



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

-- FEATURES

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79-195

Missions Outlay Spirals
For South Carolina Church

By Mary Jane Welch

NORTH AUGUSTA, S.C. (BP)--First Baptist Church, North Augusta, S.C., began 1979 with the pledge to provide volunteer manpower for building a Baptist conference center in Iringa, Tanzania. By year's end they will have given much more--their associate pastor, for instance.

When Larry and Sandra Scales were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries to Tanzania, they were only two of several church members who have expressed interest in missionary service since the project began. One couple has entered seminary to prepare for possible missionary service. Two other couples and two college students feel that they too are being called to missions.

Besides these people and the more than 60 volunteers who have gone to Tanzania, the 2,500-member church has given \$23,000 above transportation costs of the volunteers for materials and a van for the conference center. They have organized teams of men armed with slides and souvenirs to tell other churches how they too can be involved in volunteer missions.

And they've made more plans for the future. They'll continue sending construction teams to Iringa next year, said Scales, who has served as the church's coordinator for the project. In addition, the church is gearing up for the 1979 Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions. Their 1979 goal had to be raised to \$12,500 after the 1978 offering surpassed their original 1979 goal.

The conference center is financed partly by Lottie Moon funds and partly by Tanzanian Baptists. Original plans called for three dormitories, a dining hall and an assembly hall with classrooms, but spiraling costs, Scales said, have caused the assembly hall construction to be delayed. The dining hall will have to do double duty.

The Southern Baptist missionary coordinating the project, Carlos R. Owens, and his family, receive their support and operating money from the Lottie Moon and Cooperative Program funds. The North Augusta church is bringing Owens and his wife, Myrtice, to the United States this winter to speak to them and visit his home church, First Baptist, Paris, Tenn., which also has provided volunteers for the construction project.

The North Augusta women have organized a sewing circle to make 300 mattress covers for the assembly. Volunteers going to Tanzania have been taking one suitcase for themselves and one for their tools. Eventually that extra suitcase will hold mattress covers.

The large outlay of volunteers and money to Tanzania hasn't hurt the church's own program. Church members have taken greater interest in outreach in their own community. "We have 30 to 40 men come out on Monday nights to go visiting," Scales said. "We couldn't get them out before."

Although the church postponed building a new sanctuary when it undertook the project, it has received 250 new members this year, almost one third by baptism, said Scales.

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The church also has outgrown its Sunday School space and has named a building committee for new educational space. "The only question asked was 'Can we finish our Tanzanian project if we do this?'" said Scales.

In addition, the church has increased its appropriations for Southern Baptist missions and missionary personnel, he said. It seems like the more that members of First Baptist, North Augusta, give to missions, the more they want to give.

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

T-Shirt Ironic Reminder
Of Americans' Prosperity

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By Patsy Eitelman

KOUDOUGOU, Upper Volta (BP)--Bicycling to the post office, I saw a small, malnourished boy standing beside the road sporting a wide grin and a T-shirt, evidently a U.S. cast-off, that boldly declared: "I lost 90 pounds in 9 weeks."

The fact that neither he nor those around him had any idea what the shirt said only increased my amusement.

The more I thought about this encounter, though, the less funny it became. This boy and his shirt are a sad picture of the paradox that exists in the world between the "haves" and the "have nots."

Does it seem strange that the "haves" are preoccupied with cutting calories while the "have nots" wonder where their next meal is coming from;

--That the "haves" are overeating themselves to death while the "have nots" face starvation and malnutrition;

--That the "haves" are worrying about abortion, prolonging life, and growing old, while the "have nots" know that many of their children will never survive through infancy;

--That the "haves" are constantly demanding higher wages, more benefits, and lower prices while the "have nots" despair of ever having a salaried job or enough money to support their families?

Missionaries in developing nations are faced with these contradictions each day, but they are seldom so vividly portrayed as in this boy and his T-shirt.

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Patsy (Mrs. Ray) Eitelman is a Southern Baptist missionary to Upper Volta.

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High Court To Review
Key Free Speech Case

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court will decide if a privately-owned shopping center is off-limits to individuals or groups collecting signatures for a petition.

The high court will review a decision last March by the California Supreme Court that a group of Jewish students who sought to collect signatures among patrons at a San Jose shopping center had their constitutional rights violated when the center's owner had them removed by security guards.

Their petition condemned a United Nations resolution branding Zionism as a form of racism.

The case goes back four years when a group of high school-age students of the confirmation class at San Jose's Temple Emanuel, along with a teacher, went to the Pruneyard Shopping Center as part of a weekend class drive to enlist support for a petition to the U.S. government to withdraw support of the UN resolution.

According to a legal brief filed with the nation's high court, the students and teacher had "a self-imposed rule that they would not harrass people" or block entrances to the shopping center. The statement claims that they conducted themselves in a "courteous and orderly manner."

Those claims are not disputed by the owner, who nevertheless told security guards at the 75-store establishment to ask the students to leave, while at the same time advising them that they could set up their petition table on a public sidewalk outside.

The group declined, saying that their petition effort required discussing the issues face-to-face with the public.

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College Elects Criswell,
Adopts Doctrinal Statement

Baptist Press
11/20/79

DALLAS (BP)--W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of Dallas Baptist College.

The board also adopted the Southern Baptist Convention's 1963 statement of Baptist Faith and Message as Dallas Baptist College's doctrinal statement. All trustees, administrators, faculty members and staff of the school will be required to sign the statement.

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**Long-Lost Friends Reunite
As Ugandan Leaders Convene**

JINJA, Uganda (BP)--Pastors arriving in Jinja for the first meeting of Ugandan Baptist leadership in eight years didn't know whether many of their old friends were dead or alive.

But they spent much of their three days together in prayer, praise and thanksgiving after greeting many of those old friends, said Dale G. Hooper, Southern Baptist missionary to Kenya. Hooper, a native of North Carolina, attended the meeting after visiting Uganda's director of programming in Kampala to discuss Baptist broadcasting in the country.

After spending their first day in worship, fellowship, teaching and preaching, 65 men and two women from throughout Uganda heard reports from churches in areas such as Mbale, where only five of the 20 churches remain. Some churches in other areas also were destroyed, some churches are without leaders and others met secretly in homes for several years, they learned.

Leaders made plans to help local churches and to start leadership training for pastors, although a shortage of public transportation and delays in postal service will make their cooperation difficult, said Hooper. Southern Baptist missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. G. Webster Carroll and Mr. and Mrs. James L. Rice, began restoring Baptist work when religious freedom was returned to the country following the fall of former president Idi Amin.

In a meeting with the director of programming, Hooper, director of Baptist communications in Kenya, and other Baptist representatives, discussed the type of religious broadcasts available from Baptist communications and shared samples of programs produced for Voice of Kenya in Baptist studios in Nairobi.

The director told them he will decide how Baptists can assist after the new government formulates its policy on religious broadcasting.

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Colorado Baptists
Affirm Biblical Authority

Baptist Press
11/20/79

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP)--Colorado Southern Baptists approved a record budget, elected a new president and passed resolutions on biblical authority, Bold Mission Thrust, Iran and Cambodian refugees.

Messengers to the 24th annual session of the Colorado Baptist General Convention reaffirmed their stance on the authority of Scripture and reaffirmed the statement of Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963.

The resolution on biblical authority said the phrase "truth without mixture of error" found in section one of the Baptist Faith and Message statement "refers to and includes the whole Bible--every word of it."

Churches were urged to educate members "concerning the doctrine of authority and inspiration of Scriptures as well as other basic Bible doctrines."

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Other resolutions appealed for action to correct the plight and starvation of thousands in Cambodia, took a stand against the "inhuman acts" related to the current standoff between the U.S. and Iran and spoke out against crime, pornography and homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle.

The resolution on Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist plan to tell everyone in the world about Jesus Christ by the year 2000, urged every pastor and every church staff member to lead persons in their churches in evangelizing the world by teaching the Bible's message of world missions and evangelism.

The Bold Mission Thrust resolution also urged each pastor and church staffer to lead churches to implement the evangelizing and teaching by setting the example and being "an active, practicing soul winner," and encouraging churches to "strive toward establishing at least one church and mission every decade." It also urged church leaders to "exhort the members of our churches to greater personal purity."

The \$1.3 million budget for 1980 anticipates \$943,006 in receipts from Colorado Baptist churches, with 26 percent of that amount going to worldwide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program. In 1981, Colorado Baptists will raise the percentage to the SBC to 27 percent.

After a debate, messengers voted 65 to 60 that any overages or surpluses not needed for operating expenses of the state convention will go to establish new work in the state.

Messengers also elected Tom Satterwhite, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Pueblo, Colo., as president, and voted to affirm the decision of the convention's executive board to build a new state Baptist building, now under construction south of Denver.

Some discussion centered around whether or not the board should have brought the matter to the floor for a vote prior to purchase of land and beginning of construction. The state constitution and bylaws give the board authority to launch such a project without prior approval by messengers.

The 1980 convention will be held Nov. 11-13 at Central Baptist Church, Aurora, Colo.

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Northern Plains Baptists
Pray for Iranian Hostages

Baptist Press
11/20/79

RAPID CITY, S.D. (BP)--The Northern Plains Baptist Convention passed resolutions dealing with U.S. hostages in Iran and the need for seminary education in the four Northern Plains states of Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and North Dakota.

In other action, messengers elected Mannon Wallace, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hamilton, Mont., as president and approved a budget of \$963,199, of which \$447,759 will come from churches in the Northern Plains Convention. Seventeen percent of the latter amount will go to world mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program.

The resolution on Iran urged prayer for the hostages and their families, while the one on seminary education called for Northern Plains Baptists to communicate with Southern Baptist seminaries about providing extension studies, especially courses leading toward the master of divinity degree.

The next annual meeting will be held Oct. 29-30, 1980, at First Southern Baptist Church, Casper, Wyo.

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California High Court
Denies Armstrong Appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--The California Supreme Court has ruled 4-3 that the state may force Worldwide Church of God head Herbert W. Armstrong to submit to questioning over the financial dealings of the church.

The Nov. 17 action clears the way for the state to take a legal deposition from the 86-year-old Armstrong, who along with the church's chief attorney, Stanley R. Rader, has been accused by former members of the sabbatarian denomination of misusing church funds.

Last January, under orders from State Attorney General George Deukmejian, California, in effect, took over ownership of the 100,000-member denomination, claiming that churches are actually public trusts and thereby subject to inspection by state officials.

Armstrong's supporters in his legal battle include at least 15 widely diverse religious organizations, many of which have sought to file friend-of-the-court briefs on his behalf.

Last month for example, John W. Baker of the Washington, D.C.-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs protested Deukmejian's effort to force Armstrong to submit to the deposition.

Baker argued that "both the principle of religious liberty and the constitutional doctrine of separation of church and state are jeopardized" by such an effort. He had also informed the California high court that if it granted Armstrong a hearing to argue against the deposition order, the Baptist Joint Committee would enter the case as a friend-of-the-court.

The California court's split decision not to hold such a hearing means that Armstrong must wait to make his constitutional arguments if and when the case comes to trial. Thus far, the state has not brought formal charges against either Armstrong or Rader.

Although the court gave no reasons for denying the request for a preliminary hearing, three members, Chief Justice Rose Bird and Associate Justices Stanley Mosk and Frank Newman, dissented from the majority action.

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Tennessee Baptists
Sell Belmont Plaza

Baptist Press
11/20/79

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Tennessee Baptists voted to sell its troubled retirement facility, Belmont Plaza, to a group of 20 Baptist laymen, elected a new president, and took action to relieve world hunger.

In other action, messengers to the 105th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention voted a \$13 million budget, plus an additional Bold Mission Thrust challenge goal of \$2 million. Thirty-five percent of each amount will go to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program.

The action on Belmont Plaza, a 123-unit retirement facility built by the Tennessee Baptist Service Corp. but unable to open for lack of funds, will relieve the service corporation from \$5 million in debt. Belmont Plaza, Inc., made up of the lay people, will purchase the facility. They will issue new bonds and invest the proceeds in U.S. government securities, which will be used to pay off existing bonds.

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Messengers elected William Palmer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Morristown, Tenn., as president and called on Baptists in the state to put \$500,000 into a world hunger program during the next three years. They asked Baptists to become personally involved by volunteering short-term service in Third World countries.

The relief program, to be channeled through the SBC Foreign Mission Board, will include direct contact between Tennessee Baptists and a needy country.

In a series of resolutions, Tennessee Baptists called for introduction of courses into public schools teaching moral responsibilities and the religious history of the U.S.; commended Al Shackelford, editor of Tennessee's Baptist and Reflector, for his coverage of the Belmont Plaza and Tennessee Baptist Service Corp. dilemma; urged reassertion of emphasis on U.S. freedoms and "abhorrence of activities by such groups as the Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis and Communist Workers Party," and called for improvement in television programming.

Next year's meeting will be Nov. 11-13, 1980, Johnson City, Tenn.