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TENNESSEE--Meetings for the week of Oct. 27-Nov. 2.
TEXAS--Southwestern trustees ask SBC for CP funding increase.
TENNESSEE--Change in Texas hunger gifts stirs concern of SBC officials.
KENTUCKY--Prof takes 'Experiencing God' to class & students get saved.
TEXAS--'The Judas Project' movie to be aired on FamilyNet.

CALENDAR

NEW ORLEANS--New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustee meeting, Oct. 28-30, inauguration of new President Chuck Kelley, Oct. 29.

**Southwestern trustees ask
SBC for CP funding increase**

By Craig Bird

**Baptist Press
10/25/96**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A quiet business agenda left Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees time to grab glimpses of life from a student perspective, Oct. 21-23, at their annual fall meeting.

They stepped around students waiting -- young children in tow -- for free groceries to honor First Baptist Church of Haslet, Texas, for its program which supplements the food budgets of hundreds of seminarians. They heard professors discuss the theological implications of life on Mars and what art has to say about and to modern Christianity.

They listened to young men and woman explain why they came to the Fort Worth, Texas, campus to prepare for Christian ministry. They officially opened the redesigned and rebuilt indoor pool at the recreation/aerobics center and, while declining invitations to swim, a few did shoot baskets at the court adjacent to the pool.

In between they approved five faculty positions, petitioned the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to increase the percentage of Cooperative Program funds allocated to SBC seminaries, clarified the bylaw explanation of academic freedom at the institution and celebrated a 61 percent increase in the number of new students registering for the fall semester.

All votes were unanimous.

"Southern Baptists have embraced the 'Covenant for a New Century' as a way of focusing our resources and energies on evangelizing our nation and our world," Southwestern President Ken Hemphill said. "A major goal was to realize significant savings by combining or eliminating agencies. We feel Southern Baptists are looking to their seminaries as never before to provide the trained leadership for our congregations and our mission boards."

Hemphill said all six SBC seminaries are making the same request. "We are not asking for a specific amount," he explained, "just an increase in the percentage." Over the past 10 to 12 years the percentage allocated to the six seminaries has declined about 2 percent to its present level of 20.36 percent of all Cooperative Program monies received by the national convention.

During the 1996-97 and 1995-96 fiscal years, 20.4 percent of the SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget is earmarked for the seminaries, up from 20.27 from fiscal years 1991-92 through 1994-95, according to Executive Committee Cooperative Program figures. In 1990-91, the percentage was 20.46. Twenty years ago, it was 22 percent; 30 years ago, 18 percent.

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"There are three major streams of finance for Southwestern," Hemphill said. "The Cooperative Program, endowment and gifts and student fees. It is a slow process to raise the endowment level and if the Cooperative Program allocations don't increase, we will have to raise student fees, not give our faculty and staff raises -- or lower our standards of education."

The academic freedom motion was not prompted by any questions about teaching at Southwestern but simply was a response to a trustee request that Hemphill's "lay explanation" of that section of the bylaws at a previous meeting be formally adopted.

It says: "In its simplest form, academic freedom means that a professor has the right and responsibility to examine all material pertinent to the study of his or her discipline and to expose students to the various alternative interpretations. He or she has the freedom of full investigation, but cannot advocate a position contrary to the articles of the Baptist Faith and Message."

Hemphill said this was not a change from the existing statement but a clarification to spell out both the seminary's support of academic freedom and its dedication to historic Baptist theology.

"Professors are expected to research all positions -- that is what education is about," he said. "We have books in our library we don't agree with but we need them there because our graduates will encounter those arguments and need to understand them. But we make a clear distinction between presenting and advocating positions."

A slight increase in the student headcount, from 3,026 to 3,077, was brightened by three other figures. First, the upturn was the first in more than a decade in total enrollment and a strong signal that a downward trend is reversing. Second, the number of new students registering, 860, jumped 61 percent from last fall. Third, the number of prospective students actually visiting the main campus in just the first eight months of 1996 surpassed the entire number visiting in 1995, 627-533.

"We never know until they actually register, but the statistical norm has been about 80 percent of those we get on campus actually enroll," Hemphill said. "If that holds true the future is very bright."

Two of the new faculty members will join the rapidly expanding counseling program at the school in January.

Ian Frederick Jones, 44, is presently dean of Howard Payne University's school of social sciences, Brownwood, Texas. He was named associate professor in counseling. He has taught at Howard Payne since 1988, following six years as a counselor and educator in Arlington, Texas.

He holds two Ph.D. degrees, from Southwestern and the University of North Texas in Denton, and two master's degrees, in religious education and divinity, from Southwestern. His bachelor's degree is from Centenary College of Louisiana.

He is licensed by both the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and is approved as a supervisor by both boards. He is a member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

He and his wife, Linda, have two children.

James Headrick, 54, was named assistant professor in counseling. He is presently associate pastor in biblical counseling and family enrichment at Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala. He has been on staff there since 1985. Earlier he was associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Kentwood, La., and Woodforest Baptist Church, Houston.

Headrick earned a bachelor of arts from Louisiana College in Pineville and master of religious education and doctor of education degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, the National Association of Professional Counselors, the American Counseling Association, the American Association of Christian Counselors and the Alabama Counseling Association.

He and his wife, Linda, have three children.

C. Berry Driver Jr., 44, will be the new director of library services at one of the largest theological libraries in the world.

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After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, he received a master of divinity from Southwestern, a master of library science from the University of Kentucky in Lexington and a Ph.D. from Mid-American Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Currently he is director of library services and associate professor of church history and theology for Mid-America's northeast center in New York. Earlier, he was pastor of three churches in Alabama (Grace Fellowship in Mexia; Bower Memorial in Evergreen; and Elam in Elamville).

He and his wife, Kathy, have three children.

Two men already connected with Southwestern were approved for different roles.

Robert Bernard, 50, who has been consultant in doctoral research and writing and director of the seminary's modern language studies program since 1992, was elected associate professor of language studies. He speaks more than 15 languages. His bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees are from Princeton University in Princeton, N.J. He has taught at the University of North Texas; Wesleyan University in Fort Worth; Texas Women's University in Denton; and Princeton.

James Heflin, 53, was named adjunct professor for Europe. He recently was elected head of the European Baptist Convention but will return periodically to Fort Worth to teach classes. He was professor of preaching at Southwestern from 1985-96.

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(BP) photo of a trustee and an international student visiting at the food distribution has been posted in the SBCNet News Room.

EDITORS' NOTE: The following story replaces one in (BP) with the same headline, dated 10/21/96.

**Change in Texas hunger gifts
stirs concern of SBC officials**

By Herb Hollinger

**Baptist Press
10/25/96**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A Texas decision to change its policy of sharing hunger gifts received from churches with the Southern Baptist Convention's mission boards to include other mission groups has irked executives at three SBC agencies.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board in March approved a new funding method for hunger gifts and set four Sundays prior to Thanksgiving as the time to emphasize the hunger offering. Thus, instead of observing World Hunger Day one Sunday in October, many Texas Baptist churches are devoting every Sunday in November to the emphasis.

Instead of promoting a general hunger offering divided 80 percent to the SBC Foreign Mission Board and 20 percent to the Home Mission Board, the Texas convention now solicits specific ministry proposals from the mission boards as well as from the Baptist World Alliance and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate Baptist organization formed in 1991 and critical of SBC leadership.

The Texas decision has irked Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board; Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; and Richard D. Land, president of the Christian Life Commission.

"We regret that Texas Baptists have chosen to manage gifts to world hunger independently rather than cooperatively with the (SBC) mission boards," Rankin told Baptist Press. "It is sad that funds would be diverted to the BWA and other organizations for work in places such as Africa and Bosnia rather than supporting our Foreign Mission Board missionaries who are sharing the gospel and ministering so effectively in those needy and responsive areas of the world.

"We are confident many (Texas) churches, once they become aware of this policy to hold and divert funds, will want to send their gifts directly to the Foreign Mission Board where 100 percent will be used to support world hunger projects being administered by our missionaries."

Under the new policy, proposals are considered by a world hunger task force that includes representatives of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, the State Mission Commission, Woman's Missionary Union of Texas and Texas Baptist Men. The team then recommends projects for funding to the full Texas CLC at its spring meeting.

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For the period from May 1, 1996, to Dec. 31, 1997, the Texas hunger task force recommended and the Texas CLC approved funding for more than \$1.2 million in hunger projects, including about \$718,000 to combat hunger outside the United States.

They granted priority approval to \$441,492 for rural development and other hunger-related projects through the FMB, \$160,252 for BWA World Aid and \$116,400 for CBF hunger projects. An additional \$240,000 will go to Home Mission Board-related projects.

FMB officials said in 1995 the mission board received \$524,000 in hunger funds from Texas Baptists, which with other state conventions' receipts, supported 265 projects in 68 countries. However, under Texas' new policy only \$176,000 will be received for seven projects in seven countries in 1996. The new Texas formula, FMB officials said, divides hunger receipts 60 percent for foreign needs, 20 percent for home and 20 percent for Texas.

The new policy may increase offerings for hunger relief, FMB officials contend, but primarily for Texas since it will mean a decrease for world needs. In fact, under the new formula, the combined total for 1996 for FMB, CBF and BWA does not reach the level of gifts sent to just the FMB last year, FMB officials said.

Generally, world hunger relief funds from Southern Baptist churches have shown a drastic decline in the last 10 years, according to Larry Lewis. "This has caused me great concern.

"I regret that more and more funds to nationwide and worldwide causes are being extracted for state projects and to help fund other than SBC entities," Lewis said. "The need for such funds has never been more desperate either abroad or at home. Over 200 ministry centers in the United States depend on these funds to provide food for the needy in their communities. In times of natural disaster, hunger funds are a godsend for those left without food to eat. In many areas where hunger funds are used to the maximum, Southern Baptists are small in number and churches are few. We depend on the larger, stronger states to provide funds necessary to meet needs in those areas."

The SBC's Christian Life Commission, with a program assignment for hunger, recently employed a full-time person, jointly funded by the CLC, FMB and HMB, to solicit hunger funds.

Richard Land, CLC president, said he acknowledges the right of Texas Baptists to pursue their own independent course "on this terribly important issue."

"However, exercising one's rights is not the issue here, the issue is why Texas Baptists would choose to turn away from their fellow Southern Baptists both here and abroad to exercise their right to fund alternative hunger giving ministries," Land said. "The SBC mission groups continue to use all 100 cents of every dollar -- literally, a dollar in, a dollar out -- to feed malnourished and starving men, women and children around the world.

"Why some Southern Baptists would choose to turn from a strong tradition of cooperation, deliberately unlinking hands of mercy, to pursue this independent and reckless course is the tragic question," Land said.

Texas officials hope the new emphasis will increase hunger gifts overall.

"While the hunger emphasis falls on the Texas calendar in November, the offering is really a yearlong effort," said Joe Haag, associate director of the Texas CLC. "Since projects are funded throughout the year, we encourage churches to promote support for hunger giving throughout the year."

About \$300,000 was disbursed for hunger projects through the end of August, Texas officials said. Through the end of September, Texas Baptists' giving for world hunger was \$466,328, more than 17 percent ahead of the same period last year. The total does not include designated funds given to the North Korea Famine Relief project that was promoted by the Texas Baptist Men and WMU.

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Ken Camp contributed to this article.

**Prof takes 'Experiencing God'
to class & students get saved**

By Ken Walker

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The nation's first professor to teach "Experiencing God" in college decided to use it as a textbook because he saw the popular study lead to so many changed lives.

"I wanted students to be exposed to it," said Ted Taylor, professor of Christian studies at Campbellsville University, who became familiar with Experiencing God as minister of education at First Baptist Church, Starkville, Miss.

"I think many churches have expected membership instead of relationship," Taylor said. "I can't teach, with any integrity, in a class called 'Religion and Life' without talking about experiencing God."

During the 1995-96 school year, 70 of his students signed cards saying they had accepted Christ as Savior at the conclusion of classes using the text.

Besides stirring spiritual excitement on the central-Kentucky campus, Taylor's work led to a campus weekend Oct. 29-31 with Henry Blackaby, lead author of "Experiencing God."

The director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will serve as the university's Fall Staley Lecturer.

Blackaby's schedule entails speaking at Campbellsville Baptist Church at 9 p.m. each of those three days and at a convocation at the church at 10 a.m. on Oct. 30, all open to the public. But Blackaby's lectures to Taylor's classes are limited to class members.

Since the professor began using the hardback version (rather than the workbook most church members have used), other colleges, such as Oklahoma Baptist University, have adopted Experiencing God in their curriculum.

Several seminaries already had been using it, according to the HMB prayer leader, who said he doesn't keep detailed records of such activity. He professes to be amazed at what God continues to do through the material.

"Every time I turn around I'm hearing something," said Blackaby, who met the week of Oct. 14 with 15 chief executives of Fortune 500 companies who had completed the study. "But I don't like to divert attention to myself, which is something our society tends to do. I'm just thrilled God let me be part of it."

Campus minister Ed Pavy said there is a lot of excitement about the author's visit. Additional interest has been created via the Baptist Student Union using Blackaby's new workbook for college students, he said.

"God's Invitation: A Challenge to College Students" was coauthored by his son, Richard. Eighty-five students are about midway through the course.

"But we're trying to prevent people looking at his coming as a magic wand," Pavy said. "It's prayer that brings revival. I think revival is already coming because of what's happening in the lives of individuals."

This is the same kind of stirring Taylor saw in Starkville, where his position included working with students from Mississippi State University.

"I saw people's lives and spirits open up," he said, "to a crisis of belief and the adjustments we have to make to join God in his work. I saw this wasn't just another class to take on Sunday evening, but moving into an intimate, daily experience with God."

When he came to Campbellsville for the 1994-95 academic year, Taylor used the workbook in a church administration class for those who planned to enter full-time ministry.

Last year he changed to blending a theology text with the Experiencing God book. Near the end of the semester he showed the "Jesus" movie in class. He recorded salvations on decision cards from Campus Crusade for Christ, which sponsors showings of the film.

The popularity of the class can be seen via Taylor's course schedule. His Religion and Life classes doubled from two to four while enrollment rose from 35 per class last fall to 45 per session.

"As Experiencing God has taken hold, they tell other students," the professor said. "That's evidence to me that the principles are meeting the needs of students. They are seeking spiritual answers to life's questions."

One tip Blackaby will give to students is not to turn the course into a set of rigid guidelines. After being "set free," many people struggle with the practical aspect of implementing the presence of God in their lives, he said.

"It (Experiencing God) is just a witness of my life," Blackaby said, "but when you put it into seven realities, people tend to say, 'Are these seven steps?' They want to know if they're in stage two, three or four. I tell them they're not in any stage, they're in a relationship. It takes time to help individuals work out that relationship."

**'The Judas Project' movie
to be aired on FamilyNet**

By C.C. Risenhoover

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The world television premiere of the movie "The Judas Project" will be broadcast on FamilyNet Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. Central.

FamilyNet is the broadcast television service of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

The Judas Project is a modern-day telling of the last three years of Christ's public ministry, complete with special effects from the same people who helped make the motion pictures "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Star Wars," "E.T." and "Hunt for Red October."

James Barden, writer, director and executive producer of The Judas Project, said, "The whole movie is in accordance with God's Word. We've just retold the same story as if it were happening in modern times instead of 2,000 years ago."

Twelve years and a budget of \$6.8 million make The Judas Project the largest budgeted independent film ever undertaken and completed on the last three years of Christ's public ministry. With 14 Academy Awards represented in the film's production crew, Barden said he thinks the film is a technical masterpiece.

"Through the use of high-tech visual effects," he said, "we've tried to recreate what God actually did 2,000 years ago, the difference being that we've done it in a modern setting. Christians are absolutely blown away by the movie. And non-Christians end up openly discussing Christ as never before."

John Evans, editor of PREVIEW, the national Movie Morality Guide, said The Judas Project is "what many Christians have been hoping and praying for." He gave the film his highest rating and said it "goes a step beyond and captures the essence, teachings and spirituality of Christ's life in a fascinating way."

Ted Baehr's MOVIEGUIDE calls The Judas Project a "must-see film. It will inspire and fascinate believers and affect non-believers as well."

The reason the film carries a PG-13 rating is because of the graphic believability of the crucifixion scene.

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