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Foreign Mission Board Representatives Confer With Presidential Assistant

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and five of his associates conferred October 7 in Washington, D. C., with a White House staff member regarding President Nixon's upcoming trip to China.

Cauthen expressed the conviction that among Chinese people as a whole there remains a "large reservoir of goodwill." He urged that the President be conveyed his hope that negotiations would allow time for true Chinese goals to emerge.

Friends of the Foreign Mission Board had requested a conference with the President in order that Cauthen might express his views regarding the implications of Nixon's rapprochement with the People's Republic of China. The White House responded, inviting Cauthen to come to the Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House to discuss his views.

"China has a history of sudden and dramatic change," Cauthen said, suggesting that such a change could alter China's situation after current leadership passes off the scene.

Cauthen said that much of the Chinese revolution has cut across traditional Chinese values, and it is possible that a new turn in Chinese direction could come within a few years.

"It is my hope that we will not do anything to strengthen the position of those who would hinder such change," he added.

"America's allies in Asia will be measuring America's resolution to maintain existing relationships with them," Cauthen continued.

Cauthen was accompanied by James D. Belote, FMB area secretary for East Asia; Winston Crawley, director of the overseas division; Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the mission support division; Eugene L. Hill, secretary for missionary education and promotion; and R. Keith Parks, area secretary for Southeast Asia.

Belote pointed out that the number of young people fleeing the mainland of China to Hong Kong has increased recently. Parks, currently living in Singapore for a year, expressed hope that America's allies in Southeast Asia will be assured of continued American support.

Cauthen was a missionary in China from 1939 to 1945. Belote, Crawley and Hill are also former missionaries to China.

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Handicap Serves As Librarian's Greatest Asset

10/8/71

By James Evans McReynolds

STUGGART, Ark. (BP)--Eleanor Drath does not let a physical handicap stop her.

"My handicap is my greatest asset," she once told Jack Morris, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Stuggart, Ark.

A victim of cerebral palsy as a child, Miss Drath is incapable of using hands or arms. Yet she serves as librarian for a church that averages 300 persons in Sunday School. Everything she does is done with feet and toes.

"She is a real inspiration to our people," David George, pastor, First Baptist Church, Stuggart, said.

"Eleanor works regularly in the library. She attends all the worship services of the church, including Wednesday night prayer meeting."

"She is an amazing person," Morris related. "Eleanor does beautiful embroidery, types correspondence, eats and cares for herself."

When Miss Drath begins typing, she takes a pencil with her left foot and toes and touches the keys swiftly and accurately.

"Eleanor keeps up volumes of correspondence," Morris said. "One of her hobbies is to send letters and cards to people on birthdays, anniversaries, during sicknesses and on other special occasions."

Prayer is one of the secrets of Miss Drath's radiant Christian life. "When you have been in a prayer session with her, you know that she knows the Lord," a secretary at her church said.

According to Morris, bookshelves, resource centers for records, tapes and other audio-visuals, paint jobs and many other needs of the library have been met by Miss Drath's persistent prayer and work.

The 42-year-old librarian has not only helped catalog the books in the library of First Baptist Church, Stuggart, but she has also helped other surrounding churches organize libraries, according to her educational minister.

Miss Drath believes that every church should have a library. "The teachers need it. The children need it. When I came to Stuggart, the librarian had died from a stroke. I knew something about library work, so I did what I could do," she said.

She rides to places where she needs to go with her step-father and her mother.

"She is certainly a remarkable person, a real inspiration to her church and our community," Morris added.

Asked what constitutes a good library staff member, Miss Drath said, "You have to like people and be interested in them and help them feel that you are interested in them and their needs."

Miss Drath does not despise her handicap. It gives her an opportunity for a kind of spiritual service that some others cannot render.

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Two Mothers Enrolled With
Sons at Golden Gate Seminary

10/8/71

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--John McRae of Riverside, Calif., and Michael England of Tullahoma, Tenn., have unusual classmates at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary: their mothers!

"The relationship with Mike as a peer is stimulating," says Mrs. Eugene England, who is the wife of the seminary business manager.

Beth McRae says of her son John, "It helps to have him tell me where I can improve, because I know he is being honest."

The mothers are specializing in the religious education of children. The sons are both engaged in youth and choir work.

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Maryland Streamlines
Committee Structure

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of Maryland will be called on to approve a recommendation of its board that only 29 of its 95 members serve on standing committees.

In a long session here, the board adopted bylaw changes which restrict standing committees to three: a committee on The Maryland Baptist, official journal for the convention; a financial appropriations committee; and a committee to deal with a camp and retreat center under consideration.

In other actions, the board approved a proposed 1972 budget of \$1,130,000, a seven per cent increase over expected receipts in 1971.

Anticipated receipts from the Cooperative Program (unified budget) for the coming year are \$867,000.

60 per cent of all Cooperative Program funds received will be used in Maryland, and 40 per cent will be sent on to Southern Baptist Convention causes, the same distribution pattern followed in 1971.

The proposed retreat center for the state convention will receive 60 per cent of any Cooperative Program (undesignated) funds received above the goal for 1972. The remaining 40 per cent of the surplus would go, as a matter of convention policy, to Southern Baptist Convention causes, a board spokesman said.

The state convention will act on these matters when it meets in annual session Nov. 15-17 at Cumberland, Md.