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**Committee Recommends Student
Work As BSSB Responsibility**

NASHVILLE (BP)--After a two-year study, the Southern Baptist student work study committee voted here to recommend that the national SBC student work program continue to be the responsibility of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, but with structural and relationship changes.

The recommendation will be considered first by the program subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee, and if it approves, by the 58-member Executive Committee. The full committee would have to make any recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver next June.

Details of the results of the two-year study, and the recommendations coming from it, were released by Lamar Jackson, chairman of the 39-member study committee and pastor of the Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Copies of the recommendations, plus some background material, were mailed to each of the members of the Executive Committee, plus other top SBC officials involved in student work programs.

The recommendations were formulated by the committee after a study that included more than 1,000 depth interviews with students, Baptist workers with students, state and national student leaders, and state convention leaders. It also included a four-day national consultation on student work last May in Fort Worth attended by 300 persons.

Jackson said that an 80-page paperback book summarizing the findings of the study would be released sometime after the first of the year, and supplied to Executive Committee members and other interested parties.

During the final two-day session of the committee in Mid-December, committee members were split almost down the middle on whether to keep the national student work program assignment at the Sunday School Board, or recommend creation of a new and separate commission on student work.

Vote on the two major alternatives was 16 in favor of the Sunday School Board with structure and relationship changes, and 14 in favor of a new commission.

Three other alternatives were considered by the committee, but were eliminated when the committee reached the point of a final decision.

The three alternatives rejected were (1) moving the student work program to the SBC Home Mission Board, (2) creating an inter-board commission which would coordinate student work programs done by the various existing SBC agencies, and (3) moving the student work program to the SBC Education Commission, which serves the 73 Baptist higher education institutions throughout the nation.

Though the committee split 16 to 14 on its first vote, it voted 18-0 (one abstention) to "implement the majority decision" by spelling out in board terms the structure and relationship changes they felt should be made at the Sunday School Board student department.

The committee recommended that the Sunday School Board be instructed to create a new staff organizational arrangement within its structure, such as a division, a commission on campus ministries, or other separate entity with a unique relationship.

This recommendation was made, according to committee action, "so as to (1) encourage responsible creativity by personnel, (2) simplify administrative procedures, (3) provide a clearer national identity, and (4) accelerate the publishing, printing and distribution schedules so that materials can be relevant...."

Three other recommendations were made to the Sunday School Board, one to the Home Mission Board, and four to the SBC Executive Committee, all aimed generally at coordinating and improving the national program of SBC student work.

Specifically, the Sunday School Board was further requested by the committee to provide sufficient funds for student work, to change its formula for appropriations to state conventions to increase financial aid going to newer convention areas, and to review carefully all of the work and material of the student work study committee.

The Home Mission Board was requested by the committee to help support financially student workers in the states under supervision of state student directors, and that all of the Home Mission Board's student work activities be coordinated by the national student work office.

The SBC Executive Committee was asked to establish a student work advisory committee to correlated and coordinate all SBC student work, to continue to study the student work program, to review in 1972 the degree of implementation of the proposals made by the student work study committee, and finally to work with the agencies involved in adjusting their program statements in keeping with the approved recommendations.

Jackson pointed out that none of the recommendations from the committee would take effect unless the full Executive Committee approved them, and the convention in Denver adopted the proposals.

Sent to the Executive Committee members, along with the list of recommendations, was a two-page outline of problems facing the national program of SBC student work, and four-page list of arguments for and against each of the five options considered by the committee as possible structural change recommendations to solve the problems.

A total of 19 different problems were listed by the committee facing the national student work program. Included among the 19 were such items as:

--The national program has failed to keep current and relevant...

--The national program has been slow to develop imaginative materials, and the production of the materials produced has been slow and cumbersome....

--There has been a misunderstanding of how local churches are related to the campus BSU (Baptist Student Union) program....

--There has been a misunderstanding of how the BSU is related to other program organizations, such as Sunday School and church training....

--There is overlapping of programs, since many SBC agencies (including the Sunday School Board, the Home Mission Board, the Brotherhood, Woman's Missionary Union, and Foreign Mission Board) are involved in student work....

--The national program does not have a comprehensive strategy for a ministry to the predominately black campus,...or to thousands of international students....

--Since the student department is one of the many within the education division of the Sunday School Board, the national (BSU) program lacks a clear image and identity. The student department is often emmeshed in time-consuming staff meetings and procedures in having to relate to other departments....Agency responsibilities related to the parent division requires too much energy and time of the department staff.

--Many campus and state leaders feel that due to these (above) restrictions the national staff has not been as collectively dynamic or as individually diverse to meet the needs....

--There has been a breakdown in communication from the national offices to state and campus offices and campus pastors, and vice versa.

Jackson, chairman of the committee, said that the 39 members had comprised "an exceptionally fine committee." The group included several members of the SBC Executive Committee, several state and campus Baptist student work directors, several convention executives, several college and university students and faculty members, and SBC pastors.

Jackson said that the committee constantly kept its purpose in mind: "To make a full assessment of the challenges and opportunities of Baptist student work, to provide a description of the purposes, functions and relationships of the national program of student work, and to propose possible agency alignments of a national program of student work."

"With 6 million students on campuses in the United States, and 400,000-plus Baptist students in states affiliated with the SBC," added Jackson, "the convention's student work program should claim the prayers and support of the entire constituency."

Baptist Response To Camille
Voted Top SBC Story of 1969

NASHVILLE (BP)--The devastation wrought by Hurricane Camille, and Baptist response to it, was voted the most newsworthy and significant story concerning Southern Baptists during 1969 by the editors of nearly 30 Baptist state weekly newspapers.

The editors picked the ten most newsworthy Baptist stories of the year in balloting conducted by Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention in offices here.

Here is the way the Baptist editors ranked news concerning the denomination in 1969.

1. Hurricane Camille damage to Baptist property estimated at \$2½ million; Baptists respond to the tragedy in Mississippi and Virginia. (171 votes)
2. Herbert Caudill, David Fite, Southern Baptist missionaries, released from Cuban prisons and return to the United States. (163 votes)
3. Southern Baptist Convention messengers in New Orleans find "Quest" unsuitable as the name for Training Union, the Sunday evening training program in Baptist churches. (152 votes)
4. (Tie) Association of Baptist professors of religion deplore publicity on book by SBC President W. A. Criswell on "Why I Preach that the Bible Is Literally True." Reaction generally supports Criswell, opposes professors. (115 votes)
5. SBC in New Orleans adopts motion asking its agencies to carry out work consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message Statement instead of a motion asking writers, and professors to sign doctrinal pledges; many state conventions reaffirm the Faith and Message Statement (111 votes)
6. Baptist state conventions face problems of financing Baptist schools; Virginia Baptists defeat phase-out of school support; Georgia hears Mercer's reasons for seeking federal grants and authorizes study of problem; Florida keeps Stetson University in budget by five votes; Texas rejects federal loans for schools; Louisiana, Arizona vote to sell hospitals, etc. (103 votes)
7. The Crusade of the Americas (hemisphere-wide Baptist evangelistic effort) reaches climax; leaders say results immeasurable. (83 votes)
8. (Tie) Debate in the SBC on relationship between evangelism, social action subsides; Criswell urges SBC in New Orleans to maintain balance between both. (66 votes)
8. (Tie) Financial crisis solutions sought by Kansas Baptists; five-man management board named; fund campaign to raise \$1½ million begun. (66 votes)
9. Vietnam war continues to concern Southern Baptists. Baptist college, seminary students both support and ignore moratorium; several Baptist participate in march on Washington; Criswell blasts moratorium participants; 12 state conventions support Nixon's Vietnam policy. (56 votes)
10. (Tie) U. S. Supreme Court hears arguments, Baptist briefs, on landmark church tax exemption case. Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs adopts position paper on tax exemption. Congress works on tax reforms. (55 votes)
10. (Tie) Nashville, Glorieta tax assessors seek property taxes on all Sunday School Board, Glorieta Baptist Assembly property; board appeals rulings. (55 votes)

Almost ironically, three stories during the year relating to Baptist doctrinal or biblical interpretation differences tied for fourth or ranked in the top five. One editor commented on his ballot that he would have ranked them higher if all three had been combined into one ballot entry.

There was also some overlapping between the ranking of the top ten stories of 1969 and of 1968. A debate in the SBC over the relation between social action and evangelism was voted the second top story of 1968, and the eighth top story of 1969 when the debate subsided.

Problems of financing Baptist schools, including the question of federal aid, was ranked number one in 1966 and 1967, number four in 1968, and number six in 1969.

The Crusade of the Americas, which ranked sixth last year, was voted seventh in 1969.



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