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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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78-150

**Baptist Relief Aids Victims  
Of Fires, War and Epidemic**

**RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--**The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has appropriated \$35,000 for four projects, the largest a mosquito eradication project in Honduras.

A major epidemic of dengue fever spread by the mosquitoes has struck 45 percent of the population of Honduras. The government has given Baptists clearance to do as much as they can to combat it, according to John R. Cheyne, associate to the board's consultant on hunger relief and disaster response.

Although not usually fatal, the fever causes 10 to 14 days of severe symptoms including a painful rash. Seven fatalities have been reported out of some 100,000 cases, Cheyne said.

Baptist relief dollars have purchased and airlifted to Honduras spraying equipment and chemicals for three large fogging devices to mount on trucks. Four teams of laymen will carry backpack fogging devices into remote areas. These men were told when they volunteered they had a 50 to 70 percent chance of contracting the fever.

In other appropriations the board voted to use \$10,000 for war relief in Lebanon where renewed fighting between Syrian peace-keeping forces and militia have resulted in hundreds of homeless families. At least half of this amount will be used in hunger relief.

A fire in a ghetto of Cali, Colombia has resulted in loss of life and property. Using a shortwave radio hookup, Foreign Mission Board officials learned that missionaries needed an initial \$3,000 to help replace the necessities of blankets, food and clothing for the fire victims. Because of the speed of communication, the board was able to respond immediately, Cheyne said.

Another fire in Korea destroyed the An Yang Baptist Church. Relief funds will provide \$4,000 of the \$30,000 needed to rebuild it.

-30-

**President Reaffirms  
School's Independence****Baptist Press  
9/14/78**

**BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)--**Gardner-Webb College's board of trustees has reaffirmed the Baptist school's 73-year-old policy not to seek or accept federal funds.

Just after kicking off a \$10.5 million basic needs campaign, Gardner-Webb President Craven E. Williams told trustees, "It is time to do more than pay lip service to the principle of independent education. It is time to set an example, to be that voice which does more than cry in the wilderness."

Williams said that "independence, individuality, and autonomy, now as never before, are the cry of the American people, of those who want to take control of their own destiny."

Williams, entering his third year as president of the 1,400 student school, feels his stance will be popular with independent businessmen whose support will make federal funds unnecessary.

"How fine it would be for the advocates of educational freedom and the advocates of economic freedom to be stoutly joined as educational entrepreneurs," he said.

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CLC Emphasizes Issues,  
Alters Staff Assignments

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission voted to expand the agency's work in three areas of moral concern, enlarged the assignments of two staff members and voted a record budget during its annual meeting.

During the next year, the Southern Baptist Convention's social concerns agency will give increased emphasis to television and morality, world hunger and alcohol education.

The commission added the title of associate executive secretary to the duties of Harry N. Hollis Jr., the agency's director of family and special moral concerns since 1969, and changed the title of public relations director, Floyd A. Craig, to director of public relations and development. Craig, who joined the commission in 1967, spent a recent study leave examining foundations and possible foundation grants.

After hearing a call from Executive Secretary Foy Valentine for Southern Baptists to include "Bold Doing" in the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust venture, commission members approved a 1978-79 budget of \$531,000, an increase of \$69,000. It includes a seven percent cost of living increase for staff salaries.

"Southern Baptists are a great and strong body of Christians now about to enter the 1980s under the banner of Bold Mission Thrust (the SBC plan to proclaim the gospel of Christ to the entire world in this century)," Valentine declared. "That banner thus far has been interpreted to include 'Bold Going,' 'Bold Growing' and 'Bold Giving.' It would be a great mistake for Southern Baptists not to find ways to include 'Bold Doing' in this program."

The commission voted to sponsor regional "Bold Doing" conferences in at least seven states during the next year. Primarily designed for pastors, the conferences will focus on ways Southern Baptist churches can apply the gospel of Christ to current social concerns.

The commission also passed resolutions urging prayer for peace in the Middle East and opposing the proposed rewrite of the Communications Act of 1934. It also asked the staff to seek ways to focus attention on needs of the Hispanic population and deal with the current educational crisis including the current inroads of parochial education on public schools.

Southern Baptist churches were challenged to set aside a special time during worship services on Sunday, Oct. 8, to pray for peace in the Middle East. The resolution was approved in response to a joint call for prayer and peace issued by U. S. President Jimmy Carter, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin from their summit conference at Camp David, Md.

The resolution on the communications act encouraged Southern Baptists to communicate opposition to the proposed legislation to their elected representatives in Congress on grounds the bill would provide substantial deregulation of the broadcasting industry at the expense of the public welfare.

In further action during the two-day sessions, the commission elected John Claypool, pastor of Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., to chair the commission, and presented its 1978 Distinguished Service Award to Sarah Frances Anders, professor and chairwoman department of sociology, Louisiana College, Pineville. Dr. Anders, the first woman to receive the honor, also delivered the annual major address to the commission, addressing herself to the plight faced by Americans in the middle age range.

She outlined the stresses, strains, ambiguities and changing styles which cause problems in the passage through the middle years toward senior age status, but emphasized a positive note.

"As secular as society seems to be, I sense that as an age group we're neither as self-conscious nor as obnoxious about our religion as past generations," she continued. "Many of us are able to be comfortable without being complacent in our spiritual enterprises. For instance, I see in Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust an opportunity for intelligent advance, not measured by buses, bricks, budgets or brochures--but with changed lifestyles in a changed world."

Change in the status of Hollis, for whom Valentine will draw a new job description, came because of the growing size and complexity of the agency's work and to allow Valentine time for study and research in Christian ethics, in addition to his administrative responsibilities.

Craig's job title was revised, the commission said, to include his added responsibilities in securing additional funding, primarily from foundations, for commission projects.

-30-

Board Sends Team to Ruschlikon,  
Hears Call For Stronger Support

Baptist Press  
9/14/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has dispatched a three-man team to help European Baptists understand the need to assume greater financial support of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Also at their September meeting, board members heard a strong plea that Southern Baptists back Bold Mission Thrust not only with their lives but also with their dollars.

Even amid reports of record Cooperative Program receipts, the board grappled with ways to provide more money to meet rapidly rising cost-of-living needs of missionaries overseas and to provide housing and work budgets for record numbers of missionaries going overseas this year.

J. D. Hughey, secretary for Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia, and board members Raymond L. Spence Jr., and M. Hunter Riggins Jr., were to leave Sept. 17 to meet with seminary president Isam E. Ballenger and others in Ruschlikon and then attend the Sept. 22 session of the European Baptist Federation Council in Vienna.

At its June meeting, the Foreign Mission Board voted to provide a maximum \$300,000 subsidy for the international seminary in 1979 if the European Council accepts responsibility for the institution.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the board, emphasized at the September meeting in Richmond that "nobody wants to close the seminary." But he said the board cannot continue to put a "disproportionate" amount of money into one institution when other needs around the world are so pressing.

Because of inflation and the dollar decline in comparison with the Swiss franc, the seminary ran a deficit of \$48,730 last year. Early this year it was estimated the seminary might run \$100,000 in the red in 1978.

Cauthen said the board representatives will "go and listen and share the real pain that we are experiencing" in having to deal with this financial crisis.

The call for stronger Southern Baptist financial support of its Bold Mission Thrust efforts to present the gospel to everyone in the world by the year 2000 came from R. Keith Parks, director of the board's mission support division. He pointed out that this year's 10.43 percent increase in Cooperative Program receipts and an 11.04 percent increase in the 1977 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions were "good signs."

But he warned: "The harsh realities of dollar devaluation and inflation make readily apparent the fact that financial resources are not escalating rapidly enough to match the swelling tide of human resources."

Parks said Southern Baptists are showing a "heightened awareness" of the need for more missionaries and are "praying forth" more missionaries this year than "at any time in our history." He said "It is highly probable that the Foreign Mission Board (this year) will appoint well beyond 300 for the first time in its history." Last year a record 279 were appointed.

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"Money follows life," said Parks. "The news must go out that lives are being placed on the altar and many more are on the way. If Southern Baptists understand this, they will give. "

During the meeting board members voted \$61,800 to raise cost-of-living support of missionaries in 11 countries, with the largest increases going to Okinawa and Japan where the yen has continued to gain ground against the dollar. Adjustments also were granted to missionaries in Bangladesh, Argentina, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Switzerland, Austria, Cyprus, the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

Responding to growing numbers of missionaries appointed to Spanish-speaking countries, the board reallocated \$25,000 to help furnish housing for missionaries attending the language school in Costa Rica. An airplane for Botswana, Bibles for Ethiopia and an English-language magazine for the young people of eastern and southern Africa were also approved.

In keeping with Bold Mission Thrust goals for increased use of literature, the board acted on the recommendations of an area wide literature conference held recently in Nairobi, Kenya. The board approved \$30,000 for an English-language magazine and another \$25,000 was designated for English-language tracts. Because English is widely spoken in eastern and southern Africa the literature can be widely used. Preparation and publication of Christian books for this area was approved along with \$20,000 to establish a revolving fund for financing them.

The board approved more than \$10,500 for Bible distribution in Ethiopia on the basis of what missionaries there called "an eagerness for and acceptance of the Bible."

Southern Baptists are now living in four different places in Botswana and hope to open additional work in the Kalahari desert of Botswana. Road conditions often make travel between mission stations impossible.

The board voted just over \$67,000 to purchase an airplane to commute between mission stations. Southern Baptist missionary Donald Kirkland, formerly a missionary pilot in Ethiopia, has transferred to Botswana to fly the plane.

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#### Baptist Union of Norway Moves to Seminary Facility

STABEKK, Norway (BP)--The Baptist Union of Norway will move from the First Baptist Church, Oslo, to a new 11.5 million kroner (\$2,202,250 U.S.) building of the Norwegian Baptist Seminary, Stabekk.

The building, recently dedicated by Norwegian Baptists, will also house the Norwegian Baptist Youth Association and the archives of the newly-organized Norwegian Baptist Historical Society, in addition to seminary facilities.

The offices of the Baptist Union of Norway have been located at First Baptist Church, Oslo, for 70 years. The seminary, which has been in Stabekk for several years, was begun at the Oslo church in 1910.

The union's new address is Micheletsvei 62, N-1320, Stabekk, Norway.

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