



BAPTIST PRES

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355

W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jamison, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Richard T. McCartney, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) _____, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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Closest Convention
Hotels Already Full

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The 11 hotels closest to the site of the 1980 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis are filled, according to convention manager Tim Hedquist.

Hedquist said 13 of the 27 hotels cooperating with the city's convention bureau were filled as of Nov. 15. The closest hotel with rooms then available is four miles from the Cervantes Convention Center, where the annual meeting will be held June 10-12.

The rush of early reservations is no indication that record breaking crowds will jam the meetings next June, Hedquist said. He indicated that because of good publicity and the housing problems messengers encountered at the 1979 meeting in Houston, people are taking seriously the need to get their housing requests in early.

The St. Louis convention bureau is handling all housing requests and a computer form is required for each request. The forms are available at state Baptist convention offices, from Hedquist's office at the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville, or in the November issue of the "Baptist Program." Many state Baptist newspapers have printed the forms.

No one should panic for fear they won't get a room, Hedquist said, because there are still many rooms available, including more than 4,000 in outlying and smaller hotels that don't cooperate with the convention bureau. Unlike the convention in Houston, there will be adequate parking in public lots around the convention center.

Neither the convention bureau nor hotels will deal with individual housing problems, Hedquist said. He indicated some confirmations are delayed by scheduled computer listings, but he receives an update at least every month. Anyone with a housing problem should contact him at 615-244-2355.

Hotels that were filled as of Nov. 15 are: Sheraton St. Louis; Bel Air Hilton; Holiday Inn-Riverfront; Stouffer's Riverfront; Marriott's Pavilion; Mayfair Hotel; Lennox Hotel; Best Western-St. Louisian; Holiday Inn-Downtown; Rodeway Inn-Downtown; Ramada Inn-Downtown; Executive Inn-International; Sheraton West Port.

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Medical Supply Aid Ends;
Church Renewal Continues

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NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--A medical assistance program which began with a planeload of medical supplies flown into Uganda shortly after Idi Amin's downfall was to end Thanksgiving weekend.

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The last of 80 tons of medical supplies provided by Medical Assistance Program of Carol Stream, Ill., was to be distributed by then to Christian medical facilities by Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers, said Davis L. Saunders, secretary for eastern and southern Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Southern Baptists also distributed agricultural tools and repaired wells in the country, as well as working to restore Baptist churches, said Saunders. He and his wife, Mary, former missionaries to east Africa, recently spent a month in Uganda, where he conferred with the mission and assisted with restoration of Baptist churches.

"Physically, the people are in dire circumstances and have little medicine and food," he said.

Although medical supplies will no longer be distributed, a missionary physician, Richard W. Goodgame, was appointed to Uganda in November as a medical school teacher. An agriculturist, Billy L. Oliver, has transferred to Uganda from Yemen.

Southern Baptist volunteer Joel B. Aud, a former student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has repaired four damaged wells in cooperation with the local government, Saunders said. Southern Baptists provided transportation and technical expertise and the government provided parts for restoring the wells. Aud's wife, Susan, is teaching in a Ugandan primary school.

Southern Baptists also distributed 2,500 hoes to needy families through about 50 Baptist churches in the country.

Most churches are meeting again, Saunders said, although many worship under trees because buildings were damaged or destroyed during Amin's rule. Ugandan Baptists were scheduled to hold an evangelistic crusade in the Soroti area during November as part of a plan to hold a crusade in a different area of Uganda each month.

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Six BSU Students To Be
First Semester Missionaries

Baptist Press
11/29/79

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Six Baptist Student Union students will go overseas in January for four to six months as the first group of semester missionaries.

In a new program sponsored by the student ministries section of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, these college students will be working alongside missionaries in Benin, Guadeloupe, Panama, Haiti, Mexico and Uruguay.

More than 20 missions (organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries in a foreign country or territory) have expressed interest in having a semester missionary, says Charles A. Beckett, coordinator of student ministries, although only seven made specific requests for the first semester.

The program was begun as an answer to BSU directors' requests for more options for college and university students who want to work overseas on a short-term basis. The state BSU is responsible for the young people's transportation to and from the field while the mission supplies housing and meals.

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This first group of semester missionaries will handle jobs such as pastor's assistant, Baptist center student worker, physical education coach and English teacher.

Students participating in the spring semester program are Beth Bohon from the University of Missouri, to Panama; Mike Drummond, Samford University, to Benin; Steve Gaultney, Baylor University, to Haiti; Jimmy Rodriguez, Southwest Texas State University, to Mexico; Jim Thomas, William Jewell College, to Guadeloupe; and Laura Heide, Baylor University, to Uruguay.

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Drugs Account For One
Quarter of American Deaths

By Rex Hammock

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--One quarter of all deaths in America last year were related to alcohol, cigarettes and drugs, a noted psychiatrist told religious leaders attending a national conference here on the impact of alcohol and other drugs.

Richard Phillipson, special assistant for medical and scientific affairs for the National Institute on Drug Abuse, told conference participants that more than 300,000 premature deaths in America last year can be ascribed to nicotine smoking and some 200,000 to alcohol use.

Around 75,000 deaths were associated with other drugs, the former head of psychiatry for the British army reported.

Outlining drugs other than alcohol currently "in vogue," Phillipson assessed the impact of drugs on American society.

"Overall," he declared, "the cost to society of the addictive disorders is enormous.

"The economic costs of smoking and drug abuse have been estimated at \$35 billion and the costs of alcohol abuse at \$43 billion. These costs can be quantified by assessing their impact on health care, law enforcement and judicial systems, and in the labor market of persons who are drug-dependent."

Other recent findings reported by Phillipson dealt with cocaine, "angel dust", and the use of marijuana by young Americans.

"At current levels of use, most clinicians feel cocaine poses only a minimal public health problem; others, however, disagree," Phillipson said.

"Heavy use (of cocaine), however, can damage the nasal septum (the wall dividing the two halves of the nose) causing it to collapse," he said. Other occasional consequences of cocaine use include psychological dependence, reactive depression, cocaine psychosis and death.

Phillipson sounded an alarm about the use over the last several years of phencyclidine, also known as PCP or "angel dust."

"Several psychiatric hospitals have reported that over a quarter of their admissions in the last year were of persons suffering the effects of PCP psychosis," he said.

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"PCP is not a pleasant drug. We are hopeful that efforts to publicize its bizarre, unexpected, and uncontrollable effects will be effective in discouraging its use."

The psychiatrist also expressed concern over the growing use of marijuana among young people. "We remain especially concerned about the role of marijuana in interfering with normal psychological and physical development in children," he said.

"Much of the emphasis of the National Institute on Drug Abuse is directed at discouraging or delaying such early use, for we have found that the earlier marijuana use begins, the more likely it is to become heavy and to include other drugs."

Other findings about marijuana have "implications for the health of the user," he said. Marijuana is not a "safe" substance; acute marijuana intoxication impairs learning, memory, and intellectual performance; marijuana intoxication impairs driving and other skilled performance; marijuana interferes with lung function and produces bronchial irritation in habitual users; and evidence indicates that marijuana can affect the network of glands and hormones which are involved in such functions as growth, energy levels and reproduction."

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Wrapup

Religious Leaders Explore Top
Health Hazard--Alcohol Abuse

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press
11/29/79

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--More than 200 leaders from 40 religious denominations and groups spent three days here examining the impact of alcohol and other drugs on contemporary life and how they can effectively combat abuse.

Although "other drugs" were discussed, most speakers dealt with alcohol abuse and alcoholism, identified by John DeLuca, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism as probably the nation's number one public health problem.

"Five years ago this conference couldn't have been held," said one participant, "because religious groups, split over how to approach the alcohol problem, wouldn't have had the patience to talk to each other. We've come a long way in willingness to listen to each other."

David Hancock, a Presbyterian clergyman from Minneapolis, put that tension into perspective. He urged church people, divided over whether total abstinence or moderation is the best way to deal with alcohol, to drop self-righteous attitudes and work together to solve problems growing out of misuse of the drug, alcohol.

Speakers ranged from those strongly urging abstinence to those calling for combating the problem in a context of moderate use. Alcoholism was variously defined as a disease, a disease resulting from sin, and a sin.

But in the final analysis, speakers and participants agreed that the church, which affects society's value system, is uniquely equipped to help combat the national problem, which has reached epidemic proportions. However, they noted many areas in which the religious community should improve its efforts.

DeLuca, a conference speaker, hailed the efforts of the religious leaders--Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and Jew--sponsoring the conference, and especially the organizational work of Owen Cooper, retired industrialist from Mississippi. Cooper is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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"The strongest network of organizations available to deal with this extensive public health problem is religious groups," DeLuca declared.

The religious leaders emphasized the need to work together to combat the abuse of alcohol, a dangerous drug, which statistics show can wreck homes, destroy individuals, result in thousands of deaths across the country, and create a financial drain.

Alcohol was identified as an addictive, mind-altering, mood-changing, central nervous system depressant, similar to chloroform, which can relieve stress and produce euphoria, but which also can impair conscience, judgment, reason, insight, memory, speech, hearing, vision, and muscular coordination.

DeLuca said Americans owe it to themselves to analyze the costs of alcohol vs. the benefits of its use by many as a "recreational beverage."

Speakers cited research which shows that alcohol-related problems cost \$43.5 billion each year, contributes to the death of 205,000 persons each year, and has a severe and rapidly-escalating impact on women and youth. The United States has 10 million alcoholics.

Creation of an "American Dachau for Alcohol Related Killing" for the 205,000 Americans killed each year by alcohol would "dramatize the wastage of human life by the alcohol beverage industry," declared Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A clergyman from Demarest, N.J., joined a number of speakers in declaring that the church must be a loving, caring, supportive, serving community, if it is to be effective in dealing with the root causes of alcoholism and other drug-related problems.

The church, said Lucius Walker, director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, must be inclusive and "not silent in the face of exploitation. It must be prophetic, willing to take risks, lose friends, see budgets shrink and even lose jobs."

Selden Bacon, professor emeritus of sociology and director of the Center of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University, said religious groups, government, and academia and "sufferers" from alcohol must band together to study the reasons for alcohol problems, not just concentrate on the results.

Three of the "sufferers," who have successfully battled alcoholism, addressed the conference, urging unceasing efforts to deal with the problem. They are Don Newcombe, former Brooklyn Dodger pitcher; former Iowa governor and U.S. senator, Harold Hughes; and David Works, an Episcopal clergyman and president of the North Conway Institute, Boston, Mass.

"I know how good I was," said Newcombe. "I just wish I could see how good I could have been. I should have been able to play another five or six years," he said, blaming an excessive use of alcohol for cutting his career short.

Nationally-syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, taking a different perspective on the problem, said the current crisis in Iran is the result of the United States' use of personnel who offended the Iranians by their personal habits, including use of alcohol and other drugs.

"The ugly American has turned much uglier overseas because he has become a carouser," declared the Mormon layman. "When Ayatollah Khomeini came to power, he closed the bars and preached anti-American sermons."

Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss.; Peter G. Young, a Catholic priest from New York; and Phillip Hansen, a Lutheran chaplain from Minneapolis, capped off the conference with calls for effective action.

"We must work together to reach a solution of the ageless problem (alcoholism) which has plagued humanity from ancient times," Cooper said. "To do less weakens the witness of the church and destroys homes and individuals."

Young, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Bolton Landing, N.Y., urged churches to build a network to become "a concerted church voice" in the battle against alcoholism and alcohol abuse."

"We are called to be change agents, to help people be what they are intended to be," declared Young, president of the Council on Alcoholism for New York.

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Congregation Rejects Move
To Reconsider Trentham Vote

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press
11/29/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--Members of First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. decisively defeated a motion to reconsider the congregation's Oct. 28 action terminating the service of senior minister Charles A. Trentham.

After the 217 to 110 vote against reconsideration, the congregation overwhelmingly approved a severance package amounting to \$33,012 for the beleaguered pastor. Under the agreement, Trentham will leave the historic downtown church Feb. 15, 1980, when his second three-year contract expires.

President Carter, who along with Mrs. Carter and daughter Amy, joined First Baptist shortly after his January 1977 inauguration, was conducting a nationally televised news conference on the crisis in Iran while the congregation debated Trentham's fate. The Carters also were absent from the Oct. 28 meeting.

The earlier vote had left the congregation, which is dually aligned with American and Southern Baptists, deeply divided after a 166 to 140 decision not to renew the 60-year-old pastor's contract next February. Unlike nearly all other Baptist churches, First Baptist in Washington retains its professional ministerial staff under a contract system.

Trentham was dismissed by the congregation after a large majority of the church's deacons recommended the action, citing his two divorces and what they called his "poor judgment" in dating Alice Gregg Bickerstaff, the 28-year-old daughter of President Carter's Sunday School teacher, herself a divorcee.

Although church leaders on both sides of the controversy had hoped to avoid the move to reconsider, several others, including Deacon Chairman William McBeath, a Trentham supporter, said they felt reconsideration to be necessary.

McBeath termed the events which led to Trentham's ouster as "very unfair," citing specifically the fact that the initial complaint was raised by a group of "life deacons" who acted on their own without authority. He also said the controversy has seriously damaged Trentham's career and left a "tarnish on his reputation."

But the majority clearly did not want to reopen debate over the circumstances leading to the ouster.

Between the two meetings, an unofficial group of nine prominent members of the church, four on each side of the controversy, was convened by moderator Frank E. McAnear to seek a solution to the split. The group met twice to hammer out the severance proposal.

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The \$33,013 figure represents one-half salary plus some fringe benefits for the period Feb. 15, 1980 to July 1, 1981, when Trentham will turn 62. The group described the arrangement as a "pre-retirement sabbatical."

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Agreement Reached On Growth of Churches

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--A first step toward devising cooperative strategies to help churches grow more effectively has been announced by the Sunday School and Home Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The agreement, which will result in increased efforts by the home mission, church program and publishing arms of the SBC, was worked out over a two-year period and represents only the two agencies.

"We are grateful that we can link the approaches and resources of these two agencies in a massive growth enterprise," said Grady C. Cothen, Sunday School Board president. "Growing churches is our Heavenly Father's business; therefore, growing churches is our business."

"What we are attempting to do is find ways in which we can work together to provide resources and programs which will help churches move strongly into a continuing and stable growth pattern," added William G. Tanner, the Home Mission Board's executive director-treasurer.

The agreement defines the growth of churches, specifies characteristics and outlines actions necessary for growth.

"About two years ago, leaders from some of the state Baptist conventions asked us to develop a distinctly Southern Baptist approach to church growth," Tanner said. "Southern Baptists have been concerned about church growth for years. Other groups have picked up some of what we have been doing and given it a different verblage and a Third World coloration."

Tanner and Cothen appointed a committee which worked toward a common Southern Baptist approach to church growth under their leadership. Serving on the committee from the Sunday School Board were Reginald McDonough, secretary of the church administration department; Roy Edgemon, secretary of the church training department; and Harry Piland, secretary of the Sunday School department. Home Mission Board representatives were Gerald Palmer, director of the missions section and C. B. Hogue, director of the evangelism section.

"The agreement represents a Southern Baptist understanding of what makes up church growth," Cothen said. "We realize not every church fits in the same category, but we also realize a need to develop plans to help every church grow."

"We are drawing together on an agreement of the definition, characteristics, and principles of church growth, so that we can present a unified approach. The agreement assures that each agency is saying the same thing about growing churches. As we have a common approach, we can provide the resources which will help each church grow in its own way."

Tanner said the agreement "will call for an intensive review of what we are now doing, examining our programs and strategies to see how they support growing churches, and devising plans to strengthen that growth."

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The agreement--which will be published in a brochure in early 1980--defines church growth: "Church growth is the human-divine process of adding to a church those who are saved through Jesus Christ, equipping them for responsible discipleship, resulting in witnessing, ministering and establishing new fellowships of believers."

The biblical principles underlying the effort to help churches grow "spring from a basic presupposition about the church as the Body of Christ," the agreement says.

They include: The Scripture provides principles which instruct and guide our efforts to lead a church to grow; God purposes that churches should grow; growth results from God and man working together; a church is responsible as God's agent to fulfill his purpose in the world; and a church witnesses and ministers, recognizing social, racial and cultural distinctions and acknowledges the power of the gospel to transcend them and unite persons in Christ.

The agreement lists common characteristics of Southern Baptist churches which are experiencing growth. Included are pastoral and lay leadership involved in growth, priority commitment to evangelism, an equipping ministry designed to help members grow, minister and witness, and the use of the Sunday School as the major outreach arm of the church.

It also defines actions which must be taken if churches are to grow. Included are a commitment to growth, cultivation, establishment and evaluation of strategies aimed at growth.

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(BP) photo will be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Sunday School Board Bureau of Baptist Press.

Rwanda Missionaries' Son
Recovering After Surgery

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DALLAS (BP)--The 16-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries Earl and Jane Martin was released from Baylor University Medical Center, Nov. 28, following neurosurgery for head injuries sustained in East Africa.

Wayne Martin, a junior at Rift Valley Academy, Kijabe, Kenya, came to Dallas for treatment upon the recommendations of doctors in Kenya. He entered the hospital there because of headaches and fainting spells which followed a shallow dive into a swimming pool and two soccer accidents at the academy.

Diagnosed as having a subdural hematoma, a blood-filled swelling, Martin was reported to be doing well upon release from Baylor. He and his parents, who are from Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., will be in Garland, Texas, until after Christmas, when they will return to Africa. His parents are stationed in Rwanda.

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Inflation Changes Basics Into
Luxuries for Missions Work

By Anita Bowden

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Is \$8,700 too much to pay for a missionary's car? Not when you consider some missionaries pay as much as \$15,000.

A \$15,000 car would be a luxury item for most people, but for Southern Baptist missionaries in Uruguay, because of import duties and other charges, it's only a no-frills Chevette or Volkswagen stationwagon. Inflation in that South American country was nearly 28 percent in the first five months of 1979, compared with 15 percent in the same period of 1978.

The cheap car can be purchased in Taiwan where inflation hasn't climbed so steeply. For \$8,700 you can buy a four-cylinder, four-speed Ford stationwagon with no air conditioning, no radio and stick-to-you vinyl seats.

Inflation is on the rise everywhere. For most Americans, salaries aren't increasing as fast as the cost of goods and services. Gasoline has reached or surpassed the dollar-a-gallon mark, home mortgage interest rates are at an all-time high, money is tight and there's no good financial news in the forecast.

But missionaries overseas would gladly swap their foreign inflation for the U.S. rate.

Consider these facts:

- Bacon in Okinawa is \$4 a pound;
- A wringer washing machine in Guatemala costs \$995;
- A head of lettuce in Taiwan goes for about \$4;
- Chicken for four people costs about \$8 in Italy;
- A box of corn flakes in Ghana is more than \$7;
- Gasoline in Korea is about \$4 a gallon;
- A used piano costs \$800 to \$1,000 in Singapore;
- In Thailand, a small can of shaving cream is \$4.

How do missionaries and Southern Baptists cope with these financial challenges? Worn-out phrases like "bite the bullet" and "tighten the belt" are getting more usage, but they're not solutions.

One answer lies in the attitudes and ingenuity of Southern Baptists at home and missionaries overseas. Some folks are changing their eating habits--using less meat and more fresh vegetables and fruits. Car pools are springing up in overseas settings as well as in the States.

An opportunity for Southern Baptists in the United States to help ease the crunch abroad is through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. Sponsored and promoted by the Woman's Missionary Union, this year's goal is \$40.5 million, over half the annual operating budget of the SBC Foreign Mission Board. The other major source of income is the denomination's Cooperative Program budget.

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The first \$32 million will go to operating expenses, a recent departure from the original use of the offering, which provided missionaries with the tools, literature, land and buildings with which to work. But inflation has eaten up a greater percentage of the offering each year and now the majority of it must be used to meet operating expenses for the board's 3,000 missionary force.

Since its inception, the offering, named after missionary to China Lottie Moon, has raised \$405,722,945. This year's goal is 12.6 percent more than the nearly \$37 million raised last year.

A heating panel provided through Lottie Moon funds on a missionary children's dorm roof near Tel Aviv, Israel, supplies sun-heated hot water for bathing, dishwashing and clothes washing for 12 to 15 people, saving electricity.

In Israel this summer inflation brought tension and some sleepless nights for those working with the Baptist Conference Center. When groups reserved conference time in the spring, they contracted for a fee based on prices then. But halfway through the conference season food prices increased 40 to 60 percent, boosting the overall cost of each conference about 20 percent. Fortunately, some conference groups were willing to pay more than their contracted price. The center lost money on other groups.

At the Foreign Mission Board inflation is causing problems, too. In the 10-year period between May 1969 and May 1979 inflation rose more than 96 percent. During approximately the same time, missionary personnel increased more than 22 percent. The two factors combined show a need for a more than 140 percent increase in budget just to maintain the increased number of missionaries and their work, according to Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division. But between 1968 and 1978 Southern Baptist giving to foreign missions rose only 118.5 percent. "This is not bold financing," Crawley said.

"In order to be bold we must do more than just keep up with inflation and increased missionary personnel--and we're not even doing that now," he said. "Our whole problem is a matter of priorities--how important Southern Baptists think missions work is. Statistics indicate missions is losing ground in importance with Southern Baptists.

"At present we are not having to turn away potential missionaries because we don't have the money to support them. But we're gradually taking away the materials for them to work with. We can't reach the world for Christ if all we have to work with is 3,000 missionary voices."

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Baylor Receives
Mellon Grant

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WACO, Texas (BP)--Baylor University has received a grant of \$325,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York to expand the school's faculty development program.

The grant will be used over four years with over \$1 million in university funds to support discussion groups and panels, teaching workshops, the Summer Teaching Institute, summer mini-sabbaticals, teaching fellowships, and orientation for new faculty.

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