



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 21, 1978

78-42

Southwestern Sets Record
Budget, Honors President

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary approved a record \$7.3 million budget for 1978-79 and paid special tribute to long-time president Robert E. Naylor in their semi-annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas.

Naylor, who is retiring in August after 20 years as president of the world's largest theological seminary, was honored at a special dinner. The trustees presented the Naylor family with a gift trip around the world, a new automobile, and made provision for a supplement to his retirement income.

The board elected John P. Newport as professor of philosophy of religion, bringing him back to the seminary from Rice University where he has served in the Harry Chavannes Chair of Religious Studies. Newport, a noted authority on Christianity and contemporary art forms, had served on the seminary faculty from 1952 until 1976.

The board also voted to continue the contract of long-time professor of church history, Robert Baker. Baker, who has passed the normal retirement age, has been extended a continuing teaching contract for the past several years.

In another personnel matter, Dr. Wallace Shamburger, from McAllen, Texas, will be the first permanent physician on the seminary staff. He will supervise the seminary's Walsh Medical Center and its staff of nurses and nurse practitioners.

The record budget of \$7,325,991 is a 13 percent increase over the current budget. It includes cost of living salary increases for faculty and staff and designates 73 percent for instruction and the rest for administration and physical plant needs.

In his final report to the board as seminary president, Naylor highlighted the growth and expansion which had characterized his administration. He noted in his first year as president, the seminary had a deficit operating budget of \$983,000. That was the last deficit budget.

During his tenure the seminary's endowment funds have tripled to more than \$12 million, while total assets have grown from \$12 million to \$35 million.

Enrollment has been the single most significant aspect of seminary life and has experienced the most dramatic increase, Naylor reported. In the first year of his presidency, enrollment was 2,395. Twenty years later, that count reached 4,136.

Naylor told of the addition of facilities to the campus to meet the increasing needs of students and their families. Buildings added include a student center, a medical center, a children's center, a physical fitness center, and nearly 500 married student housing units. During this same period, Naylor reported, over \$3 million in renovation of current facilities had been made.

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"At the outset of this last 20 years," Naylor said, "I made a fresh commitment to my Lord and to the trustees of this seminary that we would faithfully follow him and that we would adhere to the authoritative revelation of God in Christ Jesus set forth in the One Book. It is on this commitment that I stand, that I ask under God that the years be measured, and that I ask only of him that I be found faithful."

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Illinois Baptist
Associate Leaves

Baptist Press
3/21/78

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--John Whitman, managing editor of the Illinois Baptist, state Baptist newspaper, has resigned to become vice president of Data Master Graphics, a printing and business forms broker and distributor, with home offices in Naperville, Ill. Whitman will direct the firm's Springfield office.

He came to the Illinois Baptist in 1969 as associate editor, and was promoted to managing editor in 1975. Previously, he was in public education, as teacher, coach and principal, for 13 years, and served churches in Marion and Alton, Ill., as minister of education.

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Steering Group Named
For Aging Conference

Baptist Press
3/21/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A Southern Baptist Conference on Aging, to be held in 1980, is one step closer with the naming of a steering committee to plan the event.

The first Southern Baptist Convention Conference on Aging was held in Nashville, Tenn., in 1974. The planned second conference is the outgrowth of interest on the part of the Southern Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging (formerly the Southern Baptist Association of Executives of Homes for the Aging) and the SBC Workgroup on Aging.

The 1980 aging conference is expected to review the work of the SBC in the field of aging since 1974; determine future directions of SBC programming emphases related to aging; and provide input into a proposed White House Conference on Aging for 1981.

Steering committee officers, who represent agencies interested in sponsoring the event, are Paul Adkins, Home Mission Board, chairman; Frank Schwall, Annuity Board, vice chairman; and William L. Howse III, Hurt Gerontology Center, Virginia, staff person and secretary-treasurer.

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Course Shows Pastor
Key Role Women Play

Baptist Press
3/21/78

NASHVILLE (BP)--Ken Jordan doesn't say that his mind has been changed. But studying a new Seminary Extension course on women in the church, he says, "opened my mind to some things that I had been blind to for a long time."

Jordan, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Bruceton, Tenn., is the first person to complete the newest course of the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention's six theological seminaries. That leaves him one course short of the 16 required for Seminary Extension's diploma in pastoral ministries.

"I had taken several courses in church history," Jordan says, "but had never realized the important role women had taken in making our denomination the great denomination it is today. I recommend this course to all pastors, especially to those who think they already know what the Bible says about the woman's role in the church."

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The study guide for the course, written by Minette (Mrs. Huber L.) Drumwright of Fort Worth, Texas, includes separate discussions on women in the Bible, in Southern Baptist history, in contemporary society, and in Baptist churches today.

Since the course was released in January of this year, 205 persons have enrolled to study it by correspondence through Seminary Extension's Home Study Institute. Based on average course enrollments for several recent years, "Women in the Church" already has become one of the 10 most popular Seminary Extension courses for 1977-78.

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Business Officers Offer
Free Advice Service

Baptist Press
3/21/78

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist churches and institutions that need help with bookkeeping and tax-related matters can now get assistance through the Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference, according to Barry Allen, general chairman of the conference.

The assistance would be available for local churches, institutions or Baptist schools that do not have full-time business administrators and could provide advice on such matters as accounting, record keeping, taxation, stewardship and financial planning, Allen explained.

Allen, business manager for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said the assistance is free but said travel expenses incurred by members of the conference who help would have to be covered.

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Oklahoma Baptists Divest
Three Other Hospitals

Baptist Press
3/21/78

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--The board of directors for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma has started necessary action to divest the convention of ownership of hospitals at Enid, Grove and Miami, Okla., and to transfer ownership to the Oklahoma Health Care Corporation.

Divestiture action is already underway to turn over the Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City to Baptist Medical Center of Oklahoma Inc., a nonprofit, nonstock corporation composed primarily of Baptist laymen and ministers.

Transfer of the three smaller hospitals is subject to certain conditions imposed by the convention and to the approval of the Oklahoma Health Planning Commission. The hospitals will continue to be identified as Baptist hospitals.

Conditions for transfer are: 1. The Oklahoma Health Care Corporation will assume and "hold (the convention) harmless" from all debts, obligations and claims related to the hospitals; 2. All members and directors of the OHCC must be members of Southern Baptist churches cooperating with the convention; 3. The election of OHCC directors is subject to approval by the convention or its board of directors; 4. The Baptist chaplaincy program presently in effect at the hospitals is to be continued; 5. The OHCC is to refinance the present bonded indebtedness against the hospitals' properties, and; 6. No abortions on demand or gender dysphoria procedures (sex change operations) may be performed in the hospitals as long as they bear the Baptist name.

The revelation of gender dysphoria operations at the Baptist Medical Center in 1977 and the subsequent protest from Oklahoma Baptists was a major factor in the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma feasibility study that led to the recommendation that the convention divest itself of the four hospitals. Five other Baptist hospitals in Oklahoma have been transferred from convention ownership previously.

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The board of directors in their December 1977 meeting said that continued operation of hospitals by Oklahoma Baptists has become "impractical" because of continuing and increasing encroachments "by the federal government and other entities" on the convention's ability to exercise operational control over the hospitals.

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Church of Scientology
Falls in High Court Bid

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press
3/21/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--FBI agents who raided the Washington and Los Angeles offices of the Church of Scientology did not abridge the sect's religious liberty, the U. S. Supreme Court said in effect when it refused to hear an appeal from the Scientologists.

The church challenged the constitutionality of a search warrant used by 159 FBI agents last July to search the premises of the church's Washington and Los Angeles headquarters.

Citing that portion of the Fourth Amendment to the constitution upholding the right of people "to be secure...against unreasonable searches and seizures," attorneys for the Founding Church of Scientology asked the high court to decide if the FBI can be allowed to conduct a search even if the group under investigation is suspected of conspiracy in the theft of a number of government documents.

According to a legal brief submitted to the court by U. S. Solicitor General Wade H. McCree Jr., the business office of a church is not "insulated" from a search with a proper warrant.

The government's brief said that Michael J. Meisner, a former church official who "acted in a supervisory capacity over its information gathering branch" prior to turning state's witness, was discovered late at night with another church official inside the U. S. courthouse in Washington on June 11, 1976 in possession of forged Internal Revenue Service credentials. Meisner later admitted that he and his companion, Gerald Wolfe, had twice previously entered the same courthouse after hours under false pretenses.

Meisner told investigators that church officials in Washington had infiltrated the Internal Revenue Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the tax division of the Department of Justice "in an effort to obtain all documents these agencies possessed regarding the church."

After their arrest at the courthouse, Meisner said, he and Wolfe were directed by their superiors to prepare "fabricated stories" in the event they were questioned further. Although Meisner cooperated with church officials for about a year, he told them in the spring of 1977 that he was "tired of being a fugitive." They then put him under 24-hour guard and physically restrained him before he escaped and returned to Washington.

In their brief to the high court, church officials argued that their case went to "the very core of the precious liberties secured by the First and Fourth Amendments." They claimed further that the FBI raids were "unparalleled in American history."

The brief went on to argue that the type of search warrant used by the FBI "threatens the associational privacy of church members innocent of suspicion of wrongdoing."

"The threat that innocent members of a church unpopular with the government may find their names and communications disclosed by seizure under a broadly worded search warrant," the argument continued, "must inevitably chill the adherents' rights to religious liberty, freedom of expression, and freedom of association."

The justices apparently disagreed, however, declining without comment to hear the case, thereby letting stand a lower federal court ruling against the Scientologists' claims.

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CORRECTION

In BP story dated March 20, 1978 entitled "Carter Warns Soviets At Wake Forest University", please correct graph six, line one which reads "A crowd of 20,000 watched Baptist President Woodrow Wilson..." to "A crowd of 20,000 watched President Harry Truman."

Thanks, Baptist Press