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August 13, 1971

**Mission Agency Discontinues  
National Crisis Committee**

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board meeting here discontinued its "committee on national crisis" appointed following the adoption of "A Statement on the Crisis in the Nation" by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1968.

"There is still a crisis in our nation," the committee told the board. "We have far from finished the job."

The committee felt, however, that the Home Mission Board should continue to relate to critical national problems through its programs and standing committee.

Suggesting that its responsibility could best be implemented through the agency's programs and standing committees, the crisis committee requested that it be discontinued.

"The Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Convention must continue to express themselves in meaningful and innovative avenues of service and ministry if the contributing factors to crisis situations are to ever be permanently remedied," chairman Harper Shannon of Dothan, Ala., reported.

The action authorized the mission board administration to make a staff group responsible for including appropriate responses to critical national problems.

In its final report to the agency, the committee reviewed its three-year effort toward easing national crises.

Immediately following the action by the convention in Houston, the committee issued a statement drafted by Executive Secretary Arthur B. Rutledge to explain the biblical basis for the statement.

"This preamble made a significant contribution," the committee said, "to a more adequate understanding of the motivation and purpose behind the adoption of the crisis statement."

The statement adopted by the convention in Houston in 1968 began by stating: "Our nation is enveloped in a social and cultural revolution. We are shocked by the potential for anarchy in a land dedicated to democracy and freedom. There are ominous sounds of hate and violence among men of unbelief and rebellion toward God. These compell Christians to face the social situation and to examine themselves under the judgment of God."

The statement concluded with four recommendations, including one which requested the SBC Home Mission Board "to take the leadership in working with the convention agencies concerned with the problems related to this crisis...."

Since that action, the committee told the board that it had engaged in dialogue with minority groups in Atlanta and Harlem, visited innovative programs sponsored in Philadelphia and New York City and worked with Southern Baptist agency personnel to implement the convention's request.

The committee also sponsored a filmstrip entitled, "National Crisis--Patterns of Response," and distributed it to mission personnel throughout the convention and sold through Baptist book stores.

It also reported that upon its recommendation the board during the past three years had authorized a \$1 million church loan fund for ethnic groups.

In addition, the board deposited \$100,000 from its reserve funds in a minority-owned bank, gave \$1,000 in "seed money" to a New Jersey group providing adequate housing for economically-deprived persons, contributed \$10,000 to the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) sponsored by Baptist minister Leon Sullivan of Philadelphia for job training of the hard-core unemployed, and set up scholarships for trainees in the Urban Training Center in Chicago.

In addition, the agency gave assistance to the SBC President for improving relations with the presidents of three National black Baptist Conventions.

The committee led in the adoption of a statement of concern and prayer regarding the Vietnam War and asked the SBC Committee on Boards to give representation to minority groups on SBC boards of trustees.

In closing its final statement the committee said, "We must reaffirm our commitment to the Lordship of Christ and minister to the total needs of all men, especially here in our nation."

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Things Happen At Church,  
Like Flash of Lightning

9/13/71

DALLAS (BP)--Hampton Place Baptist Church here has a slogan which the church's leaders feel has helped the church become one of the fastest-growing congregations in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Since the church adopted as its slogan, "Things Happen at Hampton Place," the church received the top award in the National Sunday School Association's attendance growth campaign, with a 54.4 per cent gain in attendance.

And recently the church enrolled 2,900 children in its Vacation Bible School and recorded 406 professions of faith for the first 8 1/2 months of 1971.

But when lightning struck the front of the church's auditorium one night recently, inflicting slight damage and injuring no one, it caused some speculation in the community.

One man called to say "'Things Happen At Hampton Place' is a great slogan, but this is carrying it a bit too far."

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Union University, Brotherhood  
Provide Royal Ambassador Aid

9/13/71

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--Union University here and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis have set up jointly a scholarship program for Royal Ambassadors completing requirements in the Service Aide advancement program.

Under the plan, Royal Ambassadors earning one Service Aide award are eligible for a \$400 scholarship at Union. For each additional Service Aide award, up to five awards, a Royal Ambassador scholarship winner would receive an additional \$200, with a maximum of \$1,200 for five awards.

The Service Aide program is part of the Pioneer Royal Ambassador advancement plan designed to give Royal Ambassadors in Southern Baptist churches experience in at least one of five church functions (worship, witness, ministry, education and application). A Royal Ambassador earns a Service Aide award for each 150 hours of service.

The scholarship plan is somewhat similar to one previously announced at Houston Baptist College, co-sponsored by Texas Baptist Men, the Brotherhood (laymen's) organization in Texas.

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Historical Commission Names  
Tonks New Research Director

NASHVILLE (BP)--Alfred Ronald Tonks, assistant professor of history at Indiana Central College, Indianapolis, has been named research director for the Southern Baptist Historical Commission here, effective January 1, 1972.

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Tonks, ~~34~~, is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he earned the doctor of theology and master of degrees.  
theology

He did his doctoral dissertation and masters' thesis on the history of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, (1845-1882), and on the history of Southern Baptists in Oregon and Washington and Western Canada.

In addition, Tonks has been commissioned to write the history of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana by that convention's Executive Board.

A native of Canada, he has been pastor of Val Royal Baptist Church in Montreal and Silverville Baptist Church in Williams, Ind.

He was a graduate teaching fellow at Southern Seminary from 1963-67, working with C. Penrose St. Amant, and studying under W. Morgan Patterson, professor of church history and current chairman of the SBC Historical Commission.

His election was announced by Patterson and by Lynn E. May, executive secretary of the SBC Historical Commission who previously was research director for the commission.

May, in a letter to commission members concerning Tonks' appointment, said that "his background, training and experience will enable him to bring to the position...a new dimension of objectivity."

Tonks has taught at Indiana Central College in Indianapolis since 1967 after completing residents requirements for his doctorate. He also is a graduate of McGill University, Montreal, Quebec and McMaster University, Hamilton, Quebec.

