



January 20, 1975

75-10

**Money Better Than Goods
In Baptist Relief Abroad**

RICHMOND (BP) --Dollars continue to be the most rapid and efficient form for relief according to a Southern Baptist missionary formerly stationed in Bangladesh and now an area missionary in the Middle East.

Troy Bennett, one of the pioneer missionaries to Bangladesh, underscored the problems there.

"The news from Bangladesh is not good," he said. "Unless something really dramatic happens in the hearts of those able to help as well as those who receive, it seems very likely that millions will die of starvation and millions more will have to live with the awareness that 'there ought to be something we can do about it.'"

To those who would help, Bennett said, "It is best not to send material goods to our missionaries in Bangladesh unless you hear from them with clearance to receive it."

He warned those who are eager to send clothing or even food directly to Bangladesh, "Your contribution may be thrown aside somewhere for lack of permission to receive it. However, you can send money to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board."

Money received by the board for relief is immediately placed at the disposal of missionaries in the devastated area for approved relief projects.

According to information received from J. D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East, missionaries in Bangladesh are helping to erect new shelters, dig shallow, fresh water wells, fund agricultural projects for long range solutions to hunger, and purchase and distribute food and medical supplies.

The Foreign Mission Board is an authorized channel for Southern Baptist overseas relief money.

"No other agency or avenue of relief provides Southern Baptists as direct a channel to needy people overseas," said Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the Board's Mission Support Division. "Because of its ongoing missionary endeavor in many of the areas threatened by famine or devastated by disaster, the Foreign Mission Board is able to translate relief funds--dollar for dollar--into relief needs without overhead or administrative costs."

Fletcher pointed out that while Southern Baptist Convention agencies are prohibited by the convention's business and financial plan from making direct appeals for relief funds, the Foreign Mission Board is encouraged by its program statement to circulate needs and publicize projects currently being funded by money given by Southern Baptists.

Fletcher, insisting that every dollar sent for relief designated for a particular place goes directly to that place, concluded, "The Foreign Mission Board is the most efficient channel Southern Baptists have."

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
400 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brian, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor**BUREAUS**ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

January 20, 1975

75-10

Baptist Woman's Auxiliary
Sets National Meet for 1976

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will observe the U. S. bicentennial, host a national convention for Baptist young women and give mission study a special shot in the arm as a result of action taken here during the executive board meeting of Southern Baptists' national woman's auxiliary.

The executive board, made up of nationally-elected officers and the president of each state WMU, was joined by state WMU staff for the deliberation.

The women voted a bicentennial flavor into WMU plans for 1976, calling for state-sponsored tours of historic U. S. and Baptist sites and for historic features in WMU meetings and periodicals.

The board authorized the first national convention for Baptist Young Women (WMU members, ages 18-29), June 11-14, 1976, in conjunction with the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting in Norfolk, Va., prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

WMU will produce a book in its Spiritual Development Series, featuring outstanding women in Baptist history. The book will be studied by Baptist women and Baptist young women on or near July 4, 1976.

Acteens for girls 12-17, and Girls in Action, for girls 6-11, both mission education programs, will participate in art and writing contests keyed to the bicentennial.

Proposals for bicentennial activities were made by a special committee representing state WMUs. Sara Ann Hobbs, WMU executive secretary in North Carolina, is committee chairwoman

In other business, the board adopted a 546-page compilation of WMU activities for 1976-77. The plans were developed by national headquarter staff and work group of WMU leaders, chaired by Mrs. Huber Drumwright, WMU board member from Fort Worth, Tex.

WMU activities and materials for 1976-77 are pegged to a two-pronged emphasis. "Minding the Future" will accent upgrading and enlarging of WMU organizations for preschoolers and girls; "Teach Missions: To Know, To Grow" will involve women and girls in innovative mission study approaches.

The 150 women heard Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive secretary, say that women are the greatest untapped resource of Southern Baptists.

Miss Weatherford, in her first address to the board since taking office October 7, said, "Woman's Missionary Union has a responsibility to women. We do not want to defeat our basic missionary purpose by becoming aggressive feminists, yet we must help women to develop an awareness of their worth in the Lord's sight."

She voiced the necessity for WMU to live up to its name as a "woman's" organization. "We must seek to meet the needs of individual women in their setting," she said.

Miss Weatherford said that being a woman's organization is not alone sufficient reason for WMU's existence and urged the WMU leaders to value the importance of their missions work.

-more-

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

"There is not much to be said for liberating persons if there is not some challenging and noble purpose for which they are liberated," she said. "We do not have time for fascinating side-tracks that make us a church P-TA or social outlet for women."

In a union of church, associational and statewide WMU organizations, women have the capacity to give strong support to missions, she continued. "The time is right for WMU because it is right for women. We have come to a new consciousness of ourselves and our potential, and we will not be defeated," she said.

Almost 100 WMU leaders remained in Birmingham after the executive board meeting adjourned for a day-long seminar entitled, "Freedom for the Christian Women." The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission conducted the study at the request of WMU.

-30-

**Wesley Wiley Named To New
Home Mission Board Post**

Baptist Press

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has named H. Wesley Wiley as northeast area director of the program of cooperative ministries with National (black) Baptists.

Emmanuel McCall, director of the department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists, said Wiley would work in New York, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

He primarily will be assisting Joseph Bass, the new executive director of the Home Mission Board of the Progressive National Baptist Convention in developing stewardship and mission concepts.

Before assuming the new post, Wiley had been director, for more than six years, of cooperative ministries with National Baptists for the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, which is aligned with two national bodies, the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches.

A native of North Carolina, he is a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary and also attended Shaw University. He has done graduate study at Virginia Union University, American University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Wiley served as pastor of churches in Caswell County, Roxboro and Winston-Salem, N. C., from 1941-1964, excluding a three-year stint as director of the Southern Baptist city mission in Winston-Salem, during 1952-55.

In 1964, he became pastor of Springfield Baptist Church in Washington, D. C., and served there until joining the convention staff in 1968.

-30-

(BP) PHOTO Mailed to state Baptist papers.

#

**Annie Armstrong Offering
Final Tally is \$8,130,142**

Baptist Press

ATLANTA (BP)--Final figures on the 1974 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering show Southern Baptists gave an all-time record \$8,130,142 to support home missions efforts around the nation.

The final tally was almost \$1 million more than the goal of \$7.2 million and was \$1,245,604 more than the \$6,884,538 given in 1973. The offering was up 18 percent over last year.

Goal for the 1975 offering is \$8.5 million. The Southern Baptist Convention Week of Prayer for Home Missions is March 1-9. Theme of the week is "Herein is Hope."

Lester Morriss Heads Texas
Baptist Evangelism Division

DALLAS (BP)--Lester L. Morriss, 54, pastor of First Baptist Church, Midland, Tex., for 21 years, has been named director of the evangelism division for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

He succeeds C. Wade Freeman, who retired on Dec. 31 after 28 years in the position.

Morriss has served as pastor of the Midland church since 1954, during which time the church has recorded more than 3,000 baptisms.

Since 1969, the 6,000-member church has been spotlighted by Christian Life magazine as having one of the 50 largest Sunday Schools in the United States, with a current enrollment of 3,170.

He is a former chairman of both the Texas executive board and its human welfare commission, has served as parliamentarian for both the Southern and Texas Baptist Conventions, has been a member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and has served as trustee for several Texas Baptist colleges.

A native of Tyler, Tex., Morriss grew up and attended public school there. He received his higher education at the College of Marshall, now East Texas Baptist College; Baylor University; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has doctor of divinity degrees from Baylor and East Texas.

-30-

National PEARL plans Action
Against Private School Aid

Baptist Press

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The fledgling National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL), at its first annual meeting here, took action to begin a program of court action against violations of separation of church and state.

PEARL authorized its executive committee to file suits in court, prepare "amicus curiae" (friend of the court) briefs and otherwise participate in litigation. Such court action would be limited to those actions approved by counsel and the executive committee and within the financial resources of the coalition. The cases would be brought only in the names of the sponsoring groups that concur in the action.

PEARL officially opened its office in the National Education Association building here on May 1, 1974. Ms. Joanne Goldsmith is the executive director. John Walker, Episcopal Suffragan Bishop of Washington, is the president.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJC) is one of 30 religious and civil liberties organizations forming the coalition. James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the BJC, is a member of the executive committee of PEARL.

This new coalition "is dedicated to preserving religious liberty and the principle of separation of church and state and to maintaining the integrity and viability of public education." Hence, it is generally opposed to government aid to nonpublic schools.

In her first report to PEARL, Ms. Goldsmith said that correspondence from the White House "seems to rule out direct aid to nonpublic schools," although "both President Ford and Vice President Rockefeller are committed" to some form of government aid to private schools.

Roger D. Semerad, staff assistant to the President, wrote: "The President has stated that he hoped we could find a constitutional way to help private schools. He is well aware of the various court decisions that have ruled out direct aid to these schools. Although he favors finding some method of support, he will not recommend them in light of recent court decisions."

-more-

In other predictions on government aid to nonpublic schools, Ms. Goldsmith foresaw:

- More proposals in Congress to aid nonpublic schools;
- Regulations and guidelines for education legislation making it easier for nonpublic schools to apply for aid;
- Pressure to restrict funds for public education;
- New efforts in the 94th Congress for tax aid to private schools in some form of tax credits or voucher plans;
- Pressure from church groups themselves to become more involved in curriculum development and textbook selection.

In another action by PEARL, the coalition expressed dissatisfaction with the existence of the position of Director of Nonpublic Educational Services in connection with the office of the U. S. Commissioner of Education. Dwight Crum is the director of the program for these services at present. The manner in which this dissatisfaction is to be implemented was referred to the executive committee.

-30-

Paynter Pleads Not Guilty After Grand Jury Indictment

Baptist Press

CARMI, Ill. (BP)--James E. Paynter, former business and development director for the Baptist Children's Home here, has been released on \$5,000 bond after pleading not guilty to a charge of theft.

The White County grand jury indicted Paynter on the charge, filed by the state's attorney, after hearing evidence. A hearing date will be set.

An extensive investigation of the Children's Home finances has taken place since August 31, 1974, when Paynter disappeared after irregularities were reported in some funds he handled, according to the Illinois Baptist.

The Illinois Baptist State Association (IBSA), acting on the advice of its attorney, has not filed charges against Paynter, but the IBSA's executive secretary, James H. Smith, said the IBSA has filed a claim for \$103,752 against the company under which Paynter is bonded.

The indictment involved alleged theft of a \$500 check from the estate of a Vandalia, Ill., woman. The specific charge was that he converted the \$500 check, which was intended for the home, to his own use last July 3.

Paynter reportedly has been living in another state since his disappearance but made himself available to authorities in December through an attorney. At that time, his attorney said he would be available in the event of a grand jury indictment.

Smith said the claim was filed with the bonding company after a special audit of the home's books, covering the period between Jan. 1, 1972, and Sept. 1, 1974. He said the audit came after it was learned that Paynter had opened a checking account under the name of Baptist Children's Home Association in an out-of-state bank and had made deposits of two checks from estates, totaling \$4,000 and \$32,721, which had been intended for the children's home. Smith said the IBSA has no out-of-state bank accounts.

Later, Paynter wrote a \$32,000 check on the account, according to Smith, and deposited it in another account which Paynter opened in his own name.

-30-

NOTE TO EDITORS: THERE IS NO BP PHOTO TO GO WITH THE FEATURE STORY DATED 1-16-75 HEADLINED "AN EYEWITNESS TELLS OF COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BIRTH."

THANKS,
Baptist Press



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

JAN 21 1975

LYNN MAY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE. NO.
NASHVILLE TN. 37203

HO