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December 5, 1968

Commission To Deposit Reserves
In Nashville Negro Lending Firm

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention voted here to deposit one-half of its reserve funds in a local Negro savings and loan company "to serve the cause of justice" and to "encourage other Southern Baptist agencies to join with us."

The 35-member commission also adopted statements on the Crusade of the Americas evangelistic campaign and on the continuing national crisis.

Amount of the reserve funds to be deposited with the Community Federal Savings and Loan Co., here was only \$2,000, but it represents one-half of the commission's reserves, said Foy D. Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission.

"We are determined to make the symbolic gesture, pitifully inadequate though it is, in the hope that this drop in the bucket, like the widow's mite, may accomplish the kind of thing which the Southern Baptist Convention challenged the agencies to do in the Statement On the Crisis in Our Nation last June in Houston," said a commission approved recommendation.

The commission's administrative sub-committee recommended the action "in view of the great need for predominately Negro financial institutions to have more funds on deposit in order to strengthen their lending position in the Negro community, which in turn enables them to strengthen Negro businesses and improve Negro housing."

When told of the action, the president of the Negro savings and loan firm, Alfred C. Galloway, expressed appreciation and added: "We see this action not only as one of aid for those who have attempted to secure business loans, but also as an excellent example of practicing what your preach."

Raymond Lloyd, pastor of Ridgedale Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., and chairman of the commission's administrative committee, said in presenting the recommendation that "this is only a beginning. It is all (the money) we have to work with now.

"We hope," added Lloyd, "that other Southern Baptist agencies which have thousands upon thousands of dollars, even millions in reserve, will follow this example."

Valentine said that the commission did not want to be judgmental of other Baptist agencies, but wanted to set an example by putting its reserves in a place where the cause of justice could be served.

"We regret that we have not made such a move sooner," said the recommendation adopted by the commission. "We do so now with the full recognition that this move is mainly symbolic."

A recommendation on the Crusade of the Americas commended the crusade's third objective--- "establishing true moral and spiritual bases for the betterment of mankind's economic, social and physical welfare,"---and stated that the third objective may determine the real success of the hemisphere-wide crusade.

It urged churches "to begin now to exhibit a witness of integrity, uncompromised by prejudice, injustice, materialism, and 'respect of persons,' understanding that a church must live the gospel where it is before it can project it effectively anywhere else."

It further urged churches to project practical programs to demonstrate that the local church is concerned not only with a man's soul but the totality of life, to focus on the most pressing social issues affecting people, and to "encourage the evangelist to preach the worth and dignity of every individual regardless of race or class, being careful to spell out the practical implications for employment, housing, schooling, and other aspects of daily life."

On the continuing national crisis, the commission expressed "gratitude to all that has been done by the present administration," and urged Baptists to "prayerfully support and cooperate with President-elect Richard Nixon in his efforts to form a morally-responsible and socially-sensitive administration, which with intelligently programmed concern for the needs of each segment of the population, will endeavor to bring us together as a nation."

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It further urged Baptists to "break out of our own ghettos of indifference and extend our Christian citizenship beyond the ballot box to responsible participation in community action ...that as Christians, we may use our influence to be makers of peace through establishing justice and equal opportunity at home..."

Citing the Christmas season, the recommendation urged Baptists to curtail expenditures on themselves "lest we mock those tens of thousands who starve toward death each day," to give liberally "dollars of compassion" in "healing the wounds of humanity," and to translate love into deed by reaching out to at least one alienated person heretofore ignored.

On a motion from the floor, another resolution was adopted commending the National Broadcasting Co. "Today Show" of Dec. 4, the day of the meeting, for protesting indecent Christmas cards that were too obscene to be shown on television.

In other actions, the commission adopted a 1969 budget of \$210,000, selected "extremism" as the topic for 1969 summer assembly programs, authorized a position paper on "sex education in the local church," made plans for a seminar dealing with solutions to the national crisis, with sessions in Chicago, March 31-April 2, 1969.

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Seminary President Visits
Cuba On Hijacked Plane

(12-5-68)

MIAMI (BP)--A Southern Baptist seminary president was among 34 persons hijacked and taken to Cuba by gun and grenade-wielding Cuban who threatened to blow the plane sky-high if anyone made a move.

Duke K. McCall, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and his wife, spent nearly 24 hours in Cuba after the National Airline jet they were flying from Tampa to Miami was hijacked.

McCall was enroute to Miami to attend the annual meeting of the president of the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries.

It really wasn't too frightening, except at the moment the passengers discovered the Spanish-speaking man was taking over the plane, McCall said.

"Just as we were about to land in Miami, I heard a noise behind me to the right," McCall said in a telephone interview with Baptist Press. "A man who had his arm in a sling pulled out a hand grenade and a pistol, and was holding the grenade under the chin of the stewardess, ordering her to take him to the pilot.

"When the pilot discovered what was happening, he gave power to the plane and took off instead of landing," McCall added. "Another three or four minutes later and we would have been on the ground in Miami."

McCall explained that the plane was low on fuel and had to land at Key West, Fla., for refueling since it could not make it to Havana. For 81 minutes, the hijacker held the pilot hostage, while he radioed to a nearby Naval Air Station to send a truck of jet fuel, which was not available at the small Key West airport.

During this time, the 27 passengers discussed the possibility of going out the rear exit of the plane, but they felt that this might endanger the lives of the seven crewmen, most of whom were in the cockpit with the hijacker.

"We all decided that we would rather go through the inconvenience and take the time necessary, rather than run the risk of jeopardizing the lives of the pilot and stewardess and those in the cabin," McCall added.

"This speaks well of the American attitude toward the lives of others," he said. "There are so many nasty things you can say about Americans, but this is one thing really good you can say about them."

When the plane landed in Havana Jose Marti Airport, soldiers surrounded the plane and assured the passengers as they deplaned that "they weren't going to hurt us and everything was all right," McCall said. That reception "set the tone" of the Cuba visit.

The high-jacker appeared to be motivated either by a "political plot" or by "emotional instability," but McCall said he was not sure which. "As soon as he got off the plane he got down and kissed the ground."

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Passengers were not allowed to take the same plane back to Miami because Cuba authorities said the Jose Marti Airport runways are too short for jet takeoffs. But the crew did fly the plane back.

The group rode 85 miles on a 2½ hour bus jaunt from Havana to the Veradero Beach area where they spent the night. McCall said the flight left Tampa about 4:00 p.m., arrived in Havana about 7:30 p.m., and the group reached Veradero Beach about midnight.

After spending the night in one of Cuba's most plush hotels at a resort area near the international airport, they were allowed to walk on the beach and visit with the people.

He said they were royally entertained with good food and facilities. McCall and his wife talked to Cuban honeymooners on the beach and lounged around the hotel until leaving about 6:00 p.m.

They tried to telephone Mrs. Herbert Caudill, wife of an imprisoned Southern Baptist missionary in Havana, but none of the party of 27 were able to complete any telephone calls.

McCall said as he was flying into Miami on return, he felt sentimental about the song, "God Bless America," and that he felt that the reason he loves America is because God has blessed it.

Searching for a lesson in the experience, McCall observed that he is even more convinced Baptists should redouble efforts in the Crusade of the Americas evangelistic campaign, involving Baptists in North, Central and South America. Cuban Baptists have said they, too, would participate.

"Here is the hope not just for our own land but for the whole hemisphere, for we will never see society transformed until individuals are transformed by the grace and power of God," he said.

In a lighter vein, McCall added that the seminary presidents had really ribbed him about doing anything possible to be late to their meeting. "It's been a lot of fun, with the joking about it all.

"I'm convinced that America is the only country in the world where you can enjoy foreign air travel on a domestic air ticket."

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Home Board Okays
\$14.9 Million Budget

(12-5-68)

ATLANTA (BP)--Director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board endorsed a \$14.9 million budget that includes three new urban pilot projects, increased Christian social ministries and money for three nationwide evangelistic telecasts.

Acting in annual fall session here, the 64-member board of directors approved the record budget unanimously after hearing detailed accounts of how the agency's 12 programs of work and service departments would spend the funds.

The budget includes about \$3 million in work directly related to areas of racial tension and poverty, according to executive secretary Arthur B. Rutledge.

This is partially reflected in the \$1.3 million budget for Christian social ministries, which includes Baptist centers, weekday ministries, literacy training, youth and family services and migrant missions.

Most of these ministries relate to disadvantaged areas of the nation's cities, especially inner city situations. A new effort--a church oriented ministry to alcoholics--will get underway in 1969.

Included also in the budget is \$175,000 for three nationwide color telecasts featuring Billy Graham, which have been produced as part of the Crusade of the Americas.

The metropolitan missions report showed that three new pilot projects--one in a planned city, one in an inner city ghetto and one in a high-rise apartment--are included in its \$955,000 budget. Specific sites are being studied now.

Rutledge, in his annual report to the directors, said 392 mission appointments were made by the agency, 81 of which are fulltime career missionaries, 32 of which are young college graduates participating in two-year mission assignments.

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The budget this year provides for an increase of about 100 missionary field personnel.

There are about 2,260 home missionaries on the field that are at least partially supported by the agency. This does not include 997 Southern Baptist chaplains endorsed by the division of chaplaincy. About 700 of these are military-related, and some 100 are in Vietnam.

Income for the Home Mission Board budget is provided primarily through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

The 1969 breakdown shows nearly \$5 million from the Cooperative Program and about \$5.3 million from the Annie Armstrong Offering, which includes \$500,000 for Project 500, a plan to establish 500 new churches in strategic locations throughout the United States, mostly in dense population areas.

The budget reflects other receipts, such as from books and picture sales, magazine subscriptions, rentals on building space, church loans operations and insurance.

Overall, the net increase over the 1968 budget is about \$600,000.

The missions division, which includes nine of the Home Mission Boards 12 programs of work, will spend about \$9.3 million next year. Within this division, the program of language missions has the largest budget, with an allocation of nearly \$3.4 million.

The Home Mission Board programs are:

Establishing new churches and church-type missions, pioneer missions, rural-urban missions, metropolitan missions, language missions, Christian social ministries, work with National Baptists, work related to non-evangelicals, associational administration services (assists associations of churches in mission work), evangelism development, chaplaincy and church loans.

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Display Booth Opens Doors
For Oklahoma Student Work

(12-5-68)

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--A display booth depicting ways students at Oklahoma Baptist University here could implement evangelism efforts has been instrumental in creating opportunities for ministry through the evangelism fellowship, a student group which seeks places of service for those interested in Christian vocations.

The booth communicated to church leaders attending the past year's state evangelism conference at the First Baptist Church, Muskogee, Okla., the willingness and availability of students for service.

Displays were used to express the purpose and possibility of the evangelism fellowship of Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU).

"The booth contained pictures of ministries our students had performed in the past, pamphlets on the university and posters calling attention to the fact that students genuinely wanted to serve now," Jerome Zickrick, Baptist student director at OBU, said.

"Since we had expressed our willingness through the display booth, our students have gone out in greater numbers than ever before to minister to the churches of Oklahoma," John Parish, director of public relations, said.

"The evangelism fellowship is not really an organization, but it is a pooling together of various religious organizations and their resources in order to help our students reach out to minister to churches in our area," Parish added.

This fall Oklahoma Baptist University has sent revival teams throughout Oklahoma. Students have led youth retreats, held weekend revivals, preached in mission stations, conducted surveys in preparation for the Crusade of the Americas and presented dramatic presentations in churches.

A folk singing group performs often in churches and in high schools. Students conduct a coffee house near the campus of Shawnee High School. Here they conduct tutoring sessions and offer vocational and spiritual help to any student requesting it.

An all-out effort is being made by the students in preparation for the Crusade of the Americas revivals. They have been enlisted as singers, preachers and visitors.

OBU students have applied to the Woman's Missionary Union for prayer partners for the Crusade of the Americas. They will be put in contact with students from a Baptist college in South America for prayer partners with which they will correspond and share in prayer preparation.

This summer the students are sending two girls to the First Baptist Church, Holly, Colo., to serve as secretaries, Bible teachers, and to work in weekday ministry programs. The Colorado church is a pioneer mission area church which has requested this service.

"Church people are on our campus continuously seeking students to serve in some capacity. This has boosted the confidence of church people in student service, and has created more opportunities for service for our students than we have ever had before," Zickrick said.

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