

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, 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** Richard M. Styles, Acting 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

February 5, 1976

76-23

**'Quake Kills 5 Guatemalan
Baptists; Relief On the Way**

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (BP)--At least five Baptists are known to be dead, many Baptist families are homeless, and two Baptist churches were damaged and one destroyed in the devastating earthquake which hit here Feb. 4.

All 23 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) missionaries in Guatemala are reported safe, according to A. Clark Scanlon, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's field representative for Middle America stationed in the capital city.

The Foreign Mission Board has released \$25,000 in relief funds, according to Charles W. Bryan, the board's secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean. The funds will be used for corn, beans, rice, medicine, charcoal, wood and plastic sheets for makeshift shelters for the many left homeless.

Additional funds will be forthcoming based on recommendations from missionaries and a survey team now on the way to Guatemala. The survey team is composed of Foreign Mission Board staff members, Dr. Franklin T. Fowler, medical consultant; W. L. (Wimpy) Smith, associate disaster response coordinator; and Charles E. Warren, senior editor of press relations. Warren will provide on-the-spot press coverage.

The Baptist Disaster Coordinating Committee of Guatemala has requested 500 tents to house six-member families. The tents will be flown immediately to the city by Taca Airlines, according to Bryan, and will be distributed by the Baptist Cultural Association of Guatemala.

More tremors were felt Feb. 5, Scanlon reported by telephone. He estimated 500 dead in the city and 500 dead immediately outside the city. Reports from many other villages have not been received. The worst damage in the city appeared to be in Zone 3 which includes damage to Macedonia and Bethel Baptist Churches. Relief efforts are being carried out through the churches despite the damage.

In the village of Tecpan (about 50 miles west of the capital) a Baptist church was completely destroyed.

The most intense force of the quake seemed to be about 30 miles west of the city in the village of Chimaltenango, Scanlon said. The village reportedly was greatly affected.

In El Progreso (about 60 miles northeast of the city) 400 are thought to be dead, although entry has not been made there.

Early reports from Coban (about 75 miles north of Guatemala City) indicated Southern Baptist missionaries were safe, but no damage estimates were reported. Bridges are down and roads are inaccessible to these areas, Scanlon reported.

The board has four missionary families in Guatemala City; two families and two missionary journeymen in Coban; and one family in Quezaltenango (about 75 miles west of the capital).

• -30-

SBC Annuity Board
Announces ReorganizationBaptist Press
2/5/76

DALLAS (BP)--A reorganization announced here by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annuity Board is designed to share the executive work load among four senior vice presidents.

-more-

Trustees of the agency, who approved the changes during their annual meeting, said they will help relieve the president of increasing administrative responsibilities.

The number of senior vice presidents of the Annuity Board was increased from two to four, as recommended by a long-range study committee made up of trustees.

Kermit E. Whiteaker, who has been vice president, director of retirement guidance, and assistant to the president, assumes the newly created position of senior vice president of the board's operations division.

The office of the director of finance and accounting, filled by a vice president, has been elevated to senior vice president status. B. J. Chenault continues to hold this position.

Two existing senior vice presidencies remain unchanged. One, in investments, is held by Frank L. Durham. The other, in development, has been vacant since L. Taylor Daniel retired in 1975, and it will not be filled in the near future, said board president Darold H. Morgan.

Harold F. Bailey, vice president and director of development among churches, and Gene P. Daniel, vice president and director of development among agencies, will continue, in addition to the senior vice presidents, to report directly to Morgan.

Five areas of the Annuity Board's work, which formerly reported directly to Morgan, were placed under Whiteaker. They are member services, administrative services, building and leasing management, management services and insurance services.

This includes maintaining member accounts and retirement and insurance; handling insurance plans and claims; personnel, mail, and printing services; computer facilities; and administration of the 511 North Akard Building in Dallas, owned by the Annuity Board.

Four other areas continue to report directly to the president--public relations, directed by vice president John D. Bloskas; actuarial services and research; legal services; and internal auditing.

The long-range study committee told trustees that about 16 persons were reporting directly to the president. It considered this too many. The reorganization will ultimately decrease the number to eight.

In electing officers, the Annuity Board chose W. Gordon Hobgood Jr., Dallas layman, for a second term as chairman. The three vice chairmen are Ralph Ferguson of Phoenix, C. E. Colton of Dallas, Jimmie E. Harley of Greenville, S. C. The president and all staff officers of the Annuity Board were re-elected also.

-30-

Annuity Board Actions
Increase Trustees Voice

Baptist Press
2/5/76

DALLAS (BP)--Two decisions made here will give state trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annuity Board more voice in actions of the agency.

The board voted to add 12 state trustees to its executive committee, which formerly included only local trustees, and eliminated the word "local" from Annuity Board bylaws referring to standing committees. State and local trustees will serve on these committees without any special distinction as to where they reside.

In SBC parlance, state trustees come from Baptist state conventions according to total Baptist church membership in each state. States which do not have a certain minimum level of church membership do not qualify for representation.

Local trustees of SBC agencies include people living in or near the city where the agency they serve is located--Dallas in the case of the Annuity Board.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the two decisions, based on recommendations of a trustee long-range review committee, are the board's response to requests within the denomination. There is sentiment for greater participation by state trustees, and less exclusive reliance on local trustees, which has been customary in some phases of an agency's work.

-more-

Morgan also said the board wanted to utilize the talents of all trustees more fully.

The board also voted to hold a second full trustee meeting each year, starting with October 1976. The meeting at which the annual financial and statistical report is received will continue to come in early February.

Fall meetings will take place in various cities around the Southern Baptist Convention, with the February meetings continuing to be held at board headquarters in Dallas.

The Annuity Board also responded to appeals in the denomination concerning state conventions which lack enough church members for its elected representatives on trustee boards.

John I. Snedden of St. Albans, W. Va., executive secretary of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, came as an observer. The West Virginia state convention does not have enough membership to qualify for trustee representation on SBC agencies.

O. L. Bayless, of Denver, editor of the Rocky Mountain Baptist, attended the Annuity Board meeting as a Baptist state paper editor.

Morgan said the board would invite representatives of state conventions with smaller membership and of the Baptist state paper editors to observe future meetings as well.

-30-

Sunday School Board
Sets Major Priorities

Baptist Press
2/5/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, responding to an address by board president Grady C. Cothen, voted to give priority to four critical concerns during the years immediately ahead.

The priorities, which Cothen said are dictated by the nature of the times and the mission of the board, are to provide in-depth Bible study for the masses, help churches equip "the saints" (Christians) for spiritual growth and ministry, support and enrich family life, and encourage and aid pastors.

All of the priority areas, a board spokesman said, grow out of concerns expressed by the Southern Baptist Convention.

The board will support in-depth Bible study at least two ways. They are: "ACTION: A Reach Out Enrolment Plan for Sunday School" (a program to enroll any person in Sunday School anywhere, anytime the person agrees to be enrolled), and (2) a new Sunday School book-by-book Bible study curriculum series designed to begin in October, 1978.

Equipping Christians for growth and ministry will be supported by 216 pilot projects during 1976-77 in Discipleship Development and Equipping Centers in the churches. Discipleship Development is a continuous organization to provide individual and group training for church members and new members. Equipping Centers are educational components of church training which offer concentrated training in a specific subject area.

The new priority activities for in-depth Bible study and equipping of Christians will function in addition to the board's current on-going work in Sunday School and Church Training, a spokesman said.

Support and enrichment of family life is planned through marriage and family enrichment, senior adult ministry, and ministry to singles projects. Marriage enrichment resources and services will function through "Christian Marriage Enrichment Workshops" in local churches, professionally conducted marriage enrichment retreats, and through a national corps of certified marriage enrichment retreat leaders in associations and state conventions.

Family enrichment resources and services will function through the local church, in the home, and through state and national family enrichment conferences. Emphasis will be given to Christian Home Week in the local church program, "Home Life" magazine in Southern Baptist homes, and state and national family enrichment conferences to train family ministry leaders and to enrich the family life of participants.

-more-

Senior adult ministry will be highlighted by enrichment and training events and through a proposed monthly personal enrichment magazine for senior adults to be called "Mature Living." Also proposed is a National Association of Retired Baptists to coordinate local senior adult clubs and sponsor retreats, seminars, conferences, cruises, tours, camporees and camping caravans.

A single adult ministry system to provide resources and services for personal and spiritual enrichment is scheduled for development in the near future.

Aid and encouragement to pastors, church staff and their families will include career assessment and support, personal and professional skill improvement and pastoral support through deacon ministry.

Career guidance plans include short term, non-academic courses in personal and professional skill improvement and career assessment for pastors and church staff members, and a network of resources and referral sources across the convention.

Deacon ministry plans now call for the board's church administration department to join with the evangelism division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in a campaign to involve deacons in proclamation-evangelism activities. The number of certified deacon trainer conferences will be increased and associations of churches will be encouraged to conduct deacon conferences each year.

-30-

Sunday School Board
Responds to SBC

Baptist Press
2/5/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board responded to the Southern Baptist Convention concerning three matters of reference, took action on an item noted by the SBC's Committee of Fifteen, and recommended one new program statement and the alteration of two others.

Trustees responded to a motion made at the SBC in Miami last year by a North Carolina messenger "that the money being used by the Sunday School Board in its program of Cooperative Education and Promotion Work with the state conventions be given to the Cooperative Program (unified budget) of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The board will recommend to the SBC in Norfolk, June 15-17, that the present arrangement, which allocates funds to state conventions for promotion of work mutual to the states and the board, be reaffirmed.

The trustees' plans and policies committee studied the historical and present-day implications of the arrangement, including a survey of state executive secretaries. The trustees noted that this form of sharing financial proceeds with state conventions began with the start of the Sunday School Board in 1891, and has been reaffirmed several times since by the SBC.

State officials unanimously agreed that the present system has not resulted in interference by the Sunday School Board or attempted domination by that agency, a board spokesman said.

The trustee study indicated difficulties related to the suggestion in the motion including problems with cooperative planning, programming, field services, and general correlation of work between the board and state conventions.

The report of the trustees forecast that state conventions would need to withhold about \$1½ million from the national level Cooperative Program in order to make up for the loss of money now supplied by the Sunday School Board. The board channeled \$1,384,666 to state conventions in the 1974-75 fiscal year for cooperative work related to programs shared by the board and the states.

A 1974 motion at the SBC asked that a place be provided on the Uniform Church Letter to report conversions as well as baptisms. Sunday School Board trustees noted the difficulty of obtaining this information from the churches, and the possibility of duplications.

-more-

They plan to report their study to the convention, suggesting that more accurate information might be obtained concerning "professions of faith (not baptized)."

In 1975, another SBC messenger from North Carolina moved for the consideration of "the problem of pastors having marital and family problems," and requested the appropriate agency "to develop a program of help for them and other persons in church vocations with similar problems and vocational difficulties."

President Grady C. Cothen of the Sunday School Board reported to the trustees that plans are being carried out in the board's church administration and family ministry departments to give active response to this need.

Trustees responded to a concern of the now defunct Committee of 15, which studied SBC agencies, about the Sunday School Board's retirement plan vesting. They provided for the beginning of vesting in the retirement plan after three years of service effective Jan. 1, 1977. Vesting will begin with 20 percent after three years of employment, with the addition of 20 percent each of the following four years until 100 percent vesting is reached in seven years, rather than the present ten years.

In other actions the trustees voted to recommend to the SBC a program statement for a program of family ministry development. Program statement changes will be requested for the board's program of church administration development to reflect the transfer of family ministry responsibility, and in the program of church library development to reflect the shift of responsibility for general tract and Bible distribution to the latter program.

-30-

Wrapup

Board Trustees Set
Priorities, Respond to SBC

Baptist Press
2/5/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, in their semi-annual meeting here, set priorities for the future, prepared responses to motions referred to the agency by the Southern Baptist Convention and acted on a concern of the SBC's Committee of Fifteen.

Responding to an address by President Grady C. Cothen calling for priorities for the board dictated by the mission of the agency and the nature of the times, trustees voted to emphasize four critical concerns during the years immediately ahead. They are: to provide in-depth Bible study for the masses, to equip "the saints" (Christians) for spiritual growth and ministry, to support and enrich family life, and to encourage and aid pastors, church staffs and their families.

Trustees prepared responses to the SBC concerning matters of reference related to the board's program of "Cooperative Work with State Conventions," the addition of an item to the church letter, and help for pastors and others in church vocations who have marital, family and vocational difficulties.

Action taken on an item noted by the SBC's now-defunct study Committee of Fifteen provided for full vesting in the Sunday School Board's retirement plan after seven years of service rather than ten years, effective Jan. 1, 1977.

In other actions, the trustees voted to recommend to the SBC a program statement for a program of family ministry development. Program statement changes will also be requested in the board's program of church administration development to reflect the transfer of family ministry responsibility, and in the program of church library development to reflect the shift of responsibility for general tract and Bible distribution to the latter program.

-30-

Sunday School Board
Approves New Curriculum

Baptist Press
2/5/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--A new curriculum series providing sequential, systematic study of books of the Bible for Southern Baptist Sunday Schools was approved at the February Sunday School Board trustee meeting here.

-more-

Starting with the October, 1978, quarter, the new curriculum series for adults and youth will begin the book-by-book study of the Bible in three year cycles. Portions of the Bible to receive major attention during each three year period will be determined by a previously selected focus or general topic.

Grady C. Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board, called the new curriculum series "one of the most significant steps taken recently by the board of trustees" to provide Southern Baptists with the often requested book-by-book study of the Bible.

The new curriculum series, tentatively called the Book-by-Book Bible Study Series, will include simple, teacher-oriented methodology and a conservative theological stance. All periodicals related to the series will contain printed Bible text from the King James Version of the Bible.

A. V. Washburn, secretary of the board's Sunday School department, explained that the objective of the series is "to help Baptists explore the message of the Bible through a book-by-book study of the text" instead of a topical approach involving several texts for one lesson.

Teaching procedures will include participation by class members, but will be more teacher oriented than procedures in other youth and adult materials. Procedures will be kept simple, with limited requirements for facilities and equipment, a spokesman said.

During each three year cycle, the lessons will attempt to help Sunday School members understand the sequence and significance of major events and teachings recorded in the Bible.

Easter and Christmas lessons will be included in appropriate issues but may not be related to other studies in the quarterly.

Since the meaning of the Bible text will receive the major emphasis, contemporary issues will be dealt with when the Bible text appears to speak directly to those issues.

In explaining the October, 1978, publication date, Washburn said a great deal is involved in beginning a new Bible study series. Editors must be secured, curriculum design developed, writers secured and trained, and materials prepared, edited and published.

Time also will be spent clarifying distinctives of each curriculum line available for adults and youth. By making the differences more clearly identifiable among the board's current Life and Work and Convention Uniform series and the new Book-by-Book series, Southern Baptists can more easily choose which series would best benefit the particular needs of the local church, a spokesman said.

Periodicals to be included in the new series tentatively include "Through the Bible for Youth," "Through the Bible for Teacher of Youth," "Through the Bible for Adults" and "Through the Bible for Teacher of Adults."

Biblical interpretation will be consistent with the Southern Baptist Convention's statement, "The Baptist Faith and Message," the board spokesman noted.

-30-

Annuity Board Trust
Funds Top \$400 Million

Baptist Press
2/5/76

DALLAS (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board described 1975 as "an excellent year of recovery, growth and optimism" for the agency.

Funds held in trust topped \$400 million for the first time, president Darold H. Morgan of Dallas told the Annuity Board trustees in their annual meeting.

The more than \$47 million increase in these funds during 1975 also set a record for any 12 month period, he said.

Other records were established in retirement premiums paid and in total investment income for a year.

-more-

Morgan called a 1975 "a watershed year" for the Annuity Board in which the agency rebounded from financial woes which "reflected so discouragingly the economic picture" in 1974.

Trustees further discussed a new type of retirement plan to be recommended to Baptist state conventions for their approval. State conventions pay up to \$200 a year per person for retirement dues on ministers serving churches in their state.

The proposed plan would provide greater retirement benefits for pastors and others in church-related vocations, Morgan said. The Annuity Board is the SEC agency assigned to provide retirement and insurance protection plans for its churches and for its agencies.

Funds held in trust (assets) reached a record \$401,135,261 in 1975. These assets are safeguarded for nearly 40,000 participants in retirement plans for people serving churches and agencies.

Income from premiums for retirement protection grew to a record \$36,379,078, Morgan reported. Income from investments during 1975 attained a one-year high of \$23,149,064.

Benefits paid to retirees, widows, and the disabled in the same year amounted to \$15,734,003, second only to the record year in 1973.

The volume of life insurance in force on 8,657 members of the church insurance program reached \$224,947,500, according to Morgan.

Life insurance accounts are maintained for employees of 134 state and Southern Baptist Convention agencies. These 10,981 employees have \$211,729,100 worth of insurance in force.

In addition, the Annuity Board offers plans for purchasing medical and long-term disability insurance, but insured parties must acquire life insurance first to qualify for medical and long-term disability coverage.

The board's insurance services office said it is giving increased emphasis to reaching students attending Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and some state Baptist convention-supported Bible institutes.

In the investment area, real estate yielded income of \$9,491,836, with bonds, stocks and other related sources producing \$8,605,539 income. Mortgage loans furnished \$5,051,689 in income.

Real estate investments comprised 48.5 percent of the total investment portfolio, and stocks, 33.2 percent, Morgan said. The rest is in collateral loans, bonds, and short-term securities.

Promotion of retirement plans, particularly among agencies was slowed down because of the need for further interpretation of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) passed by the U. S. Congress in 1974, the Annuity Board president pointed out.

Among the major duties of a new legal services department created in August 1975 is that of determining the scope and effect of ERISA, a pension reform act, on the work of the Annuity Board, Morgan said.

The Annuity Board receives no national SBC Cooperative Program unified budget funds for its operation. However, the board dispersed \$229,317 during the 1975 calendar year in Cooperative Program funds for relief assistance to needy retired ministers or their widows.

Many of the 138 ministers and 282 widows on the relief roster came to retirement or widowhood without any retirement income protection.

The board added 835 new annuitants to its roll in 1975, Morgan added. Of these new annuitants, there are 431 age annuitants, 195 widow annuitants, 72 disability annuitants, 65 education beneficiaries, and 72 receiving child benefits.

The board's retirement guidance office announced a new "check point retirement" emphasis launched last year. This consists of sending letters to retirement plan participants as they reach their 55th birthday. The Annuity Board offers its assistance in pre-retirement planning and encourages participants to improve their plan during the final 10 years before standard retirement age, Morgan reported.

James A. Byrd, a Dallas economist, told Annuity Board trustees America has just emerged from its worst recession since 1938. He predicted the recovery cycle will last two or three years. Even the next downturn will not be as severe as that experience in 1974, he said. Byrd foresees inflation dropping in 1976 to a rate of about six percent and gross national product (GNP) increasing at the same time by six percent.