



# -- FEATURES

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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

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Laymen Ask for More  
Active Missionary Role

By Wilmer C. Fields  
Director, Baptist Press

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--Southern Baptists are wasting time and opportunity for missionary expansion by underutilizing one of their most powerful resources, two million-plus grown men who are members of the denomination's 35,000 churches.

This conclusion by a representative group of active Baptist businessmen resulted from visits to mission sites in the western United States and Canada. The field trip was sponsored by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a summary session following eight days of examining Southern Baptist mission efforts, the laymen generally agreed on some advice to their fellow churchmen, much of it aimed at pastors and denominational leaders:

(1) Don't ask us just for money! We will give that, they said, and did give through Southern Baptist churches last year to the tune of \$1.7 billion. "Money is the least thing we can give."

(2) Take a chance on us, they said. Put the Baptist principle of the priesthood of believers to a real, gigantic test. Even though untrained in theological schools, and sometimes with more enthusiasm than wisdom, nevertheless, fire us up with a sense of divine mission and turn us loose to participate directly in missions. We have time, let us give that, too.

(3) We also have professional skills. Find ways to harness all that ability for Christian ministry and witness at home and beyond. Help pastors and church staff professionals, they said, to focus more on teaching, training, enabling, coaching and dispatching lay workers. We, they said, want to do something more than merely watch the professionals perform on Sunday.

(4) We have influence, the laymen added, and we think our fellow Baptist laymen are ready to invest that special lifetime accumulation in something truly worthwhile, the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

The group, all successful business leaders, professed loyalty to their denomination, but were critical of some aspects of Southern Baptist life. Criticism centered mainly on acceptance of a passive laity, rather than pushing an active role in expressing their personal faith and Christian commitment.

Members of the group included four real estate developers, Bill Cartee and J. T. Williams Jr., both of Tallahassee, Fla.; Doyle Pennington of Tupelo, Miss.; Fred Roach of Dallas; and C. E. Price of Pittsburgh, Pa., a Westinghouse vice president.

These leaders in the nationwide lay renewal movement were led on the survey trip by William G. Tanner, head of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, with assistance from board staff members Ed Seabough, Reid Hardin and Don Rutledge.

Missions studied included an Indian reservation church in the central Oregon mountains; a new congregation meeting in a community recreation hall in Victoria, British Columbia; a resort ministry in Lake Tahoe, Nev.; plus non-traditional, multi-lingual, and cross-cultural churches in San Francisco.

Dan Stringer of Portland, executive of the mission-minded Northwest Baptist Convention, described the challenge of a territory with five million people, only 39 percent of whom claim any religious ties.

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In mid-summer, 1978, the Northwest Convention organized eighteen new churches in one day, one facet of an aggressive expansion program.

California Baptist missions leader, Ralph Longshore of Fresno, shared the four goals adopted by his Golden State colleagues for reaching the 22 million Californians in Christian ministry by the year 2000:

- (1) Present the gospel in some way to every person in the state.
- (2) Establish a Southern Baptist witness in every California city.
- (3) Double the number of Baptist churches to 2000 by the year 2000.
- (4) Double the Baptist church membership to 750,000.

The men called on their fellow Baptist laymen throughout the nation to take the initiative in their churches to put more boldness in the current SBC emphasis on "Bold Mission Thrust."

The men likewise commended to Baptist laity the opportunity for up to two years of direct, personal missionary service through the denomination's new Mission Service Corps. One of the group, Doyle Pennington and his wife, are in the midst of a two-year term as MSC volunteers, working with the Home Mission Board's department of evangelism.

Ed Price, another member of the traveling group, and his wife have personally worked in the establishment of numerous churches in Pennsylvania. They currently drive every Sunday 30 miles from their Pittsburgh home to assist an ex-engineer turned pastor who is working with two men and 20 women to begin a new congregation.

The laymen expressed vigorous support for the SBC Brotherhood Commission as a separate agency strengthened for its task of leading Baptist men and boys in personal evangelism and mission outreach. A study is currently underway to decide if the Brotherhood Commission, with headquarters in Memphis, should be combined with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

They commended to their fellow laymen the example of the long-term leadership of the members of Woman's Missionary Union in aggressive missionary effort.

Fred Roach, who has helped to raise over \$50 million for various religious causes in the past ten years, spoke for the group to Baptist leadership. "Don't cultivate us laymen for money!" he said. "Mobilize us for evangelism and ministry. The money will come along. Unclog the structure! Help laymen find the places and persons through whom we can have a direct hand in gospel proclamation. Put us to work. We are ready and waiting!"

Tanner agreed with the group's consensus that SBC lay manpower mobilization must become a front rank SBC priority. He concluded, "We will never meet the challenge of missions with just the preachers and the missionaries. These are too few in number. The time is here for the laity, men and women, to move to the forefront of Southern Baptist life."

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(BP) photo mailed to Baptist newspapers. Available to others on request.

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#### Wrap - Up and Analysis

95th Congress Marked By  
Church-State, Human Rights

By Carol Franklin

Baptist Press  
11/9/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Of the 23,942 bills and resolutions introduced in the recently-concluded 95th Congress, a relative few, including tuition tax credits and lobby disclosure, became the object of intense pressure from groups concerned with the separation of church and state.

A number of other issues, while receiving less attention, nevertheless made an impact on churches and church agencies because of their moral and ethical relevance.

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Tuition tax credits became the major fight of religious liberty groups in the recently concluded Congress. Education and labor groups joined the ranks also and helped turn the tide against what had earlier seemed almost certain victory for the parochial school forces.

The mounting financial pressures facing the middle class led to a renewed assault on Congress to pass some form of tuition tax credits for private school tuition. Opposition to such an approach for funding private education focused on its potentially destructive effect on the nation's public school system, the possibility of reversing desegregation efforts, and the questionable constitutionality of the credits.

Both houses of Congress passed tuition tax credit measures. Substantial differences in the bills, however, could not be resolved. The House of Representatives, which passed such a measure for the first time, adamantly refused to delete elementary and secondary schools from the provisions of the bill. The Senate, which had passed measures six times in the past allowing credits for higher education, stuck to that limited aid. As a result of that--and a threatened veto by President Jimmy Carter--the whole package died.

Church-state separation forces also struggled in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. The issue was disclosure of lobbying efforts by practically everyone who attempts to influence legislation in Congress.

The House passed lobby disclosure legislation which would have included churches had it passed the Senate as well. The bill was aimed at big lobby groups but would have placed a "substantial burden on churches to account to the government for their lobbying activities," according to James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Church objection to inclusion in such legislation, which came from virtually the entire religious community, was strong. The churches felt that reporting on attempts to influence public policy constituted interference with the mission of the church.

When lobby disclosure legislation was first introduced, most predicted it would pass with relative ease. It had the support of the Carter administration as well as Common Cause, a citizens lobby group. The chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, D.-Conn., had introduced one version of such a measure.

However, opposition to the various bills under consideration came from oddly matched, but potent, allies. Church groups found themselves on the same side of the issue as the industrial and corporate giants--for somewhat different reasons. Members of the committee heard the objections of the church groups and helped to bury all the bills in committee.

Congress did pass some bills with significance for the religious community. Extension of aid to schools under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was accompanied by some changes. New assistance would go primarily to cities with large numbers of federally subsidized public housing units. Direct grants to private and parochial schools totaling \$2.5 billion were struck from the bill on the Senate floor. The House bill did not include such grants.

A law passed which protects the religious rights of federal workers by permitting overtime for those who must miss work for religious observances. Many denominational agencies also will be affected by a law which mandates that no employee may be forced to retire before age 70 if an agency employs more than 20 persons.

Indian religious freedom will be reviewed because of a congressional resolution which calls on federal agencies which deal with native Americans to review policies relating to access to sacred sites on federal lands, the use and possession of such objects as eagle feathers and peyote, and the privacy of traditional ceremonies.

Congress reaffirmed its position on abortion taken last year after months of wrangling. Stringent conditions were placed on federally subsidized abortions in the appropriations bills for the Departments of Defense, Labor, and Health, Education, and Welfare.

Abortion also figured in a measure passed by Congress to protect pregnant workers from discrimination in employment. The bill, designed to counter the effects of a widely criticized Supreme Court decision, requires employers to include pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions in their health insurance and temporary disability plans. Companies will not be forced to provide coverage for abortions, however, except when the mother's life or health is threatened.

On another women's issue, Congress extended the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment 39 months, allowing time for the necessary three additional states to ratify. An effort to allow states which have already passed ERA to rescind their action failed.

To demonstrate its concern with morality in government, or perhaps to satisfy the public's demand for a new code of ethics, Congress passed the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. It requires personal financial disclosure for high officials in all branches of the federal government.

Congress also cleared legislation which aims to protect children from sexual exploitation in the production of obscene materials, but it also voted to allow off-track betting on horse races under certain conditions.

Among health measures which survived the last-minute scramble before adjournment were programs to provide for comprehensive health centers for migrant workers; health services aimed at treating venereal disease, genetic disease, and hypertension; protection of human research subjects; and family planning programs, including attempts to curb teenage pregnancy.

The long-sought full employment bill, which finally passed, bore little resemblance to the measure introduced by the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey, D.-Minn., and Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D.-Calif. The final version calls for an unemployment rate of four percent by 1983. It also calls for reduction of the inflation rate to three percent by 1983 and zero by 1988. This latter provision was not welcomed by supporters of a stronger federal push to reduce unemployment.

In what observers viewed as a major victory for the predominantly black population of the District of Columbia, Congress voted to amend the U. S. Constitution to give district residents voting representation in the House and Senate.

On the international scene, Congress approved the Panama Canal treaties, turning over control of the canal to the Panamanians and guaranteeing the United States' right to protect the Canal after the year 2000. The bitter fight for approval used up a lot of the president's bargaining chips with Congress.

Congress also voted to impose a complete embargo on U. S. trade with Uganda, the African nation whose ruler, Idi Amin, has been accused of genocide of his own people. And it approved a measure to exclude from the United States any alien who persecuted anyone on the basis of race, religion, national origin, or political opinion under the Nazi government of Germany.

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Cauthen Search Committee  
Seeks Input and Prayer

Baptist Press  
11/9/78

RICHMOND (BP)--The committee seeking a successor to Baker J. Cauthen as executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has called for input and prayer from Southern Baptists.

After the group's first session, held during the November board meeting, Chairman M. Hunter Riggins Jr., Box 2188, Poquoson, Va. 23662, stressed that the committee "genuinely wants the prayer support of all concerned Southern Baptists and the input from any level of Southern Baptist life."

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Such input, he said, might relate to the profile of the job--any characteristics important to the position--or persons any Southern Baptist might feel led, after prayer, to recommend.

The search committee and its task will be listed as special prayer concerns during the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions in December. At the request of the group, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, will ask all churches and WMU organizations to pray for the committee on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

The 15-member committee was named at the October meeting of the Foreign Mission Board as Cauthen announced his plans to retire at the end of 1979. Its next meeting is Dec. 11 in Richmond, but it has set no specific timetable for accomplishing its task, Riggins said. In October, the board suggested the committee bring a progress report to its April meeting in Kansas City and a full report at the August or October meetings.

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Kennedy Resigns,  
Cites "Exhaustion"

Baptist Press  
11/9/78

HIKSON, Tenn. (BP)--Bill Kennedy, Chattanooga pastor whose wife died from a bullet wound, Aug. 23, 1978, has resigned his pastorate, effective Jan. 24, 1979.

Kennedy's wife died when a gun he reached for beneath his pillow discharged, hitting Mrs. Kennedy in the head. He told police Mrs. Kennedy had encouraged him to put the gun under his pillow following threatening phone calls.

Chattanooga police have made no ruling on the incident and the three months of indecision have apparently put the 43-year-old pastor under immense pressure.

Kennedy has been charged with nothing, nor has he posted any kind of bond to maintain his freedom. The district attorney in charge of the case said nothing from his investigation could have prompted Kennedy's resignation.

Although the district attorney said it is not unusual for investigations of this type to last a year, this case is getting close scrutiny because in June 1958, Kennedy's first wife was killed accidentally when a gun he was holding slipped and discharged. He was a student at Belmont College in Nashville at the time.

Kennedy, pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Chattanooga, a suburb of Hixson, since June 1969, said his last day in the pulpit will be Dec. 24. His minister of education, Bob Mediris, said, "We're in shock," following the resignation. His congregation, among the top one percent of the fastest growing churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, had immediately rallied behind Kennedy following the incident.

Mediris stressed that the church had not asked for nor did it want the resignation.

Making his surprise announcement, Kennedy said he was "exhausted" and the only way to get rest was to resign. He said he doesn't know what he will do following his departure from Central Baptist.

Kennedy plans to fulfill all duties remaining as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Pastor's Conference in mid-November.

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Brotherhood Commission  
Picks Search Committee

Baptist Press  
11/9/78

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission chose a five-man committee from their group at their semi-annual meeting to search for a new executive director of the Southern Baptist agency in Memphis, Tenn.

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The top administrative position of the missions education agency became vacant August 23 when Executive Director Glendon McCullough died in a three-car crash on a Memphis street.

William E. Hardy Jr., outgoing chairman of the commission's trustees, was elected unanimously as chairman of the search committee. He is minister of education at First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss.

Other committee members are Lee Prince, pastor of Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis; Jack L. Knox, president of Q S Storage-North American Van Lines, Germantown, Tenn.; Jack Deligans, mechanical engineer at Lawrence Livermore Laboratories, Livermore, Calif.; and Carl E. Voda, president of House of Electronics, Alexandria, La.

Hardy, who said he has already received several recommendations for the job, invited Southern Baptists to offer additional names in writing to him at his church in Columbus.

One of the first duties of the committee is to agree on criteria for the job and the process the committee will follow in its search, said Hardy, who added, "God has already chosen the leader he wants us to have. We can find that leader if we are sensitive to God's leadership."

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Hunger and Relief Funds  
Aid War, Disaster Victims

Baptist Press  
11/9/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--More than \$70,000 in hunger and relief funds has been allocated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to aid victims of political unrest, war, a typhoon and an earthquake.

Almost half the money allocated in November will go to aid victims of a typhoon which hit the island of Luzon in the Philippines in late October. The board ratified \$10,000 which already had been sent on an emergency basis and added another \$25,000 which Philippine missionaries have requested to meet victims' needs.

Included in the hunger relief was seed rice for farmers whose crops were destroyed. General relief funds will rebuild homes and churches. In the part of central Luzon where aid will be concentrated, 98 percent of the homes have roof damage and 30 percent of the homes were destroyed, according to James B. Slack, Philippine mission chairman.

The board also appropriated \$15,000 from hunger funds to Costa Rica, where thousands of Nicaraguans have fled from fighting in their home country.

"The refugees are coming across the border with nothing but the clothing on their backs," said John R. Cheyne, associate coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response. Many are widows of men killed in fighting which broke out in mid-August.

Another \$2,000 in relief funds was appropriated for relief work in Nicaragua with victims of the fighting. This sum is in addition to \$2,000 allocated in late September for relief in that country.

In another appropriation, \$10,000 from relief funds will go toward rebuilding church buildings and a pastor's home damaged by a mid-August earthquake in Copiapo and Diego de Almagro, Chile. Damage to the Copiapo church was minor, but the pastor's home was damaged extensively and is in danger of collapse. Walls must be replaced at another church which also was badly damaged. Church members will do most of the work.

War relief continues in Lebanon with the board appropriating \$10,000 for emergency aid there. Hundreds were left homeless and without food in Beirut following the recent outbreak of fighting.

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Lepers Rejected by Family  
Find Acceptance From God

By Celeste Loucks

KALAUPAPA, Hawaii (BP)--Anita Una has a green thumb.

Her garden in Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai is a profusion of flowers; filling pots, cups, buckets, vases...spilling from a hundred soft drink cans.

Anita Una also has leprosy.

Daily she soaks her hands in a solution and applies tape and gauze dressing. Then she puts on her gloves and goes outside to tend her garden.

Forty-one years ago, Una was brought to the island in keeping with the laws of mandatory isolation for lepers.

"When I came, I still had hopes of going home," she said, looking out of dark glasses which protect her sun-sensitive eyes. "It wasn't easy, but I finally accepted my situation as it was." She smooths a wrinkled bandage. "If my family doesn't want me, that's all right. This is my home."

Kalaupapa, isolated naturally by a background of sheer rock jutting skyward and ocean foaming along its ragged beach, has been home for lepers since 1866 when nine men and three women were separated from society and left on the island to fend for themselves. Since then, thousands of lepers have been banned to this island.

And today, although the remaining 128 lepers are bacteriologically negative--not contagious or requiring isolation--they choose to stay at Kalaupapa and live in voluntary confinement because the deterioration goes on.

Leprosy may result in skin eruptions, loss of hair, loss of eyesight and damage to nerves in the extremities. Those with no nerve sensations are further susceptible to infection from cuts and burns. Often they lose use of hands and/or feet.

The stigma attached to leprosy, the rejection, often cuts deeper than the physical pain. The village is accessible only by air or water. Some have had no visits from family in 30 years.

Said a younger leprosy patient, "I was married on the outside, had six kids," before contracting the disease. After treatment she left Kalaupapa for home...to face rejection. "How do you think a mother feels when your own kids say they do not want you any more?"

She returned to Kalaupapa. "I find here the love I have lost."

A Church of Christ minister on the island said many lepers spend much time in Bible-reading and prayer. "The Bible, the Sunday school, the church is their social activity. They know the Bible pretty much book by book, cover to cover," he said.

"When you are isolated in a place like this," explained one resident, "you have no one to turn to but God. Where else do you get a wholesome feeling--but from God?"

The Salvation Army and Marine bands entertain the people once a year. The Lions Club makes some visits. And isolated church groups do ministry on the island. One of those is the Philatheatan (brotherly love) Sunday School class from Olivet Baptist Church on Oahu.

The teacher said the class has visited Kalaupapa twice, in 1974 and 1976. But it costs from \$35 to \$50 per person for air fare so several times each year the class mails greeting cards and packages to the island.

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On Christmas, they mailed a popcorn popper and several pounds of popcorn to Kalaupapa. Other times they supplied tee shirts for the men and cosmetics for the women.

"We send them clothes and food and books," and other items "three to four times a year," the teacher said.

The visits, however, are the best. "We do them good and they do us good, too," she said. "They know we come because we care about them. We are a fresh wind from the outside.

"They seem so peaceful. I think the more problems a person has the more tolerant he is, and more accepting. It shows on their faces. I would like to go over there and spend several days--just soaking up the peaceful atmosphere."

But she lamented her church or several churches had not provided a regular ministry to the lepers. "It would be excellent if someone could coordinate the churches and be sure someone was there on a more regular basis."

For steady help, many residents of the village depend on God--and one another. Una's small garden plot produces everything from lettuce and parsley to pineapple, papaya and lemons.

Her friend raises hogs. Several are fishermen. On days off they frequently pool resources for a get-together on the beach, a potluck of roast pig and pol. "We have a little dinner, play the guitar--really whoop it up," one said.

However not all have adjusted so well. Some are bitter; some have built up a wall of unhappiness. For those who have adjusted, faith in God is important.

"We do not put much stock in this physical thing," explained one. "I'm not beautiful in man's sight. But I was made aware in life that the soul is the most important thing.

"We have advantages and disadvantages. You have to think about your family, your work. We think only about our duty to God.

"If I had to live my life over again," he said, pausing to reflect on his uncomplicated allegiance to God, "maybe I'd choose this life again."

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(BP) photos mailed to Baptist newspapers by Atlanta Bureau of Baptist Press.

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Southern Seminary  
Names Two Staffers

Baptist Press  
11/9/78

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The executive committee of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees elected Harold S. Songer as assistant provost and confirmed the appointment of Ellsabeth Lambert as acting dean of student affairs.

A seminary faculty member since 1968, Songer will continue to serve as professor of New Testament interpretation and director of basic professional studies in the seminary's School of Theology.

In his new role, Songer will coordinate the work of the registrar, admissions, placement and college relations offices.

Mrs. Lambert, a native of Jackson, Miss., fills the position vacated by Arthur L. Walker Jr., who recently became executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Education Commission. She has served as director of student services in the seminary's student affairs division since 1975.

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*460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

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

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