



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

-- FEATURES

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Highland Crest Church
Sponsors Association

By Erich Bridges

GREEN BAY, Wis. (BP)--It all began in a rickety old construction shack with one heater.

Snow blew in through the door and covered the "foyer" floor with a light white blanket. Inside, three families huddled together around a teeth-chattering preacher to worship. Sunday best was a warm overcoat and a good pair of galoshes.

It was the winter of 1956, years before Vince Lombardi and his Packers put Green Bay on the map. Hardworking blue collar families, mostly Catholic or Lutheran, labored in the town's factories and mills.

At the time, there weren't enough Southern Baptists in Wisconsin to crash a Tupperware party.

But Bob Phillips, Don Hinckle and Ben Jenson hungered for an evangelistic, biblically based church in Green Bay.

"We wanted a church that would preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ," remembers Phillips, an energetic, square jawed, Wisconsin born construction contractor. "So we decided to start one."

Hinckle, a combustion engineer, traveled south to seek the help of Illinois Southern Baptists. Pioneer missionary Harold Cameron visited Green Bay, advised and assisted the tiny but eager group of believers there, and soon worship services were being conducted in assorted homes and the frigid construction shack.

Phillips, Hinckle and Jenson mortgaged their homes to buy property for a church building, and by December of 1961, Highland Crest Baptist Church stood in sight of Packer Stadium.

Members gathered in the new building on Dec. 16 for an all-night prayer meeting, praying that the church would become a "soul winning station" in Wisconsin.

Today, Highland Crest is perhaps one of the strongest churches in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Fellowship. On Sundays and Wednesdays, visitors and members (of which there are almost 200, mostly Wisconsin natives) overflow the small sanctuary, and pastor Frank Hamby contemplates adding a second Sunday morning service until a new building can be constructed.

But amazingly, before the church constructed its first building, the people of Highland Crest began sponsoring missions.

The first mission of the church was born in Appleton, thirty miles south of Green Bay, in 1959. A few families met in a garage equipped with folding chairs. Then came Sheboygan in '62, Wausau in '67, Manitowoc in '73, and Tilleda in '76; five mission churches, fanned out over 2,400 square miles of eastern Wisconsin.

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They're all healthy churches today, and several have spawned "grandchildren" for Highland Crest--new missions. In fact, each of the six churches in the newly-formed Bay Lakes Baptist Association is descended, directly or indirectly, from Highland Crest.

Laymen like Phillips and longtime member Thurman Brown nurture the fledgling missions in their infancy. Brown, quality control inspector in a Green Bay factory, has preached in all five Highland Crest mission churches. Well into his sixties, he's still at it.

"Soon as we get a mission going good, it's time to start another one," says Brown, a good humored, rough-hewn Louisiana native. "The challenge up here just keeps on staring you right in the face."

Brown, who works nine-to-twelve-hour shifts on the job, rises at 6 a.m. on Sunday mornings, drives 30 miles and preaches at Clintonville (one of Highland Crest's "grandchildren"), then drives 40 miles to preach at Tilleda at 11 a.m. Following that service, he rushes back to Green Bay to be at work by 2:30 p.m. If he's off work on Sunday, he returns to Clintonville for evening service.

Before the end of 1980, the people at Highland Crest hope to launch three new mission churches. There's lots of room since 116 of Wisconsin's and Minnesota's 165 counties have no Southern Baptist witness.

"This church has always taken distinctive stands," says pastor Frank Hamby. "We state very clearly who we are and what we believe: the Gospel. That appeals to people."

"When we started out, we knew we had to have a vision," concludes Bob Phillips. "So we asked ourselves, 'Why not reach the whole state?' That's been our philosophy ever since. It's as simple as that."

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

Trentham Dismissal
May Be Reconsidered

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WASHINGTON (BP)--President Carter's pastor, ousted by a vote of the congregation of First Baptist Church in Washington Oct. 28, may have a second chance to argue for his retention.

According to church moderator Frank McAnear, the likelihood of a second vote on renewal of Charles A. Trentham's contract arose when a church member who voted against the pastor sought to have the church's action reconsidered before the Oct. 28 meeting was adjourned.

The member, who according to McAnear was unhappy that he and others were not allowed to speak during the debate, has now indicated that he will reintroduce his motion to reconsider at the next regularly scheduled business meeting Nov. 28.

Robert's Rules of Order provides that a person voting on the winning side may move reconsideration of the issue at hand. McAnear told Baptist Press that the matter could have been disposed of Oct. 28 had not another member quickly moved adjournment, a non-debatable motion which takes precedence over any other. When the congregation voted overwhelmingly to adjourn, the door was left open for the Nov. 28 prospect of reconsideration, McAnear said.

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The congregation voted not to renew Trentham's contract when it expires Feb. 15. He was dismissed by a narrow 166-140 vote.

McAneer said that numerous members want to avoid another showdown over the matter and that there remains an "outside chance" that the individual who wants to move for reconsideration will not go through with the motion.

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Crawley Urges Passage
Of Tax Relief Measure

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
11/1/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board executive warned a Senate subcommittee that the denomination's ability to respond to tragic world situations such as that of Cambodian refugees "will be crippled" unless Congress passes legislation to restore the tax-exemption of missionaries' salaries.

J. Winston Crawley, director of the overseas division of the Foreign Mission Board, told the Senate subcommittee on taxation and debt management that Southern Baptists have poured more than \$750,000 over the past three to four years into caring for Cambodian refugees who are now escaping by the hundreds of thousands into neighboring Thailand.

"This type of operation will be crippled," he declared, unless a bill is passed by Congress to undo the damage done last year with passage of the Foreign Earned Income Act. The Foreign Mission Board recently stepped up its lobbying effort to restore an exemption from taxation to missionaries and employees of other non-profit organizations with overseas operations when such employees earn under \$20,000 annually.

Board members Joe McKeever, from Mississippi, and John Alley, from Louisiana and Lynn Clayton, editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message, went to Washington for two days of meetings with Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, and others, to seek missionary tax relief.

In his testimony, Crawley gave full support to S.1703, a bill introduced last June by Sen. John H. Chafee, R-R.I. Crawley noted that "Southern Baptist missionaries are engaged in a wide variety of benevolent programs, including sanitation and public health, medical ministries..., schools..., literacy courses, community development centers, children's homes, agricultural centers." He also cited the Foreign Mission Board's efforts to battle world hunger, to provide disaster relief, and to meet the needs of refugees.

Crawley also emphasized three economic factors which presently work against U.S.-based organizations doing benevolent work overseas: the income tax many employees of such groups already pay in the countries where they work; inflation; and the steady decline of the American dollar.

The Foreign Mission Board alone will be faced with the prospect of paying approximately \$1 million in missionaries' taxes for 1979 unless a bill like Chafee's passes. The measure is given a good chance of passage, largely because Chafee has succeeded in lining up some impressive co-sponsors, including Senator Long, considered to be the most influential member of the Senate on money bills.

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In the House of Representatives a bill similar to Chafee's, H.R. 5730, has been introduced by Rep. Barber B. Conable, R-N.Y. Like Chafee a Republican, Conable is presently trying to line up the support of influential Democrats on the House Committee on Ways and Means, the panel which will eventually have to pass the bill before it can reach the House floor.

Appearing with Crawley in appealing for passage of Chafee's Senate bill were Louis Samia, executive director of CARE; Monsignor Andrew P. Landl of Catholic Relief Services; A. Colin McClung of the International Agricultural Development Service; and Vernon Larson of the Association of U.S. University Directors of International Agricultural Programs.

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SBC Cooperative Program
Ahead Slightly in October

Baptist Press
11/1/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptists began the 1979-80 fiscal year with \$4,972,291 in gifts to the national Cooperative Program at the end of October, the first month in the fiscal year.

That amount represents a 3.25 percent increase over the amount given in the first month of the 1978-79 year.

Total giving for the month amounted to \$5,729,220, including the undesignated Cooperative Program figure and another \$756,928 in designated contributions. The designated contributions represent a 9.61 percent increase over last October, while the total giving is 4.04 percent ahead.

The Southern Baptist Convention has set a goal of \$71 million for basic operating and capital needs in 1979-80, plus another \$12 million in Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds.

In 1978-79, the national Cooperative Program exceeded the \$64 million basic operating and capital needs budget by only \$165,480. That made only a small dent in the 1978-79 Bold Mission Thrust challenge goal of \$11 million.

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Nevada Baptists Change Name,
Nearly Double Annual Budget

Baptist Press
11/1/79

HAWTHORNE, Nev. (BP)--Nevada Baptists changed their name and set some bold goals at their first annual meeting since becoming a state convention in October 1978.

One hundred sixteen messengers, at least one from each of the 75 churches and missions in the convention, voted to drop "Area" from their name and become simply the Nevada Baptist Convention.

The messengers, in a spirit of bold witness to the world and their state, nearly doubled their budget and expressed a goal to have at least one church in each of the 154 operational zip code areas in Nevada within five years.

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The convention adopted a \$503,164 budget, nearly a \$200,000 increase over the previous year. Nevada churches will contribute \$192,000 of the budget and will designate 10 percent of their contributions to world mission causes through the national Cooperative Program budget. The remainder of the budget will be met through contributions to the convention from other agencies, primarily the SBC Home Mission Board which will contribute \$218,000.

The messengers resolved to request the names of "pastors and other personnel" be restored to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual every year. The Executive Committee, in September 1978, voted to print directories of Southern Baptist pastors, music and education ministers, chaplains and associational missionaries only on even numbered years, at an annual savings of \$50,000.

Messengers also elected Don Mulkey, pastor of Twin Lakes Baptist Church, Las Vegas, as president of the convention for a one-year term. Elected vice president was Adrian Hall, pastor of College Park Baptist Church, Las Vegas.

National convention leaders attending this first meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention's 34th state convention included Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee; William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board; William Pinson Jr., president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; and Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, president of the Woman's Missionary Union.

The 1980 Nevada Baptist Convention annual meeting will be held Oct. 27-29 in Las Vegas.

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'Baptist Bowl'
A Possibility?

Baptist Press
11/1/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--It probably hasn't happened before but the computer possibilities are beginning to send a ripple of interest along the Bible belt.

Two Southern Baptist affiliated-universities boast football teams ranked in the top 20 nationally in the Oct. 31 edition of the United Press International rating and a "Baptist Bowl" is an intriguing possibility.

Wake Forest University, a school of about 5,000 students in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Baylor University, with about 10,000 students in Waco, Texas, have clobbered enough opponents with the sword of righteousness to earn No. 14 and No. 18 ratings respectively. Wake Forest is ranked 14th in a similar Associated Press poll although Baylor has not cracked the top 20.

The 14 major bowls require 28 teams so there is a statistical possibility that Wake Forest and Baylor could meet, if each continues to perform well. Baylor has lost only to No. 1 ranked Alabama, and Houston, which leads the Southwest Conference as of Nov. 9. Wake Forest has lost only to North Carolina State, as of Nov. 2.

Wake Forest should holler for a rematch since the two teams met in the 1948 Dixie Bowl in Birmingham, with Baylor a 20-7 winner.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story mailed Oct. 31 entitled "Baptist Laymen Work Despite Caribbean Problems," please change wind speed in third paragraph from 185 to 150 miles per hour.

Thanks,
Baptist Press