



# 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) 272-2461  
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, 3806 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

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## Senate Passes Own Version Of Tuition Tax Credit Aid

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Senate has rejected tuition tax credits for elementary and secondary school students but has given overwhelming approval to such credits for college and postsecondary vocational education.

The Senate passed 56-41 an amendment by Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D.-S. C., which removed all references to elementary and secondary education from the bill. Final passage of the measure was by a vote of 65 to 27.

The bill now goes to a conference committee with the House of Representatives to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions. Sens. Russell Long, D.-La., Abraham Ribicoff, D.-Conn., Lloyd Bentsen, D.-Tx., Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D.-N.Y., Bob Packwood, R.-Ore., Robert Dole, R.-Kan., and William V. Roth, R.-Del., were appointed conferees. The House conferees will be appointed soon.

Six of the seven Senate conferees voted in favor of tuition tax credits for all levels. Bentsen opposed the credits for elementary and secondary students but voted for the measure in its final form.

The House version of the bill was passed 237-158 on June 1. That measure includes elementary and secondary students in its provisions. The amount of credits offered in the House bill are smaller, however.

The Senate version would allow parents to claim a tax credit of 50 percent of tuition for college or postsecondary vocational students up to a maximum of \$250 per student. This would become effective August 1 of this year. On October 1, 1980, the tax credit would increase to a maximum of \$500.

The House bill would allow the taxpayer to reduce federal income taxes by 25 percent of the amount spent on college tuition up to a maximum of \$100 per student this year, \$150 in 1979 and \$250 in 1980. At the elementary and secondary level the credit would allow 25 percent of tuition up to \$50 per pupil this year and \$100 in 1979 and 1980.

The Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution opposing tuition tax credits at its annual session in Atlanta this year. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the denomination's government relations agency in Washington, has actively worked against passage of any such measure by Congress.

The Carter administration also opposes tuition tax credits. Carter has threatened to veto any such measure that comes to him. He and Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary Joseph A. Califano are pushing expanded federal college scholarship programs for middle-income students.

Opposition to tuition tax credits has focused on the issue of the separation of church and state, the possible re-segregation of school, the high cost of the credits, and benefits to upper-income taxpayers.

Catholic and private school groups have lobbied heavily for the bill, claiming that the courts would rule tuition tax credits constitutional.

'Heavenly' Relief Grew  
Surprises Flood Victims

By Orville Scott

AUSTIN, Minn. (BP)--The swirling, muddy torrent rose higher and higher until the river banks couldn't contain it.

As many Austin, Minn., residents watched in helpless fear, the "hundred year" flood swept through their homes.

With massive force it ripped out concrete and brick walls, filled basements and swept through 200 homes. Gone in an instant were the possessions of a lifetime.

As the waters of Red Cedar River subsided, its victims gazed on a soggy scene of destruction and desolation. Many were aging retirees and some were invalids. Total damage to the city of 26,000 was estimated at \$50 million.

As they poked despondently among the ruins the unbelievable happened.

One aging woman described the unexpected event as, "They were sent from Heaven, the answer to prayer."

Actually the "heavenly helpers" were rugged flesh and blood members of the Texas Baptist disaster relief team, plus four summer missionaries already serving in the Minnesota-Wisconsin area.

Led by Robert Dixon of Dallas, they slogged through foul smelling muck and debris to bring physical and spiritual aid to those least able to help themselves.

"They're not afraid of anything," marveled a man on crutches as the crew shoveled, swept and hosed out his basement.

"Some of them have come over 1,500 miles," marveled his wife. "I can't believe people would do something like this."

Bill Williamson, director of missions for the Pioneer Association of Southern Minnesota, said he believed the "mission of mercy" could serve as the foundation stone for launching a Southern Baptist church in Austin. Three Southern Baptist families have been meeting there under sponsorship of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.

The relief crew had expected to conduct day camps for the children of flood victims, but discovered that the neediest people were aging and invalids.

Soon after getting word of the flood, Texas Baptists, who have sponsored pioneer mission work in Minnesota-Wisconsin with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board since 1956, approved the use of disaster relief funds up to \$5,000.

"They told us adaptability was the name of the game in summer missions, but I didn't know we'd have to adapt this much," said Freda Willis, summer missionary from Tempe, Ariz., smiling cheerily through mud caked on her face and clothing.

Three other summer missionaries who shifted their assignments to help with disaster relief were Lori Blackwelder, Forsyth, Ga.; Steve Oates, Huntsville, Tex.; and Michael Watson, Bolivar, Mo. The Baptists served in cooperation with the American Red Cross and other relief agencies.

The spirit of the occasion was revealed graphically when a flood victim saw the relief crew helping his neighbor and asked, "Would they help a Catholic?"

"They'll help anybody," the neighbor replied. "They didn't care if I was a Lutheran. They just came to help us. If you want to talk about God, they will, but if you don't want to, they'll just go about their work helping you."

As the relief workers finished cleaning a crippled man's basement, he sought to pay them. "We didn't do it for money," said Dixon kindly. "We did it because we love the Lord."

Southern Seminary  
Honors Robert Denny

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the 29-million member Baptist World Alliance, will receive the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award at the annual Founders Day Convocation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, August 29.

The award is the highest honor given by the seminary's board of trustees.

A native of Kentucky, the chief professional officer of the international Baptist fellowship will also speak at the convocation, held each year to honor founders of the 119-year-old seminary in Louisville, Ky.

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Concert Draws Big  
Crowd, By Accident

DALEVILLE, Ind. (BP)--All proper preparation and announcements had been made, but the Ball State University Baptist Student Union choir still had virtually no audience when it stood to sing at an open air concert.

"The New Liberations" decided to sing anyway. Halfway through their first number, tires screeched and the loud thud of metal on metal jarred the group. They continued to sing.

A car, already marred by one collision, careened down the street. It turned onto the street next to the parking lot where the choir was singing and hit another car. Glancing off it, the car went through a yard fence, just missed a tree and crashed into a third car parked in the supposed safety of its garage.

Neighbors rushed to see if the driver, apparently under the influence of drugs, was hurt. Realizing they suddenly had their needed crowd as half the town seemed to gather at the accident, area missionary Bob Wiley urged the choir director: "Sing, man, sing. Here's your crowd."

The choir sang and most of the people stayed to hear the concert.

The choir director later quipped, "Well, at least you can say most of our crowd came tonight by accident."

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Dates Set For Graham  
Crusade in Poland

Baptist Press  
8/16/78

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (BP)--Billy Graham will preach in six major cities of Poland, October 6-16, 1978.

Graham, who preached in Hungary for a week in September of 1977, will preach in Poland's capital city of Warsaw and in the historic university and religious center of Cracow. He will also deliver sermons in the industrial and commercial centers of Poznan, Wroclaw, Katowice and Bialystok.

"I will preach the same gospel in Poland that I have preached around the world for 30 years," Graham said. "There will be no restrictions on my preaching."

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Scottish Baptists Grow  
Despite Difficulties

By Mark Sandlin

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The Baptist Union of Scotland has shown steady growth over the past three years, despite limited resources and the fact that 30 percent of the country's population belong to the national church, according to union president, Eric Watson.

"Our work is very different from Baptist work here in the United States," said Watson, in the States participating in a pulpit exchange program with Earl Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. Watson is pastor of Rattray Baptist Church, Dundee, Scotland.

"When we knock on people's doors to invite them to church, the inevitable answer is that they are members of the national church," he said. Most of the people are born into it." About 1½ million of Scotland's five million population belong to the Church of Scotland, which is Presbyterian in structure and evangelical in doctrine.

Limited resources also present difficulties for the small Baptist churches scattered throughout Scotland, where Baptist work began in 1750.

"Two thirds of the 160 churches that make up the Union have under 100 members. Most of the churches have only one staff person and that's the pastor," Watson said. "Land is very expensive. Buildings are much smaller and packed together. Most of our church facilities are chapels we inherited or some other old buildings," he said.

Faced with these and other problems, the Scottish Baptists continue to grow. "We have increased our membership by 50 percent in the last three years and have doubled our budget in the same time period," he said.

Baptist work is expanding in other areas. Ministries have been started for servicemen stationed on United States military bases in Scotland and for off-shore oilmen, mostly Americans, working in the North Sea area. Other projects include homes for elderly citizens sponsored by individual churches.

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Excuses Hold No Water  
With Faithful Minnie

IRONTOWN, Mo. (BP)--Minnie Cook can't understand weak excuses for missing Sunday School.

The 83-year-old nursing home resident in Irontown, Mo., has missed a Sunday in 60 years. At last count, Miss Cook, a Baptist, had attended more than 3,120 consecutive Sundays and was still going strong.

It has not always been easy to make it, and Miss Cook recalls two incidents which made attendance particularly difficult.

One involved bad snow in the 1920s. "We lived a quarter-mile from the church," she said. "One Saturday night it came a deep snow with high drifts. On the way to church, we got stuck in the drifts so I went back to the house and got a carpet. We put it across the drifts so we could climb over them."

The other incident arose when it became necessary for her to have surgery.

"I asked the doctor if I couldn't have surgery early on Monday morning," she related, "so I could go to Sunday School that Sunday and hopefully be well enough to go the following Sunday. He agreed, and I made it both Sundays."

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460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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

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