



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Flelds, 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

May 17, 1976

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Louisville Church Asks Abortion Clinic to Vacate

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The congregation of Walnut Street Baptist Church here voted to tighten its control over leasing and operations of a former infirmary which it owns and which now houses an abortion clinic.

The vote came a week after the Louisville Courier-Journal published a story which reported that a corporation, made up of five Walnut Street members, had leased the fifth floor of the old infirmary building to Option, Inc., a clinic which does mainly "elective" abortions.

The members asked Option, Inc. to leave the building, which formerly housed the Norton Memorial Infirmary, by June 1. Earlier, the clinic had agreed to vacate, although it holds a one-year lease.

The church voted to instruct its deacon chairman to appoint a five-member deacon committee to work with the Third and Oak Corp., which manages the property the church purchased last year, to negotiate immediate termination of the lease with Option, Inc.

The Courier-Journal, which said the church's pastor, Wayne Dehoney, was under heavy criticism for the lease arrangement, quoted Frank Mather, the church's deacon chairman, as saying the former Southern Baptist Convention president was given "an outstanding show of support" at the meeting, which was closed to the press.

Mather told the Courier-Journal that he did not know until the week before the church's meeting that the Norton site had been leased to a firm doing elective abortions.

Dehoney said at the time the original report broke that he had known few details about the clinic's operations before it occupied church property but did know in advance that it was moving in. "I told a member of the corporation that I personally had no moral or theological problem with the operation of a legal, ethical clinic," he said.

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Both Fundamentalists And
Liberals 'Miss The Mark'

Baptist Press
5/17/76

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Both the fundamentalist and the liberal miss the mark in true Biblical preaching, a Vanderbilt University Divinity School professor declared in one of two lectures at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The fundamentalist usually just retells the same Biblical story, while the liberal gives "scant if any reference to the cross, appealing instead to human goodness and right," said John Killinger, professor of preaching, worship and literature.

"We have turned preaching into a verbal act--something done only with words. Originally it included healings and mighty acts," continued the professor from Nashville, Tenn.

Killinger said he is convinced that work and deed are an inseparable pair, illustrated by the life and ministry of Jesus.

The purpose of worship is to make us more open and receptive to God, Killinger said in another lecture. Preaching Jesus should contribute to achieving purpose, he added.

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To do this, he continued, preachers must be men and women of prayer so that even before they prepare the sermon they will "see the revolution which God is causing to happen in the world."

Rather than trying to be eloquent for the sake of entertainment "we must be talking about something that has already grabbed us and is changing our lives," he said.

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Association Withdraws
Fellowship From Church

Baptist Press
5/17/76

OXNARD, Calif. (BP)--Harmony Southern Baptist Association here has officially withdrawn fellowship from College Heights Baptist Church in nearby Ventura over the church's charismatic involvement, cooperation with neo-Pentecostal groups, and acceptance of non-Baptist baptism (alien immersion), Baptist Press has learned.

Association Moderator Ellis Pittman and William Gorrell, pastor of College Heights Church, both said the action was non-controversial and peaceful during the association's semi-annual meeting in mid-April. Both, when questioned, verified the reported reasons for the action.

Pittman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Camarillo, said the association voted without question or comment to accept a report and recommendation from its credentials committee to withdraw fellowship from the church, since they could not be viewed as a "cooperating church."

The adopted statement noted differing "fellowship and doctrinal practices," and "stated attitudes of uncooperativeness," as grounds for withdrawing fellowship. But the association also resolved, "that should a change occur in attitudes and practices of said church, Harmony Southern Baptist Association would welcome the petition of said church to consider anew the seating of messengers."

A copy of the report and action was being forwarded by the association's instruction, to the credentials committee of Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Pittman said.

The association's action does not affect the church's current status as a Southern Baptist church affiliating with the state convention and/or the Southern Baptist Convention. Gorrell said the church will continue to affiliate with both.

Pittman indicated his sympathy with the association's action and said the College Heights Church had two people present during the action who did not attempt to register as messengers. And, he noted, they made no comment nor did two others from the church who came in just after the action was taken.

Gorrell, a pastor 17 years, and Pittman, both graduates of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., agreed that College Heights Church's giving to the Cooperative Program unified budget of Southern Baptists had been "increasingly high."

The pastor of the 375-member College Heights Church said it recently went to double services on Sunday mornings.

"I regret the association's action, but I understand," he said in reference to the charismatic aspect of the decision. "I've been on the other side and helped vote a charismatic church out in San Francisco when I was a pastor up there . . . They (Harmony Association) really wanted us to withdraw, but our church said no."

Both alien immersion and the charismatic issue have previously been cited as grounds, individually, for withdrawing fellowship from churches by several Baptist associations over the years. No exact figures are available.

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**Seminary Students
Get \$1,761 'Bill'**

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here got a surprise "statement" for their 1975-76 tuition.

It came to \$1,761.

After the initial shock, the students breathed easier because stamped in red across the balance due amount were the words: "Tuition Paid by the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist Convention" (SBC).

According to President W. Randall Lolley, "the 'statement' underscores both the significant contribution of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program to theological education at Southeastern and our profound gratitude."

More than 70 percent of the seminary's budget comes from the Cooperative Program, the unified missions support channel through which the denomination's churches support the SBC's worldwide program.

Students at the six SBC seminaries pay no tuition, although each is responsible for books, housing, food, and incidental expenses.

At Southeastern, the 1975-76 costs for teaching and administrative services were \$1,961. Students in the master of divinity, master of religious education, master of theology, and certificate programs each paid \$200 in matriculation fees, leaving the balance of \$1,761.

"Payment of this amount by the Cooperative Program represents a crucial commitment to theological education by Southern Baptists," Lolley said. "This is unique among denominations and indicates a direct tie between the SBC's 34,902 churches and the seminaries. Not only do the churches send students to and receive graduates from the seminaries, they also furnish the basic financial resources."

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**Church Grows Amid
Tension and Decline**

Baptist Press
5/17/76

By John Wilkes

REGGIO DI CALABRIA, Italy (BP)--This city of 175,000 inhabitants, right on the kicking toe of the Italian peninsula, is the scene of political riots while its population dwindles in a constant exodus looking for work.

The area is one of the nation's poorest. There is no industry to provide jobs. Employment is unavailable in the stores or government offices.

Recent years have brought civil strife. Fascist-inspired demonstrations have led to open clashes, which military forces were called in to put down. An ancient rivalry with another city has flared once more as the location of the area's capital has been disputed.

The small Baptist church here has not been spared in the fighting. Its building bears the smoky black marks from home-rigged explosive devices and tear-gas bombs which were thrown through its windows along with rocks and other projectiles.

It is not a climate that seems conducive to evangelism. But this Baptist church, with only 69 members at the close of 1975, reported 11 baptisms during last year--the highest number of any Baptist congregation in Italy.

"The people of the church are working in evangelism," says Pastor Ermanno Spuri, who went to Reggio di Calabria five years ago. "Because our building suffered damage, discussions about the situation carried over into the church. This may have influenced the sense of democracy of our community, and they matured in their awareness of those around them as they acquired a civic consciousness."

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Pastor Spuri estimates the average age of those baptized last year at about 28 years. "Some of the church's youth contacts had been favorably inclined toward political idealism, but when they saw how it really behaved they withdrew from it," he suggests.

Spuri, himself, has not shunned making acquaintances outside the church circles.

Besides pastoral work, he also is an artist. Expositions of his impressionist and expressionist paintings were arranged by two different art galleries in the city.

"This was a chance to meet quite a few people," he says, acknowledging that "some are attending church services now."

In fact, he hopes, through selling his paintings, to relieve the Italian Baptist Union of the pastoral support which the church has needed up to now.

Spuri is not inexperienced in supporting himself. While pastor previously in Livornio, an art center, he and his family lived on the income from a boutique he operated, selling his own paintings and those of others, as well as frames and supplies.

In the weeks just past, two more church families have joined the migration--one moving to Genova, another to Australia.

Rather than becoming discouraged, Pastor Spuri says he is experiencing more personal development. This view may not be blind optimism.

His art is helping him to make new contacts. He admits to a greater sense of involvement in social and political issues. And already there are four more new Christian converts awaiting baptism.

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90-Year-Old Keeps Going
With A List and A Prayer

Baptist Press
5/17/76

MARION, Ill. (BP)--Although a second heart attack ended his pulpit ministry four years ago, L. G. Hartley, a 90-year-old retired minister here, is finding usefulness through a ministry of prayer.

"I never did retire because of age," said Hartley, who delivered more than 800 sermons before he retired, "but just to make way for younger men coming along. And now that I'm physically unable to preach, I decided to devote myself to a prayer ministry."

He sets aside a period at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. each day for intercessory prayer for others, joined by Mrs. Hartley, 85.

"Most of the time, we pray separately, but often close the day with a short prayer together," he said. Both keep prayer lists, and use them as a guide.

The Hartleys who live at 428 South Court, Marion, Ill., welcome prayer requests but, due to time and expense, say they are not able to acknowledge letters.

"Friends can telephone their requests, but we prefer they write us a letter," Hartley said. "That way we can have a more accurate record."

They ask only one concession to age--that no one call late at night to their home in Marion (central time zone).

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World Missions Conference
Show Statistical Increases

Baptist Press
5/17/76

MEMPHIS (BP)--World Missions Conferences, offered to Baptist associations of churches through the joint efforts of three Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) agencies, attracted 1,353,829 persons in 1975.

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That represents a 320,000 attendance increase at the conferences (formerly schools of missions) over 1974 figures, according to a report by Norman Godfrey, executive assistant at the SBC Brotherhood Commission here.

Godfrey also said the conferences reported \$380,741 in receipts (up \$93,000); resulted in 601 professions of faith in Jesus Christ (a 20 percent increase) and 507 volunteers for mission service (a jump of 71 percent); and involved participation by 158 associations (up 20 associations), 3,259 churches (up 283 churches), and 2,346 missionaries (up 135).

World Missions Conferences in Tennessee drew 403,429 persons; Georgia, 172,073; North Carolina, 143,870; Florida, 76,179; Alabama, 68,602; South Carolina, 66,421; Virginia, 64,541; Kentucky, 53,900; Mississippi, 49,694; and Louisiana, 43,931.

The conferences, offered to Baptist associations once every five years, are provided by the Brotherhood Commission and the SBC Home and Foreign Mission Boards to communicate world missions needs to Southern Baptists.

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Rivera Picked To
Head Bible Institute

Baptist Press
5/17/76

SAN ANTONIO (BP)--Mexican Baptist Bible Institute here, founded in 1947 for training of Spanish-speaking pastors and other church workers, has named Daniel J. Rivera as president-elect.

Rivera, the first Mexican-American to head the institute, will succeed H. B. Ramsour, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Hawaii and Brazil, who will step down at the end of the year after 16 years as president. The Baptist General Convention of Texas operates the school.

The son of a Baptist minister, Rivera, who is completing requirements for a Ph.D. in junior college administration from the University of Texas, was reared in New Mexico but finished high school in Plainview, Tex.

He is also a graduate of Eastern New Mexico University and has earned a master of arts degree in counseling from the University of Mexico and a special education degree in religious education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Past experience includes two junior college administrative posts, junior high school teaching, and vocational counseling.

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Duncan Heads Seminary's
Washington Project

Baptist Press
5/17/76

WASHINGTON (BP)--James O. Duncan of Silver Spring, Md., has been named resident coordinator of a one-year urban studies project to be sponsored here by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

The off-campus pilot project, approved recently by the seminary's trustees, will begin January, 1977. It will include courses for students in the doctor of ministry (D.Min.) and master of divinity (M.Div.) degree programs on Monday's during the spring and fall semesters in 1977.

An urban studies seminar will be offered in July, 1977, and consideration is being given to offering short-term seminars in continuing theological education.

Duncan, a trustee of the Southern Baptist-owned seminary, has been an active participant in Baptist affairs in the Washington area for more than 25 years. He is a former staff member with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, where his duties included serving as editor of the Capitol Baptist.

He will assist the faculty and administration in developing the program for the center as an extension of his role as coordinator of the seminary's long-range planning process.

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The project, which will utilize the facilities of the Captiol Hill-Metropolitan Baptist Church, "will give the faculty an opportunity to test the curriculum needed for such a center and let the administration take a look at the financial feasibility of an off-campus center," said Hugh O. Chambliss, seminary trustee and chairman of the body's urban studies committee.

"The center," added W. Randall Lolley, seminary president, "was established to provide a program of teaching-learning experiences to enlarge the knowledge and refine the skills needed for Christian mission and ministry in urban settings."

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It's A Long Way From
Johnsonville to Harvard

Baptist Press
5/17/76

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--It's a long, difficult path from a small tobacco farm in Johnsonville, S. C., to Harvard University Law School. But Mr. and Mrs. Willie Eaddy's son, Randy, first black ever to be elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Furman University here, is well on his way.

One of about 70 black students at the predominantly white Baptist liberal arts university, Randy will graduate on May 28 in the top five percent of his graduating class.

"His outstanding record at Furman has resulted not only in election to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's most prestigious scholastic honor society, but also in election to two honorary service organizations at Furman, Quaternion and Blue Key," a Furman spokesman said.

An undergraduate National Achievement Scholar, Randy attended Furman on full financial aid, including Yates and Clarkson scholarships. Next year, he will attend Harvard Law School on a \$3,200 scholarship and a \$3,200 loan, continuing an academic career which showed early promise at Johnsonville High School, where he was valedictorian.

At Furman, Randy's studies included three months in the fall of his junior year with a group of Furman students traveling in the British Isles and studying at Birkbeck College in London and the Shakespeare Institute at Stratford-on-Avon.

He has been active in many student organizations, serving as vice-president and later president of the Student League for Black Culture, and as a member of the Jefferson Society and the Young Democrats. He also served for two years on the university admissions committee and participated in intramural sports, especially basketball.

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Louisiana Baptists Retire
Debt on Baptist Building

Baptist Press
5/17/76

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--The Louisiana Baptist Convention's executive board celebrated complete retirement of the convention's debt on its state Baptist office building at a dinner meeting here.

The more than \$900,000 debt on the 15-year-old building was paid off five years ahead of schedule, reported Robert L. Lee, the convention's executive director. Lee was honored at the dinner for his 20 years in the convention's top administrative post. Lee first joined the convention in 1953 and has been top administrator since 1956.

J. D. Grey, former Southern Baptist Convention president and retired pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans, was the featured speaker at the dinner.

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Brotherhood Commission
Reorganizes Staff

MEMPHIS (BP)--Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission approved a staff reorganization plan adding six new staff positions and a budget of \$1,582,000 for 1976-77 in a three-day semi-annual meeting here.

The new budget, up \$137,392 or 9 percent, was adopted on the heels of a report projecting a surplus in operating funds of \$106,000 for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) agency by September 30.

Provided in the new budget are such new positions as a world missions conference director, a business section director, a Pioneer Royal Ambassador department director, a Baptist Men's consultant, and two editorial workers.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the commission, called the action the first step in broadening and improving services for men and boys in 33 state Baptist conventions, 1196 Baptist associations, and 34,902 Southern Baptist churches across 50 states.

The commission reduced its program 15 months ago, cutting its staff by 25 percent, when it became strapped for funds.

Left with an overage even after paying off more than \$81,000 in debts, the trustees put \$79,000 of the surplus in a National Royal Ambassador Congress reserve, a periodicals subscription reserve, a periodicals promotion reserve and an early staff employment reserve.

McCullough credited the overage to a 16.45 percent increase in giving by Southern Baptists through the national Cooperative Program in the past seven months, increased sales of periodicals and merchandise, and a conservative spending policy.

The commission receives about one-third of its income from the Cooperative Program unified budget and the remainder from sales.

The staff reorganization calls for five sections--business, service, program, ministries and communications, each headed by a director.

McCullough said Jack Childs, current director of the service division, will become director of the service section; Bob Banks, executive assistant, director of the program section; and Norman Godfrey, executive assistant, director of the ministries section. Roy Jennings, executive assistant, will become an administrative assistant to McCullough.

The agency will seek a director of the business section immediately, but leave the position of communications section director unfilled for the present, McCullough explained.

In the new program section is a Baptist Men's division, Royal Ambassador boys division, Brotherhood coordination, and periodicals promotion services.

The ministries section includes a lay renewal department, a world missions conference department, disaster relief, and special missions projects.

Financial development, public relations, and art services comprise the new communications section.

Banks will serve as director of the two divisions in the program section as well as section director for the time being, McCullough said.

The reorganization plan grew out of a study and recommendations by a long range planning committee which reported last year, he added.

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Pres. Ford Praises SBC
Home Missions Executive

Baptist Press
5/17/76

MEMPHIS (BP)--Arthur Rutledge, retiring executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Home Mission Board, was praised by President Gerald Ford for the contributions of his agency to religious freedom.

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The plaudits were in a letter President Ford wrote to Rutledge for presentation at a dinner of the trustees of the SBC Brotherhood Commission where the home missions leader was principal speaker.

" . . . One of the most cherished (freedoms) is the freedom to worship as we please," the letter said. "Your efforts attest to the strength we have derived from the religious freedom that has flourished in our nation since our founding.

"Inspired by the precepts of your faith you have provided important direction to many useful efforts to advance both the spiritual and physical well being of your fellow citizens.

"Your work has been in the finest tradition of our priceless national legacy."

Rutledge, who will retire December 31 after more than 40 years as a pastor and denominational leader, told the Brotherhood trustees his hopes and expectations for Southern Baptists.

He predicted Southern Baptists will continue to grow in measurable ways in the face of declines by other denominations.

"If we could grow in the turbulent 60's and 70's, surely we can grow in this tranquil period," Rutledge said. "I also foresee a much larger representation of ethnic people serving on our boards and on our staffs.

"We are making a little beginning. I think the Home Mission Board has two ethnic persons among the 65 members. I think it would be a great blessing if the board of the Brotherhood Commission had a couple."

Rutledge said he was "thrilled" by the increasing financial support Southern Baptists are providing for missions.

"People today are getting a first hand exposure to missions which wasn't going for us 20 years ago," Rutledge said, in praising the mission education efforts of the commission and Woman's Missionary Union, SBC affiliate.

While Rutledge's retirement was acknowledged by President Ford, the home mission leader took the opportunity to praise Jimmy Carter, front-running candidate for the Democratic nomination for President and a trustee of the Brotherhood Commission.

"I feel the reason he (Carter) is doing so well is that some people see elements in his character that they want all of the nation to have."

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Moon Assigned to
Brotherhood Commission

Baptist Press
5/17/76

MEMPHIS (BP)--Dan Y. Moon of San Jose, Calif., a home missions consultant for Asians and internationals, has been assigned to the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission to work in lay renewal and with Royal Ambassadors boys and Baptist Men's groups.

Under the agreement, approved by commission trustees, the commission will provide office space and secretarial help and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board the salary and travel expenses.

Moon, 38, joined the Home Mission Board in 1969 and has worked mainly in California. He has helped start 22 Asian congregations in less than two years.

A graduate of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea, Moon took graduate work in language art at California State before receiving his master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He's scheduled to receive a doctor of philosophy degree from California Graduate School of Theology in Glendale in June.

Oscar Romo, director of the language missions department of the mission board who assigned Moon to Memphis, said Moon also will be able to work with the many Asians moving to the Southern part of the United States.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A wrapup of the Brotherhood Commission meeting--and another story dealing with a request from the Commission for reconsideration of an Executive Committee recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk will be mailed on Tuesday, May 18, by Baptist Press.

THANKS, Baptist Press