



BAPTIST PRESS

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December 21, 1977

77-224

U.S. Spent \$318,210
On Vatican Envoy

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Department of State will spend \$39,500 during the fiscal year 1978 for President Carter's personal representative to the Vatican, according to an estimate by a highly placed government official.

James W. Swihart Jr., country officer for Italian affairs in the Department of State, reported that for a nine year period, beginning in 1970, the President's personal representative to the Vatican will have cost \$318,210.

President Carter in 1977 appointed David M. Walters as his personal representative to the Vatican to succeed Henry Cabot Lodge, who filled the same position under Presidents Nixon and Ford. Both Lodge and Walters have served without salary, although their expenses are fully paid by the U. S. government.

The information from the Department of State was provided as a result of a request through the office of U. S. Rep. Gene Taylor (R.-Mo.).

All of the costs were not included in the report by Swihart, since, as he explained, "The salaries of all foreign service employees are centrally charged in Washington and not included in the expenses of individual posts." He continued, "In this case, the total salary cost of the two employees who assist the President's personal representative is \$44,645."

Left unanswered by the Department of State is the following question: "Is the status of this envoy that of (1) the President's representative to the Vatican as a church and religious organization, or (2) as a representative of a temporal sovereign government, with governmental powers, and with ambassadors to many other sovereign governments of the world?"

The estimated 1978 expenses for the President's personal representative to the Vatican are: travel, \$4,500; subsistence, \$2,100; office expenses, including clerical, \$27,100; all other expenses, \$5,800 for a total of \$39,500 for the year.

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Radio-TV Spots Tell
What Baptists Believe

Baptist Press
12/21/77

FORT WORTH (BP)--A series of 30-second spot announcements featuring Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leaders telling "What Baptists Believe" is one of the latest efforts in the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust to evangelize the world by the end of the century.

The spot announcements, produced by the SBC Radio and Television Commission for use on radio or television, present Baptist viewpoints about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, salvation, baptism, sin, the church, the Lord's Supper, and the Lord's Day.

Recognized SBC leaders are featured in the spots. They include Porter Routh and W. Ches Smith of the SBC Executive Committee; Grady Cothen, Sunday School Board; William

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Tanner, Home Mission Board; Paul M. Stevens, Radio-TV Commission; Carolyn Weatherford and Christine Gregory, Woman's Missionary Union; Foy Valentine, Christian Life Commission; Darold Morgan, Annuity Board; Hollis E. Johnson III of the Southern Baptist Foundation; and James E. Wood Jr. of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"These spots are suitable for local church use on television, radio or cable television, or even for in-house teaching," said W. C. Woody, vice president of the commission's special projects department, which produced the spots and have them available upon request.

"They also may be expanded to 60 seconds by a local church which wants to encourage people to attend church or use some other message," he said.

Each of the 30-second segments has room at the end for the local church to tag in its name and address.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to state Baptist papers by the Radio-TV Commission.

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Staff Member Salaries
Fail To Match Inflation

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
12/21/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Salaries and other benefits for Southern Baptist church staff members generally have not kept pace with inflation over the past four years, according to a staff compensation survey released by the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Reginald M. McDonough, secretary of the department, said the survey, which analyzed churches of 300 or more members, was done to allow churches to compare their salaries and benefits with other churches of similar size.

McDonough said that Southern Baptist churches "need to be concerned whether or not their church is keeping pace with the annual rate of inflation." He added that most churches do not have a salary plan that seeks to automatically update salaries to keep up with the cost of living.

Using categories similar to a staff compensation survey in 1973, the board's research services department compared the 1977 figure for staff positions by salary and total compensation. Percentage increases were then compared to the 35.8 percent inflation rate between 1973 and 1977. Variances for salary increases which did not keep pace with the inflation rate ranged from 0.3 percent to 16.8 percent.

Southern Baptist pastors were 0.9 percent behind the inflation rate, with an increase of 33.9 percent in total compensation between 1973 and 1977. Salary increases alone were up only 29 percent, which was 6.8 percent lower than the inflation rate.

Total compensation for associate pastors went up 26 percent over the four year period, which left them 9.8 percent below the cost of living increase. Salary increases for associate pastors were 15.8 percent behind the inflation rate.

Total compensation for ministers of education was 0.2 percent above the inflation rate, while the salary increase was 2.8 percent behind the cost-of-living increases.

Ministers of music were 0.3 percent behind the cost of living for the past four years in total compensation, and 3.5 percent below the national increases in salary.

Ministers of music and youth were 6.8 percent below the inflation increases in total compensation, while their salaries lagged behind the cost-of-living raises by 16.8 percent.

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Recreation directors received total compensation increases over the past four years 9.2 percent ahead of the national cost of living. Salary increases for the recreation directors were 8.2 percent above the inflation rate.

Salary for other professionals employed by Southern Baptist churches was 12.8 percent below the national inflation rate. This category included age group and out-reach coordinators, business administrators, counselors and directors of special ministries.

Total compensation for church secretaries was 1.2 percent above the national cost of living. Pastor's secretaries were 2.8 percent behind the national average and custodians were 0.2 percent above the inflation rate.

Percentages used in this article on the survey were obtained by adding the average salaries of all respondents in each job description and dividing that total by the number of respondents. The resulting figures are intended only to present a general overview of the findings and not represent average salaries for Southern Baptist church staff members. Widely varying circumstances prevent establishing representative averages in any of the categories.

To arrive at the total compensation provided by churches for staff members, the actual amount of expenditure was used where available. Altogether, 18 different categories were included in computing total compensation figures for each position. Included, among others, were salary, housing allowance, car allowance, insurance, retirement benefits, and convention, conference and seminary expenses. For certain benefits, the average amount for the church size category and job title was used if the benefit was provided but the amount not specified.

Information in the survey, available from the church training department for 50¢ a copy, is divided according to church size, allowing churches to compare the salaries and benefits of their staff members with those reported from churches all across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Total number of respondents in the categories ranged from 710 pastors to 20 recreation directors. Each category lists the total number of respondents, salary and an average for each benefit.

Information received was analyzed by size of church membership (300 or more) and geographical region, but since the size of church membership was the controlling factor, tables included in the survey are only on size category. A random, disproportionate sample of 951 churches reporting 300 or more members was chosen to receive the questionnaire of which 722 (75.9 percent) usable replies were received.

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Alaskan Keeps Learning
Despite Subzero Temperature

By Lee Hollaway

Baptist Press
12/21/77

NORTH POLE (BP)--With the thermometer stuck at 55 degrees below zero, even the staunchest Southern Baptist might be tempted to stay in on Sunday morning, but Johnny Lee McCoy of First Baptist Church here considers it "just another Sunday."

On such a Sunday just before Christmas, the North Pole church's seven buses all were in operation, helping swell attendance past 400. About 180 of those people made it back for Church Training that night.

"The cold doesn't slow anything down," says McCoy, the church's assistant pastor and bus director. "We just go right on."

Drawing from two nearby military installations, the church's attendance sometimes almost equals the total population of this small town 12 miles southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska.

It was not the cold but a felt need for more education that led McCoy to consider leaving Alaska last summer after nine years here, the last two fulltime on the church staff.

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"I feel that education is a must. Education, I believe, does not make you a preacher, but it will further the knowledge needed to be in the ministry," says McCoy. He had completed more than two years of study at Oklahoma Baptist University before he entered military service and moved to Alaska.

But McCoy found a way to avoid leaving his ministry and the result was that the Seminary Extension Department of the six Southern Baptist seminaries received some unexpected mail in Nashville from the North Pole less than a week before Christmas. Enclosed was McCoy's enrollment request for a series of 16 college-level courses.

By signing up for all 16 courses needed for the Seminary Extension Department's Diploma in Pastoral Ministries at one time, McCoy can "freeze" the cost of fees and texts at their present level--a technique that somehow seems compatible with both the North Pole and an economical way to enhance ministry.

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VA Assesses Baptist
Students For \$2 Million

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--As many as 400 students who received veterans' benefits while attending Mississippi Baptist Seminary here are being assessed for the total amount paid to them.

The amount could total over \$2 million, according to Merlyn Cook, assistant director of the Veterans' Center in Jackson, in charge of the regional office which handles all non-medical veterans' benefits.

The Veterans Administration (VA) office withdrew benefits to students at the school last fall after an audit found students receiving benefits who were less than full time students. Only full time students--those attending 25 clock hours per week--at the seminary were authorized to receive benefits.

A check with degree-granting institutions in the Jackson area indicated that only 12 clock hours per week were required for full time veteran's benefits. Mississippi Baptist Seminary is considered non-degree granting.

Cook said that the students were certifying they were going full time and the school was countersigning the certifications. He said that the seminary had a record with his office as "a problem school... I don't say this to malign them, they just couldn't get accurate records to us," he said.

After veterans' benefits were withdrawn in the fall of 1976 during the investigation, student enrollment dropped from over 400 to only 50 at the Jackson campus, which has no organizational union with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. It is owned and operated by a biracial board of trustees, nine of which are elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and nine by the National (black) Baptist conventions in the state. Salaries of the racially mixed faculty are paid by the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board but they have no administrative involvement.

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