



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 6, 1974

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## Ohio Baptists Launch New Program; Observe 20th Year

**KETTERING, Ohio (BP)**--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio celebrated its 20th anniversary in this Dayton suburb and launched a new 10-year program, including reorganization of convention structure.

Registered messengers to the annual meeting of Ohio's Southern Baptists also adopted a record budget of more than \$1.7 million, including about \$1.2 million expected from its churches through the state Cooperative Program, and elected Paul Payne, pastor of First Baptist Church, Huber Heights, Ohio, as president.

Thirty-five-and-a-half-percent of the state Cooperative Program figure was set aside for worldwide missions through the SBC's national Cooperative Program.

A convention resolution cited a "crisis of integrity" and called upon people to espouse integrity as a way of life, both in private and public, and urged all levels of government to restore integrity to public office.

Under the new structure, the Ohio convention will have a new church missions division and church development division, which will be headed by as yet unnamed directors. The restructure also calls for elevation of the status the convention's evangelism department to a level comparable to a division.

Another new position, business services manager, was created to fill the department of public services, voted by the convention's executive board last July. The business services manager will manage state convention properties.

Also under the new structure, the editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger, the director of the state's Baptist Foundation, the evangelism director and the missions and church development division directors will join the associate executive secretary at the top policy making level.

A motion to take the Sunday School department out of the church development division and elevate it to division status was defeated.

The 10-year program, launched at a session attended by more than 3,000 persons, also includes a goal of establishing 350 new churches and adding 100,000 baptisms. The Ohio convention, which began 20 years ago with 39 congregations and less than 10,000 members, now has 408 congregations and 106,000 members.

Ray E. Roberts, the convention's first and only executive, was honored for his 20 years of service in an anniversary celebration which featured leaders from Ohio Southern Baptists' past and present.

Ohio Baptists also voted to send the Ohio Baptist Messenger, their state newspaper, to all Baptist families in the state at convention expense, beginning Jan. 1, 1975, to improve communication.

Southern Baptist Convention President Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., addressing the convention, urged a new emphasis on evangelism which can "win America to Christ in our lifetime."

Cosby Defends Flip Wilson's  
TV Portrayal of 'Rev. Leroy'

NASHVILLE (BP)--Comedian Flip Wilson is using his comedy and the medium of television to expose the "con men, hucksters and panderers" in the church, another nationally known comedian, Bill Cosby, has said.

Cosby's statement came in the form of a telegram to United Press International news service after a story by W.A. Reed, religion editor of the Nashville Tennessean, reported on a resolution approved by the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention which criticized a recent Wilson television special. A Wilson character, "Rev. Leroy," portrayed during the special, upset the black Baptist group.

The convention of Baptists called Wilson's special "an insult to God and a breach of the Third Commandment."

Issuing a lengthy statement, the Tennessee churchmen asked that such television shows be discontinued and said:

"A people's religious heritage is the life blood of their community and should not be caricatured for ridicule or economic gain."

Cosby's telegram read: "Flip Wilson's character, Rev. Leroy, is not meant to represent Dr. Martin Luther King or Dr. Fred Loughton.

"His intentions are not to denigrate or exploit them. Instead, Flip Wilson is using his comedy and the medium of television to expose the con men, hucksters and panderers in the church who use the cross for their own self aggrandizement.

"Flip is being accused of doing exactly what he is trying to expose," the telegram said.

The church group asked in its statement: "If you wish to present the black in a more accurate fashion, we suggest that you reproduce the marches of Dr. Martin Luther King in Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma, for this would come closer to depicting our real image than would a bunch of mini-skirted girls doing the boogaloo in the choir stand."

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Pope Paul Awards  
Medal to Baptist

11/7/74

DALLAS (BP)--Pope Paul VI has awarded a medal to an active member of First Baptist Church here for his work in raising funds for Catholic institutions.

Fred M. Lange, a former member of the Texas Baptist Human Welfare Commission, is the recipient of the Medal of Benemfrenti for his assistance of the past 40 years to Dallas Catholic juvenile homes, schools and hospitals.

"I have been involved for many years in the promotion of brotherhood, all faiths working together for the good of mankind while still maintaining our own identity," says Lange.

During a recent visit to Europe, Lange and his wife, Blanche, had an audience with Pope Paul.

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Convention-Wide Survey Shows  
Support for Foreign Missions

11/7/74

RICHMOND (BP)--A Southern Baptist Convention-wide telephone survey among a sampling of church members indicates strong support for foreign missions while pointing up the need for additional and more accurate information about the SBC's overseas missions program.

"We are encouraged by the results of this survey," said Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board's mission support division. "However, the study also reveals areas of deficiency in missions education and information. We accept the challenge of this

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report along with the encouragement. "

The survey relates to a mandate from the convention for a missionary education study and will be shared with other agencies involved in the missionary education task, according to Fletcher.

Marketing Information Services, an independent research firm employed by the Foreign Mission Board, conducted 1,022 interviews among members of 105 churches. The telephone survey, conducted in August and September, involved responses to 40 questions or statements about foreign missions. Of those interviewed, approximately two-thirds were women.

The purpose of the survey was to determine a level of awareness about foreign missions, to ascertain basic attitudes toward missions, and to identify important sources of information and influence relative to the overall foreign missions program of the convention, according to Richard M. Styles, the board's public relations consultant, who coordinated the study.

Objectivity was a primary goal in the study, Styles said. Churches were randomly selected on the basis of membership, geographic location and an urban-non urban category. Each of the churches then provided a list of resident church members and a random selection of 10 to 12 interviewees was made from this list.

Almost all the church members interviewed (98 per cent) were aware of the foreign missions activities of the Southern Baptist Convention. Ninety per cent believe that foreign missions should be strongly supported by all Southern Baptists, and three-fourths believe more missionaries are needed in more countries. Only five per cent feel that foreign missionaries are out of date in today's society.

A major need, which surfaced in the survey, is for more information about foreign missions funding. Many of those interviewed were uninformed or misinformed about the board's finances, especially on the question of the amount spent in the United States for administration and promotion versus the amount spent overseas.

According to the findings of the survey, attitudes toward the board's financial operation decidedly improved when interviewees were told that less than 10 per cent is spent in the States, while more than 90 per cent is expended overseas.

"This says to us," Fletcher stated, "the more information we can give to Southern Baptists about foreign mission board finances, the stronger will be their support of foreign missions."

About one-third of those interviewed believe they receive too little information about foreign missions. This percentage is higher in the Middle South (Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee) and Middle West (Illinois, Missouri, Ohio)--areas in which awareness and readership of publications dealing with foreign missions is lowest. Church members in these areas also exhibit higher levels of uncertainty about foreign missions and on certain questions, slightly less support for overseas missions. (Other geographic breakdowns were Southwest, Southeast, and Deep South).

Education is a prime factor influencing awareness and attitudes toward foreign missions. As educational level increases, awareness of foreign missions activities, and a more favorable attitude toward foreign missions and the Foreign Mission Board result.

The pastor is the most frequently mentioned source of information about foreign missions and the most important source for about 15 per cent of church members. In smaller churches, the members exhibit higher identification with the pastor as the most important source of information while members of larger churches show a slightly greater dependence on church groups and missionary speakers.

Persons with college educational experience rely heavily on state Baptist papers as a source of missions information, while persons with grade school education named speakers as a primary source.

The state Baptist papers enjoy higher awareness and readership levels than any other missions information publication and are the third most frequently mentioned source of information on foreign missions, trailing the pastor and the Woman's Missionary Union organization. The survey indicates that more readers in the younger age group (16-24) mention state papers as the primary missions information source than in the other two age categories, 25-49 and 50 or older.

Foreign Board Appoints 17;  
Votes \$25,000 for Honduras

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, at its November meeting, appropriated an additional \$25,000 for relief and reconstruction in Honduras, commended Texas Baptists for their response to recent hurricane destruction in Honduras and appointed 17 missionaries.

Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary, reported that from January until November, \$371,575 has been made available for relief as a result of gifts from Southern Baptist churches and individuals and Foreign Mission Board appropriations. Included in this amount is \$100,000 appropriated by the board in October from Cooperative Program challenge funds.

Of the \$371,575 total, \$280,880 has been appropriated for relief efforts in various countries where Southern Baptists have mission work. As recommendations from the mission fields are approved, Cauthen said, the remaining \$90,695 will be available for appropriation.

"When disasters occur," Cauthen explained, "the Foreign Mission Board ascertains from the missionaries the circumstances they are facing and what they believe can be done. Based on recommendations from the missions, funds are appropriated and relief steps are taken."

Of the \$25,000 appropriated to Honduras during the November meeting, \$14,631 came from donations from Southern Baptists designated for Honduras relief and \$10,369 from board-designated relief funds. That brings the total Honduran appropriations to date to \$35,000.

In addition, the board appropriated \$8,000 of relief funds to repair churches and other buildings damaged when earthquakes shook Peru in October.

Commending Texas Baptists, the board expressed gratitude for their "prompt and compassionate" response to the suffering of the people of Honduras following Hurricane Fifi.

"Their support of Southern Baptist missionaries working in Honduras, through the sending of their mobile disaster unit staffed with Texas Baptist convention officers and others from within Texas Baptist life, as well as special relief gifts, including \$9,200 from Texas Baptist students, is leaving an indelible impression upon those so dramatically benefited," said the board's resolution.

The board also appropriated \$28,600 to increase emergency compensation in 11 of the 81 countries where Southern Baptists have work, reflecting further inroads of inflation overseas.

Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, explained, "Cost-of-living adjustments are handled through a supplement known as emergency compensation. The amount of the supplement is determined in relation to differences of cost of living in different settings."

Currency exchange rates, availability of goods and services, differences of living patterns and varying rates of inflation are all factors considered in adjustments that are made, Crawley said.

"The intention of the board," he said, "through its emergency compensation arrangements, is to provide for each field roughly the same basic purchasing power for missionaries."

In other action, the board approved a shifting of responsibilities for two of South America's field representatives, awarded medical receptorships to five students and reappointed a missionary couple.

To be consistent with the recent division of South America into two administrative areas, Don R. Kammerdiener, presently field representative for southern Spanish-speaking South America, will assume similar duties for Spanish eastern South America (Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay), and J. Bryan Brasington, presently field representative for northern Spanish-speaking South America, will be responsible for western South America (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela).

Medical receptorships, an arrangement in which the board provides short-term overseas opportunities for qualified medical students, were awarded to Thomas Elkins, Giles Fort III, and Robert A. Moore Jr., students at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Tex.; Andy M.

Norman, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta; and Mark Thompson, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Olin D. Boles of Texas, who served in Brazil from 1966 to 1973, were reappointed to Brazil.

The 17 new missionaries appointed will serve in nine countries.

Among those appointed were Mr. and Mrs. Gerald W. Burch of Alabama, assigned to Japan; Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Davis of Virginia, to Uruguay; Mr. and Mrs. Larry E. Davis of Kansas and Tennessee, to Nigeria; Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Deevers of Mississippi and Louisiana, to Ivory Coast.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. R.W. (Bill) Hayes of Texas, to Mexico; Miss Pauline Parrish of Florida, to Chile; Mr. and Mrs. James L. Rice of Florida and Virginia, to Uganda; and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Rupp of Indiana and Texas, to Colombia.

Employed as missionary associates were Mr. and Mrs. Philip R. Overton of Illinois and Louisiana, to Panama.

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Elderly May Lose Homes  
As Center Faces Bankruptcy

11/7/74

POMPANO BEACH, Fla. (BP)--Some 720 residents and 170 geriatric patients at Baptist Village here are among about 4,000 elderly persons in religious-oriented retirement centers in Florida who may lose the roofs over their heads.

Of the nearly 60 religiously oriented retirement facilities in Florida, at least three, according to a report by Miami Herald religion editor Adon Taft, are in various stages of bankruptcy proceedings, with several others appealing for special funds to keep them operating and solvent. Many elderly retirees have invested their life savings in such homes.

Baptist Village, the Herald noted, is in the most serious financial straits of the Florida religiously related centers. The complex, which went into receivership last year, is the creation of Mack Douglas, the former interim pastor of First Baptist Church of Margate, a Southern Baptist congregation.

The seven-year-old Baptist-run retirement complex, technically tied directly to the First Baptist Church of Margate, is in reality a separate operation and not connected with the Florida Baptist Convention. The church, however, is affiliated with the Florida convention.

The diversified retirement complex could be anywhere from \$10 to \$20 million in debt, depending on who is doing the estimating, the Miami Herald reported.

The complex received its tax-exempt status under the Margate church's name, although construction began while Douglas was the pastor of First Baptist Church, Pompano Beach.

Most religious-oriented retirement centers in Florida are in sound financial shape, the Herald noted. The Florida Baptist Convention owns one such well run operation--the Florida Baptist Retirement Center in Vero Beach. Residents pay no entrance fee and, if they are able, pay a fluctuating figure of about \$200 a month.

Several other "Baptist" retirement homes in Florida are set up as independent corporations by Baptist laymen, to enable them to receive federal funds and avoid the conflict related to separation of church and state and acceptance of government monies.

At facilities which face serious difficulty, experts have cited inflation and "the leadership of visionary, naive clergy" as reasons for the financial troubles, the Herald reported.

"There was never any fraud or never really mismanagement but just a lot of bad judgement," the Herald quoted Bob Russell, executive vice president of the Florida Nursing Home Association.

A problem, according to Irving McArthur, director of the Florida United Presbyterian Homes, Lakeland, Fla., is that prospective residents think they are safe because a facility has a

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religious name, the Herald reported.

McArthur, who said very few of Florida's religiously-oriented retirement facilities are directly connected with a church, warned that retirees entering any home, religious or not, should ask an attorney to look over the contract, talk to residents and examine facilities, ask to see a financial statement and consult his or her pastor or other clergyman.

Several factors played a role in creating the present demise of Baptist Village, a complex appraised at \$31.7 million, Taft's Herald report noted.

The Herald said Douglas's generosity with the elderly residents and his grandiose expansion plans finally put the Baptist corporation in a bind as inflation set in, according to a spokesman for the residents and Robert L. Smith, who succeeded Douglas as the pastor at the Pompano Beach church. Smith resigned from the Baptist Village board more than two years ago because he felt it was overextending with money that was supposed to be used for existing obligations, the Herald said.

Some of the early homes in the complex reportedly were sold for as much as \$5,000 under what it cost to build them. And no provision was made for cost of living increases in some of the "very generous" maintenance fee contracts, the Herald noted.

Douglas, however, now a sales manager for a non-church-related condominium development in Atlanta, told the Herald that none of the units was sold at less than cost and denied that funds were diverted from one project to another, as some have charged.

Rather, Douglas attributed spiraling costs and interest rates "which could not be foreseen" to the financial crisis of Baptist Village. "These church-financed projects have no reserves," he was quoted, "so if there is a slow down they can't make it because of the increased cost of labor, construction, interest and management costs.

"When I left there in September of 1972, sales were great. . . I don't know what happened."

The present pastor of the Margate congregation, Yates Brooks, said laymen there didn't realize what was happening when Douglas placed the whole Baptist Village Corporation under the church's name.

In October, 1973, Baptist Village was placed under receivership and recently a trustee was named to attempt a reorganization at the direction of the bankruptcy court.

Now each Sunday's collection from the 500-member congregation goes directly to the trustee who deposits money in the church's name for budget operation and sees to directing funds that remain, Brooks said.

Brooks said a proposal has been made from the church to the trustee to attempt to negotiate the church's separation from Baptist Village. It would mean the church would buy back immediate church property, subject to court approval, and would probably mean a name change for the church.

A resident of the village, who is on a committee trying to reorganize the corporation to save the villagers' homes, believes the core project at the main Pompano site would be solvent if it could divest itself of the other developments in the project and raise the present occupancy from about 85 percent to at least 95 percent.

Another option is that the Evangelical Covenant Church of America, which operates Covenant Palms in Miami, might take over the project, the Herald story noted.

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Cost of Living Adjustments  
Part of Missionary Support

11/7/74

RICHMOND (BP)--Missionaries overseas understand the phrase "rising cost of living" and find themselves caught in the crunch just as people living in the United States do.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, however, is constantly studying the overseas situation, adjusting missionary salaries whenever necessary to offset the inflationary spiral, Winston Crawley reported at the agency's November meeting.

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Cost-of-living adjustments for 2,579 missionaries in 81 countries are handled through a supplement known as "emergency compensation," according to Crawley, director of the board's overseas division.

The emergency compensation item, a standard part of the missionary support structure, according to Crawley, would be more accurately called a cost-of-living supplement.

"The amount of the supplement is determined in relation to different costs of living in different settings," Crawley said. "When a missionary leaves the United States for his mission field, he enters a different economic situation, which includes problems of currency exchange rates, availability of goods and services, differences in living patterns and varying rates of inflation.

The basic intention of the board, Crawley said, is to provide for each field roughly the same basic purchasing power for missionaries.

Ordinarily, cost-of-living adjustments are made annually as a part of the operating budget. In cases where either inflation or decline in exchange rate amount to as much as 8 to 10 per cent in the course of the calendar year, the board may take action for an emergency adjustment.

The board uses four sources for cost-of-living information. The major one comes from Organization Resources Counselors, Inc., a counseling organization that provides worldwide cost-of-living data to various American business concerns. This is especially valuable, Crawley said, because it is updated more often than information from two additional sources, the United Nations and the U.S. Department of State.

A fourth source is official or semi-official cost-of-living data, available within a particular country, sent to the board from time to time by the treasurer of the mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

A major concern is to establish field supplements that are fair to all, Crawley said.

"The need for as much objectivity as possible in determining field supplements relates to some of the financial 'facts of life,'" Crawley said. "People nearly always feel the need for more money. Items that once were luxuries tend to become thought of as necessities. The period in life when children are in high school and college is a period of great financial pressure. It is always easy to look at some other person or place or to remember some other era as receiving more favored treatment.

"We can appreciate and sympathize with these psychological realities," he continued, "but policy and administrative decision still need to rest on reliable objective criteria."

In brief, what happens is that missionaries all around the world are given the same basic salary and then adjustments are made to make the standard of living all over the world comparable.

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#### CORRECTION

In graph 23 of Baptist Press story mailed Nov. 5, 1974, entitled 'Women Generally Equal as Baptist Missionaries', change the word: setting in third line to read: offsetting. It should then read: offsetting benefits and positive factors.

--Thanks

Baptist Press