

August 17, 1962

U. S. Agency Sets
Church Policy Abroad

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Agency for International Development (AID) will provide United States funds for religious schools and organizations to carry out foreign aid programs in other countries.

A spokesman for the agency confirmed the new policy statement, "Policy Determinations," was approved by the agency's executives. No public announcement was made, but copies of the statement have recently been sent to religious organizations engaged in overseas projects.

The policy statement was drawn up for guidance of agency personnel. It declares "religious organizations will be considered along with other available resources" for meeting the needs of countries getting international development aid.

A top agency official said the policy statement is based on the philosophy that "the important thing is helping people, not arguing over who gets credit for it."

The document specifies that the agency is prepared to consider requests for funds both from U. S. church-affiliated voluntary agencies and religious agencies and institutions in foreign countries.

It states that the agency is willing to assist church schools or school systems in foreign countries. "The presence or absence of religious instruction in the curriculum of a national school system is in itself not a determining element," it says.

Probably referring to such controversies as the recent one about American aid to Catholic schools in Colombia, the Agency for International Development statement emphasizes that "domestic and foreign sensibilities" require careful handling of projects involving assistance to religious schools.

It says, however, such projects may be "favorably considered" if they are found to be "compatible" with the overall agency program for the country concerned, and if they are endorsed by the host country.

Provided these criteria are met, it says, there would be no inherent objection to providing funds, for example, to help a U. S. religious organization build a missionary school in Africa.

It says U. S. aid might also be extended to church schools which are "recognized as part of the national school system," and cites the Roman Catholic normal schools of Peru as an illustration.

In school systems where religious instruction is a required or customary part of the curriculum, the statement says, "The decisive factor" in extending U. S. aid is whether the project will serve the overall purposes of economic development laid out in the master program for that country.

"The presence or absence of religious instruction in the curriculum of a national school system is in itself not a determining element," it adds.

The policy statement also authorizes the agency's contracts with U. S. or foreign religious organizations to carry out economic development projects in fields other than education, provided the religious organization "appears to be the most effective instrument for accomplishing the job to be done."

"Appropriate safeguards," however, must be provided to insure that the religious agency is "selected on a non-discriminatory basis" and that it does not take advantage of the project for "proselytizing."

The new document was prepared by the agency's office of educational and social development. It has been approved by the executive staff and is to serve as a guide for future policy.

Baptist Schools Ask
For Federal Loans

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two Southern Baptist schools were among eight church-related colleges asking for college housing loans in July, according to a report from Commissioner Sidney H. Woolner of the Community Facilities Administration here.

Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., a Baptist senior college applied for \$200,000. Chowan College, Murfreesboro, N. C., a Baptist junior college, asked for \$550,000.

Woolner said the applications are made public "so that private lenders may negotiate with the institutions if they wish to make the loans."

In the July applications there were also six state colleges, three Roman Catholic, two Presbyterian, one Methodist and three private schools.

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New Mexico Increases
1963 Goal To \$560,000

(9-17-62)

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (BP)--The mission board of Baptist Convention of New Mexico is proposing a 1963 Cooperative Program budget of \$560,000, with 27 per cent going for national and worldwide work.

The budget, approved here, must be adopted by the full convention in session this fall. The 1962 budget has been \$545,000 also with 27 per cent of it going to work carried on by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Counting money from SBC boards for jointly maintained field promotion work, the total 1963 New Mexico budget would be \$1,142,707.

The board also approved employment of an associate in the missions department, directed by Joe Carl Johnson of Albuquerque. The new post, for which no one has yet been selected, would be created as of Jan. 1.

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Willis Ray To Handle
Tucson Area Project

(9-17-62)

TUCSON, Ariz. (BP)--Willis J. Ray of Denver will represent the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention in developing Corona de Tucson, a \$50 million project 18 miles southeast of here.

Ray, executive secretary of the Arizona state convention for 11 years before going to Denver, will retire Oct. 15 as executive secretary of the Colorado Baptist General Convention.

Corona de Tucson, a Baptist golden years community, is sponsored by the Arizona state convention. It is being developed for persons who are 50 years of age or older.

According to Charles L. McKay of Phoenix, present Arizona executive secretary, the project is unique in providing for individuals to own homes or apartments. When the owners die, the properties go to their heirs.

Corona de Tucson is part of the development of a 22,000-acre plot. McKay said \$1-1/2 million is being spent preparing the grounds and community buildings, a golf course, streets, utilities and other developments.

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Mississippi Baptists
Release Radio Newscast

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--A 15-minute weekly radio program of Baptist news has been launched here by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Eleven radio stations in Mississippi have scheduled the weekly news program, called "The Baptist Record."

The new program marks the first time that a radio show has been produced jointly by a state Baptist convention and the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth.

Under the cooperative effort, staff members of the weekly state Baptist newspaper published here, also called the Baptist Record, write and solicit news features and editorials used in the radio program.

Program material is then relayed on the Southern Baptist Teletype Service to the Radio-TV Commission in Fort Worth, where the newscast is tape recorded by a team of announcers. Then it is mailed to the radio stations using the program.

The first broadcast of "The Baptist Record" featured an editorial on Mississippi Baptists by Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary-treasurer of the state Baptist convention; a personal feature on W. Douglas Hudgins, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Jackson, and news of Baptist activities throughout the state.

Mississippi radio stations scheduling the first show under public service programming time include stations in Belzoni, Indianola, Laurel, Louisville, McComb, Pascagoula, Brookhaven, Clarksdale, Columbia, Columbus and Greenville.

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Folks and Facts.....

(9-17-62)

.....Tape recordings of the annual Home Missions Week Conferences at Glorieta, N. M., and Ridgecrest, N. C., Baptist Assemblies may be secured from the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board for \$2.50 each. The board staff recorded the conferences, and the SBC Radio and Television Commission duplicated them on its high speed equipment. (BP)

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.....Charles R. Richardson, news bureau director for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., will rejoin the news staff of the Abilene (Tex.) Reporter-News. Richardson joined the seminary public relations staff last September and served as cochairman for local press arrangements for the 1962 Southern Baptist Convention in San Francisco. (BP)

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.....Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., will have Israel Missionary Dwight L. Baker serving the 1962-63 school year as visiting professor of missions. He is pastor of the Baptist church in Nazareth. Baker's stateside home is in Jefferson City, Mo. (BP)

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.....Tom E. Carter, Oklahoma City, executive director of hospitals and golden age homes for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, has been named assistant executive secretary of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma. Augie Henry, executive secretary-treasurer of the foundation, said Carter will succeed Horace L. Janes, who has retired. Carter will begin his work Sept. 1. (BP)

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