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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Sunday School Plan  
For Growth Outlined

**NASHVILLE (BP)**--Calling for an increased "growth consciousness," Robert G. Fulbright, director of the Sunday School Board's Bible teaching division, recently presented to employees a five-year plan for increasing Sunday School enrollment across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The five-year plan calls for an increase in Sunday School enrollment of 12 percent, to 8.3 million, by 1982. To achieve this, enrollment must average a gain of 178,106 each year. Enrollment now stands at 7.4 million.

Fulbright said that to achieve the goals would require Sunday School department employees to make a "personal commitment to growth consciousness." He also said growth would have a high visibility in Sunday School periodicals and field services.

Introduction of the growth plan was stimulated by the fact that Sunday School enrollment declined last year for the first time in three years. The plan also is part of the Sunday School Board's commitment to the SBC Bold Mission Thrust emphasis.

Fulbright speculated that one reason for last year's Sunday School decline was that baptisms decreased 10.2 percent. "The years we have increased enrollment are the years the denomination has increased in baptisms. Our objective is to reach lost people for Christ and meaningful church membership," he said.

Fulbright said growth will be achieved by continued emphasis on Bible study that changes lives and the use of varied growth approaches.

He noted that 34,000 persons were reached last year through 561 new Sunday schools. He cited the cradle roll plan for ministering to expectant parents and families of infants as having great potential for reaching people.

"One problem in the past has been that too many of our enlargement efforts have been aimed at the same target group," he said. Ministry to ethnic and language groups, bus outreach and fellowship Bible classes were among the other growth approaches he identified.

Fulbright said state convention personnel had been fully involved in developing the five-year plan and are committed to working with the board in leading Sunday Schools to grow.

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Carter's Son Visits  
Israeli Baptist Church

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**NAZARETH, Israel (BP)**--Chip Carter (James Earl III), son of U. S. President Jimmy Carter, led the Baptist church congregation here Jan. 29 in a prayer for peace for all men and nations.

Carter and his wife Caron are leading a group of 425 Americans on a "Friendship Force" program initiated by President and Mrs. Carter. A reciprocal exchange group of 425 Israelis is visiting Hartford, Conn., as part of the series of trips designed to promote world peace through personal contact with citizens of different countries, according to Southern Baptist representative Ray G. Register Jr.

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The young Carters and the other members of Friendship Force lived in the homes of Israeli families for the first four days of their 10-day visit. They also attended the Sunday morning worship service at Nazareth Baptist Church.

Pastor Fuad Sakhnini led the service and preached in Arabic but translated his sermon into English for the benefit of the visitors. Later they were given a tour of the Baptist school adjacent to the church. Baptist work in Nazareth is the oldest of Southern Baptists' efforts in the Middle East.

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Igleheart To Direct  
Interreligious Group

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ATLANTA (BP)--Christian and Jewish leaders here have joined to form an Atlanta chapter of the National Interreligious Task Force on Human Rights and Soviet Jewry.

Glenn Igleheart, director of interfaith witness for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will serve as chairman of the steering committee of the group which will express concerns of Christians and Jews for human rights in the Soviet Union.

The task force, when officially organized by the steering committee, will attempt to keep U. S. citizens aware of the restrictions placed on Jews and Christians in the Soviet Union.

Others named to serve on the steering committee which will draw up a constitution, solicit membership and mobilize the task force are: Ruth Maguire, of Atlanta Catholic Arch Diocese; the Rev. Albert Love, of the Atlanta Christian Council; Marvin Schpeiser, of the Atlanta Jewish Welfare Federation; Kenneth Kershaw, of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; Mrs. Amy Singer, of the Anti-defamation League; and the Rev. Myron Weaver, Oakhurst Baptist Church.

The steering committee was named by a group of 25 from the Atlanta religious community.

Bill Gralnick of the American Jewish Committee in Atlanta will serve as a staff resource in setting up the Atlanta task force.

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Styles Elected President of  
Baptist PR Association

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PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--Richard M. Styles, vice president of university relations for Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, was elected president of the Baptist Public Relations Association during the organization's annual meeting here.

Styles succeeds James H. Cox, associate editor of the Western Recorder, state newspaper for Kentucky Baptists. Cox will serve as awards chairman for 1978.

Other 1978 officers are program vice president, John Seelig, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; membership vice president, Stan Haste, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C.; secretary, Evelyn Strickland, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, Tenn.; newsletter editor, Mike Dudit, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and treasurer, Don Hepburn, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Medical Missions Changes  
Approved by Foreign Board

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RICHMOND (BP)--Major changes in medical missions ministries in the Middle East and India were approved by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, along with evangelism plans and funds during its Feb. 14 meeting here.

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The recommendations included a shift of emphasis in two ministries, the closing of a school of nursing, and changes in administration and financing. The actions came as a result of the work of an evaluation team that toured the area in October 1977. The team has been asked to continue to function through 1979 when members will tour the same hospitals again.

Recommendations dealt with specific problems and concerns found by the team and with medical ministries in the area. The first non-missionary team to evaluate medical missions institutions included a hospital administrator, a medical school professor, a nursing school curriculum coordinator, plus two members of the board staff.

"These changes are effective only in the area of the Middle East and India, growing out of a specialized study recommended by the area secretary," said Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive director. "They are designed to strengthen medical work in light of circumstances prevailing in that area."

Closing the professional nursing school in Jordan is a result of the lack of qualified nursing students, the team said. A program for training nurses' aides will be continued. The Baptist Hospital, Ajloun, Jordan, has also been asked to reduce the number of beds and increase outpatient care in clinics. Dorcas (Mrs. Franklin T.) Fowler, curriculum coordinator for Johnston-Willis Hospital School of Nursing here, evaluated nursing care for the team.

The changes in the ministry of Jordan hospital are necessary in part because of two new, ultra-modern government hospitals a short distance away. The Jordan hospital was asked to study the possibility of referring patients to these hospitals for a two-year trial period.

The Gaza Baptist Hospital was asked to shift from a surgical unit to a general medical care unit as soon as staff arrangements can be made.

J. Cecil Hamiter, president and director of the Baptist Memorial Hospital, Gadsden, Ala., evaluated hospital administration and financing, and Dr. Timothy Pennell, professor of surgery at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest (N.C.) University, served on the team to evaluate professional standards.

Many recommendations applied to all four hospitals visited by the team--Jordan hospital, Gaza hospital, Jibla (Yemen) Baptist Hospital and Bangalore (India) Baptist Hospital.

At the top of the list of the 15 recommendations brought by the team was a reminder of the evangelistic task of the hospitals and a request that each hospital which does not have a full-time, qualified chaplain on the staff now seek one.

J. D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, and Dr. Franklin T. Fowler, the board's medical consultant and former medical missionary, accepted the responsibility for evaluating the spiritual witness effectiveness, both nationwide and local, of the hospitals.

An area-wide board of directors will be formed for the four hospitals, with each organization of missionaries electing three representatives to attend meetings.

A model constitution and by-laws are to be developed with minor local modifications and common criteria of philosophy, standards and policy are to be written.

Each hospital is asked to employ a cost accounting system and develop a method to charge patients capable of paying for their medical care. The team and board emphasized that this recommendation is not meant to stop charity care and that no patient should be turned away from a Baptist hospital because of inability to pay.

A local committee of advisors made up of persons "who will further the principles, operation and influence" of the hospital is called for at each institution.

Other recommendations dealt with the need for continuing education and further emphasis on language study for medical missionaries.

Team members noted the urgent need for medical mission personnel and challenged the board "to call out the called," said Pennell.

In view of "rising medical costs and rapidly improving medical standards" the team also called on the board to focus attention on the need for larger amounts of money for hospital capital expenditures and possible increases in operational subsidies.

In other actions, the board approved an additional \$48,730 to cover a 1977 deficit in The Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Zurich, Switzerland.

Hughey, administrator for Europe, said that the seminary is "a very expensive institution to operate and dollar devaluation has hit it very hard in the past year."

Action was taken to inform European Baptists of the deficit and to see if greater European participation could be encouraged.

Evangelism funding and special emphases were among the other business of the board. Funding of \$55,000 was approved for major city evangelization efforts in Korea. Volunteers from the Florida Baptist Convention will participate in this three-year campaign.

More than \$14,500 was approved for Bibles in Rhodesia where Davis L. Saunders, the board's area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, said the missionaries are "trying to get the scriptures distributed as widely as possible because of current tensions which exist in the country."

The board extended invitations to several volunteers to serve in various areas and approved the awarding of two medical receptorships. Forrest Ray Dolly and John St phen Edmondson will serve overseas in a mission hospital for a minimum of eight weeks. Dolly is presently enrolled in the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chap 1 Hill. Edmondson is enrolled in the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta.

The next meeting of trustees will be during April in Fort Worth, Texas.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers by the Foreign Mission Board's Baptist Press bureau.

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