



BAPTIST PRESS

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Cost Increases Approved
By Sunday School Board

By Bracey Campbell

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Confronted with a 30.2 percent increase in costs over the last three years, the trustees of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention approved a 7.6 percent increase in literature costs.

The trustees approved a number of recommendations during their two-day session at the Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, including an \$82 million budget for the operation of the Nashville-based Sunday School Board. This is a \$5 million increase over this year's operational budget.

James Clark, executive vice president at the board, said the literature cost hike was necessitated because of the same inflationary factors affecting everyone in the areas of production, labor costs and particularly in the area of postage.

"An example is that the most recent postage increase will cost the Sunday School Board more than \$350,000 in additional funds each year. The Sunday School Board has always assumed the cost of postage for delivering literature to the churches and will continue to do so," said Clark.

He said the literature cost hike, effective on literature for use after April 1, 1979, will not have the same percentage impact on all churches. "The increase is less than the increase in the consumer price index and less than the jump in production costs."

The 82 trustees also approved a 9.3 percent hike in costs for participants at the conference centers at Glorieta and at Ridgecrest in North Carolina, both owned and operated by the Sunday School Board.

Robert Turner, director of the conference center division, said the increase is less than the additional funds required to operate the centers during the coming year. "We will make up this difference," Turner said, "by adding 10,000 guest days at the facilities and through cost controls."

Turner said the trustees also approved several recommendations that will help offset the elimination of the family discounts at the center. These include lowering food charges for youngsters--two thirds the normal rate for children in grades one through six, half rate for preschoolers over two and no charge for children less than two years of age.

The trustees also approved the recommendation that Mrs. Peggy J. Self, a certified public accountant from Texas, be placed in the post of manager of the accounting and control department of the management services division.

A native of Anson, Texas, Mrs. Self is married to Jerry Self of Wichita, Kan., a Baptist minister. She has an undergraduate and master's degree in business and has studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

The trustees approved the deletion of "Collage," a National Student Ministries periodical, which never reached its anticipated market, from the list of Sunday School Board publications. The emphasis of "Collage" will be shifted to "The Student," another National Student Ministries publication.

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The trustees also approved a number of new Sunday School products to be produced by the Sunday School Board including:

--A Spanish translation of the "Adult Teacher" from the Convention Uniform Series, "El Interprete: Maestro." First issue will be October-December 1979.

--"Beginning," a quarterly magazine to involve parents in the church's teaching ministry and to offer guidance in teaching babies at home. First issue will be October, 1980.

--"Sunday School Resource Kit for Teaching the Mentally Retarded" to supply resources and games for teaching educable retarded persons of all ages. First issue is scheduled October-December, 1979.

--"Bible Book Study for Youth Teachers: Resource Kit" to provide member-involving teaching aids for use in small-group settings by youth Sunday School teachers. First issue scheduled October-December, 1979.

--"Adult Convention Uniform Resource Kit" to provide teachers with visual aids and other resources to enhance the learning experience. First issue is scheduled for October, 1979.

--"Bible Book Study for Adult Teachers: Resource Kit" to provide teachers with visual aids and other resources to enhance the learning experience. First issue is scheduled for October, 1979.

Other products include three cassettes---"Adult Life and Work Cassette" (Oct.-Dec., 1979) and "Bible Study for Bible Learners and Teachers Cassette" (Oct. 1980), both for Sunday School, and a church music demonstration cassette for use with "Opus One," "Opus Two," "Gospel Choir" and "Choral Praise" music (Oct. 1, 1978).

Sunday School products also included three quarterly packets for extended sessions with twos and threes, fours and fives, and babies, creepers and toddlers, all effective Oct.-Dec., 1980.

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Consultation on Women
Set in Nashville

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A number of leading Southern Baptists will appear on the program of the Consultation on Women in Church-Related Vocations, Sept. 20-22, in Nashville, Tenn.

The meeting at the Baptist Sunday School Board is designed to help denominational agencies secure data, examine issues, and serve more effectively by studying the involvement of women in church-related vocations. It is sponsored by 11 Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

"We plan to look at the present involvement of women in church-related vocations, study trends in this area and identify barriers to greater involvement," said Catherine Allen of Birmingham, Ala., who chairs the consultation steering committee. "The consultation is not designed to make specific recommendations to denominational agencies," said Mrs. Allen. "We will look at the subject's biblical, theological, cultural, social, and psychological aspects."

Program personnel include Frank Stagg, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Mrs. Stagg, author and homemaker, leading devotional sessions on "Women in Biblical Perspective;" Ruth Harvey Charity, a Baptist attorney from Danville, Va., discussing government policy and its impact on the employment of women; Andrew Lester, associate professor of the psychology of religion at Southern Seminary, discussing the psychological effects of women in ministry.

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Also on the program are Kay Shurden, a Baptist and English teacher in Shelbyville, Ky., analyzing Southern Baptist literature and women; Glendon McCullough, executive director of the SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn., moderating a symposium on vocational options now available to women in the denomination, problems and possibilities; Gladys Lewis, a nurse, writer, speaker and former foreign missionary, delivering a wrapup address on human rights; and Jimmy Allen, SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, with an inspirational call to action.

Four women already in denominational life will participate in a panel discussion of their own experiences. They are Lynda Weaver-Williams, a Ph.D. candidate in Christian ethics at Southern Seminary; Rachel Richardson Smith, a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.; Helen Falls, professor of missions at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and Sue Fitzgerald, director of the center for Christian education ministries at Mars Hill (N.C.) College.

A wide range of denominational leaders will serve as reactors to the major program personnel.

The consultation, a project approved by the SBC Inter-Agency Council, still has some openings for persons who wish to attend. Some 300 registrants are expected.

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Families, Homes Experience
Problems in Today's Society

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GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Southern Baptist families and homes are hurting according to Wallace Denton, professor of family life and child development at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

"I believe Southern Baptists are beginning to see the need of the family and are providing conferences on marriage enrichment, parental guidance and sexuality," Denton said. "We're realizing that if Christian leaders do not speak out on these issues, then families will turn elsewhere."

Denton led several seminars on human sexuality and sex education during the Church Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. The seminars were sponsored by the family ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

"During my conferences on sexuality, I try to communicate the concept that sex is one of God's best and greatest gifts to man," Denton said. "Properly understood and experienced it becomes one of the most powerful bonds between a husband and wife."

"As a Christian layman I also encourage parents to take the responsibility of teaching their children about sex in a way that affirms it as a part of God's creation," he added. "The alternative is that children will gain their information from peers, movie scripts, song lyricists, schools, and other sources."

Denton was one of eleven speakers who provided a variety of conferences on marriage enrichment, senior adults, communication, financial planning and other topics for the participants.

"Family problems are being experienced by church people as never before so there's a need for Christian education programs," said Joe Hinkle, secretary of the family ministry department.

"Families come in all sizes and varieties in today's society. To enrich family life in our convention, the church must zero in on all these needs and minister to each one," Hinkle said. "If the church is truly the family of God, it needs to understand all the members so that it can effectively act as a body to evangelize and serve others."

The family ministry department focuses on the typical family unit as well as the atypical family which includes single adults and senior adults.

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Remote Baptist Hospital
Brings Christ to Yemen

By Ruth Fowler

JIBLA, Yemen (BP)--Over two mountain ranges, across a valley and right up to the point where the van would have to be traded for a camel to go farther--then you arrive at Jibla Baptist Hospital.

This Southern Baptist mission station is barely accessible by car and most of the area it serves is not. The small dirt road goes through Jibla, carrying some tourist traffic, but most of the villages which the hospital serves are remote. The hospital itself is remote.

Southern Baptist missionaries serve in a medical ministry which includes 1,400 inpatients and 22,000 outpatients annually. The 70-bed hospital and clinic provide the only medical care in Jibla. It's the only Southern Baptist presence currently allowed in the country.

Jibla Baptist Hospital and the homes on the compound have safe tap water and one of the few sewer systems in the country. The cities and villages do not have safe drinking water. Children at the hospital have a swing set, one of three in the nation. Because no toys or crutches can be purchased in Yemen, one of the Southern Baptist missionaries makes wooden ones for the hospital's use.

The hospital staff have no telephones available for a quick link with their loved ones--including teenage children who must go to school away from home, often on another continent.

Supplies are another problem. Sometimes the hospital must wait weeks or months for supplies to arrive, including medication. For more than a year, the staff has awaited the arrival of a shipment of washable paint--a must for the hospital walls, which badly need painting.

Given this isolated and sometimes lonely setting, the people of Yemen wonder why Southern Baptists are there. The missionaries sometimes wonder too. But most of the time, they know the answer. They tell people, "We're here because God wants us here. We're here because Christ loves you enough to send us."

An important part of the reason Southern Baptists stay in Yemen--the part that makes their work pleasant--involves the people themselves. They're appreciative and friendly, and they desperately need the care.

Disease related to hygiene--parasites and infections--is the most common ailment, but doctors see a little of everything, from birth defects to accidental injuries to the common cold. Malnutrition is not really a major problem because the people can now afford adequate food.

The economy in Yemen is labor based. The men travel to neighboring Saudi Arabia and work for several weeks at a time, sending money back to their families. That amounts to more than \$3 million daily.

But that means that the decision maker of the Yemeni culture, the father, is often away from his family. A sick child may wait for weeks before the father returns to give permission for a visit to the hospital or clinic. Results of waiting can range from deadly to simply inconvenient.

One small girl came to the clinic with a stiff arm. She was brought in months after fracturing her arm near the elbow in an accident. Southern Baptist physicians hope she will regain partial use of the arm following surgery, but there are no guarantees. The wait between the injury and treatment may have been just too long.

Finding someone to work in the hospital presents problems. The operating room technicians who helped with the surgery on the girl's elbow were teenagers carefully trained by the doctors.

To find women who will work is almost impossible. The Yemeni woman traditionally has stayed in the home, with the husband even doing most of the marketing. She has no formal education and must be taught the simplest tasks.

Southern Baptists serving in Yemen are happy, despite remoteness, hardship in finding employees and receiving supplies, and customs which make good medical care difficult. They find great reward in offering some of the best medical care in the country to people who need and appreciate it. But their clearest sense of purpose comes from the motives behind their ministry--demonstrating Christian love and concern, and sharing discretely the message of Christ.