

**BP****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Refugees Taught Forgiveness  
At Missionary's Bible Class

By Maxine Stewart

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)--A few feet away a group sits, gambling. People are milling around, talking and laughing. The windows are open and the din of heavy street traffic drifts in.

In the midst of the noise and confusion, a few people sit in a circle with Bibles open in front of them. It's a Bible study class in one of the refugee transit centers in Bangkok, Thailand. Leading the class is Delores Hill, a Southern Baptist missionary assigned to Bangladesh but on loan for one year to Thailand to work with refugees.

When Delores isn't working with the Bible study class, she's involved in distributing clothing suitable for the countries where these refugees are preparing to go or using her nurse's training in the prenatal clinic.

Her husband, Danny, is in charge of setting up food distribution programs for the United Nations at new Cambodian refugee holding centers in Thailand.

"It has been one of the greatest experiences that ever happened to me," Delores says of her time with the Bible class. "Do you know what they asked me to teach on today? Forgiveness. Forgiveness!"

The refugees were having difficulty relating their Christian understanding of forgiveness to the people responsible for their having to leave their homes and countries.

"If we forgive our enemies and love our enemies, then we cannot fight against them even though they have taken what used to be our beautiful country, and killed people, our loved ones," one refugee said. "How can we love them and fight them at the same time?"

With Delores' guidance, the group read scripture after scripture, seeking answers to their questions, trying to reach an attitude of total forgiveness.

One woman in the group of 18 is of special concern to Delores and the Christians at the transit center. In 1975 she was happily married to a government official and had five healthy children. Now her husband and four of her children are dead.

She hasn't yet reached the point of giving her burden of sadness to the Lord, but she is searching and Delores and the Christians there are praying for her.

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

Some Dallas Baptist Profs  
Hesitant About Altered Statement

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (BP)--Dallas Baptist College President W. Marvin Watson says that all but about a dozen of the 128 faculty and staff of the institution have signed a new "Articles of Faith" required of them. He stopped short of saying those who have not would be fired or their contracts not renewed if they do not sign.

The "Articles of Faith" were approved Nov. 15 by the college trustees who required they be signed by all faculty and staff.

The college announced at the time that the trustees had approved the statement of Baptist Faith and Message, adopted in 1963 by the Southern Baptist Convention.

However, it was later revealed two changes were made in the 1963 statement, the first in the portion on the Scriptures and the second on the nature of man.

In the Scriptures portion a sentence was added that states, "We believe in the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testament as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writing, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life."

In the portion on man a sentence was added stating, "By this statement we affirm our belief that man was created by a direct act of God in His image, not from previously existing creatures, and that all of mankind sinned in Adam and Eve, the historical parents of the entire human race."

Watson said that he had drafted the changes himself and that none of the 29 trustees present for the Nov. 15 meeting had objected.

Several of the faculty members, however, have voiced objections and seven still had not signed as of mid-December, and six other faculty or staff members had made changes in it or called attention to the changes before signing.

Watson noted most questions about the changes had pointed at the word "verbally" and said that he did not mean the word to imply persons signing the statement must believe in a mechanical dictation theory of biblical inspiration. To him, the word "verbally" means "correct," he said.

The president said he believes his changes give the 1963 statement the meaning Southern Baptists really intended when they originally adopted it. The convention has resisted repeated efforts to change it, however--the latest in Houston in June when the Scriptures portion was reaffirmed. The Texas Baptist Convention, meeting in Lubbock in November, overwhelmingly rejected an attempt to amend the Scriptures portion, while the Northwest Convention approved an amendment.

The Dallas Baptist College statement preface states any trustee, faculty or staff member "must sign" the articles and they also must pledge to teach and practice in that context.

Watson said that if any persons refuse to sign the statement that he will "visit with them." He said that everything he has done at the college since assuming the presidency Sept. 1 has been done with "prayer, meditation and consultation, and I am still going down that road. . . Just to draw a great big painting and say these are the end results of this action (if they still refuse to sign), well I have not done that on anything and would rather not do it here."

He said the purpose of the statement, which will be published in the college catalog, is to say to students, their parents and to prospective donors to the college, that "on this hill, in this place, we believe the Scriptures are correct."

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Baylor Committee  
Will Meet Jan. 17

Baptist Press

By Toby Druin

WACO, Texas (BP)--The academic affairs committee of the Baylor University board of trustees will consider a request for "counsel" from the university's department of religion when it convenes in Waco on Jan. 17.

Milton E. Cunningham, pastor of Westbury Baptist Church, Houston, is the new chairman of the 13-member committee.

At the October meeting of the trustees, the department of religion asked the trustees, through the academic affairs committee, to "Give us your counsel. We need your direction in our present dilemma over the choice of textbooks for our freshman courses in particular.

"Further, we need your counsel about the direction our department should take in the future. We invite you to take a full look at our entire program of teaching, both undergraduate and graduate, and make necessary suggestions that would help us to more nearly meet guidelines of the board of trustees as representatives of Texas Baptists. We have every confidence in your concern for our teaching program and pledge to you our full cooperation."

The faculty's request was prompted by criticism of the textbook, "People of the Covenant." Eules, Texas, pastor James T. Draper Jr., whom Cunningham succeeded as chairman of the academic affairs committee, has charged the book, used for 16 years in some Baylor religion classes and many other Southern Baptist and other denominational schools, is "liberal, built on the premise that the Bible is man's attempt to explain God and does not even suggest that it is God's revelation of Himself."

The book was written by H. Jack Flanders and two other professors at Furman University in 1963 and has been used extensively since that time. Flanders, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Waco, has been on the Baylor religion faculty since 1969. In August he was named chairman-elect of the department to succeed Ray Summers when Summers retires in 1980.

The annual meeting of the state convention in Lubbock noted the controversy and passed a motion reaffirming its "expectation of the elected trustees and administration of their institutions to fulfill their responsibilities in directing the affairs of our institutions in line with historic Baptist beliefs."

Other members on the academic affairs committee are C. T. Beckham, layman, Dallas; Travis S. Berry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Plano; Morris Cobb, layman, Amarillo; Leighton B. Dawson, layman, Corsicana; Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Eules, and president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference; Marshall Edwards, pastor of Columbus Avenue Baptist Church, Waco; Buckner Fanning, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio; Vernon Garrett Jr., layman, Houston; James L. Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas; Peter McLeod, pastor of First Baptist Church, Waco; Kenneth Vaughan, layman, Garland; and C. Gus Glasscock Jr., layman, Houston.

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### Jerry Vines Returns To Former Church

ROME, Ga. (BP)--Jerry Vines, pastor of the 7,600-member Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., will return to the pastorate of the West Rome (Ga.) Baptist Church in early January.

Vines served Dauphin Way, 10th largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, since September 1974, and was pastor of the 2,600-member West Rome Church, 1968-74.

The West Rome Church also called J. Emerson Lyle and Sherrell Dunn as assistant pastors and Aubert V. Rose as staff evangelist. Lyle and Dunn have served on Vines' staff in both Mobile and Rome. Rose has been in fulltime Sunday School evangelism since leaving the staff of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, in 1977, where he was associate pastor.

Vines was president of the SBC Pastors' Conference in 1977 and the Alabama Pastors' Conference in 1976, and he has been nominated for president of both the SBC and the Alabama Baptist Convention.

A native of Carrollton, Ga., he is a graduate of Mercer University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and holds a doctor of theology degree from Luther Rice Seminary.

Before going to West Rome Baptist Church in 1968, he was pastor of five Georgia Baptist churches--Centralhatchee, Bethesda and Eureka, all near Carrollton; Second Church, Cedartown (twice); and First Church, Fort Oglethorpe.

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### Girls' Pledge Impetus For Record Offering

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Nine little girls huddled anxiously over brightly wrapped boxes that rattled temptingly.

Impatient eyes peered toward their leader, bright with anticipation. When she said "go to it," the girls tore into their packages, quickly stripping the ribbon and bows to spill the contents on the table.

Inside? Not presents for them, but gifts of money from them to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The nine elementary school age girls, members of a brand new Girls in Action missions group at little Richland Baptist Church in Nashville, had pledged \$25 to the offering that annually provides over half the funding of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

They made banks from boxes and gift wrapped them. When the stacks of nickles and dimes and some bills were counted, the nine girls had given \$68.87 for foreign missions.

Their original pledge was the impetus for other groups within the church to pledge toward the offering. Another girls' group pledged \$40 and an adult Sunday School class promised \$100.

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Just two years ago the pastor had to challenge four families from the pulpit to come up with \$10 each so the church--which has Sunday School enrollment of 126--could meet its \$300 goal. Last year, the church surpassed a \$500 goal by \$50.

In 1979, when the pledging, excitement and giving was over, the church passed its \$750 goal by \$250. That's more than tripling the offering in just two years.

"Their giving is in the best tradition of people saving and giving sacrificially and shows that by working together we can accomplish great things that we can't do alone," said Catherine Allen, assistant to the executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, which sponsors the annual offering.

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Furman Gets  
Challenge Grant

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GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--Furman University has received a three-year, \$500,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Furman must raise an additional \$1.5 million to receive the full grant. The final total of \$2 million will be utilized to upgrade and advance instruction in the humanities at Furman.

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Southeastern Receives  
Large Contributions

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Two Raleigh businessmen have given Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary \$350,000 toward the seminary's \$3.5 million capital and endowment funds campaign.

Hubert Ledford, retired co-chairman of the board of Durham Life Insurance Company, and his wife gave \$10,000 cash and \$240,000 in an annuity trust. He is a member of Southeastern's development council.

Seby Jones, chairman of the board of Davidson and Jones Inc., office complex and shopping center contractors, gave \$100,000, to be paid over five years. Jones is also a member of the development council.

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