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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 20, 1978

Tanner Says Bold Mission  
Thrust Alive and Well

By Dan Martin

78-171

ATLANTA (BP)--Bold Mission Thrust and the Mission Service Corps are alive, well and moving forward, William G. Tanner told directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Tanner, who soon will complete his second year as executive director-treasurer of the board, briefed directors on the progress and status of the two key programs during the annual fall board meeting in Atlanta.

"I think Bold Mission Thrust has begun to move," Tanner said. "When I came, it was hung on dead center." Bold Mission Thrust is the denomination's program and theme of winning the nation and world to Christ.

The Home Mission Board's phase of Bold Mission Thrust involves the twin aims of "evangelization and congregationalization," of presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the nation, and of providing a New Testament fellowship of believers for worship and ministry.

"This has been a year of implementation and getting underway," Tanner told directors, referring both to BMT and its companion, Mission Service Corps, which aims at placing 5,000 volunteers to serve alongside career missionaries at home and abroad by 1982.

Tanner said Bold Mission Thrust has had five distinctive elements, which Southern Baptists probably would not be doing without the thrust.

"First, we have developed a long range national strategy that has the capability of winning America to Christ. Second, we have genuinely and systematically attacked (ways to reach) the key cities and counties of our nation. Third, we have seen the Mission Service Corps come into being and begin filling a viable need for channelling people volunteering their lives and funds.

"Fourth," he continued, "we have as a convention, because of BMT, adopted some challenging long range stewardship goals. Fifth, we have created an effort of cooperation that has brought our SBC agencies together in a positive framework of cooperation."

Despite the efforts in Mission Service Corps and Bold Mission Thrust, the results have been less than expected.

"I don't know why evangelism and church starting have been less than expected," Tanner said in an interview. "But I think there's certain amount of lag time between conceptualizing a program and bringing it into actuality.

"I think it's the fever in front of the infection. I think we are going through the fever now, and the work has not caught up with the enthusiasm we have generated in the last year," Tanner said.

He added, however, that he believes baptisms and new church starts will be up in 1978. "I hope this year, and especially 1979, will show an increase in baptisms and new church starts. If it doesn't, I think we're going to have to re-think the whole Bold Mission Thrust and all our priorities."

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Part of the problem, he said, is that the Home Mission Board and the denomination has not been "as effective as we're going to have to be if we're going to tell the story of Bold Mission Thrust. Baptist communications seem to run about three years behind programming.

Part of the problem, he said, is that the theme of the denomination has changed too often in the past. "Baptists, as a rule, have heard us and they smile and say the new theme is great, but I think they're waiting to see if we're really zeroed in.

"We have changed our themes every two or three years, and now we are suddenly locked in on Bold Mission Thrust. I think they (Baptists) are really monitoring us to see if we're serious about this."

The concept, however, is just now beginning to be communicated to the person in the pew, Tanner added. "It just takes time to sell an idea. Our people are now beginning to understand the initials 'BMT'. I think they know what they mean. They may not know what it means for them, but we're seeing a lot of new churches beginning, and many state Baptist conventions and associations are beginning to catch on."

Six months after Tanner became leader of the Home Mission Board, the 1977 SBC in Kansas City changed long-range plans by voting Mission Service Corps into existence. It caught most denominational leaders flat-footed.

"The convention taught us something," Tanner said in the interview. "We thought we had some of our planning done through 1980 and 1981, but they interjected MSC and suddenly our plans were changed."

Tanner disagrees with critics who say Mission Service Corps does not work. "Someone could say we set a goal of 5,000 volunteers by 1982. They could take a look at the statistics and say we don't have 100 yet. And it already is the end of 1978. But, I take the same statistics and say last year we had zero. By the end of this year, we have 56 under appointment for home missions and 20 waiting. That's 76. We have another 60 ready to go and waiting on funding. That's 136.

"Now, if you take \$6,000 per volunteer--and that's a low figure--and multiply it by 136, you get \$816,000. We will have, at the end of this year, 136 people and nearly a million dollars invested in missions that we didn't have a year ago at this point.

"We may never reach 5,000, but we may reach 1,000 or 2,000. Suppose it takes 10 years to reach 5,000. That just means we didn't get there as fast as we would have liked. Even if it takes us 10 or 15 years to reach the goal, I see tremendous progress and have no problem with that kind of time schedule."

"MSC has opened up a whole new vista of involvement for lay people. It has accelerated our program; it has developed a whole new approach to missions," Tanner said.

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Foreign Mission Staffer  
Meets With First Lady

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press  
10/20/78

RICHMOND (BP)--Stanley A. Nelson of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board explored volunteer mission programs and separation of church and state with Rosalynn Carter in a White House interview, Oct. 17.

Nelson, who directs the board's two-year Missionary Journeyman program, requested the interview with Mrs. Carter after she contacted journeymen on trips to Mexico and West Africa. He answered her questions about the relationship between volunteer and career mission programs and discussed problems of separation of church and state raised by President Carter's interest in Southern Baptist missions.

"We're so glad you're a friend of missions, but don't let us use you," Nelson told Mrs. Carter. He believes separation of church and state must be maintained but "could be lost by good intentions."

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He said his remarks were prompted by a May 25 editorial by Jack U. Harwell in The Christian Index, Georgia's state Baptist paper. Harwell's editorial criticized Carter for his part in a Washington fund-raising dinner for Mission Service Corps, the Southern Baptist Convention plan to place 5,000 one and two year volunteer missionaries on home and foreign mission fields to work with career missionaries.

He felt that Carter's actions raised questions about church-state separation both in the eyes of Americans and in the eyes of foreign governments who grant visas for missionaries.

Carter, long active in Southern Baptist church and denominational life, has repeatedly declared that his denominational activity is as a private citizen and Southern Baptist interested in missions, not as president of the United States.

The SBC adopted Mission Service Corps at its 1977 meeting in Kansas City after seeing a videotape of Carter urging the adoption of such a program. Even before this new program began, hundreds of short-term missions volunteers were going overseas annually.

Nelson said he and Mrs. Carter discussed the philosophy of the journeyman program, designed for those who don't feel called to career service overseas but would like a world view before beginning careers in the United States. Journeymen are college graduates 26 years of age and under who serve overseas for two years.

Nelson stressed to Mrs. Carter the auxiliary role of short-term programs. He feels that to be effective the volunteer must work with career missionaries who have a knowledge of the language culture of the country where they serve.

He said he sought the interview because of her interest in the journeyman program and because he thinks "she's a very strong woman and the most influential wife of a president since Eleanor Roosevelt."

Nelson said his impressions of Mrs. Carter were that she is "a shy, very humble type of person, very genuine."

He and Mrs. Carter also discussed Amy Carter's birthday and C. S. Lewis' book series "Chronicles of Narnia," which he will send Amy as a birthday gift from his family.

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Baptist Leaders Protest  
New Vatican Appointment

By Stan L. Hastey

Baptist Press  
10/20/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Carter's decision to appoint former New York City Mayor Robert Wagner as his new personal representative to the Vatican was criticized by James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and by Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy R. Allen.

Wood expressed "profound disappointment" in Carter. In September, Wood asked the president not to name a replacement to David M. Walters, who left the Vatican post shortly after the death of Pope Paul VI.

The Baptist Joint Committee protested Walters' appointment as one showing "preferential treatment" to the Roman Catholic Church. The Baptist agency in Washington has for 30 years consistently opposed any official diplomatic ties with the Roman Catholic Church or any other religious group.

Wood told the president in a September letter that the Vatican appointment is "unnecessary" and that it amounts to establishment of "official diplomatic relations between the U. S. government and the Roman Catholic Church."

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In San Antonio, Texas, where Allen serves as pastor of First Baptist Church, the Southern Baptist Convention president expressed his continuing belief that the practice of sending an envoy to the Vatican is "unconstitutional and unwise."

"Adequate communication on important issues," Allen declared, "has been and can be established without an official representative in the Vatican."

Wagner, New York's mayor, 1954 to 1965, like his predecessor, is a Roman Catholic. He and Walters are the first two Catholics to serve in the post. The practice of sending presidential envoys to Vatican City began in 1939, when Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Myron C. Taylor.

President Harry Truman made an attempt in 1959 to have the position upgraded to full ambassadorial status when he nominated General Mark W. Clark. Under intense public pressure, however, the nomination was withdrawn before the Senate acted on it. The practice of sending a personal representative to the Vatican was revived by Richard Nixon with the 1970 appointment of Henry Cabot Lodge, who also served under Gerald Ford.

Wagner, 68, is an attorney with a private practice in New York City. He reportedly expects to maintain that practice without interruption. In recent years, the Vatican envoy has made two or three trips to Rome annually, discharging mainly ceremonial functions. The post is unpaid, although some Americans assigned to the embassy in Rome work for the envoy.

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SALT II Accord Likely,  
Religious Leaders Told

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10/20/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--The United States' principal arms limitation negotiator expressed cautious optimism about the success of the upcoming SALT II negotiations in Moscow in an address in Washington to nearly 200 religious leaders of different faiths.

Paul C. Warnke, chief SALT negotiator and director of the U. S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, told the audience in a state department meeting, "We are very close" to final agreement with the Soviet Union in the SALT II process.

He also expressed the hope that once the new treaty with the U.S.S.R. is completed, "We can count on (your) support."

Warnke said President Carter is a "genuine believer" in the merits of such agreements with the Soviet Union and recognizes the "moral imperative" of arms control. But he also warned that approval of the treaties will be opposed by many Americans who "generally and genuinely" oppose any formal agreement with the Russians for arms control.

He called the alternative to arms control "unacceptable" and said the escalating arms race is "exotic, frightening, grim in the extreme." Any agreements with the Soviets, he went on, must be "completely unambiguous" and must include verification procedures mutually agreed upon by the two parties.

The list of participants at the day-long meeting included Southern Baptist Convention First Vice President A. Douglas Watterson, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director James E. Wood Jr., and William H. Elder III, director of Christian citizenship development, SBC Christian Life Commission.

Other Southern Baptists included Charles A. Trentham, pastor of First Baptist Church of Washington, D. C.; James A. Langley, executive director of the D. C. Baptist Convention; and Stan L. Hastey, director of information services for the Baptist Joint Committee.

Other Baptist bodies represented at the seminar were the American Baptist Churches in the USA, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, and the National Primitive Baptist Convention.

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A number of Baptist groups have adopted strong statements on arms control and disarmament in recent months, including the Southern Baptist Convention, the American Baptist Churches, the Baptist Joint Committee, the SBC Christian Life Commission and the Baptist World Alliance.

At its Atlanta meeting in June, the SBC went on record supporting "the continued efforts of our national leaders to achieve strategic arms limitations." The resolution concluded by urging the U. S. and other nations "to shift funds from nuclear weapons systems to basic human needs, such as education, medicine, and relief from hunger."

The Baptist Joint Committee last year took action commending President Carter for his commitment "to limit the world's armaments to those necessary for each nation's own domestic safety" and ultimately "the elimination of all nuclear weapons from this earth."

The Christian Life Commission has pledged its active support of the SALT II process, explaining in a statement in early October that "establishing such a treaty is a morally responsible act on the path toward the higher and broader goals of international justice and peace."

Similar actions favoring arms control and disarmament were taken last June by the General Board of the American Baptist Churches and in July by the General Council of the Baptist World Alliance.

One of Warnke's associates in the arms control and disarmament agency, Thomas A. Halstead, told participants at the Washington meeting that "most" Americans with whom he talks about SALT II are asking the question, "Can we trust the Russians?" Others, however, including many religious leaders, are asking if the proposed agreement goes far enough, he said.

Warnke predicted that SALT II will be one among several similar agreements aimed at reducing nuclear weapons degree by degree. "Our ultimate objective is to go much beyond" SALT II to the day when money and time currently devoted by the world's superpowers to the buildup of nuclear stockpiles will be transformed to the "service of life," he concluded.

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Trustees Elect New  
Chairman, Ok Budget

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10/20/78

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Ray Scoggins, minister of education/administration at Westbury Baptist Church in Houston, has been named chairman of the board of trustees for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

He succeeds Harold Martin, who resigned to become executive vice president for the commission. Scroggins, former vice chairman, has been a member of the trustees since 1971.

In other business, the trustees approved the commission's request for a 48 percent or \$1.45 million increase from the Cooperative Program for budget use in 1979-80. The current budget is \$3 million.

Paul M. Stevens, commission president, said the increase is needed to provide additional special television programs, distribute the "Baptist Hour" on a national network system and to provide a cost of living increase.

"Television and radio are divine tools which God has placed in the hands of Southern Baptists," said Stevens, who was honored for 25 year's service at the meeting. "Through the media we are in the unique position...to touch the lives of those who are virtually unreachable by any other means."

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R-TV Commission Hailed  
For It's Alcohol Battle

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission program "Powerline" has been commended by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for its efforts in combating youth alcoholism.

Harry Bell, director of public affairs for the institute in Washington, D. C., cited the show for its numerous editorials on alcoholism. "This program is making an impact on youth," he said. "It has put the disease of alcoholism in its proper perspective."

"Kids are like sponges in absorbing all that is around them. 'Powerline' has made it clear that alcoholism is a real and deadly road to follow. It has changed it from an attractive habit to the ugly condition that it is."

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Midwestern Sets New  
Office, Elects Baker

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary named the school's first vice president for business and development and elected an associate professor of Christian ethics in semi-annual session.

C. W. Scudder, administrator of internal affairs at Midwestern since 1975, will assume duties immediately as vice president for business and development. A former pastor and teacher, he was professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, for 21 years.

In the newly created business and development position, Scudder will continue to be in charge of business affairs, auxiliary services and physical plant operations and will initiate and continue a development program.

Larry Baker, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ark., since 1975, is the new associate professor of Christian ethics. Midwestern has been without a full-time ethics professor since John Howell became academic dean in 1976.

Baker, 41, is a native of Louisiana. He holds the bachelor of divinity degree and the master and doctoral degrees in theology from Southwestern Seminary.

Assistant professor of Christian ethics and pastoral ministry at Southwestern, 1973-75, Baker has also taught at Midwestern as visiting professor of ethics and at Ouachita Baptist University Extension Center as Bible professor.

In other action the trustees approved a new position and responsibilities for Doran McCarty, formerly professor of theology and Christian philosophy. As professor of supervisory studies, McCarty will direct the seminary's program of supervised ministries and develop and direct a program for continuing education.

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Southeastern Trustees  
OK Capital Campaign

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10/20/78

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected E. T. Vinson chairman, approved a \$3.5 million capital endowment campaign and elected Ben F. Philbeck of Kansas City, Mo., as professor of Old Testament interpretation at their semi-annual meeting.

Vinson, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Greenville, N. C., succeeds Tom Brandon of Sherman, Texas.

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Money from the capital endowment campaign will go to re-cycle the 145-year-old campus, provide married student housing and add to the school's endowment. Southeastern occupies the campus which formerly housed Wake Forest College. The three-year campaign was approved by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention at its September meeting and by the seminary's 30-member development council.

Philbeck, currently professor of Hebrew and Old Testament interpretation at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will join Southeastern Aug. 1, 1979. He has taught at Carson-Newman College where he received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1972 and at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned the bachelor of science degree from Wake Forest University, the bachelor of divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary, and a doctoral degree from Southern Seminary.

He was named an Outstanding Educator in America in 1971. In 1970 he wrote the commentary on "I and II Samuel," Vol. III, in "The Broadman Bible Commentary." He also wrote the commentary on "Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel" for "The Teacher's Bible Commentary," in 1972.

The trustees also voted to establish the Fletcher Visiting Professors of Missions, named for James Floyd and Mrs. Louise Barker Fletcher, pioneer missionaries in Western North Carolina and Southwestern Virginia.

In other actions the trustees:

--Granted permission to proceed with plans to construct 100 townhouse apartments, and to negotiate a loan not to exceed \$2,582,444 for construction of the apartments.

--Authorized the administration to develop a 23-lot residential subdivision to provide building sites for faculty and administrative officers.

--Approved "in principle" a proposal to offer seminary courses for credit on the Mars Hill College campus for ministers in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.

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Committee Channels Resources  
To Student Ministries

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--During the 1977-78 church year, more than \$62,000 was channelled through Southern Baptists' Newer Convention Support Committee to provide assistance to student ministries in newer Baptist convention areas.

The Newer Convention Support Committee was developed in 1975 to identify needs of newer conventions and resources available throughout the United States and bring them together, said David Hazelwood, new work development consultant in National Student Ministries at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Funds administered by the advisory committee, composed of representatives from the Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board and state student directors, comes from a variety of contributors.

"Since its beginning, the program has increased by about 20 percent each year," Hazelwood said. "Newer conventions are those established since 1940 and the need is great in the area of student ministry."

Fourteen of the 33 state Baptist conventions are classified newer conventions. Of 376 fulltime student directors in the SBC, 326 are in the established conventions and 50 in the new ones. Of 114 parttime directors, 91 are in the established conventions and 23 in the new conventions.

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"There's quite a bit of disparity between the new and established conventions and our committee is trying to help lighten the burden," Hazelwood said.

During 1977-78, 42 of the 363 campuses received assistance through the channelling process of the committee. The assistance included 52 HELP student teams, a career worker, six US-2 workers, a student work team, two seminary interns and 22 adopted campuses, plus salary supplements and program assistance.

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NABF Elects Bullen  
And Satterfield

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TORONTO, Canada (BP)--The North American Baptist Fellowship elected Fred L. Bullen as chairman for 1978-79 and planned cooperatively in the areas of evangelism, ethics, communications, stewardship development and denominational administration.

NABF, which represents nine Baptist conventions and conferences in North America, also elected Lee B. Satterfield, a Southern Baptist optometrist from Altavista, Va., as vice chairman. Bullen, general secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada, and Satterfield succeed Ernest K. Bee Jr. of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference and Dolores Duck of the General Association of General Baptists.

Charles F. Wills, new associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, is NABF secretary, and Fred B. Rhodes, BWA treasurer, is NABF treasurer.

In other action, NABF approved a 1979 budget of \$15,030 and a 1980 budget of \$15,900, both up from the 1978 budget of \$13,895.

The participants also inspected Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto, meeting place for the 14th Baptist World Congress in July, 1980, and expressed appreciation for two long-time Baptist leaders--Porter W. Routh, who will retire as executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, and Carl W. Tiller, who resigned last January from the Baptist World Alliance to take another post. Tiller had served for a number of years as NABF secretary.

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