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Means 'Contract'  
Lasted 30 Years

By Jennifer Hall

RICHMOND (BP)--It was well past midnight as the train wound its way through the blackness of Argentina.

Inside, Frank K. Means and co-worker Fon H. Scofield Jr. struggled for sleep as they lay on bare mattresses, Scofield on the berth above Means.

A sudden movement startled Scofield. Pulling himself to the edge of the bunk, he peered out--then down. His partner had been jolted out of bed. Looking up, Means said dryly, but with a trace of a smile: "The next time I change jobs, I'm going to read the small print in the contract."

The train incident, lightened by Means' unmistakable humor, occurred during his 1954 inaugural trip as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Latin America. Frank Means has never turned to another "contract."

On Dec. 31, after 30 years with the board, Means retires as the area secretary for Eastern South America. The 23 years he spent as area secretary mark the longest term ever held by a Southern Baptist in that capacity.

Praise of Means' tenure came during the October Foreign Mission Board meeting here when board members put aside regular business and honored him with a candlelight luncheon.

Calling him a "main strength of all that is done in the overseas division," Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, cited Means for his "understanding, experience, dependability, sensitivity and judgment which have made him so loved by missionaries" in Latin America.

Means launched his career with the board in 1947 as secretary for missionary education and promotion. He was fresh from an eight-year stint as professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

For five years, Means took on the additional role as editor of the board's monthly magazine, The Commission. No stranger to the print media, he had worked his way through Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., as a linotype operator. Even today, he keeps handy a pica ruler--a traditional tool of journalists.

A longtime friend and co-worker, Floyd H. North, editor of The Commission, humorously describes Means as "a whiz of a linotype operator and a mean basketball player."

His election as secretary for Latin America came following the death in 1954 of Everett Gill Jr. Means worked as advisor for all of Latin America for 14 years, until the board in 1968 designated part of that area as Middle America and the Caribbean. He then became secretary for South America. But as Southern Baptist work on that continent continued to grow, the area was divided again in 1975, and Means became secretary of Eastern South America (Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay).

Means' career has been flavored with a taste of danger--including the hazards of frequent travel. Today he still remembers the time his plane developed engine trouble 500 miles into the Amazon River area.

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Crews worked until finally they electrically charged one engine and got the other started. "Just as the sun set, we took off," Means remembered, "and we headed deeper into the jungle. Now that's an act of faith."

Throughout his career friends and co-workers have appreciated Means' character and approach to life. "He never pushes himself. He always seems to be concerned with everyone else. Consequently, I've never met a person who didn't like Frank Means," said Scofield, recently retired associate director of program and product development for the board's communications department.

In retirement, Means plans to continue his writing (he's the author of mission study books) and maintain his appetite for reading. He and his wife, Joella, will move to her hometown, Appomattox, Va., where the couple is building a home.

He will set aside the meetings, counseling sessions, foreign languages, trains, taxis and planes, on Dec. 31. But he takes with him 30 years of challenging foreign missions experiences and a sense of humor that refuses to age.

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist editors by the Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

Wrapup

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Baptist Press

Excitement Crackles  
In State Conventions

By Robert O'Brien

11/22/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Thirty-three state Baptist conventions, crackling with an unusual sense of excitement over Southern Baptists' worldwide missions program and uncommonly in accord on certain social issues, have completed another round of annual sessions.

Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) goal to evangelize the entire world in this century, fueled the eagerness of representatives of the SBC's nearly 13 million members and 35,073 churches as they envisioned how they could escalate the SBC's already huge missions program to accomplish the ambitious goal.

Ambitious budgets and growth goals, creative plans for outreach, reports of already active Bold Mission projects, and repeated challenges for response to Bold Mission Thrust and the SBC's newly formed Mission Service Corps threaded their way through convention reports.

Missions has always been a binding force among Southern Baptists, but the thread of Bold Mission Thrust, which has tightly woven itself into the SBC fabric, has added a new dimension. A spokesman for the Hawaii Baptist Convention summed it up for all state conventions as "an excitement not felt in a number of years."

Two other threads, not as pervasive as Bold Mission Thrust but strongly in evidence, also ran through the conventions--opposition to the homosexual lifestyle and to sex-filled, violence-saturated television programming.

Seventeen state conventions either resolved against homosexuality as a sin or commended singer Anita Bryant for her stand against homosexual role models for children--or took both actions. Fifteen state conventions expressed chagrin over the state of the nation's television programming, and many took actions to communicate that to sponsors, affiliates and networks.

Although harmony, inspiration and worship characterized the conventions, some had their tense moments as "messengers" from the churches dealt with sometimes thorny and bothersome matters of doctrine or polity.

At least six of the conventions touched in some fashion on the issue of women and ministry, while three conventions, Arizona, Louisiana and Kentucky, elected women second vice presidents--a first for those states.

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Arkansas passed a resolution opposing support by the SBC Home Mission Board of an ordained woman, Suzanne Coyle (a church extension specialist in Philadelphia in cooperation with the Penn.-Jersey Convention). Meanwhile, Baptists in her home state of Kentucky and in Georgia were refusing to pass resolutions against ordination of women. They said ordination comes under the authority of the local church, not a convention. Georgia also refused to take action against some state denominational employees who participated in the ordination of a woman because "denominational servants should not be called upon to give up freedoms exercised by other members of Baptist churches."

Earlier in the year, the South District Baptist Association removed Beech Fork Baptist Church, Gravel Switch, Ky., from its fellowship because it ordained Coyle, who began service as a home missionary before her ordination.

The Utah-Idaho Convention tabled a resolution against ordination of women until next year, and the District of Columbia Convention, which has had a woman president, voted to "encourage men and women to share as co-equals in church leadership and all the tasks of facilitating the ministry of the church, including the roles that formerly may have been assumed to be exclusively male or female responsibilities."

In Florida, Lakeland pastor Cornelius B. Davis, the new Florida Convention president, speaking as an individual, said he believes the Bible prohibits ordination of women as pastors but that he would approve their ordination for jobs as chaplains or in other Christian vocations if ordination were one of the requirements for such a position.

Although the Florida Convention took no action on ordination of women, it did face a thorny issue involving how much say-so an association should have in naming members to state convention boards and committees.

For the fifth time since 1952, it voted to change a bylaw and thereby took a position not traditional among most Southern Baptists. The bylaw, which has bounced back and forth between allowing associational connection and complete state convention autonomy, declares that the state nominating committee "shall solicit nominees from the executive committees of associations."

Although a spokesman said the nominees are not mandatory, the action has caused some observers to wonder whether it violates another part of the Florida Convention's constitution which says it will not be limited or restrained by any authority or decision of any Baptist body in the promotion of its work.

Another Florida motion, which requested associations to reciprocate by giving state conventions input in selection of associational officers, was withdrawn after loud protests. It led one observer to comment that apparently "what is sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander."

In Ohio, messengers avoided an action which would have forged a state-associational authority connection, while messengers in California and the Northwest Convention (Oregon, Washington and western Canada), faced another difficult issue.

The California Convention refused to seat messengers from a Fresno church, which accepts alien immersion and practices open communion, because of a state constitutional prohibition. That prohibition will face a challenge at the 1978 meeting in Anaheim. The Northwest Convention voted 211-116 to change its statement of faith to avoid exercising authority over churches which accept alien immersions, but the vote fell eight short of the required two-thirds majority for passage.

Votes related to convention schools saw South Carolina Baptists vote against merger of Furman University and North Greenville College, Georgia Baptists give Brewton-Parker the green light to explore four-year status and North Carolina and Missouri Baptists make government aid related decisions.

North Carolina Baptists allowed Wake Forest University to accept a National Science Foundation biology research grant but refused to let the school use part of it for construction because of convention policies on separation of church and state. Missouri Baptists declined to take any action on a report from a special study committee which recommended that two of the convention's four colleges withdraw from a state-sponsored student aid program. It was referred for further study.

In other scattered actions, the Michigan Convention became the second state Baptist body to accept a Canadian church, welcoming Evangelical Baptist Church, Amhurstberg, Ontario, into its fellowship. The Northwest Convention, which re-elected Allen Schmidt, pastor from Vancouver, British Columbia, as president, has admitted some 35 Canadian churches in Canada's western provinces over the years.

The California Convention, following up an earlier action by the Arizona Convention, voted to help and encourage a new state Baptist body, which will form next October in Nevada. The Nevada Convention, which will begin operation Jan. 1, 1979, will be made up of some 50 churches now affiliated with either California or Arizona.

The resolutions involving homosexuality called it sin and unbiblical, but basically urged compassion for homosexuals as individuals and noted that they could find forgiveness for sin through the power of Jesus Christ. The resolutions expressed alarm at what is viewed as a campaign to gain legal, social and religious acceptance of homosexuality as a lifestyle. They declared that homosexuality is not normal, not an acceptable lifestyle and has devastating effect on family life in general and children in particular.

The actions on television, the result of a crescendo of alarm over television content, were highlighted at the Maryland convention by a speech from Harry Hollis of the SBC Christian Life Commission, Nashville. He said reports that ABC-TV would make drastic changes in its controversial "Soap" program signalled a victory for Southern Baptists and others who have fought the sex-oriented show.

Six states spoke on the hotly-debated abortion issue, basically taking a stance against indiscriminate abortions and abortion on demand. The Virginia body called for Christian love and understanding on both sides of a difficult issue.

Other actions launched ministries to the aging, opposed President Carter's appointment of an envoy to the Vatican or any other international religious headquarters, commended Carter for his stance on human rights and exercise of Christian principles in government, called for death with dignity and resolved against child pornography and abuse, and opposed pollution, energy waste, alcohol, casino gambling, terrorism, torture, racism and the Internal Revenue Service's ruling on "integrated auxiliaries" of churches.

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Sadat Visit Gives Hope  
For Peace, Baptists Say

By Elizabeth Smith

Baptist Press  
11/22/77

JERUSALEM, Israel (BP)--Israeli Baptists view Egyptian President Anwar El-Sadat's visit as a "good and courageous step" that gives new hope of real peace in the Middle East.

As the Egyptian leader prayed in the Al Aksa Mosque near the site of the ancient-Jewish temple, Baptists gathered with other Christian groups not far away at the Garden Tomb outside the ancient walls of the Old City. They prayed for Sadat, for the success of his talks with Israeli leaders, and for peace in the Middle East.

Other prayers for peace were voiced in mosques, synagogues and churches throughout Israel.

Fuad Sakhnini, chairman of the national organization of Baptist churches in Israel, summed up the feeling here this way: "Although it has left some Arab states confused, Sadat's visit was a good and courageous step."

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"We welcome anything which contributes to peace and mutual understanding," he added. "We hope that it will lead toward permanent peace."

Baptists of Arab background in Galilee expressed respect for the Egyptian leader's courage in coming to Israel, as well as respect for Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who they feel is a strong personality.

"This new situation of two men talking face-to-face, understanding each other and discussing concrete steps to bring peace has lifted the spirits of the people," said Dale G. Thorne, administrator of the Baptist Convention in Israel.

Israel and Egypt have been at war since Israel became a nation in 1948. Sadat told reporters that he still has to consider the nations at war, but that this is a step toward possible peace. This is the first visit of an Egyptian president to Israel since the beginning of the war.

Sermons and reports throughout the Sunday of Sadat's visit reflected the excitement and hope that this initiative will bring peace. Afternoon business sessions at the annual Conference of Israeli Baptists, meeting in Nazareth, were delayed to allow the delegates from 11 churches and centers to see the broadcast of speeches in the Knesset on television in the auditorium at the Nazareth Baptist School.

Special services were held on both Saturday and Sunday as Baptist congregations met in such places as the Baptist Village in Petah Tiqva.

Some Baptists here see significance in the fact that Sadat's visit coincided with the celebration of the Muslim feast, Id Al-Adha, commemorating Abraham's sacrifice.

Others pointed out that the scripture portion being read in the synagogues during the week, Genesis 28:11 through 32:3, ends with Jacob setting out to meet his brother Esau for their reconciliation.

Baptist women recalled that when they gathered from all parts of Israel on Nov. 6, they offered special prayers for peace.

Talk of the visit occupied almost every occasion here. Guests at a wedding in the Nazareth Baptist Church just an hour before the historic speeches in the Knesset congratulated the young Baptist and his bride and spoke to them of the great significance of the date of their marriage, not only to them personally but to all people of the world.

A Baptist deacon in Nazareth bought every newspaper he could find in Arabic, Hebrew and English on Sunday and read all the articles about the historic event. He plans to send copies to his relatives abroad.

Veteran Southern Baptist representative Robert L. Lindsey of Jerusalem said, "Some of the Baptists here echo the feeling of many Israelis when they respond to what has happened by thanking God."

A Baptist layman, Ibrahim Sim'an of Haifa summarized his feelings: "Blessed are the peacemakers. It takes more courage to make peace than to make war. Mr. Sadat has proved he can do both--lead in the 1973 war and make a visit for peace in 1977. The important question now is, will Israel pay the price for peace?"

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Elizabeth (Mrs. James W.) Smith is Southern Baptist press representative for Israel.

Larry Flynt Becomes Christian,  
Advocates Stiff Porn Penalties

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press  
11/22/77

SAN ANTONIO (BP)--"Hustler" magazine publisher Larry Flynt, who had earlier joined Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen in a common attack on sexual exploitation of children, surprised churches here when he told them he has accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour.

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Flynt told churches here and in Houston that he plans to turn the pornographic "Hustler" into a Christian magazine. He and Allen were in San Antonio to testify for a committee of the Texas House of Representatives against pornography and to advocate stiff criminal penalties for the use of children in pornographic literature and films.

Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, told the house committee that "Profiteers pandering to the lowest sexual appetites in human experience are parasites using our concepts of freedom of expression to greedily sap the strength of the American soul."

He said there are few issues in which as great a consensus of concern exists among 13 million Southern Baptists as "that of the protection of children from sexual exploitation and concern for our national trend toward exploiting and kinky sexual expression." He said estimates of the numbers of children being abused through pornography range as high as 200,000. "Their silent cry is, 'Somebody help me,'" Allen said.

Both Allen and Flynt urged the Texas House Committee to write legislation in the area of child abuse and not in the area of obscenity.

Flynt warned that legislation to control child pornography must steer clear of the 1st amendment guarantees of free speech and press.

The solution is "through specific child abuse laws," he said. "Laws to eliminate the publication of child pornography material would probably be unconstitutional."

The 35-year-old publisher, who said he makes about \$20 million to \$30 million a year, told the legislative committee that he and his magazine were largely responsible for publicizing the problem of "kiddie porn."

Pornographic publications such as "Hustler" aren't the cause of problems such as child abuse, he said, but are only the symptoms of problems in society.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: (BP) story on Flynt's conversion follows 11/23/77.

Dilday Named President  
Of Southwestern Seminary

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Baptist Press  
11/22/77

FORT WORTH (BP)--Russell Dilday of Atlanta, has been elected the sixth president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Dilday, 47, pastor of the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta since 1969, will succeed Robert Naylor, who will retire July 31, 1978. He will become president-elect on Jan. 1, 1978 and begin his official duties, Aug. 1, using the interim period to orient himself to the seminary and its operations.

In related action, the seminary's board of trustees voted to name Naylor president-emeritus upon his retirement. Naylor, 68, will complete 20 years service as seminary president.

Dilday, an Amarillo, Tex., native was recommended to the leadership post of the world's largest theological seminary by a trustee-appointed presidential search committee. The nine-member committee had been evaluating candidates for more than eight months.

Calling his successor an "effective pastor of great churches," Naylor said, "He brings the promise of great leadership to Southwestern Seminary."

Dilday expressed "awe at the convincing evidence of God's guidance" in his acceptance of the Southwestern presidency and said, "My prayers and vision for the seminary are that we will fulfill aggressively our part of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Bold Mission Thrust effort to reach every person in the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ by the end of the century."

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Before going to Atlanta, Dilday was pastor of the Tallowood Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., 1959-1969, and has also served as pastor of Texas Baptist churches in Clifton and Antelope.

Dilday attended school in Wichita Falls, Tex., and later graduated from Baylor University. He holds the master of divinity and the doctor of philosophy degrees from Southwestern Seminary, received an honorary doctor of divinity degree by Mercer University, and has participated in the American Management Association Executive Development Program.

Active in denominational affairs, Dilday most recently served as board of trustees president for the SBC Home Mission Board, 1974-1976, and was the SBC's second vice president, 1970-71. He also served on the SBC Mission Challenge Committee to recommend a 25-year mission plan for Southern Baptists.

Dilday has also served on the executive committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention, 1970-1975, as moderator of the Atlanta Baptist Association, 1973-74, and as president of the Atlanta Baptist Association Pastors Conference 1974-75. He is the author of a book, "You Can Overcome Discouragement," and has contributed to numerous periodicals and Bible commentaries.

The new seminary president currently serves on the Morehouse College (Atlanta) board of directors, and is a member of the review committee for the research project of the Mercer University, School of Pharmacy. He also serves as a field supervisor for the doctoral programs of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Columbia Theological Seminary (Louisville, Ky. and Decatur, Ga. respectively). He is a former trustee of Baylor University, Pace Academy (Atlanta), and San Marcos Academy (Texas).

A sporting enthusiast, Dilday is a licensed private plane pilot. His sporting hobbies include golf, tennis, racquet ball, fishing, hunting, and snow skiing.

Dilday has been married since 1952 to Betty Doyen of Houston. The couple have a son Robert, 22, and two daughters, Nancy, 19, and Ellen, 17.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Gardner-Webb Establishes  
Biblical Scholar Endowment

Baptist Press  
11/22/77

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)--Gifts totalling \$100,000 to Gardner-Webb College, a Baptist school here, will be used to establish a program to assist students planning church related vocations.

Income from the endowed fund will support the B. E. Morris Biblical Scholar program. The scholar will spend a semester each year on the campus of the four-year liberal arts college, teaching and counseling with students, especially those anticipating careers in church-related vocations.

Craven Williams, president of Gardner-Webb announced that the first scholar will be Nane Starnes, a retired pastor from Asheville, N. C.

The program would directly address one of the needs cited by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention's Commission on Church Growth by helping ministers and ministerial students deal with specific, practical issues in their churches and aiding churches in outreach to their local communities.

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