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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Aid Given Lebanese
 By Israeli Christians**

JERUSALEM (BP)--A national interfaith relief committee for aiding the victims of the Lebanese civil war has been set up here.

Among the members are Jews, Muslims and Christians. Marcus C. Reed, chairman of the Baptist Convention of Israel, was named to represent the Christian community. Reed is a Southern Baptist representative to Israel.

Baptists of the West Jerusalem congregation are contributing food and money. Robert L. Lindsay, Southern Baptist representative in Israel, is pastor of the church. The congregation is made up of people of many nationalities. Wes Brown, American Baptist Churches representative in Jerusalem and a member of the congregation, is chairman of the project.

"Some refugees from Lebanon who come to the border need medical attention. Some of them come to work in Israel," said James W. Smith, Southern Baptist representative to Ashkelon, Israel. "The Baptists in Israel have been assisting in transporting people from the border to medical aid stations. In some cases the children of Baptist representatives care for the Lebanese children while mothers are receiving medical help."

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**Indiana Baptists Defeat
 Encampment Fund Drive**

**Baptist Press
 9/14/76**

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--A proposal to conduct a \$2 million capital funds drive for the development of Highland Lakes Baptist Center was soundly defeated by elected "messengers" to the first special called session in the 18-year history of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

The campaign had been proposed by the convention's executive committee and a Highland Lakes development committee as a way to complete the facility on the 400-acre site located 25 miles southwest of Indianapolis. The master plan of development, approved by the convention in 1972, calls for all types of facilities at the camping, conference and retreat center.

The motion to conduct a capital funds campaign lost by a vote of 176-108. An earlier procedural motion from the campaign steering committee was approved stating that a 75 percent approving vote would be necessary before the fund drive would be attempted.

The drive would have asked individuals to give a "share" which would be \$1 dollar per day for 3 years. The proposed goal would have been 2,000 shares.

The fund drive was proposed as an alternative to the financial plan approved by the 1972 state convention, which would have paid for facilities with funds borrowed over an eight-year period. However, inflation in construction costs would have raised the proposal from \$1.3 million to over \$2 million.

Opposition to the proposed campaign centered in fears of what this drive might do to finances in local churches and the state convention. One messenger pointed out that Indiana Southern Baptists were being asked to give nearly as much each year of the campaign (\$720,000) as they are now giving to missions through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget. The state's 1976 Cooperative Program goal is \$750,000.

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Concern was also expressed that a capital funds drive during the next three years would focus attention away from the "North Central Missions Thrust," which is an effort to double the number of churches in the seven north central states, including Indiana.

None of the speakers at the day-long convention opposed development of the state Baptist assembly or questioned the need for such a facility.

Widespread interest in the capital funds drive throughout the state was reflected by a registration of 306 messengers, the second highest registration in the young state convention's history, a spokesman said.

After the vote on the proposed funds campaign, the messengers passed a motion that the matter of development and of financing Highland Lakes Baptist Center be referred to the state convention's executive board for further study.

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WMU and Brotherhood
Chart Joint Strategy

Baptist Press
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ROGERSVILLE, Ala. (BP)--National staffs of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and the Brotherhood Commission pooled their muscles for boosting missions education during a joint retreat here.

In their first across the board staff consultation since 1968, WMU and the Brotherhood leaders pledged themselves to funnel missions information through every possible medium in a jointly prepared and jointly lead strategy for missions education.

The proposals for strategy planning will ultimately be reported to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and its Executive Committee.

Leaders also charted a "bold mission" leadership conference at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center, July 9-15, 1977. The two missions organizations will offer training in major projects for the SBC's 1977-79 emphasis on bold mission.

Brotherhood and WMU will jointly sponsor new approaches to study, prayer, and support of missions during the emphasis. The bold mission leadership conference will be beamed to pastors, church staff, associational directors of missions, Brotherhood leaders, WMU leaders, church missions committees and others who will lead the bold mission activities in churches.

In addition, during the Glorieta conference, WMU and Brotherhood will offer a full range of training for their officers and their leaders. The two organizations will jointly stage evening sessions.

"The shared conference at Glorieta is just one evidence that WMU and Brotherhood are joining hands to expand missions support in churches," said Carolyn Weatherford and Glendon McCullough, executive directors of WMU and Brotherhood respectively in a joint statement. "We will put more force behind joint sponsoring of churchwide missions activities in order to involve people who are not now on WMU or Brotherhood roles. At the same time we will expand our distinctive activities for men and for women," they said.

The 36 WMU and Brotherhood staff members discussed mutual concerns in camping, missions organizations on college campuses, promoting the home and foreign missions graded series of mission books, WMU and Brotherhood in language churches, and maintaining missions organizations in small churches. Task forces laid plans for prayer and study projects that will be promoted jointly during the bold missions emphasis in 1977-79.

Both executives addressed the staffs on "winds and trends" affecting the organizations. They mentioned the woman's movement, growing missions interest in the denomination's grass roots, para-churches groups and interdenominationalism, renewal evangelism, changing worship habits, needs of senior citizens, crisis in the family, and the "minister in the pew" or lay persons in missions.

Following discussion of how Brotherhood and WMU might deal with these forces, Miss Weatherford said, "We haven't decided anything yet, except that we will be careful to help each other to confront these challenges."

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Blacks Urged To Harness
Hard-Won Economic Rights

By Bob Stanley and Larry Crisman

DALLAS (BP)--The leader of 6.3 million black Baptists has called on his people to combine labor, sacrifice, and wise investments to harness the economic rights they have won in recent years.

Joseph H. Jackson, president of the National Baptist Convention, U. S.A., Inc., challenged some 20,000 members assembled here for their 96th annual convention to remain committed to the struggle for first-class citizenship.

But he urged them to understand the values and virtues of the free enterprise system.

"We should begin with small savings clubs and co-ops and learn well the rules as well as the creative laws of free enterprise, along with the ethical principles involved therein," Jackson said.

A longtime advocate of moving from protest to production, Jackson said blacks should not be satisfied with winning the rights to acquire the opportunities to spend and consume, but should voluntarily shoulder the responsibilities of adding to the store of values.

In his own convention, Jackson has tried to set this type of example. The convention has made land purchases in the United States and West Africa as an investment, and also has established Church Emergency Aid Funds (CEAF), which this year presented a \$50,000 check to the convention.

CEAF, described as a million-dollar "miracle fund," is the brainchild of Jackson. Many years ago, as a young rural district preacher in Mississippi, he conceived of the idea as a plan for systematic savings and investment.

Jackson recalls that a businessman in Jackson, Miss., once commented to him about how unbusinesslike most preachers are. Jackson later sought advice from bankers in Philadelphia and in Chicago, where he is pastor of the Olivet Baptist Church.

The fund was incorporated in 1962 and granted tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service in 1966. It reached the million-dollar level in 1975.

"Not many people want money they can't spend," Jackson said. "But the committee that has worked with me over the years joins me in the realization that speculation and quick money will never be part of our plan. We simply decided to follow rules of thrift that would assure and insure growth of investments."

Little by little, the fund began to grow. No money was withdrawn. Finally, it reached the "magic \$1 million mark." Jackson, who has headed the convention since 1953, said the money is invested in bank certificates in institutions across the country. The \$50,000 presented to the convention in Dallas represents earnings from the fund.

"Through independence, self-sacrifice, self-control and creative use of money we can maintain economic self-sufficiency and moral dignity," Jackson said. "This is the great potential of our free enterprise system."

Jackson's presidential speech covered a wide range of topics, emphasizing the importance of U. S. military strength and "danger" of allowing the federal government to dictate terms on which money for education, social benefits, and relief may be secured.

America has not produced politicians skilled in handling money, Jackson charged, and they should not control the wealth of America through the tax dollar.

"My belief is that it is much better to allow the respective states to carry the responsibility of earning, collecting, and spending some of the revenue within their communities," he said. "We have learned the hard way that there is not enough wisdom in Washington to lift this nation to the highest democratic standard, nor to give every citizen the blessings and fruits of freedom."

In dealing with prayer in the schools, Jackson said he believes that students and teachers should be taught to pray as a voluntary process. "So frequently in the 1960s and the early 1970s many of our churches lost their way," he said. "They learned how to protest and forgot how to pray."

Racial Injustice Is A
Paradox in U. S. Blacks Told

WASHINGTON (BP)--Racial injustice, discrimination or limitation of personal rights is worse when found in the United States than when found in the world's "Godless," non-democratic countries, a black Baptist leader declared here.

The remarks came in the presidential address by Nelson H. Smith Jr. to the 15th annual meeting of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, a black Baptist body.

Smith, who is completing two years as president of the convention, declared: "As we read our Constitution, our Declaration of Independence, our Bill of Rights, we find not only that they are pregnant with hope, but they are laced with references to our Divine Creator," he said.

But, he noted, the "glad festivities" of the nation's Bicentennial "must be tempered by grim facts. How can 25 million Americans not feel the surge of impatience when we realize that 200 years after the Declaration of Independence, we are still struggling to realize its promise of equality?"

"Despite proclamations, constitutional amendments, civil rights laws and special ordinances designed to assure equality for all citizens, minorities and blacks still live under the shadow of racism and second-class citizenship," he asserted.

Freedom, liberty and equality cannot be taken lightly by a people who only received the right to vote 11 years ago, . . . by a people who received a fair housing bill only eight years ago," Smith said.

"This nation needs to remember as she celebrates her Bicentennial," he continued, "that black people are not satisfied with the stance of the nation. We have not faltered in our thirst for freedom and our hunger for equality.

"Freedom, liberty and equality cannot be taken for granted by a people who received from the Supreme Court the right to an integrated education just 25 years ago--and integration with insensitive white domination might be worse than segregation," he said.

Two Southern Baptist leaders addressing the convention emphasized the interdependence of all Baptists and the unity of religious liberty and civil rights.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, said that during the Bicentennial, while the nation is celebrating its independence from a foreign power, Baptists are celebrating their dependence on Jesus Christ and their interdependence on each other.

"We Baptists must be brothers in Christ," Routh told the black Baptists. "We have all kinds of Baptists--white, black, Progressive, Southern, American, etc.--but most of all we must be 'Christian Baptists,'" he declared. The convention responded with a roar of applause and shouts of "amen."

James E. Wood, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, reminded the convention that throughout the period of the American Revolution "Baptists insisted, as they do today, on the mutual dependence of civil and religious liberty."

He pointed out that the Progressive Convention actively cooperates with eight other Baptist bodies in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. He said that "Baptist witness in public affairs has been to give corporate and visible expression to the voluntariness of religious faith, the inviolability of the human conscience, and the relevance of Christian faith to all human rights and to the life of the nation.

"Religious liberty is threatened today by those who would obscure the authentic separation of church and state by the merging of religious faith with nationalism--the integrating of the faith community with the political community," Wood warned.

"It may well be," he continued, "that the most important problem confronting the church in American public life today lies in the widespread use of the name of God for political purposes."

In other matters, the denomination presented its Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Award to Walter Fauntroy, the District of Columbia's delegate to Congress and pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Washington, and elected Thomas Kilgore Jr. to succeed Smith as president.