

**BAPTIST PRESS**

New Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 6, 1969

Baptist VIEWpollBaptist Pastors Reject
Space Spending Increase

by Martin Bradley

NASHVILLE (BP)--If Southern Baptist pastors were deciding the financial future of the space program, there might well be a reduction in the level of spending, according to the latest Baptist VIEWpoll survey.

Baptist Sunday School teachers, however, would be split almost down the middle on whether space funds should be kept at the same level or reduced.

The poll, involving representative panels of pastors and teachers, presented VIEWpoll panel members with this question: "The U.S. is now spending many billions on space research. Do you think we should increase these funds, keep them the same, or reduce these funds?"

The majority (51.3%) of the pastors responded "reduce;" 43.2% of the Sunday School teachers joined them. "Increase" was the opinion expressed by 8.6% of the pastors and 9.6% of the Sunday School teachers.

"Keep same" was the judgment of 34.9% of the pastors and 42.9% of the Sunday School teachers. The remaining 5.2% of the pastors and 4.3% of the Sunday School teachers had "no opinion" on the question.

In January of this year, the Gallup Poll, using the same item, found that 40% of the American people at that time would decrease the funds, and 41% would keep them the same. Another, 14% indicated they would increase the funds, and 5% had no opinion.

It is not known what influence the success of the moon landing in July has had on the general public's opinion of space spending. The Baptist VIEWpoll was taken during August.

Panel members were also asked: "What do you regard as the fundamental purpose of science?" The results indicate that the largest portion of pastors (36.8%) and Sunday School teachers (39.3%) feel that "the purpose of science is to provide an objective, factual account of nature."

"The purpose of science is to discover basic scientific truths which do not change with the passage of time," according to 22.1% of the pastors and 26.6% of the Sunday School teachers.

Almost one fourth (23.5%) of the pastors and 13.1% of the Sunday School teachers feel that "the purpose of science is to provide a functional account of nature."

"Scientific truth is relative to the time, place and observer," according to 13.3% of the pastors and 16.0% of the Sunday School teachers; and "the purpose of science is to generate new and useful ways of looking at nature."

Very few pastors (0.9%) and Sunday School teachers (0.7%) feel that "nature appears to be unstructured and disorganized; one should not expect science to provide a significant objective, factual account of nature."

The remaining 3.4% of the pastors and 4.3% of the Sunday School teachers expressed no opinion on the question.

The question dealing with the fundamental purpose of science was taken from The Polyphasic Values Inventory, developed by John T. Roscoe, Kansas State University.

The Inventory has been used extensively with college students, and a comparison of the norms for college students with the VIEWpoll findings reveals that college students tend to take a more functional attitude toward science than do pastors and Sunday School teachers on the panel.

The current VIEWpoll findings are based on 87 percent response from panel members.

Campus Book Stores
Manager Named

NASHVILLE (BP)--William S. Graham, manager of the Baptist Book Store at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has been named manager of the new campus stores department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's book store division.

Graham, a native of Oklahoma, is a graduate of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. He has done post-graduate work at Northeastern Oklahoma State College, Miami, Okla.

He taught school and served as pastor of Carter Baptist Church, Stillwell, Okla., 1960-62. In 1962, he became manager of the Southern Seminary campus book store, at that time owned and operated by a private concern.

In 1964, when the store was purchased by the Sunday School Board, Graham was elected manager.

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Board Names Adult
Sunday School Editor

10/6/60

NASHVILLE (BP)--Ralph L. Murray, pastor of Smithwood Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., for 21 years, has been named editor of adult materials, Sunday School department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, effective Oct. 16.

Murray, a native of Iowa, attended the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, and is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. He holds bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. In 1967, he received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Carson-Newman College.

Before becoming pastor of the Knoxville church, he was pastor of Squiresville and Beech Grove Baptist Churches, Owenton, Ky., and was earlier associate pastor of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, Knoxville.

Murray was a member of the faculty at the University of Tennessee School of Religion. He is the author of Broadman Press publications From the Beginning, The Other Dimension, Plumb Lines and Fruit Baskets, Can I Believe in Miracles? and Christ and the City.

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Niebuhr to Speak
At Southern Seminary

10/6/69

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Harvard University theologian Richard Reinhold Niebuhr will speak on the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary campus Oct. 16 and 17 during the Gheens Lecture Series at the seminary.

Niebuhr is the nephew of Reinhold Niebuhr and the son of H. Richard Niebuhr, both famous theologians of the twentieth century neo-orthodox movement.

Considered an authority on the life and thought of Friedrich Schleiermacher, a nineteenth century theologian, Niebuhr is the author of Schleiermacher: On Christ and Religion published in 1964. He also wrote Resurrection and Historical Reason: A Study of Theological Method.

Born in Chicago in 1926, Niebuhr received the bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from Harvard in 1947, the bachelor of divinity degree summa cum laude from Union Theological Seminary in 1950, and the doctor of philosophy degree from Yale University in 1955.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa and a Fellow of the Society for Religion in Higher Education, Niebuhr did research at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in 1958 while on a Fulbright grant.

Before joining the Harvard faculty in 1963 as the Florence Corless Lamont Professor of Divinity, Niebuhr was minister of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Cornwall, Conn. He also lectured on religion at Vassar College.

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Tennessee Convention Elects
Sunday School Man, Budget

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting here two days after an open house for the convention's new headquarters, voted to recommend a 1970 record budget goal, elected a new Sunday School secretary and created a new position on the staff.

Elected as secretary of the Sunday School department of the convention was Wendell W. Price, 50, of Nashville, a former associate in the department who has been interim secretary since the resignation last year of Bob Patterson.

The proposed budget for 1970, which must get final approval from the state convention when it meets in November, was set at \$5,675,000, an increase of \$230,000 over the 1968 budget.

If approved by the convention, one third of the total would go to Southern Baptist world missions efforts through the Cooperative Program unified budget, and two-thirds would remain in Tennessee.

Also approved by the board was a recommendation that any surplus of the budget be divided equally between the Tennessee and Southern Baptist Convention, and that the Executive Board decide on the state-wide distribution of such surplus funds at its December, 1970 meeting.

Two days prior to the board meeting, crowds estimated at from 1,500 to 2,000 streamed through the commodious three-story office building located about 12 miles from downtown Nashville in the suburban community of Brentwood.

Plans for formal dedication of the building were outlined at the board meeting, with the dedication set during the convention in November.

In another action, the board created a new position on the staff--program assistant in the program services department. Though no individual was named to the post, the person who fills it would be responsible for such things as central mailing services, addressograph, printing room operations, inventory, etc.

Price, the new Sunday School secretary, is a native of Tennessee, and was pastor of Baptist churches in his native state before joining the state convention Sunday School staff. He is a graduate of Cumberland College of Tennessee in Lebanon, Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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SBC Giving for 1969 Up
Despite September Drop

10/6/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions to world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program for the first three quarters of 1969 have increased nearly five per cent over gifts for the same period in 1968, the SBC Executive Committee reported here.

So far during the year, Southern Baptist Cooperative Program contributions have exceeded \$2 million each month.

The increase for the first nine months of the year came in spite of slight decreases in giving during the months of September and August.

Contributions of \$2,047,037 for September dropped about 1.6 per cent below gifts for September of 1968. August contributions were about 1 per cent less than those of August, 1968.

Increases during the previous months, however, offset the decreased giving during the slack months of August and September, SBC officials here said.

For the year, total Cooperative Program gifts reached \$20½ million at the end of September, up 949,464 or 4.99 per cent for the first nine months of 1968.

Designated gifts to specific Southern Baptist mission causes brought in an additional \$21 million, an increase of \$833,658 or 4.03 per cent over 1968 designations.

In grand total world mission gifts, both Cooperative Program and designated categories, Southern Baptists have given \$42,102,077 during 1969, up \$1.8 million.

Most of the \$42 million has gone to foreign missions. So far during the year, the SBC Foreign Mission Board has received \$27 million to support its work in 70 countries.

The SBC Home Mission Board has received \$9 million. Six seminaries, and a dozen other agencies have received the balance.

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The monthly report, prepared by the SBC Executive Committee, reflects only contributions to world and national Southern Baptist mission efforts, and does not include amounts given to state and local Baptist mission programs.

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Louisiana Board Votes To Sever
Ties With Baton Rouge Hospital

10/6/69

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention voted here to release ownership of the Baton Rouge General Hospital "so that all denominations can...assist in the leadership and financial support of the hospital."

The unanimous action, which also must be approved by the state convention when it meets in Baton Rouge in November, was recommended to the board by the hospital advisory committee of the convention, at the request of the hospital's trustees.

If approved by the convention, the hospital would become "an independent agency free of convention control," with ownership invested in the local board of trustees.

Claude Kirkpatrick, administrator of the Baptist hospital, said that if the convention approves the proposal, the hospital "will continue to be operated in essentially the same way as before. Of course, we will always be upgrading our services to keep pace with developments in medical care."

Louisiana Baptists assumed control of the institution in 1945. Since that time, Baton Rouge General Hospital has grown from 50 beds to more than 400 beds, with property value in excess of \$18 million.

Convention officials said that the hospital board now feels it can stand on its own with local support, since the hospital is now serving a much larger community. The action would enable the hospital to tap other financial resources not now available, including federal funds, although no mention of government aid was made in the recommendation.

In other major action, the convention's Executive Board voted to recommend a record \$3.8 million Cooperative Program budget for 1970 to the convention, making provision for slight increases to all institutions and agencies of the state convention and to world wide mission causes.

Included in the budget would be allocations of \$1,173,070 to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

In further action, the board passed to the convention a plan for an all-out church-centered evangelism campaign during 1971, and approved a plan to begin development of a third floor of the Baptist Building here.

A committee report indicated that total gifts received for churches damaged by Hurricane Camille had reached \$42,000.

The committee also requested that Baptist churches in Louisiana increase the percentage of their contributions to state and world missions through the Cooperative Program by one per cent a year through a five-year period.

George Ritchey of Mansfield, La., chairman of the committee, said that a study of giving trends in the state indicated that generally churches were increasing the dollar amounts to the Cooperative Program, but that each year, churches were actually giving smaller percentages of their total income to missions through the Cooperative Program.

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