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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 22, 1978

78-25

### New '\$75 Million Campaign' Challenges Denomination

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Echoes of the past mingled with visions of the future when the Southern Baptist Executive Committee approved a recommendation at its semi-annual meeting for a new "\$75 million campaign."

Imbued with the Southern Baptist Convention Bold Mission Thrust goal of telling the whole world about Jesus Christ by the year 2000, the Executive Committee endorsed a \$75 million goal for the SBC's 1978-79 national Cooperative Program unified budget.

Some in the audience remembered another \$75 Million Campaign of years gone by, out of which Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program grew. That campaign, a five year effort, 1919-24, to raise \$75 million for missionary, educational and benevolent work, resulted in only \$58,591,714, causing some to say it failed.

But it resulted in several times what Southern Baptists gave before the campaign, and it introduced a new era in cooperative giving and missions which amounted to a bold mission thrust for that period in SBC history.

The year after it ended the SBC, meeting in Memphis, Tenn., in 1925, approved the Cooperative Program as a direct result of the new spirit of cooperation generated by the campaign.

The new effort, designed to raise \$75 million in one year through the Cooperative Program, will fuel the 1978-79 version of the 20th century-long Bold Mission Thrust.

Subject to approval by the SBC in annual meeting in Atlanta in June, it includes \$62 million in basic operating needs of the worldwide missions program of SBC agencies, \$2 million in capital needs of the agencies, and \$11 million in Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds to cover unmet missions needs.

After distribution to SBC agencies of the \$62 million in basic operating needs and the \$2 million in capital needs, any portion of the \$11 million received would be divided to the Foreign Mission Board, 54 percent; Home Mission Board, 30 percent; Radio and Television Commission, nine percent; the six SBC seminaries, six percent and the Brotherhood Commission, one percent.

The basic operating budget of \$62 million would be divided as follows:

Foreign Mission Board, \$29,760,000; Home Mission Board, \$12,500,000; Radio and Television Commission, \$3,000,000; Southwestern Seminary, \$3,779,574; Southern Seminary, \$3,005,235; Southeastern Seminary, \$2,086,709; New Orleans Seminary, \$2,109,362; Midwestern Seminary, \$1,232,266; Golden Gate Seminary, \$1,195,854 (plus an additional \$74,000 special endowment); SBC Operating Budget, \$602,000; Brotherhood Commission, \$575,000; Christian Life Commission, \$420,000; Annuity Board, \$300,000 (for relief); Education Commission, \$290,000; Stewardship Commission, \$275,000; Public Affairs Committee, \$255,000; Historical Commission, \$220,000; Southern Baptist Foundation, \$170,000; American Baptist Seminary, \$150,000.

Good Sowing Reaps Reward  
For Missionary Orvil Reid

DALLAS (BP)-- The Biblical promise that we reap what we sow has been brought home in miraculous fashion for the Orvil Reids, retired Southern Baptist missionaries to Mexico.

During Reid's early days as a missionary in Guadalajara, he met and befriended a 12-year-old boy named Jose Gonzalez who had come to the city to find work. Gonzalez was sleeping in the ovens of a bakery after they cooled at night.

The boy lived in the student home Reid had started, working in the Baptist print shop while going to school. He eventually graduated from medical school at the University of Guadalajara and became a leading internist and cardiologist at the Mexican American Hospital, opened in 1958 by E. Lamar Cole, now a Dallas bone specialist.

Reid, 69, recently suffered a stroke while in Dallas giving physical fitness demonstrations and anti-vice messages in churches and schools. His wife, Alma, wondering whom to call for medical aid, thought, "Oh, if only Jose Gonzalez were here."

She called Cole, but the man who answered the phone wasn't him. It was Gonzales, in Dallas to invite Cole to participate in the 20th anniversary celebration of the Baptist hospital in Guadalajara.

Both doctors raced to the aid of their stricken friend. Within minutes, they had him in Methodist Hospital where he is undergoing therapy for his partially-paralyzed left arm. Doctors said the prognosis for Reid's recovery is greatly enhanced by his superior physical condition.

In 1976, Reid ran 20 miles a day from the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, Atlanta, to the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., speaking along the way on missions and raising money for missions and world hunger causes.

Among other demonstrations, the wiry 155-pound Reid has a man try to break a rock on his stomach with an 18-pound sledge, defies efforts by as many as ten men to pull apart his clasped hands and sings a song while men pull on each end of a rope looped around his neck.

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Baptists Establish Work  
In New Areas of Ghana

Baptist Press  
2/22/78

TAMALE, Ghana (BP)--Baptist work in Northern Ghana has experienced breakthroughs into new areas after years of work confined to the Mumprull and Dagomba tribes in this West African nation.

One of the fastest growing efforts involves the Tampula people, reports Dean E. Richardson, Southern Baptist missionary press representative for the Ghana Baptist Mission (organization of missionaries). For some time, Baptists have had limited work with this tribe about 40 miles west of Tamale, but Richardson says that in the past year "the work has caught fire."

"Spearheaded by an evangelistic pastor, Peter Wusah, and helped by literacy and translations efforts, two new churches are flourishing, and the door is wide open for many more," Richardson says.

The Richardsons and other missionaries are trying to guide the work from Tamale while keeping up with their original assignments, but they feel the need for a fulltime worker there soon.

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In the Nalerigu area 150 miles northeast of the Tampulmas, the work of Southern Baptist missionary Urban L. Green and his associates has resulted in new churches among two other tribes, the Bimoba and Konkomba. The Bimobas are especially anxious for Baptists to expand in their area, Richardson said. Because missionaries on the staff of Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu cover the work on a part-time basis, their ministry and witness is limited to weekends and occasional nights.

In Bolgatanga, the regional capital of Ghana's upper region, and nearby Zuarungu, two churches among the Frafra people have been encouraged by a substantial number of conversions during recent revivals led by Southern Baptist missionaries Calvin Y. Sarver and Tollie M. Bibb. A field evangelist, Joe D. Perkins, also has been appointed for this area.

But neither of the two churches, the only Baptist churches in the entire upper region, has a pastor, and they are visited only occasionally by various missionaries attached to the Baptist Medical Centre more than 100 miles away. Islam and paganism are powerful forces here, said Richardson, who requested prayer for more missionaries to take advantage of the breakthroughs in Ghana and for young men from the tribes to feel the call of God to fulltime pastoral service.

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SBC Leaders Urge 'Bold  
Growing, Going, Giving'

Baptist Press  
2/22/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"Southern Baptists stand at the threshold of the greatest potential ever in the history of Christendom," Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen told fellow denominational leaders in Nashville during a Bold Mission Thrust luncheon.

Cothen led an impassioned trio of speakers at the annual luncheon who said Southern Baptists must grow, go and give boldly if they hope to see their Bold Mission Thrust ideal of proclaiming the Christian gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000 become a reality.

"The issue of our times will not be proved by what we believe, but by what we do," said the leader of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest agency.

Cothen said the denomination's last three decades could be capsulized by four terms--dynamic growth in the 50s; controversy in the 60s; orthodoxy in the early 70s; and now great potential. He warned his number conscious peers they must begin to look at the other side of the numbers. "The issue is not how many we won, but how many we did not win," he declared.

A. R. Fagan, executive director of the SBC Stewardship Commission, which sponsored the luncheon during the SBC Executive Committee meeting, emphasized, "There will be no bold growing or bold going without bold giving--self-giving--because talking about it won't get it done."

Cothen, Fagan and Keith Parks, overseas division director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, seemed to agree that the plans have been laid and the wheels set in motion and the only thing that could keep Bold Mission Thrust from becoming successful would be a failure to take it to heart. "Somebody, somewhere, has got to say 'I'm going to take this thing personally,'" Fagan said.

Parks was enthusiastic about the new and ongoing short term volunteer programs enjoying increasing participation among Southern Baptists, including the new Mission Service Corps, which seeks to put 5,000 volunteers on home and foreign mission fields for periods of one or two years. But Parks warned Southern Baptists to continue to emphasize missions as a career.

He allayed the fears of those who are concerned that burgeoning enrollments at the six Southern Baptist seminaries would put too many trained leaders onto the field for too few churches. He said there are places of service and witness in foreign fields and in America "by the thousands" and if those who are concerned about places would just call the Foreign or Home Mission Board "we have places for all of them."

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Wrapup

Executive Committee Names  
Committee, Votes Budgets

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee named a search committee to find a successor for its executive secretary-treasurer, passed a resolution on world hunger, and endorsed record Cooperative Program and convention operating budgets during its semi-annual meeting.

Committee members also expressed appreciation for a state Baptist executive secretaries' resolution, which pledged support to the new SBC Mission Service Corps which seeks to place 5,000 volunteers on home and foreign mission fields by 1982.

They urged Harold Bennett of Florida, president of the state secretaries organization, to call a meeting with the secretaries, the Mission Service Corps Implementation Workgroup and executive directors of appropriate SBC agencies as soon as possible "to work out the best plans for implementation and relationships" for the corps.

The Executive Committee also voted to continue the Mission Service Corps committee, which has worked out initial details, for another year.

The committee named a six-person committee, chaired by Brooks Wester, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss., to seek a successor for Porter W. Routh, who retires in August 1979, after 28 years of service.

The world hunger resolution came in response to a resolution at the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City which asked the Executive Committee to study how the SBC can meet the problem.

The Executive Committee expressed "support and encouragement for the representatives of Southern Baptist Convention agencies with program concerns related to world hunger who are working together with the Christian Life Commission's leadership to help Southern Baptists respond vigorously and effectively to the world hunger crisis."

W. David Sapp of the Christian Life Commission staff outlined ways his agency and at least six other SBC agencies are working on the world hunger problem and noted that the commission is planning a convocation on world hunger.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, said the agency is distributing contributions designated for world hunger. He said such contributions declined from about \$1,600,000 in 1976 to about \$889,000 in 1977.

Subject to approval by the SBC in Atlanta in June, the Executive Committee approved a \$75 million 1978-79 national Cooperative Program unified budget goal and a \$1,062,000 SBC Operating Budget. The latter, which includes \$602,000 from the Cooperative Program, covers annual operating budget of the Executive Committee (\$586,350), expenditures for the annual convention (\$205,000), contributions to the Baptist World Alliance (\$212,000) and other expenses.

The 1978-79 Cooperative Program goal includes \$62 million for basic operating needs of SBC agencies, \$2 million for capital needs of the agencies and \$11 million in Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds. The 1977-78 goal is \$63.4 million.

In a separate action, the Executive Committee recommended a six-year capital needs program of \$16,705,985 for improvement of facilities at the six SBC seminaries, the Radio and Television Commission and the SBC Brotherhood Commission. The funds would be part of the annual Cooperative Program goals and would outlay \$2,000,000 in 1978-79; \$2,500,000 in 1979-80; \$2,500,600 in 1980-81; \$3,000,000 in 1981-82; \$3,365,000 in 1982-83; and \$3,340,385 in 1983-84.

After a presentation by Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, the Executive Committee passed a resolution urging churches to send more lay persons to annual SBC meetings, which they have traditionally lightly attended. A National Conference on Baptist Men will be held in Atlanta, June 16, following the SBC annual meeting. President Jimmy Carter is the invited speaker for the Brotherhood Commission-sponsored-event.

In other matters, the Executive Committee approved interpretation of the SBC program statement which would allow the Home Mission Board to provide assistance and advice to churches entering church bond programs, noting that the board will not buy or sell bonds.

The committee also approved a recommendation, based on Article 9 of the SBC Bylaws, that the firm of Peat, Marwick and Mitchell & Co., in cooperation with SBC agencies, be asked to conduct a study of the internal control procedures of each of the SBC agencies. Up to \$24,000 from convention operating reserves was authorized for cost of the study.

In other action, the Executive Committee:

--Approved a logo for voluntary use by SBC churches and organizations, comprised of a world, a Bible and a cross.

--Voted to recommend New Orleans to the SBC as a 1982 convention site.

--Approved a proposed charter and program statement change involving a restatement of purpose for the Home Mission Board. It will be circulated, studied and acted upon in June by both the Executive Committee and the SBC.

--Set aside time during the September 1978, Executive Committee meeting for the Radio and Television Commission "to present the problems and possibilities of the present and future thrust of the radio and television ministry in the Southern Baptist Convention."

--Approved publication by the SBC Sunday School Board of a new magazine, "Christian Single," set for publication in April, 1979.

--Recommended to the SBC consolidation of convention bylaws and procedures, changes in Bylaw Seven to clarify use of church and denominational employees and laymen on SBC boards, and a revision in Section 10 (2) of the SBC's revised bylaws which would state: "If a nominee does not receive a majority of votes cast on the first ballot (for an SBC office), subsequent ballots should carry the names of those who are included in the top 50 percent of the total votes cast on the previous ballot."

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Allen: Baptists in 'Pre-Panic,'  
Avoid Dangerous Decisions

Baptist Press  
2/22/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptists, experts in techniques and programs, are in a "pre-panic stage" because of baptism declines and could easily miss the basic reason for it, convention president Jimmy Allen told the Executive Committee.

Allen, pastor of the First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, said only declines in "baptisms and budgets" seem to get Southern Baptists excited about the lost world and that if they don't recover their sense of instrumentality, "God may just find somebody else to do what he's going to get done.

"We've come to a time when we've sensed a great mission thrust," Allen said, referring to Mission Service Corps, the Southern Baptist Convention's goal to put 5,000 volunteers on the field for terms of one or two years. "We've looked at it and said 'Now that's what we're going to do.'

"We've gotten to a time when we have a great idea of challenging lay people who can give themselves for a year or two of full-time ministry and of getting our able bodies out across the nation, across the world and have said 'That's what we're going to do.'

"And then we've come to a time when we...see that our own Bible study folks (Sunday School members) are not coming around... (in as great numbers) as they were and that our baptisms are down. There's a kind of queasy feeling down inside that's not quite panic yet, but we're warring worried furrows on our brows."

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Allen said decisions made in a pre-panic condition are usually wrong and he warned Southern Baptists of three dangers--nostalgia, changing the game plan, and changing the package to make it more palatable.

"There's a difference between remembering our heritage and being challenged by it, and reminiscing in nostalgia and being crippled by it," he said. "You cannot recapture yesterday. Nostalgia is not the answer for a spiritual awakening."

The leader of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, raised in the inner city of football crazy Dallas, said another danger is the urge to "change the game plan in the middle of the game." He warned leaders not to become like the competition that may be enjoying momentary success, but which "we've already outgrown and outdone."

"If you're going to win, stay with the game plan and make it work. Get back to the basics of who you are and go ahead and do the things that God has blessed you with in such a way that you'll make it work," Allen said.

Allen announced that his recent offer of help through the Mission Service Corps to the Mescalera Apaches has been accepted and that tribal leaders told him in a recent meeting that evangelical and Catholic Christians had taught them law and justice but "where are you now?"

The answer, Allen told committee members in the crowded auditorium at the Southern Baptist Convention Building, is, "We've been silenced by our own greed. That's where we really are.

"Where we are is that we've gotten so complex we've opted out of the process," he said. "We just don't want to try to understand it. Where we are is that there are people struggling to find a place in the sun who need to look around and find a Baptist Christian standing beside him saying, 'You're my brother and we're going to find out some way to make this work so you can have an opportunity in this world.'

"That's where we ought to be."

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Wester Chairs Committee  
To Find Routh's Successor

Baptist Press  
2/22/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Brooks Wester, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss., was named by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, to chair a committee to find a successor to Porter W. Routh.

Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, will retire in August 1979, after 28 years in the post.

Besides Wester, other committee members, made up of two members each from the three Executive Committee subcommittees, are Franklin Paschall, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., and former SBC president; Anita Bass, an active Baptist layperson and wife of Roy Bass, mayor of Lubbock, Texas; Paul Craven, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charleston, S. C.; Rodney Landes, a layman from El Dorado, Ark.; and James Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church, Trenton, Mich.

The search committee was named by W. Ches Smith, Executive Committee chairman, and approved by the Executive Committee during the February meeting.

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Church's Growth Plan:  
100 Is Large Enough

By Norman Jameson

SCHOFIELD, Wis. (BP)--When members of the Calvary Baptist Church in Schofield were faced with the necessity of expansion, they built their missions strategy into the building. Their auditorium, an alternate plan from a warehouse, cannot be added onto.

Pastor Cliff Gilleland said construction was a last resort for his 150-plus member congregation. They wanted instead to begin satellite churches, for Gilleland has an unusual perspective concerning church size--a congregation of 100 is big enough.

"The (Southern Baptist) Home Mission Board is telling us more people are won by small groups," Gilleland explains. "We've found there's a period when the size of the congregation reaches between 100 and 150 where relationships and attitudes change. There is a struggle and conflicts in our own attitude and psychology. One hundred is not a magic number but it seems to be right around there that a mission changes to a small church."

Gilleland cites for example his own congregation which was struggling for survival when he arrived in 1971, four years after the church had been organized as a mission of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Green Bay, 100 miles to the east. People met in a 26' by 56' portable building.

The church grew quickly after an initial two month period of inactivity. Visitors couldn't squeeze into the building without knocking elbows and being greeted by at least three members in the entryway. A proud attitude of fighting against the odds prevailed.

Now, Gilleland admits, "It's hard to stay away from the fact that people say 'Now we're in a building. Everyone will come.'"

It hasn't happened. Gilleland led two services each Sunday morning when the congregation met in the portable building. Attendance reached a high of 175. Since the church moved into the new auditorium, average attendance has dropped 20 percent and the November average of 120 was the lowest November in three years.

"Part of what we're going through is that survival is no longer a question with us," the pastor relates. He says that when the church was very small, everything was decided in business session, right down to what soap to buy for the washrooms, or whether to paint the nursery pink or blue. Now committees take care of those decisions and some members feel left out, or complain their once intimate fellowship is getting "too churchy."

Those are problems of size. Gilleland thought to avoid them by starting satellite churches, led by himself or church members in areas where there was no evangelical witness. But that just didn't work out by the self-imposed decision deadline.

To ensure the church won't get larger than 300, the congregation adopted a construction plan for an auditorium that cannot be expanded. And members are making a conscious effort to keep their new building as simple and unadorned as possible.

There is no choir loft and the congregation sits in a semi-circle around the pulpit--on folding chairs. There is a decided effort against ever buying pews for the church. The baptistry is to the left, surrounded by greenery. There is not now nor will there be an organ. On the walls hang only hand made banners depicting Bible verses.

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To Gilleland his church's growth presents a possible obstacle to continuing the very methods that were responsible for growth--home Bible studies. He currently leads four weekly studies and members of his congregation are in charge of three others.

Gilleland says he didn't start the home Bible studies as a method for church growth, but more as an additional ministry to the community. "Everyone is welcome to the Bible studies," he says, "but we don't bother them about joining the church. If it's their desire to grow with us, they start coming to church. If they don't, we don't ask them to start coming."

The Calvary pastor currently is leading a study for 15 Lutheran women, who actually consider Gilleland their pastor, though they belong to a 3,000-member Lutheran church. They come to him for personal help and counseling. But they have no desire to become Southern Baptists.

Gilleland, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex., says, "I get the idea that Southern Baptists think that all Lutherans and Catholics, (90 percent of the religious affiliation in this area) way down deep, would like to be Southern Baptists. It's just not true."

In fact, he says Southern Baptists are not even liked in his area. "The liturgical churches view Southern Baptists as pentecostal," he says. "Some pastors thought all Southern Baptists were black and they don't like us because we're evangelical. We're not liked by other Baptists because most of them feel we're too liberal."

Gilleland now feels the home Bible studies are "one of the most valid, fruitful methods of growth," but he would like to see them done everywhere like they are at Calvary, a personal, non-proselyting ministry for personal growth, not necessarily church growth.

"I would not want to see it done as an organized method of growing a church," he says. "It has worked here because we have not put demands on the people. We don't say to the people 'Now that you're in our Bible study, join our church.'"

Gilleland would probably rather say, "Now that you're in a Bible study, let's start a church."

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(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Missionaries Aiding  
Zambia Flood Victims

Baptist Press  
2/22/78

LUSAKA, Zambia (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries are cooperating with local Zambian Baptists to aid the victims of floods which have left six dead and hundreds homeless in Kanyama township.

Many of the people live in mud brick houses with little or no foundation, reports Franklin A. Kilpatrick, Southern Baptist missionary press representative. Many of these houses collapsed in the recent flooding, trapping the occupants inside.

Aid is being given to the victims through Zambian Baptist benevolent ministries. Several Baptist families have been affected by the floods.

Kanyama township of Lusaka is one of several unauthorized housing areas which have sprung up as thousands of people have left the rural areas and come to the cities to seek jobs. Because the townships are unauthorized, proper drainage is not provided to protect against flooding. "Some find jobs but no adequate housing," Kilpatrick says. "They then rent or build mud brick houses in the unauthorized compounds (townships) where they live under very unhealthy conditions."

Lusaka newspapers report that the rains had been unusually heavy this year after a dry season which worsened the flooding problem. The rains and flooding will continue until the close of the rainy season late in March.

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(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers.





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