



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355

W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Richard T. McCartney, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2481
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) L. Bracey Campbell III, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3808 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

June 30, 1978

78-106

European Baptists Offered Ruschlikon Seminary Control

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--European Baptists will be offered financial and administrative responsibility for the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board decided at its June meeting.

The board approved a five-part recommendation to provide a maximum \$300,000 subsidy for the international seminary in 1979 if the European Baptist Federation Council accepts responsibility for the institution. The board specified the money would be provided "if it is possible and the council so desires."

The proposal offers use of the seminary property, plus administrative control of the seminary and all other Baptist facilities at the location, for a five-year period beginning Jan. 1, 1979, with the possibility of renewal after that period.

J. D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia, and a special subcommittee of the board have been considering the future of the seminary since it has been hit with the twin problems of inflation and the decline in the value of the U. S. dollar. The seminary had a \$48,730 budget deficit in 1977, met by the board, and the 1978 deficit could run as high as \$100,000.

The \$300,000 subsidy proposed under the new arrangement--close to the amount provided in the board's 1978 budget for the seminary--would increase \$5,000 annually through 1983. This figure does not include the additional support given through salaries and housing of Southern Baptist missionary faculty members which the board would continue to furnish the seminary.

The Foreign Mission Board action received and considered many expressions of appreciation for the seminary and notes of concern that it may close since the study began in April. Selling the property in Switzerland and relocating had been one option, but subcommittee chairman, Raymond L. Spence, said the board "never intended to close" the seminary.

The subcommittee and Hughey will attend the European Baptist Federation Council meeting and visit the seminary in September. More recommendations are expected to be brought to the Foreign Mission Board in October, following that meeting.

As a part of the June recommendation, the board pledged to cooperate with European Baptists in maintaining "at Ruschlikon or elsewhere the programs and services they deem most vital for European Baptist life and work." The board is open to recommendations from European Baptists concerning Ruschlikon or alternative ways Southern Baptists may cooperate with them in theological education, training of laymen, evangelism and cultivation of Baptist unity.

"I think it would be a very important step forward if European Baptists could and would take full control," Hughey said, not just financial control but administrative responsibility. It would be in line with mission work in other parts of the world, where local Baptists are taking over the control and missionaries are working in a cooperative effort."

"Many other valuable things happen at Ruschlikon," Hughey explained, calling the seminary a rallying point for European Baptists. He pointed out that most Baptist groups in Europe have seminaries in Germany.

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He said the closing of Ruschlikon would not end theological education in Europe but "the quality of theological education would be affected." Among the ministries located in the Ruschlikon complex are the European Baptist Press Service, a Baptist broadcast ministry and a conference center.

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Board Approves 55 Missionaries,
13 for MSC; Adds 91st Country

Baptist Press
6/30/78

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Fifty-five new missionaries and 13 new Mission Service Corps volunteers received approval from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at its June meeting.

A double line of new missionaries stretched across the auditorium stage at the Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center as the board appointed its largest group of missionaries in 31 years.

J. Roy Clifford, personnel committee chairman, said the record response in the first half of this year shows "what God is doing among the 13.1 million Southern Baptists."

One of the new missionary couples will go to Bolivia, which now becomes Southern Baptists' 91st mission field. With the latest addition, the total Southern Baptist foreign missionary force now stands at 2,838.

The 13 new Mission Service Corps personnel, recognized in a special service the night preceding the missionary appointment, almost doubled the present seven service corps volunteers serving overseas.

One hundred Missionary Journeyman candidates, now in training at Meredith College in Raleigh, N. C., also were on hand for the opening session of the annual Foreign Missions Conference and to confer with missionaries from many of the more than 40 fields where they will serve. Those completing the training successfully will be commissioned July 21 in Richmond, Va.

The record for appointments at a single service was set in April 1947 when 56 of the year's total 78 appointments took place.

Louis R. Cobbs, secretary of the board's department of missionary personnel, said that the 52 set aside for missionary service at the June 28 ceremony, plus three special project missionaries presented the following day and two former missionary couples reappointed, make up "the largest delegation that Southern Baptists have ever commissioned, employed or sent out in a single board meeting."

In other actions, the board offered financial and administrative responsibility for the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to the European Baptist Federation Council and appropriated more than \$100,000 in hunger and relief funds. The \$14,262 given in the special hunger offering at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta in June was designated to help feed hungry children at the nutritional village in Bangalore, India.

The seminary action included an offer to provide a subsidy up to a maximum \$300,000 for 1979 (if possible and if desired by the European Council) if the council accepts responsibility for the international seminary. An additional \$5,000 per year would be added to the total subsidy each year through 1983, when the five-year contract for use of the seminary would be subject to renewal.

Raymond L. Spence Jr., chairman of the special board subcommittee, will accompany area secretary J. D. Hughey to a meeting of the European Council in Vienna in September.

Spence emphasized that the Foreign Mission Board "never intended to close" the financially-plagued seminary. But he added that, in keeping with experience at other overseas seminaries, the board subcommittee feels that European Baptists ought to be in charge and should be the "senior partner" in its operation.

The board took no action on the possibility of entering Zaire. John E. Mills, secretary for West Africa, reported to his area committee on possibilities for work with Baptists in Zaire but advised against any action pending a final report on plans by another Baptist group to begin work there.

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Other allocations by the board included \$3,626,559 in additional funds from the 1977 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions to seven of the eight geographical areas of the world into which the board's work is divided. Funds for the Southeast Asia portion will be approved at the July board meeting.

From current funds, the board appropriated \$298,618 to buy a Univac 9030 computer to replace smaller units no longer adequate to meet the board's needs, and voted \$30,000 to pay one-third the cost of producing three motion pictures to be filmed on location in Indonesia in 1979 in cooperation with the SBC Radio and Television Commission. The commission will pay the remainder of the cost.

As work on the new wing of the board's Richmond home office moves toward a projected fall completion date, the board earmarked \$405,585 from current funds for renovation necessary in the old portion of the building, moving expenses and some equipment. As part of this work, the board also approved \$69,000 to provide private control in the audio-visuals studio where extensive and delicate new equipment requires precise air conditioning and humidity control.

New missionaries named during the meeting were: Mrs. and Mrs. Robert K. Bates of North Carolina, appointed to Chile; Mr. and Mrs. Gaylon D. Buckland of Texas and Tennessee, respectively, to Honduras; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald W. Coker of North and South Carolina, to Belgium; Mr. and Mrs. J. Virgil Colson of Georgia and Mississippi, to Liberia; Mr. and Mrs. Olan G. Corley of Oklahoma, to Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. William E. Davis of Louisiana and Mississippi, to Bolivia; Mr. and Mrs. Larry T. Elliott of Virginia and North Carolina, to Honduras.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Garry E. Eudy of Alabama, to Panama; Mr. and Mrs. H. Val Frailey of Wyoming and Mississippi, to Morocco; Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Gierhart of Colorado and Hawaii, to Japan; Mr. and Mrs. Ray F. Green of Alabama, to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Hicks of Michigan and Kentucky to Israel; Dr. and Mrs. William J. Holth of Florida and West Virginia, to Windward Islands; Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Houston of South Carolina, to Malawi; Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Howell of North Carolina, to Peru.

Others are Mr. and Mrs. Floyd K. Kendall of Oklahoma and Missouri, to Thailand; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Law III of Texas and North Carolina, to Paraguay; Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel E. (Ned) Mann of Georgia, to South Brazil; Dr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Merck of Alabama and Florida, to Thailand; Mr. and Mrs. Dennis L. Palmer of Illinois and Ohio, to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. H. Wayne Pipkin of Texas and Massachusetts, to Switzerland; Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Rees Jr. of Missouri and California, to Honduras.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Smith of North Carolina and West Virginia, to Liberia; Mr. and Mrs. Elbert L. Smithen Jr. of New Mexico and Texas, to Peru; Mr. and Mrs. David L. Vick of Arkansas and Louisiana, to Argentina; Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Wakefield of Tennessee and Kentucky, to Mexico; and Lynda Wasson of Arkansas, to Gaza.

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Court Rules Against
Three Black Workers

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press
6/30/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--One day after its historic ruling in the Allan Bakke case, the U. S. Supreme Court held that three black men failed to prove employment discrimination against them under the Civil Rights Act.

The court ruled 7-2 that Furnco Construction Corp. did not violate Title VII of the Civil Rights Act by denying employment to two of the three men and hiring the other one long after he first applied for a job. All three men are bricklayers who sought to be hired to reline one of Furnco's blast furnaces.

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Two lower federal courts earlier reached opposite conclusions on the discrimination question. A U. S. district court ruled in favor of the company, holding that Furnco's policy of not hiring "at the gate," where the men applied, was racially neutral rather than discriminatory.

The company maintained that its policy of hiring bricklayers who had previously worked on such projects or who were recommended by company personnel was necessary for safety reasons.

On appeal to the Seventh Circuit Court, however, the decision of the district court was reversed, the court concluding that the three men had proven discrimination by the company.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court majority agreed with the district court. Justice William H. Rehnquist, writing for the majority, ruled that the fact that Furnco's work force at the blast furnace project was composed of more than 13 percent blacks indicated nondiscrimination.

Citing an earlier high court decision, Rehnquist wrote that "the central focus of the inquiry in a case such as this is always whether the employer is treating 'some people less favorably than others because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.'"

Rehnquist also maintained that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, while forbidding a company from having as a goal a work force chosen by discriminatory means, "does not impose a duty to adopt a hiring procedure that maximizes hiring of minority employees." Furnco has practiced for the past several years a program of voluntary affirmative action for the employment of more members of minority groups.

Rehnquist concluded that "courts are generally less competent than employers to restructure business practices, and unless mandated to do so by Congress they should not attempt it."

In a brief dissenting opinion for himself and Justice William J. Brennan Jr., Justice Thurgood Marshall argued that "an employer cannot be relieved of responsibility for past discriminatory practices merely by undertaking affirmative action to obtain proportional representation in his work force. It is at least an open question," Marshall went on, "whether the hiring of workers primarily from a list of past employees would...violate Title VII where the list contains no Negroes but the company uses additional methods of hiring to increase the numbers of Negroes hired."

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Convention Hunger Offering
To Help Feed India Children

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6/30/78

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Money given by Southern Baptists for world hunger at their annual convention in Atlanta will be used to feed hungry children in the Nutritional Village at the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India.

Southern Baptists gave \$14,262 in a "miss-a-meal" project at the convention, June 13-15. The Foreign Mission Board appropriated that money plus more than \$90,000 in additional funds for 11 other hunger and relief projects in its June 27-29 meeting.

The Nutritional Village, organized a little over a year ago, teaches mothers to prepare locally available foods in a way which retains nutrients. The mothers bring their starving or malnourished children to the center to live while they learn. A garden plot, flannel graph and poster visual aids, and lectures are also part of the training.

W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response, said the village offers both kinds of hunger relief necessary in developing nations.

"It gives immediate relief through the feeding of these mothers and babies and saving the lives of infants who come to the center," Grubbs said "But it also provides longer range hunger relief in that these mothers teach other mothers who in turn teach other mothers, the possibilities of this kind of nutrition education are exciting."

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Further Harrassment in Israel;
Angry Mob Attacks Bible Study

By Elizabeth F. Smith

JERUSALEM (BP)--An angry mob attacked Christians meeting for prayer and Bible study June 17 in Rishon Letsion as harrassment against Jewish-Christian believers intensified, following the passage of "anti-missionary" legislation.

Some 200 religious extremists forced entry into the home of Arthur Goldberg where Christians were gathered for their regular Saturday morning Bible study and prayer.

They tore up Bibles and hymnbooks, brandished their fists and shouted abusive language as they rampaged through the house.

Threats were made to run the believers out of town or to hang them on telephone poles. The mob also talked of arson and bodily harm. They attacked a car bringing a blind visitor to the meeting, tore off its door and tried to pull the occupants out.

The Jewish-Christian group was accused of kidnapping 12 children and locking them in a room to await "shipment to the mission in Jerusalem."

Once again the wording of the recent "anti-missionary" legislation, known as the Abramovitz Law, was used to explain the reason for such violence. The attackers returned during the night and tried to stir up neighbors by describing the Goldbergs and their friends as "traitors," "buyers of souls," "enemies of the state," and as "using their unlimited financial resources to corrupt the minds of the young."

Goldberg, an employee of a large airline, is an Israeli citizen who immigrated in 1971. He also holds United States citizenship. He said in a press release issued June 18 that this event is "another link in a chain that is now disconcertingly and rapidly growing and indicates the kind of climate the recent anti-mission law is creating." He believes that "pressure must be brought to bear on the Israeli government to put an immediate end to these events."

The United Christian Council in Israel (UCCI) sent a telegram of protest to the new president of the state, Yitzhak Navon, with copies to the prime minister, the minister of justice, and to other key officials in the government. Part of the text read, "The UCCI wishes to express its ever deepening concern and to strongly protest the breakdown of public order whereby citizens of this country have become the target of violent attacks and harrassment simply on the basis of their religious belief."

The UCCI appealed to the president "to prevent further breakdown in the exercise of human freedoms and in trust between the religious communities" by using his "considerable influence to urge the Knesset (parliament) to reconsider this harmfully motivated legislation and to vote for its removal from the statute book before further serious damage is sustained by citizens and by the state."

Dale G. Thorne, administrator of the Baptist Convention of Israel, said "Baptists must continue to work with the UCCI in the fight against this law which has given religious extremists some type of official justification and stamp of approval for their anti-mission activities and harrassment of Jewish believers."

Robert L. Lindsey, pastor of the Baptist church in West Jerusalem, said that it is not likely that such a mob would attack his congregation because "it is not considered Jewish-Christian."

Lindsey also said that there was probably no direct connection between the Rishon Letsion incident and the June 9 bomb threats to Baptist House next door to his church and to the Baptist Book Store in East Jerusalem. "They are related to the general incitement to hatred of Christians engendered by the Abramovitz law," he stated.

On Saturday, June 9, in the interval between sabbath school Bible studies and the worship service, the special bomb squad of the Jerusalem police searched both the Baptist House and the Baptist Book Store after telephoned bomb threats. Nothing was found on either of the Baptist properties.

"We have sympathy for our fellow-believers, especially the Jewish-Christians who are under attack," Lindsey said. "Perhaps in the end, this will help Israelis come to realize that to accept Jesus as Messiah is a very Jewish thing."

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'Witness, But Don't
Exploit Jews'--Rabbi

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6/27/78

DENVER (BP)--It is not the place of Jews to define the mission of Christian evangelicals, according to a rabbi and campus ministry director from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

But Christians need to be aware that Jews are offended and feel exploited when they are "focused on as an object for witness," said Paul Saiger, director of the Hillel Foundation at the university.

Saiger said he and other Jews particularly resent the "manipulation and use of Jewish symbols" in Christian evangelism and that such misuse goes beyond the bounds of ethics in evangelizing.

"The Christian has a faith that invokes a witness. That isn't objected to and cannot be denied," he said.

He called "borderline" Key '73, a wide Christian evangelical campaign in 1973 that stirred the ire of Jewish leaders. Key '73, he said, was a "witness to the entire community. So far as I know, they had workbooks on Jewish response to Christian claims, but they also had such workbooks for others groups as well.

"When, however, we find evangelical groups making use of Jewish symbolism and focusing on Jews and Jewish students as a class--this is wrong."

He said Christian-Jewish groups "can call themselves whatever they want to or do whatever they want. But when established evangelical groups on the university or college campus bring them in to use them as a program (of evangelism), problems and hard feelings result."

Saiger said he and his colleagues have good relations with Southern Baptists ministers at the university in Columbia.

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Carter Gets Tax Credit
Opposition Reminder

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6/27/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has sent President Carter and the U. S. Senate copies of a resolution passed by Southern Baptists at their annual meeting in Atlanta, June 15, outlining long standing Baptist opposition to tuition tax credits.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, reminded the president and senators that the committee "is comprised of eight national Baptist bodies in the United States with a combined membership of approximately 27 million."

The committee has represented the concerns of all eight of the groups in opposing tuition tax credit proposals, including the version already passed by the House of Representatives.

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Southeastern Adds
Trio of Faculty

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Three persons, including an ordained woman, have been added to the faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Suzanne Martin Davis, an ordained Baptist minister, has been named associate director of student-field ministries. She will join a team of professors and staff members to implement the newly developed Formation in Ministry program.

A graduate of Meredith College, Mrs. Davis also holds the master of divinity degree from the Divinity School of Duke University. She is a native of Durham, N. C.

Luke B. Smith associate professor of religion at Averett College in Danville, Va., was elected by the board of trustees as professor of supervised ministry and will begin in the fall.

Smith, 50, has held pastorates in South Carolina and Georgia and from 1959 to 1963 was associate secretary in the department of missionary personnel at the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

He is a graduate of the University of Georgia, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and holds the Ph. D. from the University of Edinburgh.

Claude York Stewart Jr., has been named assistant professor of theology. He has been assistant professor of religion and philosophy at Maryville College, Maryville, Tenn., since 1971.

Stewart is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Harvard Divinity School. An ordained Baptist minister, he has served churches in Tennessee and Massachusetts.

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Newman Lauds
Arms Resolution

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6/27/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Actor Paul Newman, the U. S. delegate to the United Nations special session on disarmament, has commended messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention for their "courageous and sensible stand" on disarmament.

In telegrams to SBC President Jimmy Allen and Christian Life Commission Executive Secretary Foy Valentine, Newman praised a resolution on multilateral arms control which was passed during the three-day convention in Atlanta.

The resolution asked the government "to move in imaginative and reconciling ways" toward arms limitation and reduction agreements with other nations. It urged the United States and the other nations of the world "to shift funds from nuclear weapons systems to basic human needs."

Newman said the SBC resolution "is in the best Judeo-Christian tradition" and that "people all over the world will benefit from the forthright action of Southern Baptists to move in the direction of peace and away from war."

He said he hopes the resolution will encourage Southern Baptists to communicate their views on disarmament to government leaders.

Valentine, whose agency serves as Southern Baptists' Non-Governmental Observer at the United Nations, also applauded the resolution as a demonstration of Christian concern for "peace with justice" and human rights.

The United Nations special session on disarmament concluded June 28 after five weeks of deliberations.

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Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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LYNN MAY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37203