

October 31, 1978

78-177-A

Sapp Urges Change In Thanksgiving Method

Many Americans choose a strange way to thank God for their abundant blessings according to the coordinator of Southern Baptists' first Convocation on World Hunger.

"We spend Thanksgiving Day in an orgy of over-consumption, hoping that somehow God will judge how grateful we are by how much food we eat," says David Sapp of the SBC Christian Life Commission. "It is almost as though we are showing God our tables and saying, 'Look how much you have given us.'

"Perhaps this Thanksgiving we could ask God to fill our hearts with willingness to share, just as he has filled our tables with food."

Illinois Congressman John B. Anderson joins SBC President Jimmy Allen, Bread for the World Director Art Simon and theologian Francis DuBose in the lineup Sapp and representatives of eight sponsoring agencies have assembled to seek solutions to world hunger. The convocation is Nov. 20-21 at Ridgcrest Baptist Conference Center, near Asheville, N.C.

Other conference participants include James Grant, president of the Overseas Development Council; Ron Sider, author of "Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger;" and Midge Meinertz, assistant for development for the Church World Service.

Anderson, Republican House Conference leader, co-sponsored a resolution that calls for establishment of a Presidential Commission on World Hunger. Evangelicals for Social Action named Anderson their "Layman of the Year."

The convocation, strategically timed during national consciousness of food and abundance, will search for solutions to agricultural problems, trade policies and underdeveloped resources that keep food from the world's hungry.

"It is not likely that I can package my leftover turkey and send it to a hungry person," Sapp says. "But I can give money which will temporarily alleviate hunger in crisis situations. I can also give money to train the hungry in better agricultural practices.

"But in the final analysis, a large percentage of the earth's starving people live in areas which simply do not have the potential to meet American standards of agricultural productivity. In order to help those people, we must act responsibly as Christian citizens to ensure fair trade policies and economic assistance which will promote self reliance."

Registration is still open for interested persons. Send a \$25 deposit (\$15 for students) to the Ridgcrest Conference Center. Total cost will range between \$47 and \$58, depending on accommodations.

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 31, 1978

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a package of pictures and a short story put together primarily as an alternative to another Thanksgiving season featuring everybody's favorite bird, the all-American turkey.

Increasing awareness among Southern Baptists of world hunger and the timely contrast between hunger and the abundance remembered at Thanksgiving make the convocation especially pertinent for mention.

I've selected the pictures to run together, which they can easily do with minor changes in the cutlines, or separately, if one is all the room you can afford.

Use it as you wish.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Norman

Norman Jameson
Feature Editor, Baptist Press

NJ: vm

enclosures



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78-177

**King James Version Will
Return To 'Life and Work'**

By Bracey Campbell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will return to the use of two versions of Scripture--including the King James--in four periodicals of the "Life and Work Series" beginning in October of 1979.

The decision to return the parallel columns of Scripture was made following a substantial number of letters and calls from many areas of the country expressing concern when the King James Version was deleted in the October, 1978, issues of "Adult Bible Teacher," "Young Adult Bible Study," "Adult Bible Study" and "Senior Adult Bible Study."

October, 1979, is the earliest possible date to make the change in the quarterlies because of the printing schedule for the periodicals. The January through September periodicals of 1979 are already in production.

President Grady Cothen said, "The Sunday School Board holds as a constant objective the meeting of the needs of our people. Sometimes we read their needs and desires inaccurately, but they are always ready to show us our error.

"In light of the pastors' desires, the expressed judgment of a considerable number of our people and our sense of stewardship, we will return to the use of two versions of Scripture in the 'Life and Work Series,' including the King James Version," he said.

The change in the "Life and Work Series" to the single contemporary translation accompanied the October introduction of the "Bible Book Series," which uses King James almost exclusively. In addition, the third major series of periodicals, the "Convention Uniform Series," prints the King James Version as the basic text.

James Clark, executive vice president, Robert Fulbright, director of the Bible teaching division, and Harry Piland, Sunday School department director, also emphasized the Sunday School Board's desire to act responsively to its constituency.

"We feel very positive about the decision to restore the King James in parallel columns," Clark said. "We're committed to the Word of God and the needs of the churches."

Fulbright added that the move back to parallel columns also resulted from the responses to a request for feedback from readers made in the October, 1978, periodicals by editors of the "Life and Work Series."

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Senior Adult Ministry
Should Include Service

Baptist Press
10/31/78

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Senior adult groups which just do for themselves and don't help others won't remain healthy, an associate pastor told leaders attending a Senior Adult Chautauqua.

Wayman Jones, associate pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Sarasota, Fla., said he feels that trips and monthly meetings are important but that too many senior adult groups stop there.

"A place to begin is to build fellowship and organization," added Gary Hauk, senior adult consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

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But developing the concept of ministry is the next big step, he said, noting that "it's harder to program service ministries than trips and monthly meetings."

Leaders from senior adult groups which have ministry activities reported positive experiences.

Isabel Duro, a lay leader from the University Baptist Church, Coral Gables, Fla., noted that a service fellowship is an integral part of their senior adult program.

Activities of the service fellowship have included doing minor repairs in the sanctuary, making wheelchair trays for nursing homes, sewing curtains for Sunday School classrooms and making Christmas wreaths to decorate the church.

Senior adults need encouragement to help other senior adults, said David Harbeson, director of Christian social ministries for the Mobile (Ala.) Baptist Association.

For example, he said some senior adults could continue to live in their own home if they have help with minor home maintenance problems such as changing light bulbs and lawn care.

"I could spend all of my time doing minor home repairs for senior adults who can't pay labor costs but can pay for materials," Harbeson said.

Senior adults can play an important role in locating those who have needs, said Johnny Stack, director of Christian social ministries for the Greenville (S. C.) Baptist Association.

"Often the biggest problem in ministering to senior adults is the fact that they are proud people who don't want to accept a hand out," said Stack.

He cited the example of a recently widowed man who lived for several months on instant grits. "He wasn't poor. He just didn't know how to cook anything else," Stack said.

A desire by senior adults at First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., to meet the needs of the poor has resulted in a thrift show in a separate building near the church. It's operated primarily by senior adults.

A group of participants in an advanced leadership conference pooling ideas for ministry, listed such things as telephone reassurance, volunteer work in organizations like the Red Cross, and providing transportation and work in prisons and international ministries.

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North American Baptists
Continue Growth Pattern

Baptist Press
10/31/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptists in North America, led by growth in the United States, continued a decade pattern of growth according to new statistics compiled by the Baptist World Alliance.

Church growth figures indicate there are 29,191,348 Baptists in 101,855 Baptist churches in North America, compared with 29,016,036 Baptists in 101,245 churches in 1977, an increase of .006 percent in members. Ten years ago, Baptist church membership was 26,412,866 in North America.

Carl Tiller, former Baptist World Alliance staff member who compiled the data, said Southern Baptists accounted for the majority of growth. While Baptists in Canada and Mexico experienced slight decreases, Southern Baptists grew by 160,092 and other Baptists in the United States increased by 21,436.

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The largest Baptist bodies in the United States, and their membership, as reported by the Baptist World Alliance, are: Southern Baptist Convention, 13,083,199; National Baptist Convention, Inc., 6.3 million (estimated); National Baptist Convention of America, 3.5 million (estimated); American Baptist Churches, 1,584,517; Baptist Bible Fellowship, 1.2 million (estimated); American Baptist Association, 1,089,000.

The first four on the list are four of the 111 member bodies of the Baptist World Alliance, the other two are not.

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Two Baptist Churches Hit,
But Baptist Schools Open

By Frances Fuller

Baptist Press
10/31/78

BEIRUT, Lebanon(BP)--Two Baptist churches in the Beirut area were damaged during recent fighting between Syrian forces and right wing militia. No one was injured in the shelling and Baptist ministries are continuing.

A direct hit on the Bikfaya Baptist Church east of Beirut struck iron reinforcements and did not penetrate the wall. None of the 30 people in the building were harmed. The Baptist Relief Committee in Lebanon voted to spend \$3,500 from relief funds for building repair.

For the second time since the fighting began early this fall, the Badaro Street Baptist Church in Furnesshebbak, a suburb of Beirut, was damaged. Three rockets struck the building, including direct hits in the sixth-floor pastor's apartment and on the ground floor. The basement of this church is used as a shelter for church members and neighbors.

The shelling took place before the recent cease-fire, but damage could not be reported at that time because of interrupted cable service.

All of the Southern Baptist missionary personnel who left Beirut during the heaviest fighting in late October have returned. The Beirut Baptist School and the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, both education ministries of Southern Baptist missionaries, have opened for fall classes.

Radio and publications ministries continue, though hindered by lack of mail service.

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Frances (Mrs. J. Wayne) Fuller is a Southern Baptist missionary in Lebanon.

High Court Hears Arguments
In Key Church-State Case

Baptist Press
10/31/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--An agency of the federal government should not be allowed to order unionization elections in parochial schools, argued an attorney for two Catholic school systems before the U. S. Supreme Court.

This is especially true, attorney Don H. Reuben argued, because high court decisions in recent years have held that in most instances such schools are not eligible for public funds. To rule now that parochial schools are required to comply with federal fair labor regulations would offend "fundamental fairness," he declared.

In 1977, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ordered Catholic schools in Chicago and Fort Wayne and South Bend, Ind., to initiate collective bargaining with lay teachers. The NLRB also ordered the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese to reinstate two teachers who had been fired for engaging in pro-union activities.

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The case is seen by church-state observers as a key test in what is becoming an increasingly serious matter for church agencies, namely, the right of the federal government to mandate that churches comply with regulations.

A separate suit involving Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's refusal to file anti-discrimination information with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is presently pending in a federal district court. Constitutional issues in the two cases are similar.

In oral arguments before the Supreme Court, Wade H. McCree, solicitor general of the United States, said that the NLRB has legal jurisdiction over all schools. He argued that although the National Labor Relations Act has for some time empowered the federal agency to enforce bargaining between church officials and teachers' unions in religious schools, it has voluntarily refrained from exercising that authority.

Pressed by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, who asked McCree if such jurisdiction extends to seminaries, the nation's chief lawyer said that the NLRB has simply not chosen to test its authority with such schools.

McCree was constantly interrupted by several of the justices who appeared unhappy with his line of reasoning. At one point during McCree's half-hour presentation, three of the justices sought to question him at once.

McCree argued that because states are legally empowered to make numerous requirements of parochial schools, including mandatory attendance and minimum health and safety standards, the federal government has a legitimate interest in the labor practices of such schools.

He also cited two papal encyclicals supporting the rights of workers to organize into unions. The NLRB order to bargain "does not contravene any religious belief," McCree added.

Asked by Justice John Paul Stevens if it would constitute an unfair labor practice for a Catholic bishop to prefer members of religious orders as teachers instead of lay teachers, McCree replied that the NLRB would not pursue such a matter unless it were clearly done for anti-union reasons. Nor would the NLRB intervene if a bishop dismissed a teacher for heresy, McCree said.

But Reuben, a Chicago attorney arguing for the two Catholic dioceses, said the case involves violation of both the no establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment.

The NLRB action, if upheld, would have a "chilling" effect on Catholic bishops' heretofore unchallenged prerogative to run the church's schools, Reuben said. He explained that in Catholic life, bishops have "complete and absolute authority" over what is taught in parochial schools.

Reuben said in Supreme Court cases in recent years that challenged state legislatures' plans to channel public money into parochial schools, the justices have determined that even lay teachers are subject to the bishops' authority, thereby making most such plans unconstitutional.

Reuben also pointed out that "political strife" would result if the NLRB order is upheld by the high court. He predicted "constant litigation" in the field and said Congress would undoubtedly move to undo through legislation what the NLRB had done through its order.

Throughout his 30-minute argument, however, Reuben came again and again to his basic point, that the federal agency's order would unconstitutionally entangle the government in the affairs of the church.

CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 10-30-78, entitled "Doctrinal Issues Take Center Stage in Missouri," change the opening of graph 14 to read: Messengers elected as president Homer DeLozier, retired director....

Thanks, Baptist Press Staff

(BP)

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