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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Relief Projects Top \$3 Million;
Board Says Farewell To Cauthens

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Continuing to respond to the needs of Cambodian refugees, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appropriated another \$40,000 in December to assist missionaries working with the Cambodians flooding into Thailand.

This allocation, along with more than \$130,000 voted for other projects, brought the year's total relief appropriations to a record \$3,039,293.

But an event much closer to home captured most of the attention at the December session. Meeting in the chapel that bears his name, the board and staff said their farewells to Baker James Cauthen, who will retire Dec. 31 after 26 years as the board's executive leader.

Calling his wife Eloise to his side, Cauthen expressed appreciation for the board members and for the Southern Baptists they represent. He said he plans to spend the first months of retirement "preaching all up and down the country" before going to California to teach next year at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley.

But the Cauthens will maintain their residence in Richmond, he said, and will return there after the year at Golden Gate. Then, with a twinkle in his eye, he added: "Eloise says to tell you that we already have our cemetery lots here."

He turned to R. Keith Parks, executive director-elect: "Keith, three weeks from today, you'll have a load on you. Eloise and I will be praying for you."

Board President John W. Patterson of Richmond presented the Cauthens three bound volumes of letters. "These represent people all over who are saying we love you," he said.

In business actions, the board approved the \$40,000 to provide a milk tanker and a two-ton truck for hauling milk and other food supplies to the refugee camps in Thailand.

Cauthen emphasized that the \$500,000 voted in November and this latest appropriation do not represent the maximum amount which the board is prepared to designate for this refugee work.

Both he and John R. Cheyne, associate consultant for relief ministries, stressed that the board stands ready to expand its assistance as missionaries and volunteers are able to utilize additional funds and as funds from Southern Baptists are made available.

Through November of this year, Southern Baptists have given the Foreign Mission Board more than \$2.5 million for hunger and relief work around the world, a major increase over the \$1.7 million given in all of 1978.

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Cheyne said the board has been "inundated by calls from people wanting to know what they can do to help in the Cambodian relief." The emphasis on Cambodia, while coming at the same time as the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, has not detracted from strong interest being shown in meeting this year's \$40.5 million Lottie Moon goal.

William R. O'Brien, secretary of the board's denominational coordination department, reported that 12,640 calls had been received by Dec. 11 through the Foreign Missions Hotline, an incoming WATS line installed to share information with Southern Baptists about their worldwide missions outreach.

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Hogue Issues Challenge
To Avoid Controversy

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
12/12/79

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Southern Baptists were challenged to avoid religious controversy and to keep their eyes fastened on the priority of Jesus and evangelism.

C. B. Hogue, director of the evangelism section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, addressed that challenge to evangelism leaders of the state conventions and seminary professors during the annual meeting of evangelism directors.

He noted that preliminary projections for 1979 indicate baptisms increased 9.7 percent over 1978. Projections by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention indicate baptisms will amount to some 368,647 for the 1978-79 church year, which ended Sept. 30.

The projected increase follows three years of decline, during which baptism statistics dipped to the lowest point in more than a quarter of a century.

"We're excited and with good reason," Hogue said. "Baptisms are up. Nearly all of the state conventions have shown marked increases. We properly praise God that the turnabout may be on its way."

As Hogue looked to the future, he traced several problems and challenges facing Southern Baptists in a continued evangelistic thrust.

"We're facing a serious situation in the matter of religious controversy. The next few years could siphon our energies and our evangelistic thrust," he said.

While Hogue did not refer to specific controversy, he apparently was talking about doctrinal strife which ripped the 1979 Houston meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Division occurred there over the question of the inerrancy of the Bible. Similar controversy also erupted in several state Baptist convention annual meetings this fall.

Hogue told evangelism directors: "Let me say at the outset that I believe in the inerrancy of the Scriptures as given in the original autographs (manuscripts). I'm a Bible toting believer. It (the Bible) is nothing less than the absolute Word of God.

But I have no time to spend arguing about it. I just believe it," he emphasized.

Hogue said the current religious controversy threatens the gains made in evangelism. "Historically, religious controversy has killed spiritual awakenings. Controversy stops revival,"

he said, citing evangelist George Whitfield, who refused to become embroiled in a religious controversy because it would have hampered a revival he was seeking to kindle in America's early days.

"We can get so involved in fussing, feuding and fighting that we have no time left for reproving, rebuking and exhorting," Hogue said. "You may have a fast draw on the Scriptures and be able to shoot eyes out on any argument; yet when the smoke clears away the real count is not those lying in the street, but those kneeling at the Cross," he added. Hogue exhorted the evangelism leaders to be neither active nor reactive in the controversy, "but to keep your eyes on Jesus. Do all you can to win souls to Jesus Christ" and be "instruments through which God can speak to this time."

As he talked about the future, Hogue warned that the 1980s will be uncertain times for Southern Baptists. As he traced the 1950s, '60s and '70s, he said the United States enters the 1980s as a 200-year-old nation--a "brawny, youthful, teenage fellow of ebullient emotions and feelings."

"We enter the 1980s with an image that has been tarnished with scandal at home and disrespect and impotency abroad. The 1980s are at the chute, ready to charge out to challenge us in the manner of the wildest bull confronting the most trembly cowboy."

As he traced the conditions Southern Baptists will have to face to be effective, Hogue noted the growth of ethnic groups, the crisis of the cities and the decline in rural areas.

"The greatest segment of baptisms of Southern Baptists in the 1980s may well come from minority groups who are not in the tradition of Anglo churches," he said.

Addressing the city, he said: "The urban crisis will not get any better. Evangelism is the hope of the future, for only when the gospel is presented and response is made can people really live together in peace."

As he talked of rural areas, he warned that "dozens of rural churches are in danger of becoming graveyard tenders only."

"We are in a confrontation with an increasingly hostile population involved in paganism, secularism, humanism, pluralism and universalism," he declared.

To face the challenges of the 80s, Hogue urged evangelism leaders to help every church in the Southern Baptist Convention increase baptisms by at least 10 percent. "If we can do this every year, then by 1985, we can be baptizing 650,000 people per year. And, personally, I think that figure is rather small for a 13.2 million member denomination," he said.

He also challenged state evangelism workers to decrease the number of churches which reported no baptisms at all. Estimates indicate that some 6,000 out of the 35,404 SBC affiliated churches had no baptisms. "Find out why they are not baptizing anyone and help them strategize to win people to Jesus," he said. He also urged the cooperative effort by evangelism leaders to work with others "in doing what God has taught us to do."

As he concluded, he said: "I challenge you and I challenge Southern Baptists to take the 1980s for Christ. I'm asking you to be endued with the Holy Spirit and committed to his plan. Let the fire burn in our bones. . . . Let us hurdle every barrier. . . overcome every human condition. . . . Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. . . ."

Sunday School Growth
Plan Urges '8.5 by '85'

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Harry Piland challenged state Sunday School leaders meeting here to support a comprehensive five-year plan to increase enrollment in Southern Baptist Sunday Schools from the current 7.3 million to 8.5 million by 1985.

Piland, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department, noted that while Sunday School enrollment increased from five to seven million between 1950 and 1959, it has grown only 200,000, from 7.1 to 7.3 million, since 1960. Projections indicate a 0.1 percent, or 7,338, decrease in 1979 to the current 7.3 million level.

"It's my conviction that we need to have a vision and to set goals to stir our minds and hearts," said Piland.

Based on current statistics, Piland presented annual goals on a state-by-state basis for consideration of the state leaders, who expressed support for the plan.

"I think it is timely and long overdue that we set numerical goals," said James Frost, director of the Florida state Sunday School department.

Frost said he plans to take Florida's current goal of a 20 percent increase during the next three years and translate it from percentage into numerical terms.

In California, the state convention is in its third year of working toward Bold Mission Thrust goals calling for a 20 percent increase in Sunday School enrollment by 1984, with a total objective of doubling the enrollment by 1998, according to R. L. Pattillo Jr., Sunday School department director.

"We're beginning to get response from churches now," said Pattillo. "Our people are talking for the first time about growth and about new work."

Michael Collins, director of the Ohio Sunday School department, said he plans to add to his state's established enrollment goals additional goals on training workers, weekly workers' meetings, visitation programs and standard Sunday Schools.

"The key to meeting these goals will be to get to the local church level and for pastors to become excited about what growth can mean in their churches," said Collins.

In announcing the enrollment goal, Piland said churches must plan for growth by training potential workers and adding new classes. A total of 8.5 million persons in Sunday School would require an additional 151,380 new workers and 64,320 new class units, he said.

For the first year, 1980-81, Piland proposed the following denominational goals for Southern Baptist Sunday Schools:

- 100,000 net increase in enrollment;
- 5,000 churches beginning an evangelistic visitation program;
- 100,000 workers trained in personal witnessing skills;
- 1,000 churches beginning weekly workers' meetings;
- 2,000 workers earning a Sunday School Leadership Diploma; and
- 1,000 churches requesting general Sunday School Standard recognition.

Cauthen Ends Final Service
With a Blessing and a Wave

By Mary Jane Welch

HAMPTON, Va. (BP)--Having closed his last missionary appointment service as executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Baker J. Cauthen raised his hand over his head for a joyful wave to the thousands who shared the occasion with him.

"God bless you everyone," were his parting words, ending a three-hour service filled with missionary testimonies, special presentations and messages from Cauthen and Adrian P. Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Held in Hampton Roads Coliseum at Cauthen's request, the service, which drew about 6,000, was hosted by five Baptist associations--Blackwater, Mid-Tidewater, Norfolk, Peninsula, and Portsmouth. Fifty-one persons from the largest crowd to attend a Southern Baptist missionary appointment service in the Tidewater area responded to an invitation at the close. Some made professions of faith and others committed themselves to Christian service, possibly on the mission field.

Addressing the 28 persons appointed to mission service, Cauthen recalled that he and his wife stood where they were 40 years earlier. He said that someday they would stand, like him, a few days from retirement and say, "What is my testimony? My testimony is 'my cup runneth over.'"

Greeted by a standing ovation, Cauthen yielded most of his time to Rogers and then introduced his successor, R. Keith Parks. Parks, veteran missionary and board administrator, has had "25 years getting ready for the task that now awaits him," Cauthen pointed out.

"God blesses us primarily through people. Through Baker James Cauthen, he has blessed literally the people of our world," said Parks.

Saying Cauthen had asked him to preach a biblical sermon, Rogers gave a message based on Acts 1:8. He told the new missionaries that wherever they went, they could be sure that all people have a sin problem, that they have a hunger for God, that they can be saved by Jesus, and that God has given a universal command to all Christians to go.

Before presentation of the new missionaries, board president John W. Patterson of Richmond gave retirement plaques to Cauthen and his wife, the former Eloise Glass. Mrs. Cauthen's plaque noted that she had been related to the Foreign Mission Board all her life, first as a missionary child, then as a missionary, then as a staffer's wife.

Attention turned to the new missionaries as each told why he or she felt called to mission service. H. Doyme Robertson, who said he once avoided missions programs in an attempt to escape a call, said he finally concluded, "The happiest and safest place on earth is in the center of God's will." He and wife Martha will go to Peru.

John M. Townsend, former Southern Baptist missionary journeyman to Korea, said a Korean seminary student made him aware that Americans have a responsibility to learn as much as they can in order to share the gospel with others. Townsend and his wife Sharon, both Texans, will work in Brazil, where she was a missionary journeyman.

The year's final appointments brought the total for 1979 to 332, the second highest figure in board history. The record was set in 1978 when 350 persons were appointed. That marked the first time that more than 300 missionaries were named in a single year.

Other career missionaries appointed in the service were Mr. and Mrs. Howard G. Atkinson of Kentucky, assigned to Colombia; Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Bartels, Massachusetts and Missouri, respectively, to Benin; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Bowie, Kansas, to Peru; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald E. Cornelius Jr., Texas, to Equatorial Brazil; and Mr. and Mrs. James D. Dobbins, Oklahoma and Kentucky, to Chile.

Also appointed were Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Garrett Jr., Texas, to Argentina; Mr. and Mrs. Larry H. Lee, Alabama, to Windward Islands; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald B. Reeves, Georgia, to French West Indies; Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey R. Sharp, New York and Kentucky, to Hong Kong and Macao; Tonita Tackett, Indiana, to South Brazil; and Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Taylor Jr., Mississippi and Kentucky, to North Brazil.

Employed as missionary associates were Mrs. Sarah Thomas, Alabama, to Yemen, and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil B. Williams, Florida, to Tanzania. A missionary associate is a person between 35 and 59 employed for a renewable four-year term to do a particular job for which he or she is equipped by education and experience.

-30-

'At Home With the Bible'
To Win NRB Merit Award

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"At Home with the Bible," weekly Southern Baptist television program, will receive the National Religious Broadcasters award of merit for best Christian television program of the year.

The program, the second TV show to ever receive the NRB award of merit, began airing in October 1978. It is a joint production of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Radio and Television Commission.

The NRB will present the award at its annual convention in Washington, D.C., attended by representatives of the 900 member organizations which produce religious radio and television programs and operate religious stations.

In announcing the award, NRB executive director Ben Armstrong said, "Not only does 'At Home with the Bible' show superb quality technically but it is outstanding as an innovation in the field of religious broadcasting." Armstrong cited the board's home Bible correspondence course which is promoted on the program for "linking the viewer with the programmer in a vital two-way relationship."

The program's executive producer, Don Fearhelley; producer, Bob Thornton; and host, Frank Pollard, expressed appreciation for the award.

Fearhelley, who supervises the board's Bible correspondence section, praised the cooperative efforts of the two agencies and added: "I feel 'At Home with the Bible' presents the kind of format and Bible teaching content that Southern Baptists fully support in striving to reach a mass audience through the broadcast media."

Thornton, a TV producer on the commission staff, said the award "demonstrates the effectiveness of combining resources and talents (in the two SBC agencies) in an effort to reach a broader audience."

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NRB will present two other 1980 awards of merit. "Hour of Freedom" produced by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association will be honored for excellence in radio program production. For excellence in television station operation, the award will go to WCFC-TV in Chicago which also airs "At Home with the Bible."

-30-

Jail Ministry Has 30-Year Incubation

By Tim Nicholas

VICKSBURG, Miss. (BP)--The Warren County Correctional Chaplaincy sort of got its start back in 1957 when 35 railroad freight cars derailed at Rolling Fork.

It became official when Roscoe Woodrick went to court last year to testify in behalf of a young offender.

The judge in the Warren County courtroom asked Woodrick how he happened to meet the man. Woodrick responded that he'd met him at the jail while serving as chaplain of the Warren County Jail.

"Who made you chaplain of the Warren County Jail?" witnesses recall the judge saying.

"God did it," replied Roscoe.

The judge never told the clerk to strike that from the record, so apparently Roscoe Woodrick's appointment by God is official.

But even without official sanction, it's nonetheless real. For over a year Roscoe Woodrick, retired railroad engineer, has been volunteer chaplain at the county jail in Vicksburg. He and a dozen others make regular visits to the 80-100 inmates there, offering them spiritual guidance, and a listening ear.

Back in 1957, Woodrick, a third generation railroad man, was pulling a hot shot freight non-stop at top speed through Rolling Fork when 35 cars pulled one another down an embankment, piling up 50-75 feet high, according to him. "I got to thinking of my condition with the Lord," he said. "If the engine had fallen in, I wasn't prepared to meet God."

The next June he made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ at Calvary Baptist Church in Vicksburg. He thought God was calling him to preach so he enrolled in seminary extension courses, but later dropped out. He kept dropping further and further out until in 1976 he made a public confession and rededication.

Searching for a service outlet, he worked out details for visitation and ministry for volunteers at the Warren County Jail. The first time he visited, he led a man to salvation. "That's like pouring gas on a fire," he said. "It'll set you on fire to lead someone to Jesus for salvation."

The men contacted Good News Mission, a chaplaincy program in Arlington, Va., for Bible study course materials and tracts. It helped set up a grading center in Vicksburg, and gave Woodrick, then retired, some training in chaplaincy work. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board gave 100 New Testaments.

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Now after the first year, about 3,000 lessons have been completed by several hundred inmates, and 175 inmates have made professions of faith in the presence of the volunteers.

Inmates began asking for Roscoe. Sheriff Paul Barrett and the jailers said they noticed they had fewer problems with the inmates since the volunteer work began. Roscoe was even given a tiny office in the jail to operate out of.

Usually the Sunday afternoon visits are by about 12 men and women who stay with inmates two to three hours. The jail has one women's cell. Plus on a regular basis, volunteers visit nearby Kuhn Memorial Hospital in Vicksburg where about 30 state prison inmates stay.

Roscoe told of attempting to witness to a black Muslim. "I let him lead me into an argument over the Bible," said Roscoe, who said he got angry and told the man to shut up. He started to leave the cell area when he was stopped by another man who said, "You didn't come to argue with him about hell, you came to tell us about Jesus." Roscoe said that put him back on track and he was able to relate to the man who stopped him from leaving.

Said Roscoe, "The fellow who can't witness--he just hasn't had a spiritual experience. If a man's ever accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, it's the most simple thing in the world."

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