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December 2, 1971

Home Mission Board Adopts \$15 Million 1972 Budget

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board adopted a 1972 budget of \$15 million aimed at strengthening the agency's work throughout the United States and for the support of 2,237 homeland missionaries and an Atlanta-based staff of 91 professionals and 108 full-time employees.

The total budget is \$30,000 less than the 1971 budget, but board officials said they anticipate an increase of about \$50,000 in income during 1972, mostly from special mission offerings.

Arthur B. Rutledge, the board's executive secretary, pointed out that there will be no increase in income from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program allocations to the board in 1972.

He said, however, that the board expects an increase of about \$50,000 in contributions, primarily through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. "Our big hope for financial advance in 1972 must lie with the special offering," he said.

The report for 1971, on the other hand, reflected increased income through both the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong offering.

"Cooperative Program receipts for Southern Baptist causes during the first 10 months of the year showed a gain of about six per cent over the corresponding period the previous year," Rutledge said. "We are grateful to Southern Baptists for this increasing support through the Cooperative Program, an increase of four per cent for this agency.

"However the board budgeted more than it will receive in 1971," he said. "In reports of progress in reaching this year's goals, I found frequent statements to the effect that limited funds have precluded the achievement of a particular goal.

"On the other hand, there were statements to the effect that the budgetary tightness has required more careful scrutiny of priorities and more careful budgeting--a definite plus," he observed.

Rutledge said in some departments, such as church extension and language missions, "there have been fruitful efforts to launch new work without board funds.

The language missions department reported 36 such new congregations formed during the first half of the year. The church extension department reported the beginning of 22 church-type missions, involving little expense at this stage, but only six new churches.

"Many of us have been encouraged," Rutledge said, "by what seems to be a spiritual awakening among youth throughout the land, and by a freshly exposed hunger for God. We seem now to have a more favorable climate for effective Christian witnessing among all segments of the population than for several years past."

During 1972, budgeted items will show a continued emphasis of the denomination's annual themes on "Living the Spirit of Christ," with emphasis on missionary and field programs, cooperation with other convention and state agencies.

Slightly more than half of the 1972 budget--\$7.8 million--will go to the board's Division of Missions to be distributed through the six departments--special mission ministries, language missions, interfaith witness, work with National Baptists, Christian social ministries, and church extension.

The Division of Associational Services, created last year through reorganization of the board, will receive nearly \$1.2 million.

The Division of Church Loans, authorized in August to expand loan activity to the entire nation instead of confining its work to "new territory" (state conventions organized since 1940), will operate under a \$1.9 million budget.

More than a half million dollars will go to the Division of Evangelism. The Evangelism Division is presently studying the possibility of cooperating with the Southern Baptist Radio-TV Commission in producing a series of evangelistic programs for television.

"The board would control program content and provide funds," Rutledge said. "This project has such high potentialities and lies so close to the central reason for this board's existence, that we should seek to find the funds for this extensive range of this board's responsibilities."

Other budgeted areas include planning and coordination section, \$210,000; department of survey and special studies, \$68,000; Division of Chaplaincy, \$214,000; Division of Business Services, \$1.9 million; Division of Communication, \$725,520; and Division of Personnel, \$273,000.

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Mission Board Promotes Four Staff Personnel

12/2/71

ATLANTA (BP)--The appointment of E. Warren Woolf as director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Division of Personnel was among several staff promotions made by the agency in its annual fall meeting here.

Woolf, now secretary of the department of missionary personnel for the board, will assume his new post Jan. 1, 1972. He will succeed Glendon McCullough, who resigned to become executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Cecil D. Etheredge was named to succeed Woolf as secretary of the department of missionary personnel. Etheredge has served as associate secretary in the department since 1965.

Woolf, a Piedmont, Ala., native, is a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, and Emory University, Atlanta.

Woolf has been director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, and Georgia Tech.

In 1966, Woolf joined the mission board staff as secretary of the department of special mission ministries. Last year he became secretary of the missionary personnel department.

As director of the Personnel Division, created last January through reorganization, Woolf will be responsible for providing administrative leadership in planning, organizing, staffing, budgeting, implementing and evaluating the division's work. He will coordinate planning and development of the work of the departments in the division regarding procedural and policy matters.

Etheredge, a Thomaston, Ala., native, will work in his new post to help associates in developing procedures, organization, promotion, materials, techniques and plans for recruiting missionary personnel.

A graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Etheredge has done further study at Georgia State University and Georgia Baptist Hospital, both in Atlanta.

Before coming to the board in 1962 as secretary of industrial and institutional chaplaincy in the Division of Chaplaincy, Etheredge served in pastorates at Hodgenville, Ky., and Octagon, Linden, Titus, Montgomery and Selma, Ala.

In other board action, Knolan R. Benfield Jr., and Linda Stephens Taylor, both in the Division of Communication, were promoted to staff positions.

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Benfield, a Morganton, N.C., native, is photographer-technician in the division's department of audio-visuals. A graduate of Erskine College, Due West, S.C., Benfield came to the board in 1970.

Mrs. Taylor was named assistant secretary of the department of art services. A Cordele, Ga., native, she has worked at the board for eight years. She is a graduate of Florida State University, Tallahassee.

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Home Mission Board Raises
Ceiling on Church Loans

12/2/71

ATLANTA (BP)--The ceiling on loans from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to building churches was raised to \$125,000 during the annual meeting of the board of directors for the mission agency.

Robert H. Kilgore of Atlanta, director of the Division of Church Loans for the board, said the increase from \$100,000 reflects the demand of churches for larger loans to meet the higher costs of building.

He said funds were in sight to meet all expected 1972 needs, and he did not expect the larger loans to result in fewer churches served.

Other limitations set on loans remain the same, such as 20-year terms and interest rates, Kilgore reported.

Kilgore said the interest rates change during the year and are dependent upon market conditions and what the agency has to pay for money it borrows.

Loans are made by the division in all areas of the United States.

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"Home Life" Editor
Announces Retirement

12/2/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--Joe W. Burton, editor of Home Life magazine since its first issue in 1947, will retire Oct. 1, 1972, to preach, write and counsel on marriage and family life.

Before assuming his position with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in 1946, Burton was for 10 years secretary of education for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He also was editor of Southern Baptist Home Missions, its monthly periodical.

He has held pastorates in Texas, Georgia and Tennessee, and was recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1947-1965.

Recipient of a Lambda Lambda Lambda citation for outstanding service in religious journalism, Burton is the author of six books on missions and family life. He has been listed since 1952 in Who's Who in America. He holds the doctor of divinity degree, conferred on him by his alma mater, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.

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Foundation Reports Record
\$11.6 Million Trust Corpus

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foundation ended its fiscal year with a record \$11,668,378 balance in its total trust corpus, the foundation's board of directors learned during their annual meeting here.

The agency also ended the year with a record income from collections and capital gains distributed of \$706,518, said Kendall Berry, executive secretary-treasurer of the foundation, in his annual report to the directors.

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"Southern Baptist Foundation has had a moderate growth during 1971, despite the roller coaster action of the market," Berry told the board.

"There is every reason to believe that the worst has been experienced and the future holds more promise in the investment field than has been seen for the past couple of years," Berry said.

He observed that the nation seems to be on the verge of leading the world "into an era of prosperity that will benefit all mankind as the technology of modern man is shared in a Christ-like spirit of concern," and that the "Southern Baptist Foundation expects to be ready, able and willing to help usher in this new era."

Both Berry, and Mrs. E. W. Bess Jr., administrative assistant, pointed out to the board several areas of growth during the past year in their reports.

It was the best year ever in the number of wills written by the foundation to eventually benefit various Baptist causes, Mrs. Bess said.

The average rate of return on general fund investments was 6.01 per cent, only slightly less than the 6.02 record rate of return reported last year.

The greatest percentage of increase on return was shown in the foundation's annuity fund, with more than 25 per cent added, Berry reported.

The annuity fund amounts to \$513,796 in annuity securities issued, while the actual realized profits and excessive income from the fund amounts to \$646,329, an unusually good record for this type fund, Berry said.

Rates on gift annuities written and administered by the foundation range from four per cent at age 30 to 10 per cent for all persons over age 85, Berry said, just up from previous schedules.

One large trust and annuity fund created during the past year was initiated by H. I. Hester, retired professor from William Jewell Collège and Midwestern Baptist Seminary. Hester created trust funds and annuities in excess of \$150,000 during the year to eventually benefit Baptist mission and education causes, Berry said.

The foundation has also increased its services to agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention by counseling and assisting in investing reserve funds for the agencies, Berry continued.

Counsel by the foundation helped the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee increase the rate of return on its investments from an average of 4.44 per cent to 7.69 per cent last year, Berry told the directors.

"Every agency of the Southern Baptist Convention could do well to use the services of the foundation to the fullest extent, enabling each agency to concentrate its efforts on its designated responsibility and allow the foundation to better serve all Southern Baptists," Berry said in his annual report.

The board re-elected Stirton Oman, head of the Nashville-based Oman Construction Co., as president. It also re-elected L. B. Stevens of Nashville as vice president; John O. Ellis of Nashville as recording secretary; Berry as executive secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Bess as administrative assistant.

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Baptist Astronaut Says He
Prayed Way through Life

12/2/71

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--Apollo 15 Astronaut James B. Irwin, a Southern Baptist layman, told a William Jewell College achievement day audience here that he had virtually prayed his way through life since a plane crash in the early 1960's.

Irwin, who spoke twice during the Baptist school's program honoring alumni who have attained outstanding achievements, said that prayer has been a key factor in his work as an astronaut, and in his experience on the moon.

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A training plane crash which threatened to end his flying career caused a change in his life that made prayer meaningful, the astronaut related. He recalled that when he regained consciousness from the crash, he asked himself why it happened, why he was spared.

"I was humbled by my plight," he said. "I figured that I was living life too fast and did not fully appreciate all the blessings that were mine. I prayed for understanding and recovery, and God granted me that understanding and recovery."

Ever since, prayer has been a sustaining factor in his life, Irwin said. Prayer helped him during the arduous years of training for the space program, he continued.

He recalled that he would look at the piles of material on his desk and ask, "Can I ever learn it all?" He said he prayed daily for God's guidance in learning all the things necessary to becoming an astronaut.

Concerning the Apollo 15 journey, Irwin said the three days on the moon were the most thrilling days of his life, not so much because he was actually on the moon, but because he could feel God's presence.

He recalled that each night as he lay in his hammock in the space craft, he would reflect on the events of the past day and think about the tasks coming up the next day. When he would talk to God, everything would become clear, and he would feel closeness to God, Irwin said.

The astronaut said he firmly believes that finding the so-called "Genesis rock" was akin to "divine guidance." He said the rock was on a formation similar to a pedestal, just as if it were lying on a hand reaching up as if to say, "Here I am, take me."

Irwin is a member of the Nassau Bay Baptist Church, Houston.



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