



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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75-184

## Arkansas Baptists Confront Ministerial Stress, Status

FORT SMITH, Ark. (BP)--The Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting here, set a record \$4.7 million budget and took actions involving ministers under stress, the status of ministers who perform marriages, and world hunger.

Registered "messengers" adopted recommendations of a committee of 16, appointed at last year's convention to study stress in the ministry, which asked that no one be employed by the state convention to assist with the problem, that seminars and conferences be developed to assist religious workers with their problems, and that the study continue for another year.

A substitute motion to delete the recommendation that no staff person be hired was defeated, and all recommendations were passed as given by the committee.

Regarding the status of licensed ministers vs. ordained ones in performing marriages, messengers also passed a recommendation that "in the future the proper status recommended by our state convention for Southern Baptist ministers to perform wedding ceremonies in Arkansas shall be ordination."

A recommendation on hunger urges "each Baptist and each of our churches to participate in a special offering to help in the elimination of world hunger."

In other actions, the convention passed resolutions which commended Southern Baptist efforts in the Vietnamese refugee program at Fort Smith and resolved to use every legitimate means to oppose further extension of pari-mutuel betting in Arkansas.

On the question of alcoholic beverage permits, messengers resolved to encourage Baptists to support legislative efforts to require three weeks advance notice in a general circulation newspaper on any hearing on applications for issuance of permits.

The convention elected Wilbur Herring, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark., as president and named a layman, John Miller of Melbourne, Ark., as second vice president.

A motion to limit the term of the convention president to one year was referred to the convention's constitution committee for a report to next year's convention.

The \$4.7 million budget allots 40.32 percent to worldwide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget. Arkansas Baptists raised the percentage going to SBC causes for the fifth straight year.

The 1976 convention will be held Nov. 16-18, at Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Ark.

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Missionaries Rescue Dying Man; Feed Starving Babies

Baptist Press  
11/21/75

DACCA, Bangladesh (BP)--A Southern Baptist missionary family here finds the one-to-one battle against hunger still in vogue in an age of large scale relief operations.

The James M. McKinley family, among the myriad of activities, nursed three starving refugee babies back to health and kept a young Bengali man from dying.

Until a recent move forced her to turn the job over to someone else, Mrs. McKinley was feeding the three babies in her home. The babies' parents were still wandering the streets begging after last year's flood left them homeless. McKinley found the smallest of the three when he helped an American woman give a smallpox vaccination to the baby.

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"While we are in a real sense professional relief workers in the midst of the crisis in Bangladesh," said McKinley, "we saw an opportunity to help this little one and two others in a personal way.

"Betty (Mrs. McKinley) arranged for them to come to our house each morning for warm, sweetened milk and high protein biscuits. The first morning she fed the lifeless little one, she spooned milk into the baby's mouth.

"The baby took only a few swallows and her sister drank the rest and ate the biscuits. Each succeeding day the baby took a larger amount. When we moved from that area she could smile, and the other two were getting fat."

Another opportunity to help in a personal way presented itself when McKinley and his sons found a young man lying in the road in front of their home--"not unusual during these troubled times," the missionary said.

"We examined the young man," McKinley said. "He was lifeless with his eyes turned to one side. I guessed he had fallen as a result of hunger for he looked strong.

"We carried him to a comfortable place beside the road and placed a towel under his head. We warmed milk and sugar and asked another young Bengali man to feed him...to encourage others to assist people in this kind of tragedy.

"He gulped the sweetened milk down a few swallows at a time. Within 10 minutes he could stand, and 30 minutes later he was able to walk away. While evangelism is our job as missionaries, we are not too busy for opportunities to serve people by meeting physical needs," McKinley noted.

"We are now more hopeful about what we can do as a missionary organization to assist those suffering and preventing others from reaching the state of despair and death," he concluded.

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(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers.

#### CORRECTION

In Baptist Press mailing of Nov. 20, 1975, entitled "Alabama Approves \$9.2 Million Budget, Retirement Ministry," add the word defeated. after was at the end of the first sentence in graph 9, making that read was defeated.

Thanks

Baptist Press