



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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## Home Mission Board Urges National Hunger Survey

ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have urged Congress to fund and implement a national survey on hunger.

A resolution, presented by Nell Bowen of Forsyth, Ga., was one of two actions on domestic hunger taken by directors at their fall meeting.

The other action urges the 13 million Southern Baptists in 35,400 churches across the nation to join the action by writing letters to senators and congressmen urging a survey to determine the extent, nature, numbers and location of hunger in the United States.

The resolution notes that other groups in the U.S. are also pressing for a national survey on domestic hunger. One such group is Bread for the World, a Christian citizens group, which has called for a national "offering of letters" to influence Congress to improve the nation's response to hunger at home. Bread for the World says some 25 million Americans are below the poverty line.

"The Home Mission Board is joining other groups in asking for the hunger survey," said William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the board. "The directors have gone on record in favor of urging Congress to take action."

"We feel it is appropriate for the Home Mission Board to take the lead in this effort among Southern Baptists," added Mrs. Bowen. "The Home Mission Board is indeed a channel for administering funds and personnel to help relieve domestic hunger because we have the programs, people and caring concerns to do so."

Mrs. Bowen said most Americans are aware of the problems of hunger abroad, but generally are unaware of the tragic nature of the problem in America. "There are hungry and undernourished people in the United States, but Americans generally are unaware of how extensive the problem is," she added. "We hope Southern Baptists will join in this effort. Hunger is very real in many homes in our nation."

The twin resolutions were prepared by a committee on hunger appointed by Robert L. Deneen of Darlington, S.C., president of the Home Mission Board, and chaired by Mrs. Bowen. Members include Clifton Tennison of West Monroe, La.; Edna Shows of Atlanta, Ga.; Hazel Tew of Austin, Texas; and William L. Turner of Lexington, Ky. Board staffers assigned to the committee include Gerald Palmer, director of the missions section; James Nelson, director of the associational missions division; Wendell Belew, director of the missions ministries division; and Paul Adkins, director of the Christian social ministries department.

The resolution to be sent to Congress urges the national legislators to "fund and implement a national survey to discover the extent and nature of domestic hunger with the aim of developing remedial programs and legislation to deal with this pressing and life-and-death issue."

In the resolution to be communicated to churches and Southern Baptists, directors noted that an "inward change brought about by Jesus Christ is accompanied by an outward expression in life," and added that "ministering to the hungry among us at home is a responsibility of Christians."

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David Wilkinson Named  
Journal Associate Editor

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--David R. Wilkinson, director of news and information services for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville, will become associate editor of the Brotherhood Commission's World Mission Journal on Nov. 1.

He was elected by the executive committee of the commission, publisher of the monthly tabloid-format newsmagazine for Baptist laymen. Jim Newton is editor of the 45,000-circulation publication.

Wilkinson, 25, succeeds Charlie Warren, who resigned July 15 to become associate editor of the Baptist and Reflector, the Baptist state paper in Tennessee.

Wilkinson, who joined the SBC social action agency in 1977 as a staff writer, worked previously as a communications specialist in the SBC Sunday School Board's office of communications.

During his years as a student at Oklahoma Baptist University, where he was a summa cum laude journalism graduate, Wilkinson was editor of The Bison, the school paper, worked for a period in the school's public relations department, wrote sports for the Shawnee News-Star and served as youth director for two summers at Calvary Baptist Church, Muskogee, Okla.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Wilkinson of Muskogee, where his father serves as minister of education at First Baptist Church. He is married to the former Melanie Orton of Pine Bluff, Ark.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Memphis bureau of Baptist Press.

Board Budget 'Increases,'  
But Lags Behind Inflation

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ATLANTA (BP)--A 1980 Home Mission Board budget which reflects only a 4.5 percent increase over the previous year has been approved by directors during their fall meeting.

While the \$33,827,457 budget is a record amount for the Home Mission Board, the rate of increase will not keep pace with skyrocketing inflation, says Leonard Irwin, planning section director.

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"Because of a limitation of funds, we are not able to increase the budget up to the projected rate of inflation--predicted to be in the double digits," Irwin said. "This places added responsibility on us to spend the money most efficiently.

"Consequently, the Home Mission Board has taken a very serious look at every budget item. We have sought to channel what money we have into the areas of greatest need," he explained. It includes no new projects and no new staff or office positions for 1980, he said.

"We have shifted funds and placed a priority emphasis on enabling missionary personnel to evangelize and congregationalize the United States in accordance with Bold Mission Thrust (Southern Baptists' effort to reach the world for Christ by the year 2000)," Irwin added. "We will continue to maintain the strength of our mission force."

In fact, he continued, the budgeted increase of \$1,467,937 will go to provide Home Mission Board personnel with cost of living wage increases at an average of seven percent per individual.

"One of our major missions guidelines is 'people, not buildings.' Therefore, we are giving primary attention to those ministries which will reach the most people for Christ."

The tight economy places an added importance on the 1980 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions if such ministries are to be expanded, Irwin said.

"The limited number of new projects we will be able to start in 1980 will be funded by money we will receive in addition to the budgeted offering amount," he said.

Currently, the 1979 Annie Armstrong Offering has brought in \$13,917,703, the largest amount ever given to a home missions agency of any denomination in the United States, reported William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer.

"The offering has reached 92.78 percent of its goal of \$15 million and although we don't expect to reach that goal, the offering is \$1,645,000 above this time last year," Tanner said.

"I wish I could speak to all of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention personally, just to thank them for what they are doing through the Annie Armstrong Offering," he added.

"When I came to the Home Mission Board, I thought the Annie Armstrong Offering was important, but now I realize it is essential. It will become even more essential in 1980 if we are to press toward the goals of Bold Mission Thrust: evangelizing, congregationalizing and ministering to our nation in Jesus' name."

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Baptists Continue Aid  
To Paraguay Flood Victims

By Judi Kent

Baptist Press  
10/18/79

ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP)--Baptist ministry to victims of the May flooding--believed to be the worst in Paraguay since 1905--continues now five months later through Baptist pastors, Southern Baptist missionaries, Baptist churches and the mobile clinic of Baptist Hospital in Asuncion.

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Two encampments where Baptists work are comprised of farming families who had to abandon their homes on an island because of the river flood. Water still covers the island.

One Baptist church, La Nueva Jerusalem, has taken major responsibility for the spiritual welfare of those in the encampments. A church member drives a truck out to the camps each Sunday and brings 80 to 125 people to Sunday School.

The visitors outnumber the members, but the members continue in their efforts to reach their guests for Jesus. Some 30 decisions for Christ have been made through the personal work of the pastor, Diosnel Silva Armoa, and church members.

The mobile clinic has received national recognition in Paraguay on television and through newspapers because of its ministry. While the clinic was making one of its usual visits to the camp, Mrs. Alfredo Stroessner, the wife of Paraguay's president, also arrived to give out blankets and other items with a Red Cross team.

A sea of reporters following her activities picked up on the story of the clinic. The chaplain with the clinic had the camp children sing to the president's wife--"I Have a Friend Who Loves, His Name Is Jesus." She asked for two encores of the same song.

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Mrs. Kent is Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Paraguay.

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

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Sanyati Baptist Schools  
Reopen At New Location

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GWELO, Zimbabwe Rhodesia (BP)--Sanyati Baptist schools, closed by guerrillas in Zimbabwe Rhodesia at the end of the first term, have reopened in a new location with almost 95 percent of the previous students enrolled.

The schools reopened for the second term using five churches in the area of Cam and Motor Mine for classrooms, according to Ralph L. Rummage, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Zimbabwe Rhodesia. Students live with relatives or friends in Cam and Motor Mine or in Gatooma, the major town nearest Sanyati.

Although the Baptist hospital at Sanyati is still operating under local Baptist leadership, Southern Baptist missionaries moved off the compound following the guerrilla murder of Southern Baptist missionary Archie G. Dunaway Jr. in June 1978. Former Sanyati missionaries Dr. and Mrs. Maurice L. Randall are now stationed in Gatooma.

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'Flesh and Blood' Called  
'Cheap Exploitation'

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press  
10/18/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--CBS-TV, which has been trading punches for months with critics from the religious community over a movie about a boxer and his implied incestuous relationship with his mother, has taken another verbal right to the chin, this time from an official of the Southern Baptist Convention's national social ethics agency.

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In addition to labeling "Flesh and Blood" a "cheap exploitation of both sex and violence" and "a moral insult to the American people," Harry N. Hollis Jr. of the SBC Christian Life Commission has taken CBS to task for insisting that the TV drama was "family entertainment."

In defending the network's decision to stick with "Flesh and Blood," CBS program practices vice president Donn H. O'Brien assured a network affiliates conference several months ago that the movie was appropriate for prime time viewing. "Adults and children will and should watch this together," he said. "It is family entertainment."

"If CBS defines this as family entertainment, then the network ought to spend some of its multimillion dollar profits to equip its programmers with dictionaries," countered Hollis, after viewing the movie's October 14 and 16 segments. "By showing this movie, CBS has demonstrated a lack of knowledge of the good taste and moral decency of the vast majority of TV viewers in this country. We deserve and we demand more than a sexploitive treatment of incest during prime time or any time."

Hollis urged Southern Baptists to continue to voice opposition to such programs by communicating with the network, local stations and advertisers.

Through its three-year-old "Help for Television Viewers" program coordinated by Hollis, the Christian Life Commission has been active in stimulating and facilitating grass roots involvement in television reform.