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78-126

Senate Focuses Federal
Attention on Alcoholism

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--Alcoholism and other alcohol-related problems will get more federal attention if a measure voted by the U. S. Senate passes the U. S. House of Representatives and receives presidential approval.

The Senate voted to establish a Commission on Alcoholism and Other Alcohol-Related Problems as a part of a health planning package (S. 2410) authorizing funds through 1981.

The commission, advocated by Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr., D.-N.J., was recommended by the President's Commission on Mental Health. Williams noted that the national cost of alcoholism and alcohol-related problems is nearly twice the cost of mental illness. "The economic drain (of alcoholism) amounts to \$42.5 billion annually," Williams said.

Williams also pointed out that alcohol misuse is "a significant factor" in chronic diseases, suicide, homicide, and accidents as well as in child abuse, marital violence, industrial accidents, assaults, robberies, drownings, freezings and fires.

The commission would focus on research in the areas of unmet treatment needs of alcoholics and their families, availability and quality of services, the relationship of alcohol use to crime and family violence, and the effectiveness of prevention programs.

"It is ironic that in this society, in which alcoholism is rated as the third greatest health menace next to cancer and heart disease, we are spending no more than \$10 million a year in research; whereas, with respect to heart disease and cancer, we are spending \$400 to \$500 million," Sen. William D. Hathaway, D.-Me., pointed out. Hathaway is chairman of the Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of the Senate Human Resources Committee.

The Senate also adopted an amendment by Sen. Pete V. Domenici, R.-N.Mex., to give special attention to the needs of native Americans related to alcohol. "Alcoholism appears to be an increasing problem among native Americans," he said. "For example, I am aware that in the Navajo Nation, the largest group of native American Indians, the most serious social problem today is alcoholism."

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Alabama Baptists Explore
Bold Mission Funding

Baptist Press
8/2/78

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--A Bold Mission committee for Alabama Baptists unveiled a preliminary plan for increasing state convention contributions to national Southern Baptist Convention causes to help fund Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC plan to evangelize the world.

The report, presented to the Alabama Baptist Convention's executive board, calls for increasing the percentage of the state Cooperative Program budget to 50 percent by 1990 after deduction of certain agreed upon expenses shared by the SBC and the state convention. Currently, the Alabama convention gives 35.5 percent of all state Cooperative Program receipts to SBC causes.

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The report is "firm but not final," according to committee chairman Pat Harrison, pastor from Mobile.

"In studying the minutes of the 1925 Southern Baptist Convention meeting when the Cooperative Program (SBC unified budget plan) was adopted, it was the intent that state conventions would give 50 percent to SBC causes and retain 50 percent in the state," Harrison said.

In other action, the Alabama executive board adopted a 1979 budget of \$16.2 million, subject to approval by the state convention, and honored its executive secretary, George E. Bagley, for 15 years service.

The major portion of the budget, \$10.5 million, is slated for state and SBC Cooperative Program causes, the remainder will come through a \$1.7 million challenge goal beyond the basic Cooperative Program budget and through special foreign, home and state missions offerings.

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Church Training to Launch
New Enrollment Plan

By Jerilynn Wood

Baptist Press
8/3/78

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--A new church training enrollment plan was presented to key state associational and church leaders during the Church Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"Build Up" is a new program which gives churches a comprehensive plan to use in building up their church training programs by increasing the numbers of persons enrolled and participating.

"Our purpose is to implement the spiritual growth and development of all church members and their families, and not merely to get more numbers on our church rolls," said Roy T. Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department. "We're interested in getting people actively participating in church training."

The plan, developed in 1977 by Andy Anderson, who designed the successful ACTION Sunday School enrollment plan, was tested by 14 churches in Arkansas, Alabama, Illinois, Georgia and South Carolina. Also, pastors and other church leaders and state church training directors evaluated it.

"All the churches in the pilot program agreed that the plan works and is effective in enrolling persons into the church training program," Edgemon said. "The key factors in determining whether members become active participants is the material offered in church training and the effort made to get members involved."

"I believe this campaign has really given my church training program the shot in the arm that it needed," said Evans Hartzog, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Dothan, Ala., one of the pilot churches. "We've tried other ways, but I believe this plan has proven to be the best for results. It's evident that our attendance has consistently held up for 20 weeks since the project began with an average of 202 compared to 150 a year ago."

The enrollment plan will be available to churches in 1979. All the manuals and materials necessary for the program will be listed on the April-May-June 1979 undated materials church literature order form.

"We chose 'Build Up' as our title because it is a biblical truth," Edgemon said. "In Ephesians 4:11-12 the Scripture presents the idea of the Christian developing, growing, and maturing as a disciple as well as increasing in number. Involving more church members and their families in Christian development and growth is a worthy objective of Southern Baptists."

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Jerilynn Wood is a reporter, office of communications, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Senate Acts To Stop
Trade With Uganda

WASHINGTON (BP)--All imports from Uganda and most exports to that African nation would be banned if action taken by the U. S. Senate survives the legislative process.

U. S. Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., R.-Conn., introduced an amendment to a bill concerning U. S. participation in an aspect of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The amendment, adopted by the Senate, would impose a trade embargo on Uganda until the president certifies to Congress that the Ugandan government is no longer committing gross violations of human rights.

Weicker cited atrocities committed against Ugandan citizens by President Idi Amin.

The bill, already passed by the House, must go through a Senate-House conference committee and then receive final approval by both bodies before being sent to the president for his signature.

Other human rights amendments adopted by the Senate would require annual reports to Congress on the observance of human rights in each country using IMF funds and would call on the U. S. representative to IMF to oppose loans to Cambodia or Uganda.

The Weicker amendment would prohibit direct or indirect imports from Uganda, prohibit exports to Uganda other than some food products, and direct the president to pursue international sanctions against Amin.

Sen. Frank Church, D.-Idaho, offered an unsuccessful substitute motion urging the president to encourage and support international efforts to investigate and respond to conditions in Uganda, including economic restrictions. The U. S. House of Representatives recently passed the same resolution.

Church argued that his amendment would involve other nations in any sanctions against Uganda and therefore be more effective than unilateral action by the United States. He noted that the House action has already produced results with several major coffee importers boycotting Ugandan coffee. Coffee is Uganda's major export product, accounting for 95 percent of all the foreign exchange earnings of the Ugandan government.

Church's amendment would not have required an embargo against Uganda, nor would it have been binding upon the administration as would the Weicker amendment.

"When is the issue of human rights going to become a fight rather than a slogan?" Weicker "We are already too late in terms of hundreds of thousands of people in Uganda whose lives have been ended by Idi Amin," Weicker said. "A man like Idi Amin does not respond to sense of the Senate resolutions. He only responds when it is clear this nation and, hopefully others on the international scene, will act... I can assure all senators that Amin will take all the words we can dish out and he will not flinch one moment from his course of madness."

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Per Capita Comparison
Shows Little Boldness

By John J. Hurt

Baptist Press
8/3/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board computer flashes the good news that Southern Baptists are contributing many more dollars for overseas missions that they use to--\$57 million last year compared to \$15.3 just 20 years ago.

There's also good news of an increase in missionary appointments--from a staff of 1,283 just 20 years ago to 2,858.

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But the good news headlines begin to shrink when the figures are adjusted for a true comparative.

Southern Baptist membership has grown by approximately 50 percent in the 20-year span--from just over 9 million in 1958 to just over 13 million last year. But the ratio for appointment of new career missionaries shows it now takes 103,017 Southern Baptists for one career appointment, compared with 60,441 for an appointment in 1963.

Value of the Foreign Mission Board dollar has declined to offset some of the effectiveness in increased dollars. Per capita gifts to the board are up, \$4.43 last year compared to \$1.66 just 20 years ago.

But the purchasing power of those dollars went up only from \$1.92 to \$2.43 because of inflation.

Inflation is much worse in many countries abroad where the board spends those dollars. Value of the dollar has declined by 43 percent in Japan in the last two years, for example, costing the board \$860,000 in its operating budget there during that period.

J. Winston Crawley, director of the overseas division for the board, looks at these figures and others to explain: "This is simply to say that it takes a great and rapidly increasing amount of contributions on the part of Southern Baptists just to stand still in stewardship before we can ever begin talking about being bold."

His message was cast against the Bold Mission Thrust of the convention, which calls for doubling the missionary force to 5,000 by the end of this century.

Crawley's statistical study shifts back and forth between concern and joy, mostly the former. The facts do not show the boldness among Southern Baptists for which he begs.

He is disturbed that "as Southern Baptists become more prosperous" they should be giving "a larger proportion for outreach beyond our local congregations." They are not.

The best Southern Baptist stewardship, he says, was during the depression of the 30's "and there has been no consistent tendency for any increase."

There is joy as the states affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention begin to increase the percentage of the Cooperative Program dollar they pass on for Southern Baptist Convention work. A trend of the last two years has reversed a drop which went from 37 to 35 percent.

But the Foreign Mission Board has a problem within the Southern Baptist family. Four years ago it received more than 50 percent of the Cooperative Program dollar. It was about 45 percent last year.

Pointing to the 50 percent, Crawley said it would take a return to that for a "catch up, and it is, when we go beyond that, that we might begin to think of business in reaching out to more than 95 percent of the world's lost people."

The overseas mission director also has a major concern "related especially to the need for more preacher missionaries to do the work of the church planting and the church nurturing and multiplying that is at the heart of our missionary strategy.

"We do not yet see the 'Bold Thrust' of preachers offering themselves to go out to lands where most of the people have never heard the gospel and where there are now so few preachers," he said. "It is still our hope that we may see, for example, one new preacher-missionary each year for each of our 92 countries of service.

"It is still our hope that we may see 10 percent of the preachers graduating from our seminaries available and qualified for overseas service."

Journey of Faith--Part Two:
From Prison to a New Ministry

By Ruth Fowler

KISUMU, Kenya (BP)--Sam and Ginny Cannata called his prison stay in Ethiopia last year a journey of faith. Since then, they have moved to a new country, a new ministry and a new view of their role as missionaries.

And their journey of faith continues--leading them to work with four church-related medical clinics near Kisumu, Kenya, and to a new emphasis on discipleship training.

Cannata, a Southern Baptist missionary physician for 21 years, nine in Ethiopia, spent 16 days in prison during an investigation of possible violation of a firearms technicality. He was released without charges being filed. His home was searched and he and his family were taken by force to another city before his imprisonment. About two months later political turmoil caused the Cannatas and other Southern Baptist missionaries to leave Ethiopia.

Even before their departure the Cannatas began praying about the possibility of serving in Kenya. A doctor was needed for rural clinics and they wanted to go to Kenya. But they had to return to the United States to enroll their son in college and write a book ("Truth on Trial," Broadman Press) about their Ethiopian experience.

While they were in the states, the Cannatas had a chance to look closely at their ministry in Ethiopia. "Many times it takes getting away from a situation to really see it," Mrs. Cannata says. "We knew as God began to speak to our hearts and show us the heart of our work in Ethiopia that we would never be the same missionaries as before."

The Cannatas began to see that the most lasting results of their Ethiopia work had been the changed lives of the local people with whom they had worked most closely, the ones they taught in their home. Their idea of mission work began to change to an emphasis on discipleship training, an intensive study of Christ and the Bible with a few individuals.

Their ministry, their whole idea of service, began to revolve around discipleship. Cannata now works in four clinics and leads Bible studies in each place. According to Mrs. Cannata they plan to spend at least one night in each place instead of "just visiting them and hurrying on our way."

Letters from some of the people they left behind in Ethiopia support the Cannatas' new convictions about the importance of discipleship training. The people there who are growing and continuing the work are those with whom they concentrated their efforts.

This discipleship training is not just an addition to their ministry. For the Cannatas it is one more pathway in their personal journey of faith. "We realize," Mrs. Cannata says, "that we can't take people to a place we have not been ourselves."

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MK's Death Brings Parents
Closer to People of Africa

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8/3/78

KOUDOUGOU, Upper Volta (BP)--Laura Lee Eitelman's death has brought important changes to Koudougou, Upper Volta, where her Southern Baptist missionary parents serve.

Ray and Patsy Eitelman said they feel more tied to Africa than ever before, "having planted a part of us here." The people of Africa feel a closer bond with the Eitelmans, too.

Miss Eitelman became ill, July 1, at a boarding school in Ivory Coast. She came home to Upper Volta by private plane a few days later. Doctors diagnosed her ailment as hepatitis. She died, July 12, in the Koudougou Hospital.

"We were astonished to find ourselves surrounded by a community of African friends and brothers that came by the hundreds to help us dig the grave and to console us," the Eitelmans said. She was buried beneath a giant tree on the farm operated by Eitelman, an agricultural evangelist. An iron cross marks her grave.

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"Their comforting wish expressed in their language is: 'May God put his shade over you'," the Eitelmans continued. "In this sunny country shade is their word for grace."

Many of the people had lost children of their own. One man from their Ramongo church lost five children last year.

"We felt a kinship with these people that we had never felt before," the Eitelmans said. Now, after the death, church leaders have come to the Eitelmans to tell them of the sweeping effect their daughter's death has had on the community in establishing the legitimacy of their work.

Before, many critics did not know who they were or had them confused with those who taught there was no God. Those critics saw the Christian community gather around the Eitelmans during their time of need. Many apologized to the church leaders, saying that God was surely with the missionaries.

"Thus in one grand stroke God silenced much opposition and brought glory to himself," the Eitelmans stated. "Laura had said early in life that she wanted to be a missionary. In retrospect, we can see that her dream was fulfilled."

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Isley, Sanders Named
To Seminary Posts

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8/3/78

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Branson B. Isley, director of college relations at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for two years, has been named director of admissions and financial aid at the seminary.

In another employee change, Teresa Ann Sanders, an Oklahoma native and former Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board journeyman to Nairobi, Kenya, has been named feature writer on the seminary's news bureau staff.

Isley, 32, succeeds F. William Ratliff, who resigned to accept an assistant professorship at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and Miss Sanders succeeds Nancy McGough, who has completed seminary and moved with her husband to Whitwell, Tenn., a Chattanooga suburb, where he serves as a pastor.

A 1972 master of divinity graduate of Southern Seminary, Isley has served as associate minister of Southside Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., for two years and as a campus minister with colleges in the Huntsville area for two years.

A 1973 journalism graduate of Oklahoma State University, Miss Sanders is a first-year theology student. She plans to serve in foreign missions publication work. She served at the Baptist Publications House, Nairobi, and is former staff writer for the Thomasville, Ga., "Times-Enterprise," and former news intern for the McAlester, Okla., "News-Capital."

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Ratliff Accepts Midwestern
Seminary Faculty Post

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--F. William Ratliff Jr., will become assistant professor in philosophy of religion and theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., in September.

Ratliff comes to Southern Baptists' newest seminary from the denomination's oldest, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he has served as director of admissions and financial aid since 1976.

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The 36-year-old New Mexico native is a 1964 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., and served as a naval officer, 1965-69.

He earned master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary. During his study at Southern, Ratliff served as teaching fellow in philosophy and later as instructor of Christian philosophy.

He is former pastor of Union Baptist Church, Greensburg, Ind., and has held interim pastorates in Indiana and Kentucky. Ratliff also has held positions as church camp director and interned as campus minister at the University of Louisville, Ky.

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Second Church to Be
Constituted At Moscow

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MOSCOW (BP)--The "Second" Baptist Church of Moscow will be constituted at Mitischi, a suburb on the circular highway which rings the capital city, according to European Baptist Press Service.

The new church, which has received approval for registration as a congregation of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR, has about 200 members. They have applied for a building permit to construct a 400-seat chapel.

Mitischi is about 30 minutes away, by tram or bus, from the Central Baptist Church (First Baptist) which also houses the AUCECB offices. The new church is a "daughter" congregation of the Central Church.

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Golden Gate Librarian
Elected ATLA Vice President

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8/3/78

LATROBE, Pa. (BP)--G. Paul Hamm, library director at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., was elected vice president of the American Theological Library Association.

Elected during the organization's annual meeting in Latrobe, Pa., Hamm reportedly is the first Southern Baptist seminary librarian elected to a top post since L. R. Elliott, librarian at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, was voted president in 1947, the first year of ATLA.

Hamm will automatically become president next year of the 600-member organization, which draws its membership from the professional library staffs of theological schools. He is currently in charge of planning the 1979 annual conference scheduled to meet in June at Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

Other officers are Elmer J. O'Brien, librarian at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, president; Alva Caldwell, librarian at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill., recording secretary; and Robert A. Olsen Jr., librarian at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, treasurer. David J. Wartluft, librarian at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, is executive secretary of the group.

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Mercer University Given
\$500,000 in Property

Baptist Press
8/3/78

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Pine Mountain property in Harris County, including a lodge, clubhouse and motel, has been given to Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law by John B. Amos, Columbus, Ga., insurance executive.

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Atlanta attorney Robert L. Steed, chairman of the special gifts committee of the law school of the Baptist university in Macon, Ga., said the gift will exceed \$500,000 bringing Amos' total contributions to the school to more than \$650,000.

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Church Grows
As Crow Flies

By Julie A. Baesel

ANAHEIM, Calif. (BP)--Although helicopter commuting is not unusual in busy Southern California, one helicopter commuter doesn't quite fit the stereotype.

His name is Bryan Crow and he takes his chopper rides on Sunday mornings--between churches. He's the pastor of two.

"My first service on Sunday morning starts at 9:30 at The Garden Church of Anaheim Hills," Crow says. "When that service is over, I climb aboard the helicopter for a 10 minute ride. In fact, I use Disneyland's Matterhorn Mountain to guide new pilots. The copter lands across the street from Euclid Street Baptist Church, in an empty field at Loara High School."

Children form a weekly welcoming committee. When they leave their Bible classes, they gather on the curb and wait with anticipation. As the spot in the sky gets larger and larger, they yell almost in unison, "It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's Bryan."

Crow, whomeveryone calls by his first name, is the first pastor of 16-year-old Euclid Street Baptist Church in Anaheim.

Over a year ago the Euclid Baptists wanted to start a ministry in the Anaheim Hills, but the 20 miles separating the two seemed too far. But Crow decided to commute via helicopter, so the Garden Church and the Sunday commuter service were born.

His congregation didn't seem surprised when their pastor started commuting by helicopter. "That's just Bryan," said one. "He's always doing things that are kind of different."

"What we're going to be building in Anaheim Hills is very unique in many ways," said the 43-year-old Fort Worth, Texas, native.

"The Holy Land and Southern California have similar, if not identical climates. We're going to take advantage of the climates. We won't have Bible classes inside if we can have them outside."

The church complex the Baptists have planned is unique. The Garden Church will be built around four things: Gordon's Calvary and empty Tomb; the Garden of Gethsemane and a miniature Sea of Galilee; and a large amphitheater.

"It will be the kind of place where you'll want to bring a picnic lunch and stay all day," Crow said. "We're offering something special, a general store for people."

"Remember the old general store concept? It was a place where you went to get all the supplies you needed. That's what we're doing here."

Crow said he'd like to tell the whole world that "fundamental New Testament Christianity should produce the happiest and most positive person in the world."

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Ms. Baesel is a writer in Anaheim, Calif.

(BP)

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