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78-53

Inflation, Devaluation Eat Up Mission Dollars

By Anita Bowden

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--J. Leslie and Edna Smith are dormitory parents for 17 growing, hungry missionary kids (MKs) in Jakarta, Indonesia. Feeding all those mouths takes a lot of preparation, a lot of food, and a lot of money.

Unfortunately, the Smiths' budget has to stretch around an annual inflation rate of 15 to 20 percent.

The Smiths, "parents away from home" for MKs who must attend school in Jakarta, meet the budget crisis through careful food shopping and preparation. If necessary, they ask for additional funds to help pay the bills.

But their problems represent only one in a long line of frustrations Southern Baptist missionaries face in countries with galloping inflation or in countries where the dollar is rapidly losing ground in currency exchange rates.

Almost every month, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board approves increased cost-of-living supplements for missionaries in one country or another, according to Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division. The recommendation comes after the inflation rate in a country has exceeded eight percent during a calendar year.

"We assume that inflation of five to six percent is fairly normal," Crawley says, "but when it reaches eight to 10 percent we know the missionaries need help."

Inflation isn't the only thing eating up missionary salaries. Devaluation of the dollar has presented problems equally as serious, particularly in countries with strong currency, such as Switzerland, West Germany and Japan.

During a six-month period in late 1977 and early 1978, the dollar fell approximately 10 percent against the West German mark and approximately 20 percent against the Swiss franc and Japanese yen, Crawley said.

Translated into daily living, says Gerald W. Burch, Southern Baptist missionary in Japan, "that means my family eats a lot of hamburger." They can't afford any other beef. A roast for his family of four would cost at least \$80, he says.

While prices are going up on items of personal use, the price tags of work-related items are climbing, too. Gas and transportation to reach outlying areas, building supplies, repairs, land, rent, television and radio time for media outreach, printed materials for teaching and outreach--everything is affected by inflation and dollar devaluation. Even the salaries of local people working for Baptist organizations or missionaries are affected in countries where the government regulates wages.

It really hurts more at work than at home, for Baptist mission organizations and projects don't get cost-of-living supplements in most cases. When the money squeeze comes, something has to give. In Taiwan, for example, television broadcasts were what gave last year. The number of broadcasts dropped from 52 in 1976 to two in 1977.

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The price of land is almost prohibitive in many Latin American countries and in Japan. This situation squeezes church expansion, puts a damper on new churches which can't buy land to erect a building, and makes the acquisition of new missionary residences more difficult.

Perhaps one of the tightest monetary situations exists in Switzerland at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon. "The American dollar is at an all-time low," says Isam E. (Dick) Ballenger, seminary president. Professional painting costs \$15 an hour and a fee of \$3 is charged to cash a check, Ballenger said.

Any expansion of the seminary seems unlikely. Ballenger says their greatest problem will be just finding the money to continue present programs.

What does this mean to the Southern Baptists at home? Simply, more money is needed, said R. Keith Parks, director of the mission support division of the Foreign Mission Board. "Unless Southern Baptists really begin to give in the way that they are capable of giving," he says, "we're going to end up being an agency that is only able to support missionaries without providing them with the tools to do their work."

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Anita Bowden is a staff writer for the Foreign Mission Board.

(BP) Photos to be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

U.S. Education Chief
Denounces Tax Credits

By Carol Franklin

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Administration opposition to tax credits for tuition was reinforced at a strategy session in Washington by the Coalition to Save Public Education.

Ernest Boyer, commissioner of education of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, told the assembled lobbyists that tuition tax credits "would turn federal education policy upside down" and "undermine" many present programs for needy and handicapped students.

Boyer also charged that the tax credit "departs radically from existing (federal education) policy" and "strikes at the heart of public education." Boyer's strong support of public education and attacks on public support of private education at this meeting contrasted sharply with his remarks last December at a meeting of private school educators.

In December, Boyer promised members of the Council for American Private Education and the National Catholic Educational Association at their second annual meeting that he would make nonpublic education "top priority" on his agenda. "This administration and the Office of Education are determined to enhance the role of nonpublic education," Boyer pledged at that time.

In his remarks to public school educators and supporters, however, Boyer said that he saw tuition tax credits as an invitation for private schools to raise tuition. "As tuition rises and the tax credit is increased to meet that cost, there's the possibility of endless escalation," he predicted.

Boyer also noted that tax credits are "not targeted at the most needy" but direct aid away from low and middle income families. He also warned of the divisive effect of tuition tax credits. "Public and private education would be divided," he said. "It is ineffective, divisive and unconstitutional. The concept is cluttered and contradictory public policy."

Boyer's comments in December indicated a willingness to aid private education despite the constitutional problems. However, his recent remarks noted that even indirect aid to nonpublic schools has been prohibited by the Supreme Court.

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"The government is not hostile to private education, nor is it contributing to the decay of private education as Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan has charged. But we have an obligation to support public education," Boyer assured the public educators.

The Coalition to Save Public Education is composed of educational, religious, labor, civil liberties and other community groups who oppose tuition tax credits. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is a member, as are Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the United Methodist Church, the American Jewish Congress and many others.

Their recent meeting was held to brief lobbyists before the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives voted out a bill for tuition tax credits for the entire house to consider.

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R. G. Lee Suffers
Another Heart Attack

Baptist Press
4/11/78

MEMPHIS (BP)--Robert G. Lee, 91, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church has returned to the coronary unit of the Methodist Hospital in Memphis for treatment of a heart ailment.

Lee entered the hospital after developing severe pain in his legs, a daughter, Mrs. Beulah L. e King of Shelbyville, Tenn., reported. It was diagnosed as arthritis.

The heart problem developed while Lee was undergoing tests in the hospital, Mrs. King said. His condition is serious.

Lee has been having recurring heart problems since he suffered two heart attacks a year ago while in Oklahoma City to preach a revival.

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Seminary Trustees Adopt
\$8 Million Campus Plan

Baptist Press
4/11/78

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees adopted in principle a new campus master plan for improvements totalling more than \$8 million over the next 11 years.

In other actions in its annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., the board promoted Arthur L. Walker to vice-president for student affairs, promoted seven professors, granted tenure to two professors, and approved an annual budget of just over \$6 million for the 1978-79 fiscal year.

The campus master plan, which proposes the creation of a "pedestrian core" in the center of the campus which would exclude auto traffic, was designed by H. Davis Byrd, an architect with experience in city and campus planning.

The master plan calls for the immediate renovation of the Carver Building, built in 1940 to house the Woman's Missionary Union Training School (later the Carver School of Missions and Social Work, which merged with the seminary in 1963). Also included are the final phase of renovation of classes in Norton Hall and the provision of 200 additional parking spaces on campus.

Long-range proposals include a new student center, enlargement of the School of Church Music Building (Cooke Hall), and improvements in parking availability and campus landscaping.

Walker, who has served as dean of student affairs since 1976, is a native of Birmingham, Ala. He is a former administrator and professor at Samford University.

The trustees and faculty honored Eric S. Rust, senior professor of Christian philosophy, who is retiring after 25 years of service on the faculty.

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Elected as officers of the board for the coming year were Joseph E. Stopher of Louisville, re-elected as chairman; T. T. Crabtree of Springfield, Mo., first vice-chairman and chairman of the executive committee of the board; Mrs. Edward Byrd of Florence, S.C., second vice-chairman; and Cleve Iler III of Louisville, re-elected secretary.

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Spinks Heads Seminary
Development Program

Baptist Press
4/11/78

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--W. Robert Spinks of Greenville, S.C., has been appointed director of financial development at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary beginning May 1, according to seminary president, W. Randall Lolley.

The seminary also announced the retirement of three long-time faculty members--James Leo Green, distinguished professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, the only remaining member of the original faculty when the seminary was created in 1950; Garland Alford Hendricks, elected in 1953 as professor of church-community development and director of field work; and Theodore Adams, pastor-emeritus of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., and former Baptist World Alliance president, who has taught preaching and pastoral ministries since his retirement from First Baptist Church in 1968.

Spinks, now director of corporate programs in the development department at Furman University, will be responsible for the seminary's gifts and endowments activities. He will work with the school's board of trustees and development council and supervise the seminary's fund-raising contacts with alumni and friends, foundations, corporations, and businesses.

A native of Charlotte, N.C., Spinks holds the master of arts degree in higher education from the University of Iowa. He is also a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Furman University.

Prior to his present post at Furman, Spinks was associate director of development at Mars Hill (N.C.) College, having served earlier as assistant to the president at Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C.

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Golden Gate Trustees Install
Pinson, Adopt Long Range Plan

Baptist Press
4/11/78

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary installed William M. Pinson Jr. as the fourth president of the seminary, adopted a long range planning report, approved the reports of three major task forces and adopted a \$1.77 million budget for 1978-79.

In his first address as president to the annual meeting of the trustees, Pinson said the 1977-78 school year has seen three records set at Golden Gate; enrollment, 517; budget expenditure, \$1,684,850; and gifts received, \$231,588.

In his inaugural address, Pinson said, "Golden Gate is located in the midst of the largest number of unchurched persons in the nation. It ought to provide the heartbeat for a surge in evangelism, church starts and growth. It should pump skilled, trained, dedicated leaders into the existing churches of our convention and the 1,500 new churches needed in the West."

The Long Range Planning Committee brought a final report after four years of study that projects a net increase of 630 students over the next six years at the Mill Valley campus. A total enrollment goal of 760 was set for branches, off-campus courses and continuing education for the year 1983-84. This would bring the total enrollment goal of the seminary to 1,907 students for 1983-84, including all branches and centers.

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The World Mission Center Task Force brought a comprehensive report with plans to enhance the seminary's present strong emphasis on providing basic and advanced missionary training for pastors, missionaries, church and denominational leaders and mission volunteers. By use of the environment in which it serves, Golden Gate is able to give specialized training for language and foreign missionaries. Urban and Third World missions opportunities are available in the human laboratory of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Baker James Cauthen Chair of World Missions will relate closely to the program of the World Mission Center.

A proposed building complex that would include a chapel, conference rooms, radio and TV production and an architectural structure that would be symbolic of world missions was also proposed.

The Family Life Enrichment Task Force brought in suggestions to strengthen the family life within the seminary community. In addition to a full curriculum aimed toward the development of family life, specific projections were made toward counseling services for growth groups, for vocational and crisis needs.

The Continuing Education/Conference Center Task Force echoed the concern shown in the Long Range Planning Committee report for additional resources for both programs. Proposals to increase personal and professional growth for ministers, skill courses for professionals and special courses for spouses were included.

The seminary will activate an evangelism chair which was officially named the E. Hermond Westmoreland Chair of Evangelism. G. William Schweer was elected the E. Hermond Westmoreland Professor of Evangelism.

Samuel Y. C. Tang was elected associate professor of Old Testament Interpretation and Hebrew. Tang, a graduate of Golden Gate, comes to the seminary from the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary where he has served for the past six years as president.

Announcement was made of the September retirement of Gell Davis, professor of religious education, who has taught at Golden Gate since 1957.

The trustees approved the concept of a branch to serve the Northwest Baptist Convention. The master of theology degree was reinstated beginning in 1979-80.

The present trustee officers were reelected. They are Charles A. Carter, Jackson, Miss., president; E. Glen Paden, Sacramento, Calif., vice president; Thomas A. Jackson, McLean, Va., secretary; Wayne Barnes, Zachary, La., assistant secretary.

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Editor Says Two Chains Bind
Freedom To Cover Religion

By Bracey Campbell

Baptist Press
4/11/78

HOUSTON (BP)--Church people wanting to control their images is one of the two major chains that binds the freedom to cover religion on a secular newspaper, according to Louis Moore, religion editor at the Houston Chronicle.

"Like all human beings, religion's people have an image to uphold. And oftentimes they want to uphold that image regardless of what the real facts are," Moore said during the 49th anniversary meeting of the Religious Public Relations Council.

Moore said newspapers doing a good job of covering religion often threaten those images.

The second chain that often undermines the freedom to cover religion on a secular newspaper comes from inside the newspaper business.

"Inside the newspaper business there's a question about religion coverage," Moore said, noting that some newspaper executives believe that religion has no place in the daily newspaper.

"I would love to characterize all people in the media who believe this way as persons who are not at peace with God...and as we Baptists would say, 'unsaved,'" Moore said.

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But, he said, that would not be true. "Some of the people in the media who oppose the coverage of religion do so out of bad experiences."

Moore said the bad experiences often come from unmet expectations in dealing with religious people. "They can be some of the nastiest and rudest people when they want to be. And we expect religious people to be straight-forward, honest, non-manipulative and decent," he said.

"Fortunately, I have found that these chains can be loosed," he continued.

Moore said he has a relationship of trust with the Houston religious community that has come through six years of working together.

"They know that I am going to cover the news thoroughly and I hope they know I intend to be fair," he said.

"With the freedom to cover religion on a secular newspaper comes the responsibility to be accurate, fair and to offer balance."

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Police Chaplain Success
On Oklahoma City Force

By Everett Hullum

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Amid the shock and confusion following a police recruit's shooting of a fellow police officer someone summoned the department's new chaplain, Dalton Barnes.

Barnes arrived at the Police Training Center to find the young recruit had a "lot of doubts about what he had done, about whether he'd ever be accepted by the officers. He wasn't sure if he wanted to continue police training--or if he could continue."

Barnes reassured him he was still a part of the team.

In those early hours, and in the counseling sessions that followed, "Rev. Barnes helped salvage that young man," said Neil Griffith, police captain and director of recruit training.

Barnes has become an integral part of the police force. When introducing Barnes, one policeman said to another, "This is Chaplain Barnes, have you met him? He's on our side."

The full-time police chaplaincy program is new to Oklahoma City. Barnes is one of the no more than 50 full-time chaplains in U. S. police departments. The majority of departments did not even have volunteer chaplains until the 1960s.

Chaplains' hours are long: court appearances and overtime duty often ruin days-off plans. Police constantly face danger: every call can mean death or injury.

"The highest divorce rate in the country is found among police officers," said Carl Hart, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Chaplaincy Division.

Barnes, 48, a retired army chaplain, felt police work would be the best place in civilian life to use his experience in the stress and pressures of military combat. With small grants from the Home Mission Board and Oklahoma Baptist Convention, Capital association allocated enough funds to put Barnes on salary.

Barnes began his work in the fall of 1975 by making pre-shift line-ups, a time when patrol officers assemble for instructions and roll call. To learn more about the force, he twice weekly rode in squad cars with officers from different sections or areas of work.

Even in the earliest days, he found these rides--in which officers were randomly selected--often turned into counseling situations.

"We'd be riding along," Barnes said, "and all of a sudden the officer would say, 'You know, Chaplain, there's something I've been meaning to talk to you about.'"

Barnes said officers tend to become cynical if they do not find outlets and relationships outside the department, so he encourages them not to allow their work to be their family, religion and everything else. He has conducted weddings and funerals and recently, began teaching classes during the recruit training period.

Barnes does not consider himself an apologist for the police, but he does say he has discovered police are much more diverse in background and personality traits and have a "higher sense of calling for public service than he expected."

Barnes' other major responsibility is hospital visitation. With his flexible, self-set hours, he visits more frequently and easier than officers working odd shifts with regular hours.

Often Barnes' hours are long. One recent afternoon, he began work early, only to be asked that he ride with an officer on graveyard shift. An uneventful patrol ended at 6 a.m.

At 11:30 a.m., Barnes had a speaking engagement with the Fellowship of Police Officers' Wives, a Christian organization supportive of his work. He got home, finally, at 3 p.m., about 24 hours after going "on duty." The line officers appreciate Barnes' hard work and willing attitude.

"I don't think just any man of the cloth could be as readily accepted as Rev. Barnes," commented Griffith. "He doesn't go around the department trying to convert people; he doesn't go down with the men and say, 'I'm Rev. Barnes; I am a man of the cloth. God can help you.'"

He's just always there when he's needed.

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(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.