



BAPTIST PRESS

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Expectancy, Urgency Seen
In Africa Mission Work

RICHMOND (BP)--A sense of expectancy and urgency characterizes the attitude of Southern Baptist missionaries in Eastern and Southern Africa, Davis L. Saunders told board members at the September meeting of the Foreign Mission Board here.

Saunders, area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, has just returned from eight months in Africa.

"My conviction is that the challenge and the excitement of serving in Africa in these unusual, changing days has instilled in your missionaries a sense of commitment and high morale," Saunders said, addressing the board.

Citing examples of the progress, Saunders spoke of recent developments in Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola and Rhodesia, all of which he observed first-hand during his residence there.

In Ethiopia, Southern Baptist missionaries were asked by a small group of people to leave the mission station at Menz. Quietly, the missionaries locked their homes and drove to Addis Ababa, the capitol of Ethiopia. Having planned vacations within a few weeks, they simply took their vacations early.

Before the month had passed a second delegation from Menz approached the missionaries in Addis Ababa. The judges, Parliament members and local leaders made a written formal request for the missionaries to return to Menz. The delegates represented the larger group that held mass demonstrations showing the public support of the missionaries.

Thus the missionaries were able to return with a new sense of purpose, knowing that the people who had at one time only accepted them, now wanted them.

Work permits and visas have been a difficulty in the past for missionaries going to Uganda. Other work by a different group of evangelical missionaries had been closed and congregations disbanded. However, the secretary for religious affairs of the government assured Saunders that visas and work permits will be available in the future to new missionaries wishing to enter Uganda.

With this progress comes reports that once declining work is now increasing and growth is seen again in Uganda.

The organization of three different areas of Zambia to formally ratify a constitution for the organization of the Baptist Convention of Zambia has been the goal of mission work there for several years.

This year it happened. "The missionaries in Zambia are anticipating a new spirit of unity and a forward thrust as the churches begin to pull together and to speak with one voice on the many issues that face them," Saunders reported.

Mozambique and Angola, both Portuguese overseas provinces at the beginning of the year, were, through the new government in Portugal, able to extend the religious liberties of the people. Both nations granted the right to open-air assemblies, not permitted before the coup.

Angola also granted permission for Southern Baptist Missionary Harrison H. Pike to reopen work in the Carmona area, closed for the last 13 years to all evangelical work. The First Baptist Church of Carmona was organized with 5,665 charter members coming from 74

groups of believers.

Pike will soon be joined by three more missionary couples, one now in language study, one just appointed and one reappointed to Angola after serving in Brazil. For Angola, this year has brought new freedoms, new believers and new missionary personnel, Saunders said.

In Rhodesia early reports from a simultaneous revival indicated approximately 2,000 new professions of faith. This number added to the present 8,800 membership in Baptist churches represents a significant growth.

The thrust of development in Eastern and Southern Africa, according to Saunders, has been directed toward leadership training. Missionaries, he said, are seeking to reach every level, "from the layman who teaches in the local congregation, to the well-trained pastor who becomes the key to the development of strong, well-organized and active convention life."

In conclusion, Saunders called Eastern and Southern Africa a land of "unrivaled opportunities" and called for prayer for guidance in using the resources now available to the mission effort.

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Illinois Children's Home
Short Funds; Official Missing

9/13/74

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--The business and development director of the Baptist Children's Home in Carmi, Ill., has been missing since August 31, according to a report to the directors of the Illinois Baptist State Association in its semi-annual meeting here.

Executive Secretary James H. Smith told the board of directors, according to the Illinois Baptist, the Illinois Baptist State Association's weekly newspaper, that Paynter had transferred \$32,000 in children's home funds to a bank account in his name.

Paynter left Carmi, Smith said, after it was revealed that Paynter had opened a checking account in a bank at Evansville, Ind., under the name of the Baptist Children's Home Association and deposited two checks from an estate settlement totaling \$4,000 and \$32,721.

Later, Paynter wrote a \$32,000 check on the account, the Illinois Baptist said, and deposited it in another account which he had opened under his own name.

"We are not bringing charges against him at this time," Smith told the board, "because we are covered by the bonding company, and that would be their responsibility." He said the home is covered by "a \$100,000 blanket bond."

Smith also reported that auditors of the Illinois Baptist State Association are going over all financial records of the home, but that to date they have found no further evidences of misappropriation.

"We are hoping for the best," Smith told the board, which called for special prayer for Paynter and his family. "Our attorney has advised us to be careful in making charges in the hope that Jim will eventually turn up with some logical explanation, as improbable as that now appears."

In other action, the board of directors adopted a 10-year long range plan for Baptist expansion in Illinois and approved a record Cooperative Program goal of \$1,825,000 for 1975.

The long-range plans, covering 1975 to 1985, relate primarily to the church development and church extension divisions. It calls for 1,400 Southern Baptist churches in Illinois by 1985. The board adopted a similar 10-year plan for the Baptist Children's Home in 1972.

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Georgia Baptists Approve
\$7,475,000 1975 Budget

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention's executive committee has approved a budget of \$7,475,000 for 1975. The budget, to be presented to the Georgia Baptist Convention annual session in November for final approval, will be divided equally between Georgia and Southern Baptist Convention ministries.

Searcy S. Garrison of Atlanta, executive secretary-treasurer of the Georgia convention, reported that Cooperative Program unified budget gifts for the months January-August were 4.9 per cent higher than the same period in 1973.

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Colombia's Proposed Tax Bill
May Exempt Baptist Property

9/13/74

BOGOTA, Colombia (BP)--Baptist seminaries and church buildings in Colombia will be exempt from national property taxes if a bill recently introduced in the Colombian Parliament is approved.

The bill would grant tax exemption to church buildings and seminaries of all denominations. Presently only Catholic property is tax-exempt.

El Tiempo, a Bogota newspaper, said in a front page article that this is the first time in Colombia's history that tax exemption for non-Catholic groups has been suggested.

Tax exemption for all faiths was a prominent plank in the campaign platform of Alfonso Lopez Michelson, who won the Colombian presidency in April. Mrs. J. Thomas Norman, Southern Baptist missionary press representative, said that a furor resulted during the presidential campaign when the press misinterpreted his tax program to mean that the Catholic Church would be taxed as other groups are.

The bill would only affect national property taxes, but Mrs. Norman indicated local and state governments might follow suit if the Colombian Parliament passes it.

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Texas Executive Board Urges
Institutional Restructure

9/13/74

DALLAS (BP)--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas adopted a report from an institutional study committee which recommends restructure of convention procedure in overseeing its network of educational and welfare institutions.

In other action, the 192-member board adopted a \$20 million budget, heard a report on financially-troubled Dallas Baptist College and approved a name change for another college.

The committee was named by Texas Baptists to make a long-range study after three institutions--a hospital, a medical school and a college--left the denominational fold.

The adopted report called for making the convention's Christian Education Commission and Human Welfare Commission into coordinating boards which would have authority to oversee operations and finances of Texas Baptist institutions and approve programs.

The Texas convention operates 26 institutions. The Human Welfare Commission relates to eight hospitals, four homes for the aged and a network of childcare facilities. The Christian Education Commission relates to eight colleges and universities, one academy and 86 Baptist Student Unions on state and private campuses in Texas.

The report also emphasized long-range rather than year-by-year budgeting and planning.

Board members, in their final meeting before the annual state convention, Oct. 29-31 in Amarillo, heard a report that enrollment at Dallas Baptist College is up over last year.

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But operational problems continue, said James Harris, a Fort Worth pastor and head of a special task force appointed to study the problems at the school.

Harris called on Dallas residents "who want the college to live. . . to help with (its) indebtedness. We believe it ought to live. We will do all we can to see that it does."

The board also approved changing the name of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., to Howard Payne University.

The \$20 million budget was adopted following a mandate at last year's convention at Corpus Christi, at which the goal was approved.

The record budget commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget--the plan whereby Baptist churches support missions causes in the States and around the world.

More than \$6.8 million of the \$20 million will be channeled to the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville for distribution for worldwide causes.

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Browning Accepts Post
In Penn-Jersey Convention

9/13/74

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)--Walter E. (Ed) Browning, associate in the Sunday School division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has been named director of the division of religious education of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey.

Browning, 43, a native of Alabama and a former field engineer with RCA in Cape Kennedy, Fla., for eight years, has served as minister of education and youth for churches in Florida and Texas. He is a graduate of the University of South Florida and holds a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Responsibilities of the religious education division include Sunday School, Church Training, student work, music and other church programs related to the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

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Southern Seminary Library
Joins Computerized System

9/13/74

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The James P. Boyce Centennial Library, located on the campus of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has joined a computerized library cataloging project which includes major research and university libraries throughout the Southeast.

Known as SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network), the Atlanta-based system links some 100 member schools to a central computer which will have the catalog listing of every item entered in each of the system's libraries.

Southern's library, represented by director Ronald Deering, was a charter member of SOLINET and will be one of six seminaries in the Southeastern United States which will have access to the program's facilities.

The program was initiated by funds totaling \$250,000. SOLINET recently received a \$600,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation, making it one of the most viable of all such cooperatives in the country, seminary officials report.

The seminary library will be connected to the computer by long-distance telephone lines. Library personnel in Louisville will have access to the holdings of all other libraries merely by punching an appropriate code on a key board terminal located in the library.

During the initial years of the program SOLINET will be connected to the nationally renowned Ohio College Library Center in Columbus, Ohio.

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