

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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House Supports Private
Schools' Tax Exemption

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--Three amendments affecting church-operated schools were added to the Treasury-Postal Services Appropriations Bill by the U.S. House of Representatives before sending it to the Senate for action.

The House adopted one amendment, by a vote of 297 to 63, which would have the effect of stopping an Internal Revenue Service procedure threatening private school tax exemption because of alleged racial discrimination.

The amendment would "prohibit the use of appropriated funds to formulate or carry out any rule or policy which would cause the loss of tax-exempt status to private, religious, or church-operated schools unless in effect prior to August 22, 1978."

A second amendment attached to the bill specifies the particular procedures private schools have objected to since the announcement in the "Federal Register" last August. The IRS proposal threatens the loss of tax-exempt status unless private and religious schools meet certain quotas of minority students and staff.

Extensive hearings in Congress followed four days of hearings before the IRS. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs testified against the proposal three times. The Southern Baptist Convention voted last June in Houston to oppose the IRS guidelines.

The third amendment attached to the appropriations bill would allow an individual to claim a charitable deduction on income tax even if the contribution was, in effect, payment for tuition at a religious school.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet begun consideration of the measure so it is expected to be several weeks before the full Senate acts.

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Spanish Church Training
Conducted at Ridgecrest

By Bracey Campbell

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RIDGECREST, N.C.(BP)--Spanish-speaking Southern Baptists from North Carolina and Florida participated in the first church training conference conducted in their language at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Rosa Martinez, an adult worker in the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, led the 17 participants in the six days of ethnic studies in how to organize and conduct church training classes in their churches.

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Roy Edgemon, director of the church training department in Nashville, told the class that he was committed to providing as much Sunday School Board material as possible in as many languages as possible.

"As a person who spent part of my career as a missionary in Japan, I know the needs around the world for Baptist materials in other languages," he said.

Edgemon, responding to questions concerning when other materials would be available in Spanish, said a Sunday School Board committee is studying the feasibility of publishing additional materials for ethnic groups.

"We hope to find out in the very near future about other materials which will be made available to ethnic groups," said Edgemon.

A member of the class requested through an interpreter that the Sunday School Board make available literature for new Christians in Spanish.

"We have found the Spanish materials offered by the Sunday School Board to be excellent," added Virginia Gover of the Palm Avenue Baptist Church in Tampa. "It is exciting for Spanish-speaking persons to find more and more Southern Baptist materials that do not have to be translated."

Mrs. Martinez demonstrated the use of the church training quarterly for adults being published in Spanish, La Fe Bautista, and also provided printed materials in Spanish on how to conduct church training sessions.

She advised the class members, four of whom could not speak any English, to utilize bilingual persons in their churches to translate materials for other age groups.

She said there is a real need in many of the 1,250 Spanish-speaking congregations for additional materials dealing in doctrine and the fundamentals of organizing and running a church.

"Some of those churches have been established for a long time and are in good shape," she said. "But some of the newer ones have real problems in getting adequate information."

Mrs. Martinez praised the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, which she said provides Spanish translations for almost all of their materials.

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Southern Baptist Joins
Bread for the World

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NEW YORK (BP)--Ruth Fowler, staff writer-consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., will join Bread for the World in New York City, Oct. 1.

Miss Fowler will serve as staff associate for communications, working both with Bread for the World and Bread for the World Education Fund. She will edit publications and background papers, direct communications and media efforts and assist with church relations.

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Bread for the World was organized five years ago as an interdenominational, grass roots Christian citizens' movement to urge governmental action on world hunger and poverty issues in the United States and abroad. It has 26,000 members throughout the U.S. Bread for the World Education Fund is a legally separate organization established by Bread for the World to improve Christian awareness of world hunger needs and Christian stewardship responsibilities.

Miss Fowler, who will maintain her Southern Baptist church affiliation, was a writer for KRBC-TV, Abilene, Texas before joining the Foreign Mission Board. She recently completed a book on world hunger for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, entitled "The Woman I Am in a Hungry World."

A native Texan, she is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, and has done graduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond.

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Funds To Baptist Schools Show Percentage Decrease

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The percentage of state convention Cooperative Program funds designated for Southern Baptist schools fell by nearly two percent during the 1978-79 fiscal year, according to figures released by the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Only four states reported a percentage increase in educational support among the 16 conventions which operate junior and senior colleges, academies, and Bible schools.

According to Education Commission figures, the conventions averaged 31.87 percent of state Cooperative Program funds to be designated to educational causes during 1978-79. During the previous year, support averaged 33.71 percent of funds kept by the state.

The current issue of "The Quarterly Review" (denominational statistical report), however, reports a 3.6 percent increase in enrollment in Southern Baptist schools during the same period.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission, expressed concern at the drop in support but noted that many of the state conventions which recorded a decrease in funding are still leaders in the SBC in educational contributions. "There is still commitment to higher education by state conventions," he added.

While citing "the obvious problems relating to inflation" as influences on the conventions, Walker expressed concern about some of the states' actions to funnel funds away from schools in "an effort to increase 'mission giving.'"

This, he said, reflects a lack of understanding about the role of Baptist schools. "The schools themselves are a part of the mission heritage and mission effort of the state conventions," he explained.

Walker said 11,949 students are studying for church related vocations at schools operated by the state conventions, an increase of 253 students from the previous year. A similar increase was recorded among students studying for home and foreign mission work.

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He cited Foreign Mission Board representative Bill O'Brien's report to the recent national conference on Bold Christian Education and Bold Missions in Galveston, Texas. O'Brien told the conference, held to examine the relationship between Baptist schools and missions, that 42.7 percent of the college graduates appointed as missionaries during the past six years have come from Baptist schools.

"Baptists need schools and Baptist schools certainly need Baptists," O'Brien told more than 300 representatives of Southern Baptist schools and missions organizations.

"Education and mission institutions are not opposed to one another, but are a part of the same effort," Walker stressed.

State conventions which reported an increase in the percentage of Cooperative Program funds for education include Louisiana (21.03 percent in 1977-78 to 22.55 percent in 1978-79), North Carolina (38 percent to 38.5 percent), Texas (35.76 percent to 36.95 percent), and Virginia (25.63 percent to 25.8 percent).

States which showed no change in funding are California (23 percent) and Kentucky (30 percent).

Conventions which recorded less than a percentage point decrease are Arkansas (38.4 percent in 1977-78 to 38.13 percent in 1978-79), Florida (22.045 percent to 21.355 percent), Missouri (38.7 percent to 38.3 percent), Oklahoma (30.85 percent to 30 percent), and Tennessee (39.43 percent to 39.06 percent).

States with more than one percent decrease are Alabama (47.8 percent in 1977-78 to 43.3 percent in 1978-79), Arizona (30.7 percent to 18 percent), Georgia (50.24 percent to 41.1 percent), Mississippi (32.7 percent to 31.5 percent) and South Carolina (35.2 percent to 32.4 percent).

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Three Staffers Assume
New Jobs at Home Board

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7/19/79

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Three staff members of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board were given new responsibilities at the directors' July meeting.

Ed Seabough, 46, on the staff since 1968, was named associate to Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner.

Kenneth Day, 49, a staff member since 1965, was promoted to director of the Communications Division.

Irwin Dawson, 51, a board staffer since 1966, was transferred from his job as associate director of the department of language missions to become associate director of the department of missionary personnel.

Directors created the post of associate to the executive director-treasurer, eliminating the position of assistant executive which has been vacant since the election of Tanner to head the executive staff three years ago.

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Seabough, a native of Aurora, Mo., will assist Tanner beginning Aug. 1 in "interpreting, evaluating and correlating programs and ministries of the board and serve as liaison on behalf of the executive director to SBC leadership."

Seabough will continue work in areas of public relations, special programs and events and promotion. Before his election as Tanner's associate, Seabough was director of public relations and special events.

Seabough is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to becoming director of public relations and special events, he was director of personnel recruitment for the Home Mission Board. Previously, he served for eight years as consultant to the student department of the Baptist Sunday School Board and as Baptist Student Union and music secretary in the Oregon-Washington Baptist Convention, now the Northwest Baptist Convention.

He is author of three books for college students, two books for home mission study, and recently completed "The Doctrine of Missions" for the church training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. He also is an award-winning lyricist, having written the lyrics for 17 musicals including "Encounter," "Joy," and "The Fabric of Freedom." Several of his hymns are included in the Baptist Hymnal.

Day, a native of Greenfield, Tenn., becomes director of the Communications Division Aug. 1, succeeding James M. Sapp, who took early retirement last September.

As communications director, Day will oversee the work of editorial, art, audio-visuals and promotion at the Home Mission Board. He will be responsible to administer and develop a "balanced and effective Home Mission Board communications effort."

Day, a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., Bethel College in McKenzie, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been director of the promotion department of the board since 1965. During his tenure at the board, he earned a doctor of ministries degree from Southern Seminary, focussing attention on development of a promotion plan for the board.

Prior to coming to the board, Day was associate secretary of direct missions at the Baptist General Convention of Texas, state director of missions for the Michigan Baptist Convention, and a pastor in Lansing, Mich., and Tennessee. He is a chaplain in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Dawson replaces Kenneth Brooks, who resigned from his staff position to accept missionary assignment in Hawaii.

Dawson, a native of Richmond, Va., has been associated with language missions at the board since 1966, after having been director of language missions for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. Previously, he was missionary pastor of a Spanish-speaking mission in Sacramento, Calif., and a pastor in North Carolina. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dawson will assist in recruiting, screening and recommending candidates for missionary appointment, working primarily in the western United States, Hawaii and American Samoa.

Home Mission Board Announces Changes

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's directors voted at their summer meeting to make changes in the agency's efforts to plant and strengthen new churches and expand work among cultural and ethnic groups.

The changes included elevating the departments of language missions and church extension to division status in the Missions Section.

Also, directors approved a reorganization of the associational missions division, to provide stronger emphasis on planning and training functions, a board spokesman said.

"These are not changes just for the sake of change," said William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer. "The restructuring is the culmination of three years of careful study, seeking to determine how we can be more effective in our plans to reach our nation for Christ, and to fulfill the twin aims of Bold Mission Thrust--evangelization and congregationalization," Tanner said.

He said elevation of language missions and church extension, the two areas most responsible for the efforts to congregationalize the nation, gives them enhanced visibility and puts them in closer relationship to administrative leadership.

To elevate the two new divisions, directors approved a proposal to divide the missions ministries division into three divisions.

Under the reorganization, M. Wendell Belew continues as director of the missions ministries division, which supervises the work of the departments of interfaith witness, Christian social ministries, cooperative ministries with National Baptists and special missions ministries.

P. J. (Jack) Redford, who has been director of the department of church extension, becomes director of the division of church extension, and Oscar Romo, who has headed the language missions department, becomes director of the division of language missions.

Under board structure, departments are part of divisions, which in turn relate to sections. The four sections--missions, evangelism, planning and services--form the administrative council which works with Tanner.

Belew, a board staffer for 24 years, will become responsible for the ministry aspects of the missions effort.

"I am very pleased with the election of Jack Redford and Oscar Romo as division directors," Belew said. "I don't know of two men who can do a better job than they."

Of his own responsibilities under the reorganization, Belew says he sees it as "an enlarged ministry. I believe we must show the world how much we love it, and that we love it because we love Jesus Christ. I see all kinds of doors open for us to minister to the world. I don't believe we have begun to see the kinds of ministries which are available for us to perform."

Belew added he will be "trying to blaze new trails. Many denominations have died because they went in the wrong direction in ministries. I think we can live and can extend our outreach with the correct direction in ministries."

Under the reorganization, Belew will supervise a division with four program areas, 520 missions personnel and a budget of \$6.1 million. Romo will supervise a program of 1,350 missions personnel and a budget of \$5.3 million, and Redford will oversee 920 personnel and a budget of \$4 million.

The new structure will put six divisions in the missions section: associational missions, church loans, language missions, church extension, chaplaincy and missions ministries.

In their other action, the directors reorganized the associational missions division, creating the new post of associate director, and filling that job by electing James V. Hamblen, who has been associate director of the department of metropolitan missions.

Hamblen's new responsibilities include a heavy emphasis on planning and training for the division, according to Janes Nelson, director.

Hamblen, 45, has been on the board's staff since earlier this year, moving to his post in the metropolitan missions department from a position as national field consultant in metro missions. He was elected a missionary associate of the board in 1973, serving as consultant in new-town planning.

He is a graduate of the University of Texas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to being associated with the board, he was director of Columbia Baptist Fellowship in Columbia, Md., and pastor of churches in Houston, Combes, Dallas and Taylor, Texas, and in Loco, Okla.

To fill his position as associate director of metropolitan missions, directors elected Jere Allen, 45, director of special mission ministries for the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Allen, a native of Greenville, Miss., has been with the Alabama convention staff since 1977. Previously, he was consultant for churches in changing communities, also working with the Alabama convention. He has been pastor of churches in Richmond and Roanoke, Va., and in Ashland, Ky.

Allen is a graduate of Auburn University, Southern Seminary and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.

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Home Missionaries
Named in July Meet

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Kenneth Brooks of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board personnel staff was among 33 persons appointed to home missions service during the July meeting of the board's directors at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Others appointed as missionaries were: Jackie and Eletha McClung of Atlanta; Art and Darlene Taylor of Jacksonville, Fla.; and Vernon and Fern Wickliffe of Hope, Ark.

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Appointed as missionary associates were: Stanley and Joanie Albright of Gatlinburg, Tenn.; Jerry and Jacqueline Folsom of Alamogordo, N.M.; Dixie Lynn Hunke of Beaverton, Ore.; Perry Joe and Cheryl Petty of Tyler, Texas; and Joshua and Somchit Vang of Des Moines, Iowa. Sixteen mission pastors were approved to receive financial aid.

Brooks, who will serve the Kona Baptist Church in Hawaii, has been associate director of the department of missionary personnel at the Home Mission Board since 1975. For two years prior to that he was a pastoral missionary at the El Portal Baptist Mission in Yosemite National Park in California. He was a pastor in Texas and has degrees from the University of Oklahoma and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

His wife, Shirley, a native of Purcell, Okla., served with Brooks in California and again was appointed a missionary to serve in Hawaii. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and has worked in accounting and bookkeeping. The Brooks have four children.

Jackie and Eletha McClung will continue to work at the Stewart Baptist Center in Atlanta where they have been missionary associates since 1974. Both are North Carolina natives and received degrees from Gardner-Webb College. McClung also received a master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The McClungs have a two-year-old daughter.

The Taylors will continue to live in Jacksonville where they have served the Franklin Street Baptist Church since 1977. They will begin new ministries as directors of Christian Social Ministries for the Jacksonville Baptist Association. Prior to the Jacksonville pastorate, Taylor, a West Virginia native, was a supervisor for the youth services program in Jacksonville. He also has served as a chaplain commissioned by the Home Mission Board since 1976 to the Naval Air Station hospital in Jacksonville. He was a pastor in Ohio and Kentucky and is a graduate of Jacksonville University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Darlene Maddox Taylor, a Jacksonville native, is a graduate of the University of North Florida. She has been a teacher in elementary schools in the Jacksonville area since 1975. The Taylors have one child.

Wickliffe will be director of missions in a rural-urban setting in southwestern Michigan. Wickliffe, an Arkansas native, was pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Hope prior to appointment. He served in Michigan with the Home Mission Board from 1964 to 1971 as director of missions for the Metropolitan Association in Southfield and was a pastor in Flint. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and has attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Fern Wickliffe, also an Arkansas native, is a licensed practical nurse and respiratory therapist. She served as a missionary along with Wickliffe in Michigan. The Wickliffes have three children.

The Albrights, Alabama natives, have just completed two years service as US-2 missionaries for the Home Mission Board in Gatlinburg. They will continue to serve the Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries project, now as appointed missionary associates, the first resort missionaries appointed through the special mission ministries department of the Home Mission Board.

Albright, an Alabama native, is an Auburn University graduate. He is enrolled in the University of Tennessee for fall 1979 in the recreation administration program.

The Folsoms will serve the Mountain Valley Association in New Mexico where he will be director of associational missions. Folsom, an Oklahoma native, was minister of education and youth at First Baptist Church of Alamogordo prior to appointment and has been associate pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in La Mesa, Calif. He is a graduate of Linda Vista Baptist College in San Diego.

Dixie Hunke, a native of Fresno, Calif., will work with a singles ministry in Los Angeles, Calif. Prior to appointment she was employed by the Interstate Baptist Association in Portland, Ore. She is a graduate of Grand Canyon College and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Her father, E. W. Hunke, is a regional coordinator at the Home Mission Board.

The Pettys will serve in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he will be a pastoral missionary. Petty, a native of Tyler, Texas, is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Texas and Colorado. Cheryl Boatner Petty, a native of Shreveport, La., is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington.

Joshua and Somchit Vang, who immigrated to the United States from Laos in 1975 as refugees, will serve from an Atlanta base. Vang, a Laotian native, will be a national consultant for Laotian ministries and will serve the Laotian congregation of Columbia Drive Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., and help in refugee resettlement. He attended Thailand Theological Seminary and New Zealand Bible College. Prior to appointment he was pastor of the 200-member Lao Baptist Church in Des Moines. He also headed the national Christian church in Laos before immigrating. Somchit Vang was a supervisor for World Vision's orphanage program in Laos.