



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 1, 1979

79-16

'At Home with the Bible'
Study Guide in Demand

By Bracey Campbell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has received 40,124 requests for the Home Bible Study Guide since the new radio and television series "At Home with the Bible" premiered in October, President Grady Cothen reported to the trustees.

Cothen said the board received 880 materials requests per working day during the previous week and that more than 9,100 persons have enrolled as "learners" in the program. He said the response to the program, now taking Bible study into homes in more than 1,500 cities and towns via cable and commercial television and radio stations, has far exceeded the expectations of its creators.

The trustees for the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention approved a \$500,000 renovation of the five-story Frost Building, adjacent to the present board complex, to provide an additional 40,000 square feet of office space.

In addition, the trustees at their annual winter meeting took several steps in regards to church training materials. Included were:

--A 16-page addition to the quarterly Baptist Adults, effective October 1980, was approved to provide space for additional training plans. The upgrading of the periodical, with an annual circulation of 1.5 million, comes at the time of increased emphasis on all materials used in church training.

--Deletion of the adult training quarterly Source and Source Resource Kit. The periodical has lost circulation since 1971 to a current 63,000 per quarter.

--Deletion of the quarterly Exploring B, Exploring B for Leaders and Exploring B Kit for Leaders, effective October 1980. Users of this children's quarterly, which has lost circulation to 71,925 per quarter, will be channeled into two other periodicals, Exploring A and Exploring C.

The Frost Building, erected in 1914 for \$160,000, has etched a mark in the history of Baptist life.

It served first as the home of the Sunday School Board and later housed the Christian Life Commission, the Education Commission and the Baptist Book Store. Beginning in 1958, the building housed Southern Baptist Convention agencies now in the SBC Building on James Robertson Parkway.

In addition, a number of Nashville businesses--and the city library--used the 161 Eighth Avenue, North, structure periodically through November 1978.

Other actions taken by the trustees included:

--Authorization of the extension of the mandatory retirement age for board workers to 70. This puts the board in compliance with recent federal statutes.

--Approval of increased retiree benefits in the Medicare supplement group insurance plan from a maximum of \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Women's Leaders Seek Help
For Displaced Homemakers

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--"If the option of choosing homemaking as a career is to remain viable we must ensure it," a panelist told participants in a seminar on displaced homemakers sponsored by the women's division of the American Jewish Congress.

Shoshana Cardin, chairwoman of Maryland's Commission on Women, said her role as homemaker is her primary occupation and she wants to make sure that other women have the opportunity to be the same.

Sarah Weddington, assistant to President Carter on women's issues, emphasized that policy decisions in the White House are based on the concept of "all choices being open to all women"--homemaking, working outside the home, or a combination of both. She claimed that ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment would be a step toward realizing the full range of choices for women.

Through death, divorce, desertion, or disability of the male partner in marriage, an estimated three to 15 million women are displaced homemakers, Weddington said.

"Being a housewife is one of the riskiest professions around," Weddington said. "One-third of all construction steelworkers don't fall off of skyscrapers but one-third of all women do lose their places when the husband leaves." She said the social security system is "no longer adequate" to support women when they are displaced.

Among many statistics presented to illustrate the plight of women who have lost their primary identity as wives and homemakers, Weddington said that if the "typical" family is defined as a father, mother, and two children, then there are twice as many families in this country headed by a single woman than there are "typical" families.

Cardin compared "displaced homemakers" with displaced persons or refugees. "The displaced homemaker is involved in a struggle for survival," Cardin said. "She is desperately afraid she can't survive to the next day. Her short term survival must be cared for before there can be long term utilization of her talents."

Leona Chanin, president of the women's division of the American Jewish Congress, opened the seminar by calling on Congress, the president, and the governors of all 50 states to expand existing programs to assist and train displaced homemakers, programs she said are now "minimal if not miniscule."

Congress authorized \$5 million in its last session to train displaced homemakers.

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Woman's Missionary Union
Names Lowndes Recipients

Baptist Press
2/1/79

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Samuel J. Durham and James T. Burdine have received the 1978 Elizabeth Lowndes Award, given annually by Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, to two missionary kids (MKs).

Cash awards of \$200 were given to Durham and Burdine in recognition of their superior scholastic achievement. The decision is based on school records and other recommendations from their college. Candidates are nominated by the Southern Baptist Convention mission boards.

Samuel Durham graduated from Emory University where he majored in French and English and is now studying at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bryant Durham, natives of Georgia, now serving as foreign missionaries to Upper Volta.

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James Burdine graduated summa cum laude from the University of North Dakota where he majored in biology and mathematics, and will enter graduate school this year. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Burdine, home missionaries currently working in Georgia.

The Elizabeth Lowndes Award was established in 1936 as a tribute to Mrs. W. C. Lowndes, treasurer of WMU for 36 years.

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North Carolina Convention
Cuts Off Wake Forest Funds

Baptist Press
2/1/79

By Charles Richardson

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--The general board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina voted Jan. 31 to cut off funds temporarily to Wake Forest University.

The 110-member board voted overwhelmingly to place the \$936,937 Cooperative Program allocation for the university into an escrow account.

In December, Wake Forest University trustees voted to remove the university from control of the state convention. Convention president Mark Corts suggested at that time that Baptist funds to the school "could and should" be held in escrow "until the matter is finally resolved."

The state convention's Council on Christian Higher Education, whose subcommittee recommended the escrow account, endorsed the move. The executive committee of the general board, meeting a day earlier, voted unanimously for the proposal.

The general board also approved a recommendation that legal counsel be obtained "concerning all of the questions currently under discussion relative to the relationship of Wake Forest University and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina."

The board further authorized the special subcommittee of the Council on Christian Higher Education to engage legal counsel and report to the board's May meeting at Winston-Salem.

Wake Forest University President James Ralph Scales told the Biblical Recorder, North Carolina Baptist newspaper, the school will have no cash flow problem until at least the end of May. He said most tuition money has been received and invested and will carry them through the school semester.

"I don't think the convention is going to come apart or the relationship with Wake Forest will be permanently impaired if we don't have a solution by the next meeting (in May)," Scales said.

He said he was not surprised by the vote since the Council on Christian Higher Education had voted earlier to recommend the escrow idea.

The nearly \$1 million allocation going into escrow is four percent of Wake Forest's Renolda campus budget. Matching funds from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation are contingent on the Baptist affiliation. The next installment on that money is due in July.

Frank Campbell, Statesville pastor and chairman of both the Council on Christian Higher Education and its subcommittee study group, said the North Carolina convention has no intentions of going to court and that cutting off the allocation was meant in no way to punish the trustees, which are elected by the state convention.

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By Adon Taft

MIAMI (BP)--The seed of an idea for evangelism planted 40 years ago in the life of a 22-year-old hitchhiker in Texas is about to bear fruit in a national "Johnny Appleseed" project.

The project is called "The Planter" and has just been syndicated by the American Tract Society with Richard G. Bryant, retired director of metropolitan missions for the Miami Baptist Association, as consultant. His idea is to make it possible for every person who attends church to become an evangelist capable of planting the seed of faith within a non-believer.

Bryant was that hitchhiker in Texas. A sort of "flower child" a generation ahead of his time, he was on his way to Mexico City from his home in Louisiana when a traveling salesman gave him a ride.

The salesman asked Bryant if he were a Christian and when the response was "no sir" the Presbyterian layman began sharing what God was doing in his life. Before Bryant got out of the car, the salesman gave him a copy of the Gospel of John.

"I sat on my suitcase on the side of the road and read John before I continued to hitchhike," Bryant recalls.

The next day, he read the gospel again, and "gave my heart to the Lord," said the stocky, mustachioed minister. "My life has been different ever since."

Bryant later graduated from Louisiana College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; married and had three children; served churches in Louisiana, Kentucky and Illinois; and was director of missions in San Diego, Calif., and Miami.

Throughout that career "I maintained my faith in the Word of God as the means of leading people to salvation because of my own experience," he said. His idea is to "plant" a verse or two of the Word of God in the minds and hearts of people.

"The law of God says you can't reap anything unless you've sown something and we can't harvest people, we can't reap the results of our ministry until we adequately sow the Word of God," said the enthusiastic minister who has already tried his idea in churches of several denominations across the country.

The "plants" are little leaflets folded in booklet form and designed to catch the eye and interest of a casual acquaintance. Some--like one entitled "Two Things Every Plumber Should Know"--are intended for specific audiences. Others--like one entitled "What in Hell Do You Want?"--are aimed at a general audience.

"Our intention is to get the curious or amused attention of a person with something they can read in just a minute," said Bryant. That's the main difference between the "plants" and more traditional tracts which are more elaborate messages calling for a commitment, he said.

"Most Christians feel they can't walk up to somebody and talk to them about salvation even though they want to witness to their faith," Bryant has found. "But anybody can hand somebody one of these 'plants' and ask them to check it out when they get a chance."

Bryant has found that the man in the pew will take such a plant with him and pass it on during the week and have a sense of mission. He urges pastors to distribute them just before the benediction at each Sunday church service and to encourage the worshipers to "go out into the world" with the message.

He believes the message will be heard with "plants" like the one entitled "Free Hearing Test." Inside is the passage from John 5:24 which says that "anyone who listens to my message and believes in God who sent me will have eternal life."



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Baptist Press Schedule Of Possible News-Making Events

February, 1979

- 7 Academic Convocation, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- 8-9 National Alumni workshop, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- 12-13 Foreign Mission Board meeting, Richmond
- 12-14 Mississippi Evangelism-Bible Conference, First Baptist Church, Meridian
- 13 Baptist/Jewish Dialogue, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- 13-15 World Mission Week, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- 13-15 Southern Baptist Press Association, Anchorage
- 13-15 State Executive Secretaries Group, Anchorage
- 13-15 James H. Tharp Lecture Series, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Speakers are Dr. and Mrs. Ken Cooper, Dallas, Texas, and Buckner Fanning, San Antonio, Texas.
- 16-18 Student Missions Conference, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, featuring Joe McKeever, First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss.
- 16-18 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Missions Conference
- 19-21 Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee meeting, Nashville
- 22 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation Board meeting
- 22 Faculty/Staff endowment campaign dinner, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- 22-24 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Church Music Workshop

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