



BAPTIST PRESS

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March 14, 1974

HMB Names Officers, Ups
Budget, Adjusts Staff

MEMPHIS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) elected new officers, approved and adjusted the 1974 budget reflecting increased income and approved an adjustment in administrative organization at its spring meeting here.

Russell H. Dilday Jr., pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, was elected president of the board, succeeding Jack P. Lowndes, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington, Va.

Other officers elected included A. Bruce Coyle, pastor of Highland Heights Baptist Church in Memphis, first vice president; Carl Roger McDonald, pastor of First Baptist Church of Toccoa, Ga., second vice president; Mrs. I. W. Bowen III, Forsyth, Ga., recording secretary; Mrs. Ralph M. Blanchard, Atlanta, assistant recording secretary.

The board met at Highland Heights Baptist Church in a precedent-setting session. Only once before, at the 125th anniversary session in Augusta, Ga., and summer sessions at Glorieta and Ridgecrest, has the board met outside Atlanta.

The meeting here was the first in a new plan to move the spring meeting to cities around the convention to give more Baptists the opportunity to see the board at work. Future meetings are scheduled at Tulsa, Okla., in 1975 and Washington, D.C., in 1976.

The adjusted budget approved here for 1974 is \$18,229,038, an increase of almost \$200,000 over the \$18,039,210 previously approved. The boost was prompted by increased Southern Baptist Cooperative Program (unified budget) giving. Arthur B. Rutledge, executive director of the Home Mission Board, announced that Cooperative Program receipts for the first five months of the current fiscal year were up 14 per cent.

An adjustment was approved in the organization of the HMB administrative staff to provide a separate director of the board's program implementation section. Fred B. Moseley has been serving in a dual capacity as assistant executive director and also director of the program implementation section, which provides supervision and direction for the board's divisions of evangelism, chaplaincy, church loans, missions and associational services.

Under the new arrangement, Moseley will serve only as assistant executive director.

The adjustment eliminated one of four regional coordinators who now work at coordinating HMB efforts with state conventions. Gerald Palmer, coordinator for region 1, has announced his resignation. His work will be reassigned among other regional coordinators.

The HMB directors approved a committee of five board members to be named later to work with the HMB's administration in giving a response to the Committee of Fifteen, a special committee of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, which recently completed a study of Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

Rutledge, commenting on the recent report by the Committee of Fifteen and the Executive Committee's naming of a committee of nine denominational leaders to study mission strategy, said, "I think we stand to be helped. We are certainly interested in and open to the kind of strategy study that has been proposed."

Also approved was a \$100,000 reserve fund for disaster relief. For several years, disaster relief funds have been budgeted in the department of Christian social ministries or taken from other areas. In the future, rather than budgeting the funds in any department, the \$100,000 reserve will be set aside and maintained at that level, if possible.

The directors approved guidelines for personnel, finances and properties of the Home Mission Board in the transfer of the work in Panama to be assumed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Jan. 1, 1975.

More than 1,500 persons attended a missions rally at Highland Heights Baptist Church Tuesday night. The rally featured the commissioning of five missionaries and retirement services honoring nine missionaries.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers; others on request.

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Southern Baptists Lead
Bible Society Support

3/14/74

NEW YORK (BP)--Southern Baptists gave \$253,857 to the support of the American Bible Society during 1973, according to the society's annual report here.

The largest amount given from any one denomination, the figure denotes an increase of \$20,104.98 over 1972 gifts. United Methodists ranked second in giving with \$133,528.73.

"We feel that Southern Baptists are especially interested in the new approach to give Scripture portions to new readers in the world today," said Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee and member of the American Bible Society board of directors.

From all 79 denominations and denominational groups supporting the Bible Society, a total of \$1,308,124.68 was received.

Arthur C. Borden, assistant secretary of church relations for the American Bible Society, said that church response was "just .4 per cent better in 1973 than during the previous year.

"This small percentage increase is not enough at a time of rapid inflation to meet the ever-increasing demands for the Word of God," he continued. "If these demands for Scriptures are to be met, and if the society is to continue adequately serving the churches at home and overseas, increased support must be forthcoming."

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CORRECTION

On Baptist Press story mailed 3/13/74, headlined "Harlem Storefront Program Provides Seminary Training," (BP) Photo will be mailed only on request.

--Thanks
Baptist Press