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78-176

Doctrinal Issues Take
Center Stage in Missouri

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP)--Doctrinal issues took center stage during the 144th annual session of the Missouri Baptist Convention, as messengers exhorted Baptist colleges to uphold biblical inerrancy but refused to take a position on ordination of women.

In three different resolutions during sessions at First Baptist Church of St. Johns, messengers urged establishment of doctrinal guidelines for the colleges or that the convention take position on doctrinal issues such as ordination of women or the existence of a personal Devil.

Ron Moseley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Macon, Mo., introduced a resolution to "exhort" the trustees of the four Baptist colleges affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention to "preserve doctrinal integrity" by employing or continuing to employ professors who believe in "the inspiration of the whole Bible, the inerrancy of the original manuscripts, the existence of a personal Devil and a literal Hell, the actual existence of a primeval couple named Adam and Eve, the literal occurrence of the miracles as recorded in the Bible, the virgin birth and bodily resurrection, and personal return of the Lord Jesus."

The convention's resolutions committee attempted to refer the matter to the various boards of trustees, pointing out that the resolution violated the convention's constitution and smacked of credalism.

However, the messengers refused. Moseley declared the resolution only "exhorted" the trustees and did not demand anything. About 60 percent of the messengers present and voting supported his position and the original resolution carried.

In light of this vote, Elton Johnson, pastor of Forest Park Baptist Church, Joplin, Mo., moved to table a resolution he had introduced condemning by name the teachings of David Moore, chairman of the department of religion at William Jewell College.

Johnson, who was dismissed by the college about a year ago, charged Moore "denied belief in the existence of Satan as a separate being and the source of all evil."

The resolutions committee, in its written report, pointed out that the board of trustees of William Jewell College had already investigated Johnson's allegations and found them erroneous. The committee further quoted from a statement of faith prepared by the professor which said in part, "...When this spiritual evil is described in Scripture it is Satan, and, as such, Satan is a personal spiritual being."

The New Madrid Baptist Association in southeast Missouri asked the convention to condemn ordination of women as "unscriptural" and "erroneous." However, the messengers supported the resolutions committee position that the request violated the convention's constitution concerning local church autonomy and was out of order.

In other action the 1,197 messengers approved a convention budget of \$8.1 million, directed a study of a possible statewide counseling ministry under the direction of the state convention, and elected a new president.

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S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

The new budget designates 34 percent of all Cooperative Program receipts to mission causes outside Missouri through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program budget for world missions.

The study of the counseling ministry is an apparent outgrowth of financial difficulties at the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, St. Louis. Recently, to correct a deficit budget, the home dismissed more than 20 employees and cut back services in every area.

Much of the difficulty has been attributed to the children's homes new Christian psychological and family services ministry. Under this program, professional counseling was available at more than 20 centers in the state before the cutbacks began.

Messengers elected Homer DeLozier, retired director of the missions for the St. Louis Baptist mission board and first vice president for the Missouri Baptist Convention. He succeeds Paul Swadley, pastor of South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo.

Other resolutions adopted by the messengers included opposition to an ambassador to the Vatican, to "by-pass procedures" used by the U. S. Department of Education to skirt Missouri's prohibitions against public funds going into parochial elementary and secondary schools, and to an upcoming constitutional amendment on sweepstakes gambling in Missouri.

The messengers also expressed dismay toward the American Broadcasting Company's policy of cultivating evangelical Christian audiences through its subsidiary, Word, Inc., a religious publisher in Waco, Texas, while continuing to be a major polluter of the nation's air waves through ABC Television.

The 1979 convention will meet Oct. 22-24, at First Baptist Church, Raytown, Mo., a Kansas City suburb.

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Griffin Bell Participates
In Dilday Inauguration

Debbie Stewart and Philip Poole

Baptist Press
10/30/78

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)-- Russell H. Dilday Jr. was inaugurated as the sixth president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during a week featuring speeches by United States Attorney General Griffin Bell and Baker J. Cauthen, executive director, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Bell, a former deacon at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, where Dilday was pastor before coming to Southwestern, brought greetings to his former pastor from President Jimmy Carter during a seminary-sponsored luncheon for Fort Worth business and civic leaders.

The attorney general, now a member of First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., told the business and civic leaders that government must cut back on the burdensome abundance of regulations.

"The U. S. government has more regulations over us than King George III" had over England, said Bell, who declared that "five percent of the annual gross national product is governmental paperwork."

Earlier, Dilday addressed 2,000 persons who witnessed his inauguration as successor to Robert E. Naylor, now president emeritus. "Many people ask me about an oversupply of ministers," said Dilday, who became president, Aug. 1. "How can there be an oversupply of ministers when we have more than 136 million unsaved people in this country alone? How can there be an oversupply when our missionary needs are overextended?"

Cauthen noted that 40 percent of the Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are graduates of Southwestern Seminary, where about 3,500 students are enrolled presently.

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"God has seen fit to make you what you are today, the largest evangelical seminary in the world," Cauthen said during the inaugural ceremony. "God has answered prayers, multiplied efforts and brought Southwestern to a new place in world prominence."

"Many seminaries today send out SOS--Save Our Seminary," Dilday said. "We at Southwestern can also send out an SOS: the Spirit of Southwestern and the Strength of Southwestern."

"Our spirit is transmitted in the missionaries, congregations and our students," he said. "In our strength we must use the resources we now possess in faithful stewardship. We must heed a call to creativity, to new ways of reaching out."

Other activities of the inaugural week included a seminary dinner attended by presidents of all six Southern Baptist seminaries and many denominational and seminary leaders. About 4,000 students, faculty and administrators of Southwestern attended a student day picnic featuring Grady Nutt, Christian humorist.

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Sidney Smith Named
Ethnic Consultant

Baptist Press
10/30/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Sidney Smith Jr., director of Christian social ministries for the Home Mission Board in the south central Los Angeles area, has been named as a consultant in the ethnic liaison unit at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, beginning Jan. 1, 1979.

Smith, 35, will work primarily with black churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention to help them understand better the materials and services available from the Sunday School Board.

A consultant to work with Hispanic churches in the Southern Baptist Convention is expected to be employed soon. Both consultants will work with orientals and other ethnic minorities.

"With the growing ethnic pluralism of the Southern Baptist Convention, the need for such a person as Dr. Smith has greatly increased," explained Grady C. Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board. "We are happy at the possibility of providing adequate help to the ethnic congregations and persons affiliated with the convention."

"Southern Baptists are to be commended for taking this most progressive step forward increasing our effectiveness toward multiethnic groups," said Smith, a black Southern Baptist. "I'm looking forward to dialogue with ethnic groups to discover their needs from their perspective."

Smith, a graduate of the University of Corpus Christi, holds the master of religious education degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and the doctor of philosophy degree from the California Graduate School of Theology.

Before assuming his present position with the Home Mission Board, Smith served as associate minister at Baptist churches in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Vallejo, Calif., and Corpus Christi, Texas; and minister of education or minister of youth activities at Baptist churches in San Francisco and Vallejo.

He also served as minister of Christian social ministries for the First Southern Baptist Church, Compton, Calif., while with the Home Mission Board in Los Angeles.

Smith is founder of the Southern Baptist "Twinning Program," in which multiethnic pairs of churches have enrolled over 25,000 in Vacation Bible Schools during the last nine summers.

He has served as state project coordinator for the Multiethnic Advisory Council of the missions division staff of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, in which five ethnic groups dialogue with the missions division staff to improve effectiveness in multiethnic ministry.

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Additionally, he has been involved in a prison ministry, summer missions, television and radio ministries, and as a lecturer at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in courses on the multiethnic church.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers by Baptist Press Sunday School Board Bureau.

Annuity Board Issues '13th
Check,' Starts MSC Group

Baptist Press
10/30/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--More than 11,000 annuitants who participate in retirement programs with the Southern Baptist Annuity Board will receive a full month's extra benefit amounting cumulatively to slightly over \$1 million.

Because of a good investment year by the board, the agency's trustees voted a "13th check" to most retirees in December during their semi-annual meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville, Tenn.

The check, amounting to one extra full month's benefit, will go to annuitants who participate in plans which qualify for the extra payment, and who were drawing a benefit as of Sept. 30, 1978, according to Darold H. Morgan, president of the Dallas-based Annuity Board.

The issuance of the "13th check" has been a policy of the board since 1967. Last year, a permanent increase of 8.33 percent was given to annuitants in lieu of the extra check.

In other action, the trustees of the agency, which administers retirement and insurance programs for denominational and church personnel, approved a \$5,053,392 operating budget for 1979. That amounts to less than eight-tenths of a percent of the \$578.8 million in total assets the agency invests for program participants.

The trustees also heard reports on the development of a special medical insurance group to cover needs of persons who serve in the Southern Baptist Convention's new Mission Service Corps, and of continuing efforts to urge Baptist churches and organizations to upgrade annual retirement contributions to 10 percent of total compensation.

Morgan said the group for the short-term one and two-year missionaries was set up with Aetna Life and Casualty in this special case "as an extra effort by the Annuity Board to assist the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust by helping those who have made the sacrifice to enter Mission Service Corps."

MSC is a plan for persons, either sponsored by themselves or others, to go for one or two-years service at home or abroad as part of Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC plan to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world in this century.

Cost of the special medical group, effective only for the duration of MSC service, will be borne by the volunteer or sponsor. It is available to MSC participants without proof of insurability.

Elaborating on the upgrading of retirement programs, Morgan declared: "Unless a church or agency increases pension contributions on behalf of employees to at least 10 percent of total compensation, retirees will not be able to live in retirement, even with Social Security, without a drastic change in lifestyle. Our number one priority is to communicate this need."

In other action, the trustees:

1. Approved a treasurer's report which reflects a gain of assets held in trust for participants of \$95 million during 1978--a figure bringing the total asset amount to \$578.8 million. During the first nine months, the report indicated net earnings of almost \$49 million in the Flexible Dollar Fund (all asset and reserve holdings of the Annuity Board, except those in Plan C-Variable Benefit Fund).

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2. Approved the allocation of two percent "good experience credit" (credit in excess of assumed earnings for Plan A) on accrued benefits in Plans A10, All and A25, effective Jan. 1, 1979), provided earnings for 1978 do not substantially decrease by Dec. 31, 1978.

3. Approved the crediting of 6 percent earnings to Age Security Plan B member accounts for 1978, unless evaluation of the plan at year's end indicates a drastic decrease in earnings.

4. Endorsed a set of "objectives, priorities and long-range goals" directing Annuity Board activities through 1989, including the creation of an endowment department to raise \$25 million by 1989. The endowment earnings will be used to fund extra pension benefits for ministers and church and denominational employees.

5. Accepted an insurance report which reveals that Aetna Life and Casualty, underwriter, recommends a 10 to 12 percent increase in premium costs for agency and church medical insurance programs administered by the Annuity Board. No increases are expected for life and long-term disability coverage.

6. Heard a progress report on legislation supported by the Annuity Board which would amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974. The Annuity Board is a member of the Church Alliance for Clarification of ERISA, an organization of religious denominations that have joined together to seek clarification and amendment of the federal pension law.

Earlier, the trustees presented a special recognition to Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, for his years of service. He will retire next year.

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Mission Service Corps
Numbers Grow Overseas

Baptist Press
10/30/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Mission Service Corps volunteers serving overseas numbered 28 at the end of October and represented a total support commitment of almost \$200,000.

The need exists for many more, says Lewis I. Myers Jr., who coordinates the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's part of the Mission Service Corps, a plan under which persons may volunteer for one to two years service on Baptist mission fields to supplement career missionaries at home and abroad.

Foreign mission fields have made requests for Mission Service Corps volunteers more quickly than volunteers are found and financed, said Myers, noting some 200 requests from the field are currently being processed.

Myers said more than 50 other MSC volunteers are in the screening process. Twenty-six of these have full or partial support lined up.

An earlier report from the Home Mission Board in Atlanta indicated that the board has assigned 79 MSC volunteers, has 20 in process and 132 available without funding.

Mission Service Corps volunteers serve through the financial support of Southern Baptists, either individually or as congregations or groups. Others provide their own support. Gifts are over and above regular contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program and special missions offerings.

The Foreign Mission Board has some sponsorship funds awaiting the approval of volunteers, but these total only \$80,000--approximately the amount required for 10 volunteers to serve for one year.

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Myers pointed out that since the beginning of Mission Service Corps in 1977 people involved in its planning have known it would cost more to sponsor the MSC personnel overseas because of the travel involved. The goal of Mission Service Corps is to have 5,000 volunteers serving on home and foreign mission fields by 1982.

Mission Service Corps is only one of the Foreign Mission Board's volunteer service opportunities for persons wishing to serve one-to-two-year terms.

Additionally, short-term volunteers, serving from two weeks to a year, go out by the hundreds each year through the board's offices of laymen overseas, evangelism and church development, and the medical consultant. Baptist families moving overseas for secular reasons are also enlisted for active participation in overseas congregations. All of these programs are being stepped up to reach the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust goal of 10,000 volunteers on the foreign field annually by the year 2000.

The Home Mission Board has a similar range of short-term volunteer programs other than Mission Service Corps. The Home Board's goal is 100,000 volunteers a year by 1986.

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Living Through War--Daily
Routines Become Major Tasks

By Ruth Fowler

Baptist Press
10/30/78

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--The object is more than survival. Southern Baptist missionaries struggling through Beirut's on-again, off-again war want to maintain their ministries, and, as much as possible, a normal life style.

Under the pressures of daily fighting, even the routines once taken for granted become major decisions. Is it safe for the children to go to school today? What route should be taken to the markets for food? Are the bedrooms safe for sleeping? Should water be stored in the bathtub or will utilities stay in service?

David W. King, stationed with his family at the Baptist seminary in Beirut's Christian sector, told of some of these daily problems in a recent letter.

Where to sleep became the first issue. As fighting escalated and the noise of nearby shelling intruded, King realized the possibilities of receiving a direct shell hit or having windows broken out were real.

The closer the fighting came, the more missionaries took to sleeping in basements and interior hallways. For the Kings, it meant putting makeshift foam rubber mattresses in the basement. The J. Wayne Fullers not only spent some nights in the hallway, but also some days when the fighting was roughest.

Children of missionaries stationed in the eastern Christian sector normally attend an American school in the western Muslim sector. The regular route to school meant a drive through the fighting zone. Some days the children did not go to school at all. Other days King chose a longer but safer route that took more than an hour each way--twice the normal driving time.

During one week, Mrs. King and their two younger children, Jonathan, 14, and Jeanne, 12, slept on borrowed mattresses at the University Baptist Church, also in the Muslim sector, so that the young people could attend school.

Maintaining communication with each other and with Baptist families is another priority of missionaries in such crisis times. Dr. and Mrs. Peter J. Manoogian operate a hospital in Beirut's Ashrafiyeh section. No one had heard from them and people were leaving Ashrafiyeh because of the fighting.

King decided to check on their welfare, driving through no man's land to their home. They were safe, but their home had been hit. One of their neighbors had been killed.

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The Kings' oldest son, David Jr., is living in Beirut with his wife, Sherry, and teaching at the American University. The Kings were concerned because their daughter-in-law was pregnant and the hospital in the Muslim district where they lived had received several direct hits. During a lull in the fighting King drove them to Jordan so that his daughter could stay with Southern Baptist missionaries while awaiting the birth.

Beirut also has experienced utility problems. Some residents had to live for days in basements without water or hygiene facilities, but missionaries were spared this because they were not in the areas of heaviest fighting. Electricity and telephone service were out for as much as a week at a time. During one power outage, King was at home at the seminary, and his family was living in the church to be near the children's school. He could not communicate with them for several days. He went down to the school to get them on Friday and bring them home for the weekend.

"I really felt isolated from the family," King recalled. "It was so good to be all together and back home again.

"It has taken all our time to keep body and soul together, but we have great hopes for peace. If this effort fails, Heaven help us all."

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Preschoolers Need
A Spiritual Foundation

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
10/30/78

LYNCHBURG, Va. (BP)--Laying a foundation for preschoolers to grow spiritually rather than expecting them to understand adult concepts about God was a concern expressed by speakers at a preschool fall retreat at Eagle Eyrie Baptist Assembly.

Marjorie Stith, head of the department of family and child development at Kansas State University, said concern for a preschooler's spiritual development is closely linked to the question of when he will be able to make a decision to accept Christ.

However, she said, parents and teachers often make a mistake with preschoolers in trying to translate adult concepts from the Bible into terms children can understand. In the process, they do injustice to the concepts, she said.

To know when and how to introduce spiritual truths, a preschool worker must understand the developmental stages of young children she told 139 persons at the four-day retreat sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department.

For example, she said, a young preschooler cannot understand how one object can have two properties, such as being both blue and wooden. "And then we toss him God the Father and God the Son," she said.

On the positive side, Miss Stith urged workers to share their own faith with preschoolers and to build from their present level of understanding. "Children will have faith if we help them," she said.

Another speaker, Laura Knox, said many parents negate the likelihood that their children will have a positive learning experience in Sunday School.

Mrs. Knox, instructor in early childhood education at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., said many children arrive at Sunday School after being yelled at to hurry and get ready and warned about being good and not getting their clothes dirty.

Then, she added, when their parents pick them up after church, instead of encouraging them to share their experiences, the first thing they do is cross-examine their offspring about their behavior.

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"I sometimes wonder if the hour before Sunday School and the hour after church are the least Christlike times of the week in many families," Mrs. Knox said.

Jeroline Baker, associate professor of childhood education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, led a conference on preschoolers and church ordinances.

"There's more uneasiness about the Lord's Supper because the preschooler feels left out and doesn't understand why," she said.

Miss Baker said that instead of staying home or bringing crackers for their preschoolers when the Lord's Supper is observed, that parents should explain what's going to happen in advance.

On baptism, she said parents or workers could show a child the baptistry and talk about what the pastor will do during the ordinance.

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Florida Baptist Gives
\$60,000 Trust to PBA

Baptist Press
10/30/78

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP)--Mrs. Blye Treadway, a long-time supporter of Palm Beach Atlantic College, has established a \$60,000 unitrust with the Baptist college. The funds will go eventually to endowment.

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Family Baptized
Where Son Drowned

LAKE SHORE, Md. (BP)--Three months after rescuers pulled Scott Colvin's lifeless body from the Magothy River, eight members of Scott's family walked into the same water to be baptized.

The Colvin family began attending Lake Shore Baptist Church together after Scott's death. Members there, where Scott had been enrolled in Sunday School, responded to the Colvins' grief.

After several weeks, George Colvin, his wife and the six of their nine children still at home, accepted Christ and asked for baptism and church membership.

Mrs. Colvin asked that the baptismal service be held at the same site in the river where Scott had drowned. The Colvins, robed in white, were baptized together, along with five other candidates, while 147 church members lined the banks singing.

"It was a tense moment," said Warren Burnham, pastor of Lake Shore Baptist Church. "It was a tearful moment. It was a joyful moment. Only God could have created such people. Only God could have produced such response, such faith, such caring that could bring such a moment into focus."

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