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July 23, 1971

Trustees Request New  
 Commentary Writer

by Gomer Lesch

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--The elected trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board voted here to comply with the action of the Southern Baptist Convention at St. Louis with regard to Volume I of The Broadman Bible Commentary.

In semi-annual meeting at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly marked by prayerful and conciliatory deliberation, the trustees approved by a vote of 34-21 this motion:

"In response to the action of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis regarding Volume I of the Broadman Bible Commentary, we request and authorize the administration to seek to secure a new author for the commentary on the text of Genesis, also to report to the January meeting of the board the progress achieved and any developments or complications calling for further direction or authorization by the board."

Trustee president Conrad Willard of Miami, Fla., occasionally loosened parliamentary procedure during the five-hour discussion by the full board in order to give trustees an opportunity to express their thinking as fully and as freely as possible. Several motions and substitute motions were presented, though not necessarily voted upon. Most of these were variations on the motion finally passed, stated in an attempt to make the most positive response to the convention action.

The motion which was adopted was essentially the same as the recommendation made by a committee consisting of the plans and policies and Broadman committees of the board. The joint committee met for about four hours before the convening of the full board.

In taking the action, the trustees responded to a motion adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis in June which stated that "the Sunday School Board be advised that the vote of the 1970 convention regarding the rewriting of Volume I of the Broadman Commentary has not been followed and that the...board obtain another writer and proceed with the commentary according to the vote of the 1970 convention in Denver."

The Denver action by the SBC in June 1970, adopted by a vote of 5,394 to 2,170 stated that Volume I of the Broadman Commentary "is out of keeping with the beliefs of the vast majority of Southern Baptist pastors and people," and requested that it be withdrawn from distribution and rewritten "with due consideration of the conservative viewpoint."

Executive Secretary-Treasurer James L. Sullivan presented to the joint committee a lengthy paper giving a summary narrative of the development of the commentary from its inception to the present time. In the paper, he pointed out several perplexing factors in the situation, including the following:

...The board, through the elected trustees and administration, honestly felt that it was carrying out the expressed wishes of the Denver Convention, but was faced with a motion in St. Louis which denied that this was being done;

...The literal carrying out of the St. Louis action would require selection of one writer to rewrite the entire volume including all the general articles as well as the Genesis and Exodus comments. This would take three to five years of work by a competent scholar. Convention discussion indicated that this was not the will of the body, although the motion did not make the matter clear.

...Because of the rotating system of board members, three sets of trustees have taken office and new men are constantly dealing with this project started by predecessors of their predecessors;

...Some Southern Baptists oppose any type of commentary published by their own publishing house regardless of content;

...The Bible Teachers Commentary, designed for study by large numbers of individuals including teachers and laymen, is now in production and will be available in 1972 as one-volume commentary. The volume was requested by vote of the convention in 1965 in Dallas. This commentary has been in the process of development simultaneously with The Broadman Bible Commentary;

...Criticism of the Broadman Bible Commentary has come before all the volumes have been printed and distributed, making impossible an objective evaluation in the proper perspective;

...Failure of many to understand the target group for this commentary; the serious Bible scholar who is prepared to deal with such depth study;

...Inability of the Sunday School Board to secure the privilege of making comprehensive oral annual reports to the convention in session;

...Changes of leadership and organization in Broadman Press during the period of development of the commentary.

The trustees pondered the complexities of the situation along with possible alternate courses of action during a discussion which consumed about four hours during the first night of the meeting, and an additional hour the following morning. The night session was marked by openness on the part of trustees and a desire to find the best possible solution to the complex problem. At one point, a call for prayer in the midst of deliberation seemed to add a further meaningful dimension to an already spiritual session. A number of the trustees spontaneously sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a special way in the continuance of the discussion.

Two points of view prevailed in the discussion. One of these was to the effect that the convention had acted in a manner that required further interpretation before responsible action could be taken by the trustees. The other suggested that the trustees were under a clear mandate of the convention, and that this mandate should be followed.

Trustee Stuart Grizzard of Washington, D.C., protested the concept which calls for the suppression of expression of opinions. In dealing with a matter such as a commentary, he said, "we need to remember that it's the Bible that is infallible, not the interpretation." He further acknowledged that the board is obligated to take action consistent with what the convention requested.

Enoch Brown of Columbia, S.C., called for responding "affirmatively to the owner of this board, the Southern Baptist Convention, trusting the judgment of the administration in carrying out our action."

The phrase "to seek to secure" a new author was explained during the discussion as being necessary because of the practical difficulty of obtaining the services of a competent scholar to do the job in view of the history of the entire project thus far. Author of the original work on Genesis was G. Henton Davies, principal of Regents Park College, Oxford, England.

During the lengthy discussion, nearly every trustee present expressed his views. Although there was disagreement in matters of detail and philosophy, there was no substantial effort to follow any course other than seeking to implement the expressed will of the convention. Some felt that the trustees should seek further clarification from the convention, while others felt that the intention of the convention was clear, even though the actions themselves might have seemed ambiguous.

Much of the debate covered expressions which had been voiced at the meeting of trustees following the Denver Convention. The trustees noted a considerable amount of duplication of expression in the Ridgecrest meeting.

In informal conversation after the meeting, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Sullivan spoke of the eagerness of the administration to implement the actions of the convention and of the trustees.

"We are interested in doing what is right," he said. "This includes placing high priority on promoting harmony among those in our convention with varying points of view. I plan to seek out further expression of varying viewpoints as I work toward carrying out this board action, and am pledged both to the preservation of our fellowship and to the production of useful and effective materials."

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**Trustees Establish Names  
For Divisions, Departments**

7/23/71

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Official names for all departments and divisions of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board were established by action of the board's trustees in their semi-annual meeting at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

Five divisions were established effective October 1, 1971. They are to be known as the Assembly Division, Book Store Division, Broadman Division, Church Services and Materials Division and Management Services Division.

The executive office and offices of personnel and public relations will retain present organizational names.

Names for three groups were included under the Church Services and Materials Division: church program organizations group, church program services group and central support group.

National student ministries was included under the Church Services and Materials Division.

Official names of departments of the church program organizations group were established as Sunday School department, church training department and church music department.

An earlier announcement, which proved to be premature, had disclosed plans to change the name of the Sunday School department to "Bible teaching department," but the trustees decided to retain the department's original name.

Four departments--church architecture, church administration, church library and church recreation--were named under the church program services group.

Included under the central support group were art services department, materials services department, promotional materials department and research services department.

Glorieta Baptist Assembly and Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly were included in the Assembly Division.

Book Store Division established official department names as advertising and sales promotion department, campus stores department, central stores department, eastern stores department and western stores department.

Four official department names were designated for Broadman Division: Broadman products department, Broadman consumer sales department, Broadman trade sales department and Broadman marketing services department.

Included under the Management Services Division, the trustees established the systems department, property management department, procurement department, manpower development department, Dargan-Carver Library department, administrative services department and the accounting and control department.

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**FINAL ROUNDUP**

Sunday School Board Actions  
Include Convention Compliance

7/23/71

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The elected trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board voted in semi-annual meeting here to request the board's administration to secure a

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new writer for the Genesis portion of Broadman Bible Commentary Volume I, to call themselves "trustees" rather than "elected board members," and to approve a record 1971-72 budget.

Action on the commentary came after a five-hour discussion which centered around possible alternative actions which might be taken in order to comply with the Southern Baptist Convention action in St. Louis.

By a vote of 34-21, the trustees finally approved a motion similar to one proposed by its plans and policies committee and the Broadman committee, which had discussed the matter for four hours before the trustees meeting.

The motion stated: "...we request and authorize the administration to seek to secure a new author for the commentary on the text of Genesis, also to report to the January meeting of the board the progress achieved and any developments or complications calling for further direction or authorization by the board."

Trustees voted to change the designation of elected board members to "Trustees of the Sunday School Board." Clarification in communication was given as the reason for this change. The trustees had previously been designated as elected board members of the Sunday School Board.

The new title is designed to help clarify the thinking of Baptist people by making a clearer distinction between the persons elected by the convention to direct the affairs of the agency and the persons employed to administer the agency.

A record net sales budget of \$43,786,684 for the year 1971-72 was adopted. This is an increase of \$418,314 over the present budget.

Regarding church literature, the trustees voted to combine several periodicals and drop two items. Those affected are:

1. Combine: Source for Leaders, Skill for Leaders, and Now for Leaders into one periodical to be named The Adult Church Training Guide issued quarterly effective with the April-May-June, 1972 issue.

2. Combine: Preschool Guide, C and Preschool Bible Teacher C, into one periodical to be named, Guide C for Preschool Teachers, to be issued quarterly effective with the October-November-December, 1972 issue.

3. Combine: The Collegiate Teacher and Context, into one periodical to be named, Context, and issued quarterly effective with the April-May-June, 1972 issue.

4. Drop: Uniform Lesson Recording, effective April, 1972.

5. Drop: Test Your Knowledge, (both Convention and Life and Work), effective Jan. 1972.

The trustees approved three persons to head departments, effective immediately. Ray Conner, church music department, was named secretary for the church recreation department.

Don Early, manager of administrative services staff, was named manager of the newly created manpower development department.

William S. (Bill) Graham, manager of campus stores department, was elected manager of the eastern stores department of the Book Store Division.

Official names for all departments and divisions of the board were established by trustee action. These become effective Oct. 1, 1971.

Only minor changes were made in the names of most departments. The trustees did not change the name of the Sunday School department, although it had been previously announced the department name would be changed to Bible teaching department.

On recommendation of the book store committee, the trustees authorized a pilot test of a new retail sales channel to the general public.

The test will include a selected book inventory designed to help people to grow. Much of the material will be unapologetically Christian, board officials said.

Two stores will be established in high traffic areas such as shopping centers. Approval was given for the first store to be located in Birmingham, Ala.

Another part of the new retail sales concept of the Book Store Division will include the placement of 100 to 200 book racks in outlets not owned by the board.

W. O. Thomason, director-elect of the Book Store Division, said of the new sales outlet, "We want to help people grow like Christ in their entire way of life. The Baptist Book Stores reach many Southern Baptists, some of other denominations, and perhaps some with no church affiliation. However, we believe we must use an additional channel for reaching those who do not shop at a book store bearing the Baptist name."

In other action the trustees expressed gratitude and appreciation for W. L. Howse and Keith C. Von Hagen, for their long service to the denomination.

Howse, director of the board's Education Division, and Von Hagen, director of the board's Book Store Division, will retire in September.

Conrad R. Willard of Miami, Fla., was elected to serve a second term as president of the trustees. Roy W. Babb, Nashville, was elected chairman of the executive committee. Norris G. Hite, Nashville, was elected recording secretary.

The next meeting of the trustees will be held in Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 24-25, 1972.

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Baptist Hospital Packed  
After Middle East Clash

7/23/71

by Frances Fuller

AJLOUN, Jordan (BP)--Casualties flooded the Southern Baptist hospital here, and a missionary nurse, Miss Lois Calhoun, narrowly escaped death during recent fighting between the Jordanian army and Palestinian commandoes.

For two days, the battle raged in the hills encircling the hospital in Ajloun. When the Jordanian army's field hospital was filled to capacity, 68 injured Jordanian soldiers were brought to the Baptist hospital here.

Dr. Dean T. Fitzgerald Jr., and a national physician were the only doctors present when the crisis occurred. Both Dr. John A. Roper and Dr. L. August Lovegren, two other Southern Baptist missionary physicians stationed here, were away on vacation.

On the second day of heavy fighting, a shell believed to be a tracer bullet whizzed "like a ball of fire" just in front of Miss Calhoun as she walked between the hospital and the nurses' residence. The bullet struck a small tree and ignited it. Miss Calhoun was unhurt and returned immediately to duty in the hospital.

Many wounded were placed two-in-a-bed in the 50-bed facility, already occupied by a large number of patients. Others were confined to mattresses on the floor, which were borrowed from Baptist campground equipment. Most of the seriously injured were evacuated to other hospitals after receiving emergency treatment.

The Jordanian army loaned several doctors to the hospital staff during the most difficult hours of the emergency.

Late in the first day, several civilians wounded by stray bullets arrived. They were victims of a battle which developed between army and commando forces firing from opposite hillsides which rise on either side of the village of Ajloun.

While the hospital staff worked to save the lives of the wounded, the battle raged in all the hills encircling Ajloun. Artillery, mortars, rockets, tanks and machine guns roared on all sides, rattling windows of hospital buildings. Columns of dust and smoke rose from the forest slopes.

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One shell exploded on hospital property so near that plaster fell from the ceiling of the operating room where Dr. Fitzgerald was performing surgery on an injured soldier. No one was hurt in that explosion.

Fighting continued for several days throughout the hills of Gilead and in the Debbin Forest where Baptists have property. On the hospital compound itself bullets tore through the pine trees and ricocheted between buildings.

Ajloun was cut off from the rest of Jordan. Both military and civilian casualties, 80 in three days, continued to come to the hospital.

On the afternoon of July 15, Dr. Fitzgerald labored most of the afternoon over a 12-year-old boy who had stepped on a land mine. With one foot gone, an arm in shreds and multiple wounds all over his body, the child's survival was doubtful. But the morning following surgery, the boy sat up in bed, said he felt good and asked for food.

Numerous casualties previously treated at the Baptist hospital had been commandoes, but this time circumstances prevented them from reaching Ajloun. One commando was already a patient at the hospital when the fighting began.

Dr. Fitzgerald, a native of Springfield, Mo., worked in Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Memphis before appointment as a missionary in 1966. Mrs. Fitzgerald, a registered nurse, is a native of Oklahoma.

Miss Calhoun, a native of Lexington and Hazard, Ky., was employed as a missionary associate by the SBC Foreign Mission Board in July, 1970.

i In addition to the Fitzgeralds and Miss Calhoun, the only Southern Baptist missionaries present at the time of the battle were the J. Wayne Fuller family of Beirut, Lebanon. Fuller is a former California pastor. Mrs. Fuller, press representative for the Lebanon Baptist Mission, is a native of Wynne, Ark.

The Fullers had gone to Ajloun from Beirut "for a nice quiet vacation."