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SBC Executive Committee
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February 10, 1975

75-22

Baptists Open Facilities To Seek Cure for Disease

BANGALORE, India (BP)--Hope replaced fear in the eyes of a young victim of Leucoderma, the loss of pigmentation in the skin.

Doctors had found the beginnings of a cure for the disease. Now the boy has hope of having friends again.

Although Leucoderma is not contagious, the people of India fear it and avoid people who have it.

In one case, a groom stopped a wedding and refused to continue when the bride's sari (dress) slipped from her shoulder during the ceremony, revealing a white spot of Leucoderma.

Some progress is being made in arresting the disease. And Southern Baptist missionaries are helping. Dr. John H. Wikman Jr., a Southern Baptist missionary, offered facilities of the Bangalore Baptist Hospital for use in a special project to find a cure.

Dr. Thomas Fitzpatrick of the Harvard University School of Medicine, came with his staff in November, 1974, to begin the project. The little boy was one of those enrolled.

In all, 260 persons agreed to participate in the project, with monthly visits to the hospital required for a year. Each person is given medication for a month at a time.

Two hours after the required dosage, the patient must expose his or her body to sunlight for a specified time period. This must be done between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of the intensity of the sun during those hours, the doctors say.

The program is to be evaluated sometime in the spring. Several months later it will be concluded and evaluated again.

Even to the non-medically trained eyes of James F. Kirkendall, the Southern Baptist field representative for the area in which Bangalore is located, it is evident that progress has been made.

The boy who came to the hospital with white spots running the length of his shins, after two months had brown spots -- a good sign -- forming in the affected areas, Kirkendall noted.

"Hope was in the big brown eyes of this boy," Kirkendall said, "hope for a cure to this disease that could stigmatize him and others like him for life."

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Car Accident Claims Life of Virginia Minister

Baptist Press-2/10/75

MANASSAS, Va. (BP)--M. Jackson White, pastor emeritus of Main Street Baptist Church, Luray, Va., was killed in a two-car collision near here.

Julia, wife of the 74-year-old former president of the statewide Baptist General Association of Virginia, received facial cuts in the mishap and was admitted to Prince William County Hospital for treatment.

White had served as pastor of Virginia Baptist churches in Richmond and Arlington before going to Luray in 1967. He retired in 1972. He was also pastor of churches in Mayslick, Ky., and Union City, Tenn.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. John A. Goodwin of Alexandria, Va.

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February 10, 1975

75-22

Except for Stock Market,
 Annuity Board Has Best Year

DALLAS (BP)--The downward trend of the stock market kept the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board from enjoying its best year ever, trustees of the SBC agency were told at their annual meeting here.

President Darold H. Morgan of Dallas reported that the board, in 1974, recorded the largest number of new members, a record amount of premium income, a record total funds held in trust, and a three percent loss based on average assets.

Morgan said the loss, amounting to \$11.3 million, was due to the decline in the stock market which suffered one of the worst years in history.

Trustees learned, however, that some recovery has already been achieved.

"Between January 1 and February 5 of this year, the Dow Jones Industrial average already has recovered more than 100 points," Morgan said.

He reminded trustees the board has longrange investment objectives. "We do not like a down trend in the market, but we can weather it out. Prudent investment practices include retaining our current investments in stocks, in order to minimize losses and maximize gains," Morgan said.

The newly-elected chairman of the Annuity Board, W. Gordon Hobgood, Jr., an investment executive from Dallas, said the performance of the agency's total fund investment ranked in the top 9 per cent of similar type funds. The rating was prepared by A. G. Becker Co. of Chicago, which measures performance of 2,400 different funds throughout the nation.

Hobgood said the ranking means the Annuity Board outperformed 91 percent of the funds surveyed by Becker.

The board has 33 percent of its investments in common stocks. No new funds have been invested in common stocks since April 1973, Morgan said.

Funds held in trust for ministers and for other church-related vocational workers stood at a record \$353,445,743, an increase of \$3,183,557 over 1973, the Annuity Board president pointed out.

A record number of new members was enlisted in Plan A, the basic retirement plan maintained by the Annuity Board and Baptist State conventions for ordained ministers in churches. The 1,969 new members enlisted in 1974 compares with 1,753 the year before.

Income from premiums and dues reached a record \$32,409,256 in 1974, topping the previous record of \$31,172,754 set two years ago, Morgan indicated.

Income from real estate attained a new high of \$4,892,234, and income from mortgage loans jumped to \$7,828,668, nearly double the 1973 amount from that type investment.

On the other hand, the realized and unrealized losses recorded for income from bonds, short-term investments and common stocks amounted to \$21 million.

"As the stock market rises, these losses can be recovered," Morgan said.

The number of ministers or widows of ministers receiving relief assistance showed a slight gain for the second straight year. The 409 assisted in 1974 compares with 405 aided in 1973 and the record low of 398 in 1972. --more--

Funds for relief assistance are provided through the national Cooperative Program unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention. Operation of the retirement and insurance protection programs offered through the Annuity Board is supported by income from investments.

Those receiving relief aid retired before the denomination's retirement protection ministry gained the wide acceptance among churches it has today, Morgan said.

The board's insurance services department reported an increase in the number of members in the life insurance plan for churches. A gain of 700 members during the year hiked the 1974 figure to 8,035.

Volume in force for this plan went up by \$14.5 million during 1974 to a new total of \$213,572,000.

An emphasis on seminary participation in insurance for students resulted in a 50 per cent gain in persons covered--from 1,058 to 1,569.

The Annuity Board added 725 new annuitants to its benefit rolls last year, down from the 767 new annuitants added in 1973. The board provides benefit payments for more than 9,000 annuitants in all--including retirees, disabled persons and widows.

Benefits paid out to these annuitants in 1974 came to \$15,692,198, a drop of about \$150,000 from the preceding year. In 1973, the board gave two extra months of benefits to annuitants through a "13th Check" near the end of the year.

Because of the stock market decline, the board could grant only one month of extra benefits through the 13th Check in 1974. This accounted for the most part of the drop in benefits paid.

Charles L. Burrall Jr., of Philadelphia, the board's actuarial consultant, commended trustees for the "calm, analytical" manner in which they faced the declines caused by the stock market performance.

Hobgood, a layman, and board chairman of First International Investment Management, Inc., succeeds Dallas pastor, Bruce McIver, as chairman. McIver was elected one of three vice chairmen. The other vice chairmen are, Robert D. Crowley of Rockville, Md., a pastor, and David R. Vaughan, layman from Atlanta, Ga.

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Wrapup

Board Installs New Exec. ;
Appoints Name Committee

Baptist Press 2/10/75

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board honored outgoing president James L. Sullivan, installed Grady C. Cothen as the agency's sixth president, heard the last report of the outgoing administration and appointed a committee to study a possible name change for the agency.

The name study committee was appointed in response to the Committee of 15, an SBC Executive Committee-appointed group which studied convention agencies. The Committee of 15 suggested that the board's functions were much more diverse than the current name implies.

Cothen was installed in services in the board's 1,000-seat Van Ness Auditorium, where employees and guests heard James Abernathy of Texas, the board's trustee chairman, deliver the charge to the new president and Sullivan turn over the a medallion symbolic of the office to Cothen.

In his response, Cothen said, "The Sunday School Board stands on Scripture. I do not see it our duty to debate it," he said, but to see to it that the board gets "the Bible to those who need it."

In other action, the trustees:

--Passed a resolution officially recognizing the 50th anniversary of the SBC's national Cooperative Program unified budget.

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--Shifted operation of gift and sundries shops at the board-operated Baptist conference centers to the board's book store division.

--Named the board's administration tower building the "James L. Sullivan Tower."

--Named the newly completed assembly room, where the board meeting was held, the "J. M. Crowe Room," in honor of the board's retiring executive vice president.

--Authorized a staff study concerning retention rights in the agency's pension plan.

In regard to the resolution on the Cooperative Program, the trustees pointed out that although "the Sunday School Board receives no Cooperative Program funds," it is "vitaly interested in the ministry of the Cooperative Program and exhibits this interest by providing funds to the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, which enables the use of Cooperative Program funds directly in other Southern Baptist Convention causes."

Appointed by chairman Abernathy to the committee to study the possibility of a name change were John Tippett of Georgia (chairman), Norman Wiggins and Troy Hamrick of North Carolina, Norman Fry of Texas, Ralph McIntyre of Tennessee, William Bennett of Arkansas and Cornelius Davis of Florida.

A dinner honoring Sullivan was held the night before the full trustees' meeting began. A program, attended by nearly 1,000 guests, highlighted the life of the denominational leader in multi-media presentations, plus numbers of citations and recognitions. A new automobile was presented to the Sullivans, along with personal gifts.

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H. E. Ingraham
Dies In Nashville

Baptist Press 2/10/75

NASHVILLE (BP)--H. E. Ingraham, retired director of the service division for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, died in Nashville of a heart attack. He was 76 years old.

Ingraham, an employe of the board for 43 years, served as associate and secretary of the department of Sunday School administration, associate editor and editor of the Sunday School Builder, Sunday School Board business manager, and director of service division before his retirement in 1966.

A native of Georgia, Ingraham was the educational director of Main Street Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., before moving to the Sunday School Board in 1922.

Ingraham was the author of various pamphlets and articles in Sunday School Board periodicals. He led many Sunday School enlargement campaigns and was a lay-evangelist in churches all over the Southern Baptist Convention.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sybil Ley Ingraham, and two children.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state paper editors.

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Study Committee Sets
Public Session in Atlanta

Baptist Press 2/10/75

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists wishing to express their views on a name change for the Southern Baptist Convention or the operation of the SBC Executive Committee are invited to set up an interview here March 31-April 1 with the committee appointed by the SBC to study these matters.

Appointments may be made on a first come, first served basis by contacting C. R. Daley, committee chairman, P. O. Box 43401, Middletown, Ky. 40243 (telephone, 502-245-4101).

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Southern Baptists who cannot appear in person may share their views with Daley or other members of the committee in writing.

Daley said those desiring to meet with the committee must provide their own expense, since no funds have been provided by the convention for that purpose.

The Atlanta session is one of a series of methods being used by the committee, to gain information.

Daley said interviews have been conducted with all Southern Baptist agency heads, staff members of the Executive Committee, past and present elected Executive Committee members and others.

Members of the study committee will meet with Southern Baptist state executive secretaries and state Baptist editors in Mobile, Ala., during the annual meetings of the two groups there, Feb. 20-22.

In the meantime, state papers have included ballots on the question of a convention name change for any and all subscribers to register their views. Daley said the state paper surveys, along with a planned professional opinion survey of the entire Southern Baptist Convention, will strongly influence the committee in its report to the annual SBC meeting in Miami Beach in June.

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Amerigo Marino To Direct
"PraiSing 75" Symphony

2/10/75 Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)--Amerigo Marion, music director and conductor of the Birmingham (Ala.) Symphony Orchestra for the past 11 years, will direct the Nashville Symphony Orchestra for "PraiSing 75" here March 10-13, 1975.

He replaces Thor Johnson, former director of the Nashville Symphony, who died last month, according to William J. Reynolds, secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board's church music department, sponsor of PraiSing 75.

Performers ranging from the Singing Speer Family to the Nashville Symphony Orchestra will bridge the music gap when they appear before some 10,000 persons during the four-night, three-day PraiSing 75, the event will premiere the new "Baptist Hymnal."

Marino, a native of Chicago, has studied violin at the Chicago Conservatory of Music and conducting with Nicolai Malko and Fritz Zweig. In 1963 he was selected as one of four young American conductors from over 200 applicants to attend the American Conductors Project at Peabody Institute and study with the late George Szell, Max Rudolph and Alfred Wallenstein.

His appearances as guest conductor include the New York Philharmonic in Lincoln Center, National Symphony (Washington, D. C.), Los Angeles Opera Company, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Riverside (Calif.) Guild Opera.

The Tuesday evening, March 11, program of PraiSing 75 in Nashville's Municipal Auditorium will feature orchestral and choral music accompanied by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra under the director of Marino.

"This We Believe," a commissioned choral work by Cecil Effinger, will be the major feature of the evening. A massed chorus of college and seminary choirs will perform the work, which is based on scriptures selected by Herschel H. Hobbs, retired pastor and former SBC president, from the statement of the Baptist Faith and Message.

Also, five commissioned improvisations on favorite Baptist tunes arranged by contemporary American composers will be played by the symphony on Tuesday night.

The tune titles and composers are "Amazing Grace," by Francis McBeth, Ouachita Baptist University; "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship," by Robert Ward, North Carolina School of the Arts; "How Firm a Foundation," by Adolphus Hailstork, Dana School of Music, Youngstown University; "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus," by Llewelyn Gomer, Michigan State University; and "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand," by David Van Vactor, University of Tennessee.

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(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state editors.

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