and Dr. A.C.D. Vaughn, chairman of the Board, chief administrator two years.

GRADUATES of the Department of Continuing Education included ministers of the Seminary's Keysville, Va. Extension School — Revs. Dennis Green Jr., Robert Earl Layton, Arthur Leroy Mercer, George Oliver and Herbert Scott.

Photos by Ryales

LYNCHBURG COMMUNITY CHOIR of talented voices includes Florence Greene, Cordelia Goins, Jean Johnson, Fannie Walthall, Marie Smith, Ida Anderson, Margaret Smith, Carolyn Hubbard, Pauline Everett, Pam Calloway, Laura Williams, John Hughes, Albert Thomas, Laurence Andres, Wilson Smith and David Massie.

HISTORIC HALL Humbles Hall auditorium, built in 1922 honors the Lynchburg wealthy black businessman, Adolphus Humbles, and is on the state's Historic Register signaling the veteran Seminary founded in May, 1886 during the 19th annual session of the Virginia Baptist State Convention. The conerstone of the first campus building was laid in July, 1888. The May, 1981 Commencement marked the 95th year of graduations for the incorporated institution of higher learning as stated in the official records of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This year the Virginia Baptist State Convention new president Dr. John Foster reaffirmed its full support for the 114th year. The 30 persons with either earned or honorary doctorates seated on the platform above arrived on the campus from all sections of the United States.

THE LIVING CHURCH

United Baptist Missionary convention held at Perkins Square

RECEPTION COMMITTEE members shown with one of the guest speakers at the annual session of the United Baptist Missionary Convention Women's Auxiliary shown from (L), are Bernita Paige, Betty Johnson, Bessie Mason, Dr. Mary Ross, speaker; Lustrina Coleman and Ida Redd. Not shown are Dr. Myra Taylor, Marjorie Green and Ethel Thornton.

Photo by James L. Gantt

By Marjorie R. Green

The Women's Convention, Auxiliary to the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland, during its 55th annual session, had Dr. Mary O. Ross, president of the Women's Convention Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., as their guest speaker.

A native of Georgia, Dr. Ross presides over an estimated four million black women, believed to be the largest body of women in the world.

She is a graduate of Spellman College and has done graduate studies at Wayne State and the University of Michigan. She is listed in Who's Who Among American Women and has received world wide recognition for her untiring efforts in the fields of Christan education and public service.

She is a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, Detroit Michigan where her late husband, the Rev. Solomon D. Ross served as pastor.

In her message to more than 600 missionary women assembled at Perkins Square Baptist Church, 2500 Edmondson Ave., recently, Dr. Ross commented on the Women's selection of an appropriate program theme "Christ The Center, Center of Salvation" She also spoke to the general convention on "New Dimensions with Christ the Center."

Dr. Ross was accompanied on her trip by Dr. Myra L. Taylor, editor of the National Baptist Women's Magazine. Dr. Taylor gave greetings to the United Baptist Missionary Women's Auxiliary during the same program.

The two national leaders were so impressed with the local women's group that they extended their stay in Baltimore to include the Thursday afternoon address of outgoing president, Mrs. Betty L. Johnson and the evening musical presented by the Voice's of the convention, directed by the Rev. Lawyer L. Swinson.

Delegates to the convention devoted the major part of Thursday morning to recognition of the International Year of the Disabled with a special musical presentation by the youth.

Newly elected officers were installed by Miss Helen Benton, former auxiliary president and current National President of the Women's Auxiliary of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

Mrs. Bessie Mason, former first vice president and member of Faith Baptist Church is the new president. Mrs. Ida Redd, first lady of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church is the first vice president and Miss Laura Whitfield of Enon Baptist Church is second vice president.

Mrs. Clotelle Jones, first lady of Jones Tabernacle Baptist Church is third vice president.

Other officers installed to serve a four year term were Mrs. Margaret Williams, recording secretary; Mrs. Maggie Greene, financial secretary; Mrs. Chessie Bradley, treasurer; Mrs. Mary Gwaltney, assistant recording secretary.

Also, Mrs. Camilla Jones, pianist; Mrs. Theophra Silver, historian; Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, parliamentarian; Mrs. Clementine Henson, president-at-large.

Mrs. Betty L. Johnson, former president of the women's convention said in her outgoing remarks, "It is not our business to witness as an organization, but rather to inform the world of a living organism which is called the body of Christ.

"I would like to admonish you women of this great expansion that to be witnesses, you must find the right place. Mrs. Johnson expressed her personal gratitude and thanks to each of the officers, missionary presidents, committee chairpersons and board members who served with her.

The former president received numerous gifts and a bouquet of flowers. She was introduced to the delegates in an emotional introduction given by her husband, Herman Johnson.

Other women who extended greetings during the session were Mrs. Bessie Mason, Mrs. Jacqueline Brooks, president Congress of Christian Education, UBMC Miss Helen Benton, president Women's Auxiliary, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

Also, Mrs. Frances Meginnins, president Church Women United of Greater Baltimore; Mrs. Malinda Williams, president United Baptist Women of Maryland; Mrs. Frances Andrews, president, Women's Missior Auxiliary Union of Maryland and Mrs. Mary Clark, American Baptist Women of the South, president American Baptist Women, Maryland Area.

The 56th annual session of the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland will be held at Calvary Baptist Church, 2011 Garrsion Blvd. The Rev. Lorenzo Graves will be the host pastor.

FORMER PRESIDENTS who were honored at the annual session of the United Baptist Missionary Convention, Inc. and Auxiliaries of Maryland shown from (L), are Miss Helen Benton, Mrs. Mary L. Harrington and Mrs. Betty L. Johnson. The five day convention was held recently at Perkins Square Baptist Church, 2500 Edmondson Ave., where the Rev. Richard H. Ogle is pastor.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

MALE OFFICERS shown at the United Baptist Missionary Convention, Inc. and Auxiliaries of Maryland are the Reverends Matthew R. Silver, president; Lorenzo Graves, Olin Moyd, Nathaniel Higgs, John L. Wright, E. J. Williams and Richard H. Ogle.

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

Youth revival at City Temple

The Junior Missionaries of City Temple Baptist Church, Dolphin and Eutaw Streets, will sponsor youth revival services June 9-11, 7:30 p.m.

Speakers are the Reverends Randolph Taylor, Ralph White, Gregory Turner and the Rev. Ailliam W. Payne is pastor.

21 WOMEN who are members of New Shiloh Baptist Church, Fremont Avenue and Lanvale Street, were honored on Mother's Day and described as "the ideal mother." Shown are Dorothy Smith, Ruth Lucas, Odessa Harris, Jacqueline McElveen, Mary Jackson, Chistobel Robinson, Lillious Bryant, Emma Garrin, Lillian Smith, Annie Taylor, Freddie Sloan, Olivia Jones, Hattie Marshall, Lula Files, Martha Miles, Beverly Clark, Doris Taylor, Geneva Hill, Addie Williams, Kathleen Gotham and Dorotha Foster.

Photo by Donald Lee

Metro Church Briefs

A musical extravaganza will be held June 7, 3 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave. Proceeds from the musical will be donated to the Men's Day committee. Mrs. Evelyn Williams is chairperson Jeffrey Heckstall, director, Donald Parker is president and the Rev. Marcus G. Wood is pastor.

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Greater Scripture Temple Church, 5000 Edmondson Ave., will sponsor miracle crusade services on June 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. at the church. Bishop C. L. Lancy is pastor.

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A testimonial will be held June 6, 6:30 p.m. in honor of Dr. Morris R. Lane at St. Johns Christian Community Church, 1208 East Lanvale Street.

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Joy Night will be observed June 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Ray of Hope Baptist Church, 3000 Parkside Drive featuring the Young People's Choir and the C. M. Franklin Inspirationals of Ray of Hope, The Voices of Glory, The Young Adult Choir of First Charity Baptist, The Watkins Singers and the Gaiter Singers. The Rev. Charles M. Franklin Sr., is pastor.

The Ensemble of Israel Baptist Church, Preston and Chester Street will celebrate their anniversary on June 6, 7 p.m. at Preston and Chester Street. Michael Deener is president Bernetta McNair is vice president and the Rev. Dr. H. Walden Wilson is pastor.

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The Progressive Workers Club of Providence Baptist Church, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., will sponsor a flea market on June 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the rear of the church on Brunt Street.

MRS. MYRNA POWELL, an active member of Ebenezer Baptist Church will be the 4 p.m. Women's Day speaker on Sunday, June 7 at Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, 430 East Belvedere Ave. The Rev. Mrs. Cynthia Jones, assistant pastor of Jones Tabernacle Baptist Church is the 11 a.m. speaker and the Rev. Dr. Howard R. Queen is pastor of Pleasant Hope. Mrs. Shirley J. Maynor is Women's Day chairman.

Men's Day will be observed on June 7 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 2000 East Belvedere Ave. The theme is "Growing as Men in Christ." The Rev. Mark A. Riddix is pastor and will preach at the 11 a.m. services. The Rev. Herman A. Ford, pastor of Fountain Baptist Church will be the 4 p.m. speaker. Lee Boulware is chairman and Joseph Thomas is co-chairman.

The United Methodist Women will sponsor a dinner and talent show on June 5, 5:30 p.m. at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Dolphin and Etting Street.

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The Senior Choir of Memorial Baptist Church, Caroline and Preston Street will present The Swinson Jubilee Singers in concert on June 6, 7 p.m.

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Members of Union Memorial Baptist Church will sponsor a building fund project featuring the CBS Trumpeteers, the Melodyaires in concert on June 7, at Westminster High School in Westmmister, Md.

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The women of Trinity Baptist Church, 1601 Druid Hill Ave., will observe their 51st annual Women's Day on June 7. The day will begin with a prayer breakfast at 9 a.m. with Mrs. Philathia R. Calhoun as the speaker.

Mrs. Calhoun is the president of the Women's Guild of Trinity. Mrs. Margaret Smith, representative of the 22nd district of Illinois is the 11 a.m. speaker. The Rev. William C. Calhoun is pastor.

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A Women's Day prayer breakfast will be held Sunday, June 7, 7:45 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Macedonia Baptist Church, Lafayette and Fremont Ave. Evangelist Eva Sapp from Mount Pleasant Grove Baptist Church will be the speaker. The Rev. W. L. Clayton is pastor.

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Members of New Fellowship Christian Community Church will honor their pastor, the Rev. Kevin A. Rogers on June 7, 7 p.m. at Martin's