



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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## Enrollment Balloon Breaks, Seminaries' Growth Slows

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Enrollment declines, felt by America's colleges for five years, crept to the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries last fall and stuck a pin in their ballooning growth rate.

After three years of gaining nearly 1,000 students annually, the seminaries increased a negligible 43 students, to a total 8,892 in all degree and non-degree programs, a growth rate of 0.4 percent.

The growth in degree-granting graduate programs was a meager 0.2 percent, to 8,408, according to figures released by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

Only Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., showed a significant increase, gaining 11 percent, to 1,120 in all programs, of which 114 are in evening diploma courses.

Marvin Taylor, statistician for ATS, said the 197 reporting seminaries in the U.S. and Canada showed an overall growth rate of 1.6 percent, the lowest since 1972, and down from last year's 5.1 percent increase.

Southern Baptists this fall accounted for 18.1 percent of the 46,460 students enrolled in seminaries in the U.S. and Canada. Last year, Southern Baptists accounted for 18.5 percent of 45,222 students, in 198 seminaries.

While some denominations showed major increases in seminary enrollment, such as the United Church of Canada with 18 percent, Taylor said generally enrollments stabilized. Enrollment in seminaries of the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ declined 1.7 and 3.6 percent respectively.

Statistics indicate a significant increase in female enrollment in programs that traditionally lead to ordination. Southern Baptist seminaries reported 262 women enrolled in master of divinity programs, compared with 4,402 men.

Overall, enrollment of women in all seminaries has gone up since 1972 from 3,358 to 8,978. Women compose 19.3 percent of enrollment now, whereas in 1972, they made up just 10.2 percent.

Three Southern Baptist seminaries showed small enrollment decreases: Golden Gate, down 2.3 percent; Southern, two percent; Southwestern, 0.8 percent. According to ATS figures, the decreases didn't alter Southwestern and Southern's positions as the largest two seminaries in the world. New Orleans and Southeastern are the fourth and fifth largest, after Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

Southern Seminary's decline was attributable mainly to a drop of 75 students in the Boyce Bible School, and a drop of 15 in evening school. This fall marked the first decline after 17 straight years of enrollment increase.

Enrollment for the four fall terms at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City peaked at 441, an increase of 13, or three percent over last fall's 428. An additional 52 students are enrolled in the School of Christian Training, a non-degree program.

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New Orleans Seminary, which last year passed Southeastern to become the third largest Southern Baptist theological seminary, increased five students to 1,145, up 0.4 percent. Of those, 187 are in non-graduate diploma programs.

Southwestern's enrollment dipped 28 students, to 3,447. Of these, 187 are enrolled in extension courses in Houston, San Antonio and Shawnee, Okla.

A decline of 18 in two off-campus centers dropped Golden Gate's overall enrollment by 11, to 463, although enrollment on the main campus was up two percent. The overall drop was 2.3 percent.

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Cauthen To Fill  
Missions Chair

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12/22/78

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Baker James Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will be the first to fill the chair of world missions named after him at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Cauthen, 69, will retire at the end of 1979, take several months off for transition time and begin teaching at Golden Gate in the fall of 1980. Seminary president William Pinson said Cauthen will "bring to the west first hand input and insight to world missions" since he is the man who in great part "shaped and determined the destiny of world missions for Southern Baptists."

Cauthen will speak during missions week at the seminary in February. As first professor of the newly established Chair of World Missions at Golden Gate, Cauthen will be free to research and write in areas of his choice and will teach several missions courses.

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Sanyati's 25th Anniversary  
Stirs Bittersweet Memories

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press  
12/22/78

DALLAS (BP)--Christmas Day, the silver anniversary of Sanyati Baptist Hospital in Rhodesia, brought bittersweet memories for the Southern Baptist missionaries who have served there.

It brought memories of Archie G. Dunaway Jr., who was killed there by guerrillas last June, and memories of other, happier days to missionary physician Wana Ann (Mrs. M. Giles Jr.) Fort, who has served there with her physician husband since the hospital's earliest days.

Neither the hospital nor their home was completed when the Forts, now on furlough in Dallas, arrived at Sanyati. While waiting for the hospital to be finished, they worked in a crude mud and pole building. There Mrs. Fort first took care of a premature Rhodesian baby. Fort performed difficult operative deliveries, often by lantern light with inadequate instruments.

And there, Mrs. Fort used medicine she had brought for her own child to treat their orderly's son, who was severely ill with dysentery.

"As the child's mother and I knelt on the floor of that old clinic building, sponging his convulsing body to lower the temperature, praying together, our tears flowed down together," she says. "God's presence was felt, and God cemented a love between us which has lasted through these years."

That orderly later became the hospital's first African director of nursing.

Over the years, the Forts saw the hospital grow using funds from the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. A clinic program reached into surrounding areas. New staffers and training for the old ones resulted in many new services--ophthalmology, dentistry, nutrition training, midwifery school, pharmacy.

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But the hospital staff always stressed medical evangelism as their primary goal, says Mrs. Fort. "At first we held daily services under a tree near the hospital building or in the hall when the weather was bad," she explains. A chapel was added later.

The outlook for Sanyati looked very bright when the Forts left on furlough in May 1978. Fort left his work clothes in the closet so he could get to them as soon as he got back. A month later they heard the news of Dunaway's death. Though a missionary physician and a missionary dentist still visit the hospital, it is now operated by the African staff on a limited basis.

"Someone said that missionaries are 'need-oriented' people, responding to the needs of hurting people in this world," says Mrs. Fort. "Thus we are hurting as we think about the present situation and our hearts yearn for the people we love in Rhodesia."

It is difficult to predict the future of the Sanyati hospital, but the Forts hope to return to the place where they've served for 25 years. "We hope," she says, "to spend the rest of our missionary career as part of this ministry."

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Church Members  
Double 'Talents'

Baptist Press  
12/22/78

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP)--In the midst of a stewardship emphasis, pastor Tommy French turned the tables on the members of Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, and gave them money.

French encouraged members of the church to take either five or ten silver dollars to see how much they could make using this money for a special offering.

"I preached on Matthew 25: 14-30, the parable of the talents," French said. "The finance committee agreed to let me use up to \$2,000 from designated funds. We got silver dollars to dramatize things, and told the people these were 'talents'--use them to see how much more you can bring back."

Members drew \$1,160 and six weeks later had returned an additional \$1,174.

"We still have \$210 out in talents," French added. "We will at least get that much back, and I won't be surprised if those who have these don't bring back twice that."

Here's how some members earned dividends:

One lady invested her \$20 in a bake sale and brought back a \$57 increase; some youth had a horror house during the Halloween season and brought back \$64; another lady bought an item for \$5 that she sold for \$10, and increased the \$5 to \$122; one boy made potholders and doubled his money.

One man sold silver dollars for \$2 each. "He had a nice presentation and even told the people who bought them that if they weren't satisfied, he would refund their money," French said.

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Pastor's 'Disease'  
Can't Slow Goal

Baptist Press  
12/22/78

ANGOLA, Ind. (BP)--Pastor Bob Loffer confessed to an "insidious disease" he called "no-faith-itis" when suggesting to the members of Hillcrest Baptist Chapel an appropriate goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Since it passed its 1977 goal of \$125 by about \$10, he suggested that the Southern Baptist congregation set a goal of \$175 to \$200 this year. But a member spoke up and said since the church, which started in March 1976 with 15 members, had doubled in size, the goal should be \$400.

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Well, that was too close to \$500 not to go for that nice round figure, so they raised it again. To mark progress toward their goal, members lit one of 15 lights on a missions map each time they reached a plateau.

Then the excited congregation discovered 15 didn't go equally into 500, but it would go 40 times into 600, so they closed the meeting with a goal of \$600, four-and-a-half times what they gave last year.

"I have been guilty of not challenging my people to their full potential," Loffer said. "Instead, they challenged me."

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Bryant 1st, Missionary's  
Murder 2nd in BP Top 10

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press  
12/22/78

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Developments related to Anita Bryant's highly publicized visit with Southern Baptists in Atlanta won first place in balloting of Southern Baptist editors for the top 10 Baptist Press (BP) stories of 1978.

Miss Bryant's Atlanta episode edged out the murder of Southern Baptist missionary Archie Dunaway in Rhodesia, which finished second. The Dunaway story collected eight first place votes on ballots returned to five for the Bryant story, but appeared on four less ballots.

The hoopla during the week of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting included 2,000 gays picketing Miss Bryant's appearance at the SBC Pastors' Conference, while 20,000 persons attending the conference gave her thunderous ovations. Later in the week, Miss Bryant lost the election for SBC first vice president by a vote of two to one, but SBC messengers followed that up with a vote to commend her for her stance against homosexual rights.

In close balloting, which saw 11 different stories receive first place votes, other finishers in the top 10 went like this:

3. First Southern Baptist Consultation on Women grapples with place of women in church-related vocations; related stories about increasing number of women on SBC boards and agencies; election of several women to vice presidencies of state Baptist conventions; vote by South Carolina Baptists to study the role of women. (3 first place votes)
4. Continued decline in Southern Baptist baptisms and enrollments in most church program organizations, while overall membership and giving continue to rise. (2 first place votes)
5. President Jimmy Carter and SBC President Jimmy R. Allen team up to urge support of the Mission Service Corps, the SBC program to put 5,000 volunteer missionaries in the field in the U.S. and abroad by 1982; meeting in Washington of Carter and Allen with prominent Baptist lay people produces projected \$1 million in pledges for MSC. (3 first place votes)
6. Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta shatters all-time record for registration of messengers to the SBC by more than 4,000, with registration of 22,872; record attributed to the location of the convention in the heart of SBC population. (4 first place votes)
7. Traffic accident claims the life of Glendon McCullough, executive director of the SBC Brotherhood Commission; committee studies proposal, made following his death, that the commission merge with the SBC Sunday School Board.
8. Five of six states facing legalized gambling reject it, including four states in which it appeared on the ballot in statewide referenda; Baptist Press analysis documents corruption and financial disaster of legalized gambling and deceit used nationwide by pro gambling forces. (1 first place vote)

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9. Tuition tax credits, which drew the opposition of many religious leaders and President Carter, dies in Congress. (1 first place vote)

10. Retirement criticism: Two state Baptist editors and Ohio Baptist convention criticize use of Cooperative Program funds to supplement, by \$500 a month, the retirement of Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee; response of retirement committee of Executive Committee says action taken because Routh's retirement would have been only 38 percent of his final income; several editors support Executive Committee action as necessary to supplement an inadequate retirement program and urge agencies and churches to follow minimum SBC Annuity Board recommendations (10 percent of compensation) to avoid retirement inadequacies and such use of Cooperative Program funds in the future. (1 first place vote)

Although voting was close throughout the 10 positions, five stories, which finished ninth through 13th, waged an even tighter battle for a top 10 spot. All five appeared on less than 50 percent of the ballots.

Razor thin margins separated tuition tax credits (9th); the retirement issue, which gained the top 10 by the barest of margins (10th); the continuing controversy surrounding the relationship of Wake Forest University to North Carolina Baptists (11th); controversy related to support by Virginia Baptists of the University of Richmond following statements denying the divinity of Jesus by a UR professor and campus lifestyle issues (12th); and world-hunger-related stories, including the first Southern Baptist Convocation on World Hunger, which urged specific action to combat hunger (13th).

Two other stories which gained a first place vote but did not finish anywhere near the top 10 were postage increases, which have sent Baptist editors scrambling to meet a 50 percent increase in one year (14th place); and the report of the death of a Southern Baptist pastor's sister in Jonestown, Guyana, and analyses of Baptists on the implications of the mass-murder suicide in Jonestown (17th place).

The BP top 10 vote reflects a 71.4 percent return on 42 ballots from state Baptist editors, Baptist Press bureau chiefs and the Baptist Press national office. Tabulation was based on a statistically-weighted system designed for Baptist Press by Martin Bradley, manager, research services department, SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville.

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Stamps Gives Blood To Aid  
American Hurt In Shooting

Baptist Press  
12/22/78

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP)--An American, wounded and in danger of losing an arm following a misunderstanding with Nicaraguan officials, received aid from a Southern Baptist missionary.

The missionary, Stanley D. Stamps of Managua, gave badly needed A-negative blood after Jerry White of McAllen, Texas, was wounded Dec. 19. The incident occurred when White and his five American traveling companions failed to stop at the request of Nicaraguan national guardsmen near Leon, Nicaragua. The guard fired on them.

Stamps said the group, driving at night, apparently did not realize that the one signaling them to stop was a government authority and were afraid to stop for anyone else. The six men are believed to be from Kingsway Missionary Institute in McAllen, a language school whose students frequently go into Central America on mission trips.

In a phone report, Stamps said White and one of the other Americans remained in Nicaragua while their four companions went on to Honduras. White is now recuperating, Stamps said, and is expected to be flown to the United States by commercial airline.

Political unrest and fighting have subsided, said Stamps, and "life is going quite normally. We haven't sensed any violence. Curfew and martial law have been lifted and we're moving along." Although encouraged about the situation, Stamps said Southern Baptist missionaries are still using "caution and prudence."

Stamps said hundreds of baptisms will take place during the holiday season and that the Baptist Bookstore in Managua is in its best three-month period in its history.

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