



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**BUREAUS**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631  
**RICHMOND** Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

DECEMBER 8, 1970

Baptist VIEWpoll  
Martin B. Bradley, Director

Baptist Leaders Speak Out  
On Pollution Problems

by Kenneth Hayes

NASHVILLE (BP)--Local Southern Baptist churches should lead their members to involve themselves in attempts to solve the problems of air and water pollution, according to a poll taken among a representative panel of Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers.

The Baptist VIEWpoll asked this question: "How should a local Southern Baptist church be involved in attempts to solve the problems of air and water pollution?" Panelists were asked to select one of four alternate responses.

The overwhelming majority of pastors (81.7 per cent) and Sunday School teachers (76.3 per cent) indicated that a local Southern Baptist church should "lead church members to involve themselves and cooperate actively with the authorities" in attempts to solve air and water pollution problems.

A small proportion of the representative panel (4.4 per cent of the pastors and 3.6 per cent of the teachers) feel that a local church should "preach and teach on the subject; but refrain from encouraging active involvement."

There are those on the panel who feel that attempts to solve the problems of air and water pollution "is none of the church's business" (7.0 per cent of the pastors and 13.5 per cent of the teachers).

Of the 13.5 per cent of the teachers who feel that air and water pollution "is one of the church's business," over one-half (53.3 per cent) are classed as politically conservative and one-fifth, conservative in religious matters. It would appear from the findings that there is some relationship between a conservative life style and this position.

Some of the panel (6.9 per cent of the pastors and 6.6 per cent of the teachers) had "no opinion" on the local church's role in dealing with air and water pollution problems.

The findings for the current poll are based upon a 92 per cent response from the Baptist VIEWpoll panel members, composed of 312 pastors and 375 Sunday School teachers selected to represent a cross section of leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Missionary In West Africa  
Study Leadership Training

12/8/70

KUMASI, Ghana (BP)--Eighteen Southern Baptist missionaries in Africa have taken a new look at the training of nationals to lead Baptist churches in West Africa.

During a five-day conference at the Ghana Baptist Seminary near here, several of the missionaries presented papers on various aspects of "training for ministry" and then led group discussions of their topics.

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James R. Barron, a missionary who teaches at the Ghana Baptist Seminary, urged that "tent-making" ministries be set up for training African Baptist leaders in seminary extension centers near their jobs, rather than establishing full-salaried seminary graduates as the norm for church leadership.

In a paper on "Local Pastors Schools," Oren C. Robison Jr. of Liberia, surveyed schools for pastoral training below the seminary level in West Africa and evaluated methods for recruiting better qualified students and improving their education.

Carl F. Whirley of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomosho, said that curriculum is good only if it equips pastors to communicate the gospel "to the contemporary culture, not to some idealized culture of 50, or even 10, years ago." Whirley also offered the group some guiding principles and specific proposals for a functional curriculum.

The level of education required for ordination as a Baptist pastor was subject of a paper by Billy L. Bullington of Togo. The conferees expressed agreement with Bullington that ordination and church authority should be given "more serious consideration" for achieving "a meaningful frequency in the administration of Baptism and the lord's supper."

Turning to money matter, the group heard Edgar H. Burks Jr., of Nigeria declare that "there must be more national participation in the discussions, the decisions and the implementation of any support subsidies given by the missions" (organizations of missionaries).

Burks suggested that Baptist churches and associations in West Africa be encouraged to support theological schools through gifts of food, endowments, scholarships and part-time job opportunities. He also advocated a support policy based on long-range stewardship.

A session led by Paul H. Miller of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary examined the biblical and cultural factors to be considered in planning programs for vocational guidance and recruitment of ministers.

Missionary Gerald S. Harvey a specialist in photography, demonstrated how African Baptists can provide photos to be used in filmstrips for leadership training.

Davis L. Saunders, missionary field representative for east and central Africa, described leadership training programs in each mission in his area and noted the use of church buildings and missionary homes for leadership classes.

Harvey and Saunders are stationed in Rhodesia and Kenya respectively.

Conference participants recommended a continuing exchange of information through the field representative for West Africa, John E. Mills of Accra, Ghana. Mills arranged for the conference to be held and presented the opening paper on its objectives.

The conferees also suggested that each mission and national Baptist convention in West Africa review programs of ministerial training at various levels so as to avoid unnecessary duplication and capital expenditures.

The missionaries suggested that another leadership conference to include Africans might be held a few years from now to update information, evaluate progress and share experiences.

Other program participants were W. Neville Claxon, Dahomey; W. Ralph Davis and W. Eugene Verner, Ghana; D. Edwin Pinkston, Ivory Coast; Bradley D. Brown and Ted E. Cromer, Liberia; L. Gene Legg and Dewey E. Merritt, Nigeria; and G. Clayton Bond, Togo.

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Archie Mayo Elected Chaplaincy  
Secretary for Georgia Baptists

12/8/70

ATLANTA (BP)--Archie Mayo, minister of education for First Baptist Church, Avondale Estates, Ga., has been elected secretary of chaplaincy ministries for the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Mayo's work will include a county prison camp ministry formerly led by an associate in

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evangelism department for the convention, said Searcy S. Garrison, executive secretary for the convention. He will also seek to develop chaplaincy services in industries, hotels, resorts, and hospitals, Garrison added.

The new program will be supported jointly by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Georgia Baptist Convention.

A native of Illinois, Mayo is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served churches in Texas City, Tex., and Atlanta, before joining the Avondale Estates church.

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Texas Board Elects Negroes,  
Approves Loan, Hospital Study

12/8/70

DALLAS (BP)--The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas elected the first Negroes in its history to membership on two of its commission, underwrote a \$100,000 loan to rescue a financially-plagued Baptist hospital, and heard its executive secretary call for an examination of the convention's "institutional crisis."

Marvin Griffin, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Austin, Tex., was elected to the 15-member Christian Life Commission, the state convention's social concerns agency; and Harold Branch, pastor of St. John Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Tex., was named to the 15-member State Missions Commission, which coordinates the state Baptist mission program. Both are pastors of black churches affiliated with the convention.

The loan was approved to cover a \$100,000 deficit in operating capital for the Baptist Memorials Geriatric Center in San Angelo, Tex., one of nine hospitals owned and operated by Texas Baptists. Baptist officials said the hospital probably would have to close if its debt is not paid by Dec. 31, 1970.

The convention's program coordinating committee has appointed a committee to study the situation at the San Angelo hospital for aging and sick people, and form recommendations concerning its operations.

Meanwhile a special study committee has been examining the entire Baptist hospital situation in Texas. The study is focusing on the needs, problems and alternatives faced by the hospitals and the convention.

No indication has been forthcoming about a decision on the future of Baptist hospitals in Texas, observers reported.

Two other Baptist state conventions, Arizona and Louisiana, have released their hospitals to private boards in recent months.

Executive Secretary T. A. Patterson, addressing himself to the overall institutional situation, told the Executive Board, "we continue to go from one crisis to another in our insitutions. What would happen if one of them should close its doors? The convention would be obligated immediately for several million dollars.

"It is inconceivable that Texas Baptists should fail to have a program of Christian education or that they should cease to be vitally concerned with the ministries of healing and ministries to children and to the aging," Patterson said.

"But do we risk losing a part or all of these ministries if we do not face realistically the problems which confront us," he continued.

"If, as crises develop, we continue appointing committees to work with individual institutions but fail to examine the total picture, shall we not continue a fragmentary approach that should be disastrous?" he questioned.

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Patterson added, "asking these questions is no way to win a popularity contest, but they ought to be asked. Is it not time that we make a sincere, honest effort to face our problems objectively with less emotional involvement?"

Patterson said the two Negro ministers elected are pastors of the first predominantly Negro congregations to affiliate with the Texas convention. Membership on boards requires that the individual be a member of a church affiliated with the convention.

"Recently, a number of large white Baptist churches have accepted Negro members also," Patterson said. "As Negro membership grows, boards, commissions and agencies can be expected to have convention-level participation by more and more Negro leaders of the caliber of these men,"

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State Pharmacy Board, Arkansas  
Church Settle Free Drug Dispute

12/8/70

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--A compromise solution has apparently been reached by Second Baptist Church in downtown Little Rock and the State Pharmacy Board in a dispute over the church's right to distribute free medications to the poor at a clinic the church operates in a poverty-stricken area of the city.

The dispute began after the State Pharmacy Board issued an order recently prohibiting the church from dispensing prescription drugs at its free clinic in the College Station section of Little Rock.

The State Pharmacy Board also warned students at the school of pharmacy in College Station that they were endangering their chance of being licensed by working in such clinics.

The compromise solution was reached here during a meeting between the attorney for the State Pharmacy Board, Eugene R. Warren, and the pastor and missions director for the church, Dale Cowling is pastor, and Ed. Only is director of missions.

According to a report in the Arkansas Gazette here, the board apparently was anxious to change the image it had acquired after issueing the order to force the church to stop dispensing free medicine to the poor.

Warren contended that the restrictions placed on such free clinics were based on Arkansas statutes and could not be changed by board action. He added, however, that the board planned to sponsor legislation in the January session of the Arkansas General Assembly to allow properly supervised pharmacy students to dispense drugs to the poor at free help clinics.

State Representative Leon Holsted of North Little Rock, a registered pharmacist, said that he would introduce the legislation at the opeing session of the General Assembly.

During the meeting with the board's attorney, Cowling argued that drugs in use at the clinic were the property of Dr. Jasper McPhail, the physician in charge of the clinic, and that the law allowed him to dispense the drugs.

Warren said that legally, the drugs were not being kept in Dr. McPhail's office, but in the clinic.

Cowling then proposed that the church lease the clinic building to Dr. McPhail, and asked if the clinic could then be considered the physician's office. When Warren said it would be, the church almost immediately leased the building to Dr. McPhail.

The free medical help clinic at College Station is one of several ministries to the poor sponsored by the Littl Rock church in four different areas of the city.

The six-room Christian Medical Clinic includes a complete laboraty and drug supply. At the clinic, Christian physicians, medical students, nurses, technicians, administrators and pharmacists give their time and skill to examine and treat the poor.

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The church also has an arrangement with local hospitals, two dental clinics, orthopedic and pediatric clinics and others to take referral cases the out-patient clinic sponsored by the church is not equipped to handle.

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Cooperative Program Gifts  
Stay At November, '69, Level

12/8/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions to world missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program (unified budget) for November stayed at virtually the same level as November, 1969, gifts, a report from the SBC Executive Committee indicated here.

With November gifts only .52 per cent higher than November, 1969 contributions, total Cooperative Program contributions for the first 11 months of 1970 increased by 2.46 per cent or \$621,765 over total Cooperative Program gifts for the same period in 1969.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee here, said that it appears that the denomination will be able to distribute to its agencies all of the 1970 operating budget, all of the 1969 capital needs not reached last year; and about \$200,000 to \$250,000 on the 1970 capital needs schedule.

Routh added that if contributions in December follow the same pattern as the rest of the year, the denomination will be about \$750,000 to \$800,000 short of the total Cooperative Program goal in the capital needs section of the budget.

The 1970 SBC budget includes \$27,158,119 for operating funds of the 19 SBC agencies receiving Cooperative Program funds; \$650,000 in capital needs to finance building projects approved for 1969 but not distributed in that year; plus \$1,050,000 in 1970 capital needs. According to convention action, the funds are to be distributed in that order of priority--operating needs, 1969 capital funds, and 1970 capital needs.

Routh explained that if Cooperative Program gifts for December of 1970 stay at the same level as December, 1969, contributions (as November receipts did), the denomination would be about \$800,000 short of the 1970 capital needs goal. If December contributions reach the same level as the average increase for the year (2.46 per cent), the SBC would be short of 1970 capital needs by about \$750,000.

It would take a total of \$2,974,802 in Cooperative Program gifts during the month of December to reach the total 1970 budget goal of \$28,858,119.

During the month of November, Cooperative Program gifts totalled \$2,315,850, an increase of \$11,941 over the contributions in November of 1969. It was an increase of .52 per cent.

The November receipts brought total Cooperative Program contributions for the year to \$25,883,317, an increase of \$621,765 or 2.46 per cent over the first 11 months of 1969.

In addition to the \$25.8 million in undesignated funds distributed to all the agencies receiving Cooperative Program funds, gifts to specific designated SBC causes for the same 11 month period totalled \$22,039,519.

Designated gifts actually decreased slightly over 1969 designations. The difference was \$20,441, or .09 per cent.

Combined undesignated and designated gifts totalled \$47,922,836, an increase of \$601,323 or 1.27 per cent over 1969 contributions for the first 11 months.

The amounts included in the monthly report from the SBC Executive Committee reflect only funds given to support nation-wide SBC mission causes, and do not include amounts given to state and local Baptist mission efforts.

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460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 NINTH AVE. N.  
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

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