

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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77-184

North American Baptists
Take 'Giant Step'

By C. E. Bryant

ARLINGTON, Va. (BP)--"Understanding within the Baptist family in North America took a giant step forward" at the 13th annual meeting of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF) here.

That evaluation came from Carl W. Tiller, the NABF secretary and an associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), who has been closely aligned with NABF activities throughout its history.

The NABF, a voluntary association of nine Baptist conventions and conferences in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, operates as a BWA committee.

Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary, said the meetings evidenced "the fruition of a new sense of working fellowship" among Baptists of the North American continent.

A two-year effort at obtaining an in-depth acquaintance with the NABF affiliates was successfully concluded as the general committee, with the guidance of Baptist history professor, C. C. Goen, probed the beliefs and practices of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, the North American Baptist Conference, and the General Association of General Baptists. A similar exploration of four other Baptist bodies took place at the 1976 meetings.

Workshops permitted leaders in various functional areas of church work to get better acquainted with each other and with each convention's work. The discussion focus this year fell on Christian ethics, communications, evangelism and education, missions administration, and stewardship development. The principal executives (general secretaries and executive secretaries) of the member bodies also met together.

Jack O'Neal of Fresno, Calif., explained cooperative efforts of California Baptists under the umbrella of the Baptist Joint Committee of California. Tiller called the California organization a model for Baptist fellowship at the state level.

Acting on the strength of renewed fellowship and trust engendered at the meetings, the General Committee of NABF voted to respond favorably to a proposal that theological conversations be undertaken with other denominational families of Christendom, starting with the Lutherans. The objective is to improve mutual understanding. The specific plan for Lutheran-Baptist conversations now goes to the Lutheran Council in the USA for ratification.

Eleanore Schnurr, BWA volunteer representative in New York for liaison with the United Nations, told of her work and of the recognition accorded by the U. N. to BWA statements on such issues as human rights and religious tolerance.

Ernest K. Bee Jr., a Seventh Day Baptist minister, was re-elected chairman of NABF, and Mrs. Dolores Duck, women's executive for General Baptists, was re-elected vice chairman. The NABF will hold its next general committee meeting October 5-6, 1978, in Toronto, Canada.

**Training, Stewardship Keys
To Mexican Baptist Growth**

By Ruth Fowler

ARLINGTON, Va. (BP)--"What would help my country is to teach our people to do the job and train the churches to finance it," said Roberto Porras-Maynes, representative of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico.

Porras-Maynes, addressing representatives from North American Baptist groups meeting here for the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF), stressed the priority of leadership training.

The fellowship heard him, along with leaders from three other groups, in sessions aimed at helping Baptists to better understand one another.

As a member with some ministerial responsibilities at Horeb Baptist Church, Mexico City, Porras-Maynes says he has had the chance to observe firsthand the difference stewardship training can make.

When the Horeb Baptist Church needed more building space the people decided not to have a building drive, but rather to teach the basics of tithing. "When you ask people to give to a special campaign and it is over, their reason for giving is gone," Porras-Maynes said.

"Tithing goes on, after the special campaign," he explained. "We financed the building and have since given an equal amount to a Baptist camping facility. Our church is now a weekly giver to the national work and last year was by far the highest giver in the convention."

Porras-Maynes described leadership training as a chain. First, he said, is evangelism and second is Christian education. "Don't just leave them (new believers) at the church door. Teach them stewardship of life. He (the new believer) has come. He has learned. He has grown. Now he must go out."

The Mexican convention, he said, is sending out missionaries through its mission board. The convention has home missionaries serving among Indian groups working in 10 tribal languages and will send its first foreign missionaries to Honduras next year.

"Mexican churches need leadership," Porras-Maynes said, calling for training in stewardship of life and evangelism. "He (the new believer) will be an active layperson first, then a full-time minister, but if you do not teach stewardship of life he will not surrender."

In speaking to the representatives about fellowship, Porras-Maynes called for a united witness among Baptists. "NABF ought to see how many things we have in common," he said. "In Mexico, the Southern Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches and others are all working under one convention. We don't identify ourselves as any one kind of Baptist."

Porras-Maynes said that when the Mexican convention had a decision to make they did not wait to hear from one of the groups in the United States, but "we have a direct line to God."

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**Retiring Missionaries
Look To Missions Future**

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10/17/77

RICHMOND (BP)--Four retiring Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) missionaries, with 134 years combined service, are setting their eyes on the future instead of the past.

Mary Lee Ernest, one of the retirees honored by the Foreign Mission Board here at a recognition service, looked back on her "precious memories of the past" but said her expectations for what the SBC will do in the years to come in its Bold Mission Thrust are even "more precious."

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Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC's plan to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ to everyone in the world by the end of the century. It calls for doubling the SBC's foreign and home mission forces to some 10,000 by the end of the century and sharply escalating short-term mission service through the SBC's new Mission Service Corps and other efforts.

A. L. (Pete) Gillespie, also referring to Bold Mission efforts, said he's happier to be a Southern Baptist today than he has ever been in his life. "I think Southern Baptists have the program the world needs. They have the gospel that the world needs.

"The only thing that I'm afraid of," he continued, "is that we're not going to be sufficiently committed to do the job which God gave us to do." He challenged those present at the recognition service to have a fresh commitment to do a bigger job than they have ever done. He said if each of the 35,000 Southern Baptist churches thought in terms of sending out one missionary, "we'd have all we need and some to spare" for Bold Mission Thrust.

(The Foreign Mission Board previously has used the term Total Missions Thrust to describe its portion of the Bold Mission effort. In keeping with recent Southern Baptist Convention actions, the entire effort will be called Bold Mission Thrust.)

Gillespie and his wife, the former Viola (Bee) Boyd, have served in Japan for 31 years. They have helped in the establishment of more than a dozen churches there. They are natives of Tennessee and Indiana, respectively, and will be living in Bedford, Ind.

Miss Ernest, an Alabama native, served 30 years in Hawaii, Malaysia and Singapore.

Also recognized at the service was Dorothy (Mrs. W. Maxfield) Garrott, who has served as a foreign missionary in Japan for 42 years. A native of Louisville, Ky., she is the daughter of the late W. O. Carver, who introduced the study of missions and comparative religion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

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Parks Says Corps Generating
Enthusiasm, But Also Fears

By Bob Stanley

Baptist Press
10/17/77

RICHMOND (BP)--Mission Service Corps, the new Southern Baptist Convention program for one and two-year mission volunteers, has generated interest and enthusiasm. But at the same time it has led some Baptists to express fears and uncertainty about the effects the program could have on established methods of mission support.

R. Keith Parks, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's mission support division, made that observation in a report to the board at its October meeting.

The new Mission Service Corps, a result of convention action last June, calls for 5,000 mission volunteers by 1982, with sponsors to support them.

"There are many who are voicing untempered enthusiasm about the Mission Service Corps," Parks said. "There are others who identify risks--that may in fact be dangers--threatening the basic concept of cooperation, with the potential of undermining the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and state mission offerings."

(The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' main channel for giving to support missions and other programs in which they cooperate, and the special offerings provide the bulk of support for all the denomination's missions outreach.)

As on any issue, Parks noted, the views of the majority of Baptists would lie in between these extremes. "It's imperative," he said, "that this board (the Foreign Mission Board) function in such a way as to pull together these extremes. There must be the maintaining of the enthusiasm and excitement generated by this concept. There is the potential of strengthening our basic cooperative venture by adding to it a new thrust, a broadened and deepened stream of support and an enlarged flow of missionary candidates for career service."

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Parks said the Mission Service Corps has brought about a "remarkable demonstration of cooperation" but this cooperation has to remain convention-wide to prevent "fragmentation and the emergence of a missions society concept with smaller units establishing independent mission action.

"It is essential to maintain this convention-wide cooperation in spirit, in giving and in missions or else ultimately we will not only wreck the Mission Service Corps but damage seriously the matrix out of which it was born," explained Parks.

Parks noted that the Mission Service Corps has also provided more opportunities for personal participation by individual Southern Baptists throughout the convention. But, he said, this should also be used to supply exposure to career service in missions.

"Perhaps God is using this to broaden and deepen the main thrust of our foreign mission enterprise as expressed in the career missionary," he added.

Mission Service Corps also offers new opportunities for mission education through the awareness it has generated. "This teaching can emphasize personnel needs, funding missions in an ongoing program and the urgency of praying for missionaries and the peoples of the world," Parks pointed out.

He said this new awareness enables the board to remind Southern Baptists that the Southern Baptist Convention was born out of the mission imperative and commitment "to do everything possible to bring all men in other lands around the world (as well as at home) to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as rapidly as possible. And this objective should call all of us to a renewed sense of prayer and commitment to mobilize Southern Baptists to achieve our original aim," he said.

"As we keep our basic purpose in mind," he continued, "it is my prayer that the present excitement will increase and spread and be fanned into a flame of missionary enthusiasm in every church and in every heart throughout Southern Baptist life."

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Canadian Baptist Churches
Okayed for Church Loans

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ATLANTA (BP)--Canadian churches affiliated with a Southern Baptist state convention may now apply for loans from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Robert Kilgore, director of the board's division of church loans, said here.

Kilgore said the decision to consider Canadian churches for loans comes in response to an action by the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City in June, which opened the way for denominational agencies to assist Baptist churches in Canada.

The action clearing the way for loan applications came during the annual fall meeting of the Home Mission Board here.

Kilgore, noting the action is an exception to ordinary loan procedures, said the loans will be made to the Canadian churches in U. S. currency and that recipients will be asked to use U.S. currency to repay the loans.

"Canadian churches receiving loans will make the adjustments in exchange rates themselves," Kilgore said. "This will give them an advantage or a disadvantage financially, depending on exchange rates."

Kilgore said eligible churches are in Western Canada and are affiliated with the Northwest Baptist Convention, which covers Southern Baptist work in Oregon and Washington, and is one of 33 state-level Baptist conventions covering Southern Baptist work in 50 states.

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Home Board Ups Church
Loans Interest Rate

ATLANTA (BP)--Facing mounting inflation, the church loans division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will change interest rates charged for loans.

Directors voted to continue the present 9½ percent interest, but approved the addition of a one percent processing fee during their fall meeting here.

Robert Kilgore, director of the church loans division, said recent loans have been analyzed and it was found processing costs for each loan range from \$650 to \$1,000.

Kilgore, who said the processing fee will not exceed \$750 on any loan, added that the fee will be discounted from the loan amount. It will apply to all loans for which applications are received after Oct. 12, 1977.

The reason for the \$750 ceiling, Kilgore said, is that the average loan processed by the division is for \$75,000.

"The division has been subsidizing the money borrowed from lending institutions to the tune of \$275,000 a year," Kilgore said. "In making a realistic appraisal of where we stood, we decided we can't stand that kind of loss."

Kilgore added all lending institutions have some sort of plan for recovering processing costs. "In this type of market, it is our considered opinion that this is below the market."

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4 Baptist Films Win
National Recognition

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10/17/77

FORT WORTH (BP)--Three Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission films have won Chris Bronze Plaques at the Columbus Film Festival and a fourth received the 1977 Eudora Welty Americana Award.

All four films were produced and directed by John C. Stevens of the commission's television department.

Winners of the runnerup prize in the Columbus Film Festival were "Gentle Falling, Silent Light," a documentary featuring interviews with survivors of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima; "Mark Shriker," the story of a rodeo cowboy and the things he learned in his fight against cancer; and "Steps," which shows people struggling against the disease of alcoholism. "Mark Shriker" previously won a CINE (Council on International Nontheatrical Events) Golden Eagle Certificate and was cited as suitable for international festival use.

"The Hunt," a documentary, won the Eudora Welty Americana Award, representing the third time in four years that Stevens' work has won that award, sponsored by Mississippians for Educational Television. The film shows life through the eyes of a 76-year-old Eskimo preacher in Kotzebue, Alaska, who lives between the ancient world of an Eskimo whaler and today's conveniences.

The Welty award, national in scope, was created to recognize excellence and to encourage the production of programs dealing with American life, to focus attention on America, and to pay tribute to Miss Welty, a Pulitzer Prize winning author.

Ambassador Urges Support
For Panama Canal Treaty

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10/17/77

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Ambassador Robert William Dean, former U. S. ambassador to Peru and currently diplomat in residence at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, urged an audience of seminary students to support the Panama Canal treaty during a visit to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Dean cited both economic and military reasons as support for a new treaty.

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The former ambassador indicated that while only eight percent of U. S. ocean-going trade uses the canal, South American nations are heavily dependent on the canal for a majority of their trade. Because of growing U. S. reliance on raw materials from these southern neighbors, he argues that feelings of "Yankee imperialism" must be overcome.

The recently-negotiated treaty, Dean says, will be "a link between us and our Latin American friends and neighbors."

Because of continuing U. S. need to use the canal for military purposes, Dean feels that the proposed treaty should be ratified as a defense against terrorist activity.

"We have a real interest in defending the canal from outside influence and also from those who would sabotage it from the inside. By signing the treaty with Panama and enlisting their cooperation in operating and defending it, it makes that job easier," he indicates.

The treaty, Dean believes, gives the Panamanians "a stake in the efficient operation of the canal."

Classes For Deaf Possible
At Boyce Bible School

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By Nancy McGough

Baptist Press
10/17/77

LOUISVILLE (BP)--As more and more Baptists become interested in ministering to the deaf, the question is being raised, "What about deaf people who want to minister?"

"Southern Baptists have the largest deaf work anywhere, and some of these deaf people are going to feel called into the ministry. But there's no place at this point for them to get any sort of training beyond college," said Carl Enoch, minister to the deaf at Fourth Avenue Baptist Church and instructor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Boyce Bible School here.

Only two Baptist colleges have developed classes specifically for the deaf, Enoch pointed out--Dallas (Tex.) Baptist College, and Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N. C. No Baptist seminary or Bible school offers classes for deaf students, he said.

However, representatives of Boyce Bible School and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have begun discussing the possibility of establishing classes for the deaf at Boyce in the future. The Home Mission Board works with the deaf as part of its language ministry, since sign language is usually a deaf person's first language and English is his second.

The tremendous interest at Southern Seminary among hearing students for a deaf ministry sparked the initial consideration of this possibility between Enoch and Arthur Walker, director of the seminary's Ministry Training Center. They were astonished when over 70 students, primarily seminary student wives, enrolled in the Bible school's sign language course, a 50 percent increase in enrollment over the year before and a 150 percent increase above the first year's enrollment.

The need for individuals to communicate with the deaf is great, Enoch pointed out, since about two million Americans, an average of two out of every 1,000 individuals, are totally deaf. Another 11 million are partially deaf. Presently about 400 deaf ministries exist across the Southern Baptist Convention, he said.

WRAPUP

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Baptist Press
10/17/77

Southeastern Adopts Campus
Plan; Elects Bruce Powers

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--A comprehensive master campus plan for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here was adopted by the school's board of trustees in its semi-annual meeting.

Along with the campus plan, the trustees also set in motion a procedure to secure resources for the long-range project and elected Bruce Powers of Nashville, Tenn., as associate professor of Christian education, in cooperation with a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board professorship program.

The master campus plan, developed by Snoddy & McCulloch of Charlotte, N. C., comes as a result of a 3-year long range planning effort by the seminary. It is one of 20 objectives adopted by the trustees in March, 1977, which cover all aspects of the seminary's program.

The plan calls for extensive improvement, renovation, and "recycling" of the 145-year old campus, from 1832 to 1956 the home of Wake Forest College. Purchased in 1950 by the Southern Baptist Convention, the campus was occupied jointly from 1951 to 1956 by the college and the seminary. Wake Forest College moved to a new campus in Winston-Salem in 1956.

During the next 25 years several new buildings were added along with housing for married students. However, existing buildings and systems have received very little modification.

In its studies, the seminary faced an increasing enrollment and a need for efficient and adequate facilities for all phases of its operation. Enrollment now stands at 1,150, only slightly under that of Wake Forest College when it moved in 1956.

The trustees also acted on recommendations from the school's development council of 28 business leaders, and its administration, that an extensive program of financial development be instituted.

They voted to adopt a four-year program which includes a tentative goal of \$6,565,000, a series of 31 educational meetings during the spring of 1978, and participation in the national joint fund raising campaign for the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries, scheduled to begin in 1979. The goal includes funds for faculty endowment, endowed professorships, and lectureships, and capital improvements.

Powers, a native of Savannah, Ga., comes to Southeastern Seminary from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Since 1975, he has been coordinator of the Church Program Training Center. He will teach in the field of educational administration and programming beginning January, 1978. He holds master of religious education and doctor of education degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He was employed by Southeastern Seminary as a result of a Sunday School Board professorship program, through which seminaries employ professors to keep students and faculty informed about facilities, programs and services of the board. In the plan, approved by trustees of the board and of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, the seminary elects the professor, assigns responsibility and supervises. The board reimburses the seminary a sum equal to the salary and fringe benefits on a scale equal to other faculty members.

In other developments, the trustees:

--Heard a report that the campaign for its endowed professorship in evangelism had reached \$264,000 in pledges toward the December, 1978 goal of \$500,000.

--Established a surcharge fee of \$150 per semester for non-Southern Baptist students to become effective with the fall semester, 1978, a practice consistent with that of other Southern Baptist Convention seminaries. All the seminaries receive a major portion of their funds from Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program, making it possible to provide seminary training for a basic matriculation fee of \$150 per semester. No other tuition is charged.

--Elected officers for the 1977-78 year. Tom Brandon of Sherman, Tex., was re-elected chairman; Edgar Wyatt of Raleigh, N. C., vice-chairman, John Howell of Louisville, Ky., secretary, and David Britt of Raleigh, N. C., treasurer.

--Established the Edward A. McDowell Jr. Greek Award, named in honor of the New Testament professor who taught at Southeastern from 1952 to 1964.

--Approved a recommendation that \$49,849 received from the challenge funds of the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget be used for a 2 percent on base salaries distribution to the employees, for classroom equipment and supplies, and for the program of financial development.

--Heard a report that proceeds from the estate of Homer Lang, a Charlotte, N. C., layman, now amounts to approximately \$390,600 in cash and stocks in addition to real estate holdings.