



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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New Zealand Theologian
To Head BWA Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)--R. J. Thompson, principal of the Baptist Theological College at Auckland, New Zealand, has been appointed chairman of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Study Commission on Doctrine and Inter-Church Cooperation, Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary, announced. Jannes Reiling of the Netherlands is co-chairman.

The Commission on Doctrine and Inter-Church Cooperation will continue the work carried on in the past five years by two study commissions, one on Baptist doctrine, the other on cooperative Christianity. The two were combined, Denny explained, because many questions on the relationship of Baptists with other Christians are of a doctrinal nature.

Southern Baptists named to the commission include: George R. Beasley-Murray, professor of New Testament interpretation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, now on sabbatical in England; Thomas Downing Jr., pastor of University Baptist Church in Baltimore, Md., and Southern Baptist Executive Committee member; William E. Hull, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; Glenn Iglehart, director of the department of Interfaith witness for the denomination's Home Mission Board; and W. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

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Grants, Gifts to 5 Baptist
Schools Exceed \$3 Million

Baptist Press
6/3/76

By Baptist Press

A \$2 million grant from the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) has been received by Mars Hill (N. C.) College, the largest in the Baptist school's 120-year history. Three other Baptist schools are sharing more than \$850,000 from an estate, and another Baptist university received \$350,000 from a separate source, to complete a science center.

A Mars Hill spokesman said the award to that school was made by HEW under Title II of the Amended Higher Education Act of 1965 through the Advance Institutional Development Program (AIDP) and will allow the college to complete its full development as a senior college.

Mars Hill College was the only North Carolina school out of 32 colleges and universities which received part of the nearly \$57 million in AIDP funds, the spokesman said. The funds will cover an initial six-months planning program to begin July 1 and a five-year development span beginning Jan. 1, 1977, he noted.

Sharing portions of the estate of the late Mrs. Esta Mae Johnson of San Antonio, Tex., were New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and Howard Payne College in Brownwood, Tex. New Orleans has received about \$393,000, a seminary spokesman said. A Baylor spokesman said that school had received about \$273,000, while a Howard Payne spokesman said their share was about \$190,000.

Receiving \$350,000 from the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., was Houston Baptist University, according to the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' newsmagazine. The money will be used to complete a science center expected to be open in July, 1977. The center will be named in honor of Hugh and Little Cullen whose foundation provided the first \$1 million, the report said. (BP)

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**Baptist World Population
Increases 21% in a Decade**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Membership in Baptist churches of the world is 32.89 million, up 21.23 percent from the figure reported 10 years ago, according to the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) statistics compiled by Associate Secretary Carl W. Tiller.

The gain from 1975 is 573,447, or 1.77 percent. The figure announced a year ago was higher, but contained two errors, Tiller said.

New data from the National Primitive Baptist Convention in the USA, for which no figures had been received in several years, showed a decline of 1,390,000 from the old number. Also, many churches associated with the Canadian Baptist mission in India had inadvertently been counted twice by the BWA in compiling data for India for a mistake of 54,000.

After allowing for the adjustments in 1975 figures, seven of the eight regional areas in the BWA report showed increases from 1975 to 1976. Europe was the only area in which the number of Baptists declined for the year.

Over the 10-year period, 1966-76, only Central America and the Caribbean area had a slight decline. This is due mainly to the recent omission of some Caribbean groups which include the word "Baptist" in their name, but are more correctly classified with the "Spiritualists," according to Tiller.

The average size Baptist church in North America has 286 members. The average for the rest of the world is 117.

Zaire, on Africa's west coast, moved ahead of the United Kingdom this year in the ranking of the 10 nations with the largest Baptist populations. Others in the top 10 listing remained in their 1975 sequence. The 1976 listing of the largest Baptist populations is as follows: United States of America, 28.57 million; India, 749,738; U.S.S.R., 545,000; Brazil, 451,811; Burma, 314,302; Zaire, 238,330; United Kingdom, 227,168; Canada, 186,539; Romania, 160,000; and Nigeria, 144,942.

Eighteen additional countries and dependencies are listed in the BWA statistics as having a Baptist witness, compared with the listing 10 years ago. A Baptist witness is now known in 114 nations and 24 off-shore dependencies. The 1975 figures were 113 and 28. Since then, five dependencies have become nations, the dependency of the Cayman Islands has been added, and four nations have been dropped from the Baptist list: Laos, South Vietnam, Algeria, and the Yemen Arab Republic. It is possible that churches still exist in Laos and South Vietnam (in 1975 there were 2 and 21 respectively), but the BWA is out of touch with them and has therefore dropped them from its listing, Tiller said.

The BWA reaches 28.57 million Baptists directly through its 106 member bodies. These BWA members reach an additional 202,435 Baptists through their international missions. More than 4 million Baptists are in Baptist bodies unrelated to the BWA, Tiller noted.

Baptist world statistics follow by continent or area and represent the latest data:

	1966 <u>Members</u>	1975 <u>Members</u>	1976 <u>Churches</u>	<u>Members</u>
Africa	418,700	791,266	6,248	826,208
Asia	911,604	1,238,058*	11,010	1,339,187
Central America & Caribbean Isles	209,486	199,042	1,604	200,616
Europe	1,132,265	1,167,520	11,141	1,143,669
Middle East	808	1,542	42	1,738
North America	24,070,732	28,291,927*	100,425	28,732,689
Oceania (Southwest Pacific)	105,212	112,341	1,216	113,665
South America	<u>279,176</u>	<u>512,379</u>	<u>4,271</u>	<u>529,750</u>
TOTALS	27,127,983	32,314,075*	135,957	32,887,522

*Corrected from report published a year ago: North America, minus 1,390,000; Asia, minus 54,000; and total, minus 1,444,000.

Distribution for 1976:

In BWA affiliates	112,666	28,573,527
Not in BWA affiliates, related to missions of BWA affiliates	2,770	202,435
Other	<u>21,521</u>	<u>4,111,560</u>
TOTALS	136,957	32,887,522

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Court Upholds State Laws
On Divorce, ImmoralityBaptist Press
6/3/76

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--In a series of actions announced here, the U.S. Supreme Court left in effect state laws making incompatibility sufficient grounds for divorce, upheld the Federal Mann Act forbidding transportation of women across state lines for immoral purposes, and declined to consider reversal of a Norfolk, Va., man's conviction for engaging in sodomy with children.

The actions came as the high court entered the stretch run of its October 1975 term with 86 formal opinions yet to be announced in cases already argued.

In its action relating to divorce, the court denied the request of an Oklahoma woman to declare that state's "incompatibility" provision unconstitutional.

In a written statement, she argued that she believed the Bible teaches that adultery alone constitutes grounds for divorce. By granting her husband a divorce on grounds of incompatibility, she claimed, the state was interfering with her free exercise of religion in violation of the First Amendment.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court, in affirming the trial court's decision, stated that it was a civil court charged with administering "man-made laws justly, fairly and equally." The opinion went on to say that courts have no jurisdiction "to regulate or enforce scriptural obligations."

The woman argued, on the other hand, that laws and court decisions must see to it "that no man-made laws or courts interfere with or prohibit the free exercise or acknowledged spiritual obligations."

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to take on the case, however, saying that it had no jurisdiction.

In another action, the high court refused to review the conviction of a Kansas man for violating the Federal Mann Act. That law prohibits the transportation of women across state lines to engage in illicit sexual acts.

John Victor Roeder was convicted in 1974 of taking a woman from Kansas City, Mo., to Overland Park, Kan. to make a pornographic film. During the filming, he engaged in sexual activity with the woman before an audience of several other men. He then paid the woman \$100 for her work and returned her to her home in Kansas City.

He was convicted by a U.S. District Court judge and given a suspended sentence. The 10th U.S. Court of Appeals affirmed his conviction last November.

Roeder accused the federal government of using the Mann Act to violate the First Amendment freedom of expression and of usurping the police power of the states. He argued further that the government was using the law to regulate obscenity and pornography on a national basis.

The government held that Roeder's filmmaking was not a "legitimate or serious cinematic effort" and that he was convicted not for making the film but for illegally transporting the woman. In addition, the government denied that it was attempting to set up national standards for obscenity.

For the second time in the past month, the high court dealt with a case involving Virginia's statute forbidding acts of sodomy. Last month the court upheld the law as constitutional.

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Its new action involved the conviction of a Norfolk man for engaging in such acts with young children. He argued that the evidence against him was obtained illegally in a search of his home by police.

Norfolk police first learned of the illicit acts through photographs given them by a photo shop dealer. They then obtained a warrant to search the man's home, where more photos were found.

In a written statement to the court, the Norfolk man claimed that his Fourth Amendment right "to be secure . . . against unreasonable searches and seizures" had been violated and that police had no "probable cause" to search his home.

The police had argued at his trial that the man's prior record for similar offenses provided them with "probable cause" in compliance with the Fourth Amendment.

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Two Faculty Members Added,
New Housing at Southwestern

Baptist Press
6/3/76

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary announced the election of two new faculty members and beginning of construction on 48 new studio-style apartments for students here.

The naming by trustees of James A. Brooks as an associate professor of New Testament and Harry B. Hunt Jr. as assistant professor of Old Testament brings to nine the number elected to the seminary's faculty this year, a spokesman said.

Brooks is coming to Southwestern from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he has been associate professor of New Testament and Greek since 1966. The El Paso, Tex., native was pastor of Terrill Road Baptist Church, Scotch Plains, N. J., 1963-66. A Baylor University, Waco, Tex., graduate, Brooks holds the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern, the doctor of philosophy degree from Princeton (N. J.) Theological Seminary, and has done additional study at Oxford University in England. He and his wife Beverly have two children, a daughter, 15, and a son, 10.

Hunt is currently associate professor of religion and director of in-service training at Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo. Prior to joining the Missouri school's faculty in 1973, he held a variety of interim Missouri pastorates and was pastor of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Tex., 1966-70.

A graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Tex., Hunt holds the master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees. He and his wife Patricia Lou have two children, a daughter, 3, and a son, 7.

The other announcement from Southwestern was that construction has begun on 48 new housing units for students on a five-acre site north of the seminary's J. Howard Williams Memorial Student Village. Construction cost is estimated at \$672,000, a seminary spokesman said.

The expansion will bring the total number of units in the village to 256. The new additions will raise the number of housing units operated by the seminary to 748, the spokesman added.

At least one-third of the new apartments are expected to be ready for occupancy by Aug. 20, in time for the fall semester, 1976-77 registration, according to Wayne Evans, Southwestern's vice president for business affairs. Major funding for the project will be provided by the capital needs program of the Southern Baptist Convention, and some designated gifts are also expected to be used, according to the seminary announcement.

The new housing is part of the seminary's Long Range Plan, IMPACT 2,000, which projects goals over the next 25 years. A 21 percent increase in student enrollment at Southwestern from 2,858 to 3,470 over the past year has made expansion of all facilities imperative, Southwestern President Robert E. Naylor said.