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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 9, 1978

78-72

Southern Baptist Churches  
To Receive Bible Films

By Bracey Campbell

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. (BP)--Southern Baptist churches will receive an expected \$1 million in filmed renderings of the Bible by the end of the year, state Sunday School directors were told at an annual planning session at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Robert Fulbright, director of the Bible teaching division at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, said the films are the first part of the "Genesis Project," a program established through grants to put the Bible on 16mm film.

"The Genesis project has been under way for some time, and a number of Southern Baptist theologians have served as consultants. It is a strict rendering of the King James Version of the Bible on film."

Fulbright said he has received verification that 200 of the filmed programs, valued \$500,000, will be available to Southern Baptists by Labor Day. "And we expect an additional 200 programs (bringing the total value to \$1 million) will be available by the end of 1978."

He said the programs will be distributed under an agreement reached between the Bible teaching division and the Genesis Project.

Under the agreement, 30 programs will go to the six Southern Baptist seminaries and five to Baptist colleges and universities where curriculum laboratories of Southern Baptist materials are maintained.

Fulbright said the remaining programs will be distributed to the state conventions on the basis of Sunday School enrollment. "This will be done on the basis of the number of available programs to assure equal distribution among state conventions," he said.

Fulbright said participants in the filmed programs will be asked to participate in one of two training sessions scheduled June 23-24 at Glorietta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center and July 28-29 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Each of the \$2,500 programs will consist of a 15 minute film covering a specific subject or group of biblical chapters; two color-and-sound filmstrips varying in length from 7 to 12 minutes, providing in depth understanding of what was seen in the film; a commentary in magazine form, "Bible Times: The New Media Bible Magazine;" and a teacher's guide, including a summary of the other materials.

Fulbright said he became involved in the project when Dean Gitter, vice president of the Genesis Project was referred to the Bible teaching division by Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The timing of the availability of these films is excellent," he said. "They will be available to Southern Baptists at almost the identical time of the new Bible Book Series being made available by the Sunday School Board."

Bible Book Series, available Oct. 1, 1978, is a new Sunday School curriculum which will study all 66 books of the Bible during a nine year period. The series will have one periodical for all youth and one periodical for all adult members, plus teacher quarterlies for both ages.

Piland Outlines Commitments  
To Sunday School Directors

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. (BP)--State Sunday School directors were urged to place a higher priority on enlisting and training teachers at the outset of their annual planning meeting at the Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Harry Piland, meeting with the leaders for the first time since being named Sunday School program director at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, said, "It is imperative that we go deeper and farther in the enlistment and training of the people who teach the Word of God."

Piland said any church--no matter the size--can and should have a weekly workers' meeting.

"I have seen weekly meetings work to the advantage of God's kingdom time after time. It is the only method we have of helping teachers do a more confident job."

The new director, who took the top Sunday School post after serving as minister of education at First Baptist Church in Houston for five years, told the directors that he has a personal commitment to the small churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I am sure you have heard that before, but I want you to measure my actions and make sure that I live up to that promise. When you look at the statistics and see that 75 percent of the Southern Baptist churches have less than 200 members, you know that this has to be a priority area of concern for all of us."

Piland said the Sunday School is the greatest vehicle the churches have to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to evangelize the world. "We are not in competition with anyone else or with any other agency in the church," he said. "Sunday School is simply a church reaching out to people."

He said the idea that "some churches are designed to win lost persons to Christ and others to train them is utter nonsense. Every church should be accomplishing both of these things, and it can be done fast through the Sunday School program."

All Sunday School programs, Piland said, need a greater emphasis on people. "Each person is significant and unique; to believe any other way is a violation of the Cross."

Billie Pate, a manager in the Sunday School department, told the 37 state directors their input is needed as curriculum and program materials are planned at the Sunday School Board. "This allows us to maintain a knowledge of the pulses of the churches in the convention."

The state directors and about 15 Sunday School Board workers were to meet for three days, exchanging ideas and making plans for the coming church year.

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Callaway Named  
Graduate Director

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5/9/78

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Joseph A. Callaway, professor of Old Testament archaeology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named director of the school's graduate studies program. He replaces Page Kelley who has chosen to give up administrative responsibilities and return to full-time teaching. Kelley is a professor of Old Testament interpretation.

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# -- FEATURES

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Small New Orleans Church  
Has Very Large Ministry

By Jim Newton

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Seven kids were throwing rocks at the windows of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans one Saturday afternoon when Henry Anderson, the church's jolly pastor, walked up and surprised them.

When the kids started to run, Anderson called them back and said, "What would you rather do than throw rocks at the church? I know you don't have much to do, but what would you like to do instead of this?"

The seven kids stood silently for a moment. Then Tyrone, a 12-year-old black sixth grader said, "I wish I could read. I never did get taught." The others agreed they had trouble in school but didn't know what to do about it.

Anderson took them into a Sunday School classroom and gave them old Broadman hymnals. The only words they recognized were words like "and, the and this," Anderson recalls.

He told the boys if they really wanted to learn to read, he would help them. The next Tuesday all seven were back and Anderson found himself with a remedial reading class. That was two years ago.

Now the class has multiplied to include 32 high school kids, 27 junior high students, and 40 primary school children who come to the church twice weekly for group tutoring classes. Two school teachers who are members of the Franklin Avenue Church teach the classes and more classes would be offered if the church had enough qualified volunteers to teach.

But that's just one of the many distinct ministries this medium sized church offers in a densely-populated, economically disadvantaged area of New Orleans, where 200,000 people live within a three mile radius of the church. There is a high density of elderly people in the area. Unemployment and crime rates are especially high.

Three years ago, the 400 member church decided to stay and minister in the economically declining area, rather than flee to the comfortable suburbs. Including the tutoring program, the church currently has four distinct ministries to the poor people of the area.

The church sponsors an "emergency wheels" program, with two telephone numbers listed for people in the area to call anytime, day or night, for emergency transportation service.

"We can't get taxis or emergency wagons to answer calls in this area," Anderson said. Transportation, especially for the elderly, is a tremendous need. Church members take people in the community to a doctor or hospital anytime there is a crisis.

In an effort to deal with the unemployment problem, the church has a job referral service, utilizing services of the unskilled labor department of the Louisiana Employment Commission.

"For almost a year, we had our own free job placement service until we got into trouble with the city for operating an employment agency without a license," Anderson laughed.

About two years ago, a big, black man named George came to see Anderson and asked, "If you had a year-old baby and wife, and couldn't get work, would you steal to feed them?"

Taken aback momentarily Anderson spent several hours on the telephone, found a job for George, and told him he could start work the next day. The morning George started to work,

there were 13 men waiting to see Anderson--all wanting jobs.

Starting May 1, the church was to begin teaching adult literacy classes in addition to the tutoring program for youth.

"Many of the people in the community can't read their gas bill," Anderson observed. "They go to the corner market and pay three times too much for bad hamburger meat." In addition to teaching them how to read, Anderson hopes to begin nutrition classes giving tips on how to buy nutritious foods for the lowest price.

Anderson said there is a tremendous need to expand the "emergency wheels" service to a regularly available free transportation service with a church-owned van or mini-bus, if funds can be found. Many of the people in the community have to walk a mile just to catch a bus, and the old folks just can't do that, he said.

Anderson has compiled a list of 25 different ministries the people in the community need and the church would like to provide if financial and leadership resources could become available.

Included are such things as a legal aid branch office, arts and crafts courses for the elderly, nutrition classes, free transportation, counseling and referral services, family planning assistance, classes on pre-natal care and early child care, sewing and knitting classes, a "meals on wheels" hot lunch program for the elderly, classes on how to shop, job placement help, recreation, daycare services, and Bible classes on a regular basis for all age groups.

The purpose of these programs, according to Anderson, is to bring the people "to an awareness of the redeeming grace of God and to make them welcome in the church as the source of these services. We wish to make certain the community knows we are offering these services because of a sense of care for them as human beings, and because we wish them to also know the love of God."

Although he does not point to Franklin Avenue as a "model church" for others to copy, Anderson said he believes there are thousands of small churches in the SBC that ought to do things like Franklin Avenue. "Not all are located in poverty-stricken areas like ours, but there is human need all around every church," he said.

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Dorman Heads Seminary  
Student-Field Ministries

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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Charles T. Dorman of Fuquay-Varina, N.C., has been named director of student-field ministries at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective July 1.

Dorman, 48, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fuquay-Varina, and a native of Cowpens, S.C., will fill the administrative position following retirement of Garland A. Hendricks on July 31 after more than 25 years of service at Southeastern.

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Seminary Extension Centers  
Top Last Year's Record

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Nine months into the fiscal year, the number of Southern Baptist Seminary Extension centers around the nation has climbed to 329, surpassing the 1976-77 record year-end total of 328.

Unlike other educational institutions, extension center statistics begin from zero each August 1. Each center is registered with the Seminary Extension Department in Nashville, Tenn., when it orders its first course materials for the year, even though the center may have been in operation for 10 or more years.

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