

SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
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Agreement Concerning
Views of Christian Faith
in Shanghai Baptist College
and Seminary



Foreign Mission Board
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
Richmond, Va.

THE FOREIGN Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society conduct Shanghai Baptist College and Seminary, Shanghai, China, as a joint Christian enterprise. The Societies, backed by their large American Baptist constituencies, are seeking to make the school a thoroughly first-class institution, designed and equipped to furnish the very best education for Chinese students. They are grateful for the generous recognition and large patronage which has been given the school by the Chinese who have sent their sons to it.

The American Trustees have, in response to requests of Chinese who are interested in Shanghai Baptist College, formally authorized co-education in the institution. Suitable equipment will be added to adapt the school to this larger purpose and make it more completely to serve the interests of Chinese citizens who seek the education of their children. Great care will be taken to provide those safeguards and advantages which young men and young women need for their proper training and the development of their moral character and social behavior.

Shanghai College will hereafter confer the Master's degree on conditions of scholarship which compare favorably with the standards recognized for this degree by the best American colleges, thus making it possible for Chinese students to

acquire a full college course in an institution which is devoted exclusively to Chinese education.

The school is, however, frankly Christian with Christian purposes. It was established and is maintained by the two American Mission Boards with money given by Christian men and women who feel that the best service they can render China is to foster Christian ideals and provide opportunity for intellectual culture under Christian auspices. In order to fulfill these aims it is necessary that both Christian example and Christian truth, spiritual life and the teaching of the principles of Christian faith and life, should be active in the schools. Christian life is nurtured and controlled by certain truths which are revealed in the Word of God. It is by the joint influence of a consistent Christian life and the faithful teaching of Christian truth that men and women may render the largest service to students and others. The elemental truths of the Gospel of Christ produce and guide spiritual life and the best intellectual activities. American colleges and universities were not produced by the philosophy of which they are exponents. Universities and intellectual range and freedom are the fruits of evangelical faith. The faith of the churches and not the philosophy of the universities has been the active, creative thing in American intellectual life. Christian truth has nurtured civilization. Where Christian truth is corrupted civilization is imperilled. Believing that the elements of

Christian faith which they hold are capable of working great benefits for China, Southern Baptists are jealous that these shall be promulgated in the schoolroom and wherever their missionaries go.

In recent months criticism and complaints have come to the American Boards concerning some of the teaching in Shanghai Baptist College and Seminary as regards the elements of Christian faith. The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society have taken these criticisms under long and faithful consideration, and have now reached an agreement concerning the purposes of this school and the safeguarding of Christian truth in its classrooms. The announcement of this agreement is published by the Foreign Mission Board in English and Chinese for the benefit of all who are interested in the school, and especially for the information of missionaries of the two Boards and Chinese Christians with whom this Board is co-operating in Christian service in China and who have peculiar interest in Shanghai Baptist College and Seminary.

The following is a section of the revised By-Laws and the further agreement which the two American Boards have reached concerning this matter of the Christian purpose of the school and the teaching of Christian truth by those who are connected with it. The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention takes pleasure in announcing this agreement, and asks

that all the missionaries of this Board and Chinese Christians with whom we are in co-operation give this statement of agreement serious consideration, accept it as a satisfactory settlement of the matter with which it deals, and that they give the school their unqualified confidence and loyal support. The American Boards will continue to exercise a jealous watchcare over the institution with the view to its rendering a large service to the Chinese people and the fulfillment of its Christian and missionary purposes.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD,
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION,
J. F. LOVE, *Cor. Sec'y*,
Richmond, Virginia, U. S. A.

Statement by the Board of Trustees of Shanghai Baptist College and Seminary

We have incorporated in the By-Laws a section declaring the Christian purpose of the Institution as follows:

Article 1. Section 3. The purpose in founding the Institution being to propagate the Christian faith and to promote evangelical Christianity under the auspices of the Baptist denomination, those who in any way participate in the management of the schools or hold regular professorships in them shall be members of Baptist churches who are loyal to the Saviour and the Gospel and the generally accepted evangelical and Baptist positions. (End of the By-Law.)

Upon satisfactory evidence that anyone connected with the schools is not loyal to the declaration and purpose made in the above By-Law, the Board responsible for the appointment will investigate the case, and, if necessary, will remove such a person from his or her position.

We wish to put on record that President F. J. White, of the Shanghai Baptist College and Seminary, voluntarily appeared before us and voluntarily stated that the teachers of the College and Seminary believe and teach the truths specified in the By-Laws proposed by the Southern Board, namely, "the inspiration of the Old and New Testament, the Deity of Christ, His atoning death for sinners, His resurrection, second coming, and the salvation of men through faith in Him as Saviour and Lord."

We give full credence to the statement made by Dr. White, and ask our constituencies to do the same, and pledge ourselves to put forth our most devoted efforts to preserve the faithful teaching of such precious truths in the institution.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION:

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