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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 6, 1980

80-22

**Volunteer's Condition
Reported Improving**

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Milford Doss Jr. of Somerset, Ky., is listed in serious condition by the University of Kentucky Hospital, Lexington, but his pastor reports that he is now conscious and responsive.

Doss was diagnosed as having cerebral malaria after his Jan. 18 return from Nigeria, where he participated in a volunteer evangelistic team from the United States.

Another member of the team, Wiley B. Faw Jr., also was admitted to the hospital with malaria but was released Feb. 5 after being hospitalized for six days, said C. E. Jacobs, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky.

Five remaining members of the team, including the pastor, were advised to continue taking anti-malarial drugs for six more weeks.

Since the team returned from their 22-day trip, Faw's father, a Southern Baptist missionary in Gombe, Nigeria, reports that he "rejoices" in the results of the evangelistic meetings the group participated in with missionaries.

Revivals were held in 32 of the 36 churches in the Salama Association, resulting in more than 5,000 decisions for Christ, the elder Faw said. In the Kafanchan area, about 60 churches participated and more than 2,000 decisions were reported.

A spokesman for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board said that follow-up teams will work with those who made decisions and encourage them to join local churches.

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HMB Church Loans
Passes Milepoint

Baptist Press
2/6/80

ATLANTA (BP)--Since it was given borrowing authority by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1967, the division of church loans at the Home Mission Board has generated an additional \$32.5 million for loans to churches.

The milepoint of \$32.5 was passed early in 1980, according to Robert H. Kilgore, division director.

The division was given authority to find and borrow funds from commercial institutions and then to reloan to churches to obtain sites or to construct buildings.

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"We have helped about 400 churches in the past 12 years with the borrowed funds by providing loans so they can have buildings in which to worship," Kilgore said, adding most of the loans were made to young churches in newer state Baptist conventions.

"We believe these churches would not have buildings were it not for the loans extended them through the Home Mission Board," he said. "Many of them could not obtain loans through local financing channels when they started out."

Since the authority was granted, the division has borrowed from a low of \$1.5 million a year to a high of \$4.5 million.

"The interest rates we have paid across the past 12 years to obtain the funds to help the churches build reflect the fluctuations of the economy," Kilgore said. "We began borrowing at six percent interest and it has now ranged upward to 11.25 percent.

"We have tried to loan the churches funds at the same interest rate we have had to pay to obtain the money, although we are currently paying 11.25 percent while charging the churches only 10 percent.

"When the convention gave us authority to borrow from commercial sources, it enabled us to help realize one of the goals of Bold Mission Thrust to give people an opportunity to have a place in which to worship." Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC plan to present the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

Kilgore said a goal of the Home Mission Board is to help Southern Baptists expand from the current 35,404 churches to more than 50,000 by the turn of the century.

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Ugandan President Binaisa
Requests Baptist Preachers

Baptist Press
2/6/80

ENTEBBE, Uganda (BP)--Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa has asked that Southern Baptist preachers and other Christian ministers preach evangelistic crusades throughout Uganda.

In a 40-minute conference Jan. 30 with Southern Baptist missionaries G. Webster Carroll and James L. Rice, Binaisa expressed appreciation for Baptist work and encouraged them to continue Baptist medical and agricultural aid as well as evangelism.

Carroll and Rice assured him they would make arrangements for Southern Baptist preachers for the crusades, said Betty Carroll, Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Uganda.

Both missionaries and Ugandan church and political leaders have stressed the need for spiritual restoration in Uganda since the downfall of former President Idi Amin. Amin had restricted religious and other personal freedoms and persecuted and murdered thousands of Ugandans during his eight-year rule.

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Baptist Sunday Schools
Vital in 200th Year

By Lynn M. May Jr.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Ten years after the first Sunday School was begun in England in July 1780, the idea took root in the United States, but many Baptist laymen and pastors initially opposed the Sunday School movement as unscriptural. Some even called it the devil's work.

Today, 200 years later, virtually every Southern Baptist church has a Sunday School, the strongest outreach arm of most churches.

The earliest Sunday Schools in America, like their counterparts in England, were not a part of the organized work of local churches. They were conducted by interested individuals or groups and staffed by paid teachers.

However, only when Baptist churches approved the Sunday School as a Bible teaching agency of the church and recognized the need for their own schools did the denomination make significant advance in Sunday School work.

In 1840 Baptists took their first steps to establish a program of Sunday School promotion. That year the American Baptist Publication Society began to publish some Sunday School books and to employ workers to organize churches and Sunday Schools.

When the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845, the Domestic (Home) Mission Board included Sunday School promotion as one of its activities. The first Sunday School Board was launched in 1863 and three years later began to publish a children's paper, "Kind Words," destined to grow to a circulation of more than 200,000 by 1877. This board was dissolved in 1873.

In 1891 the convention voted to establish the present Sunday School Board with headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. The SBC instructed the board to publish Sunday School literature, help establish Sunday Schools in churches which had none, and "to awaken, develop, organize and strengthen our churches in the great work of teaching God's truth to young and old," according to the 1892 SBC Annual.

The board solely depended on profits earned from the sale of its literature to implement such a program. James Marlon Frost, pastor of Leigh Street Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., was appointed the first administrator.

Southern Baptists entered the 20th century with no tested Sunday School methods, no definite policies of Sunday School work, no field force and no leadership training course. A majority of Southern Baptists still considered the Sunday School to be a children's organization.

In 1901, B. W. Spilman became the Sunday School Board's first field secretary to promote Sunday School work.

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A uniform grading plan providing for all ages in Sunday School was initiated in 1908. Those age divisions--cradle roll, beginners, primaries, juniors, intermediates, seniors (later called young people) and adults--were used for more than 60 years.

Southern Baptists became increasingly Sunday School conscious between 1917 and 1930 as churches began to realize the potential of the organization for Bible teaching, outreach, evangelism and training.

In 1920, the Sunday School Board began promoting an enlargement plan developed by Arthur Flake. Largely through extensive use of his plan, enrollment in Southern Baptist Sunday Schools increased by 40 percent in five years, to 2.7 million in 1925.

Flake's Formula--know the possibilities, enlarge the organization, enlist and train workers, provide the space and go and visit--is experiencing a resurgence in use today by churches with growth priorities.

By 1953 only 825 Southern Baptist churches did not have Sunday Schools. That same year a convention-wide enlistment effort was launched, "A Million More in '54," under the direction of J. N. Barnette, director of the board's Sunday School department.

Though the net increase of 597,361 fell short of the goal, the results of this movement were far reaching in buildings erected, organizations enlarged, and visions lifted.

Southern Baptist Sunday School enrollment continued to grow until 1964 when it peaked at 7.7 million. In 1965 Baptists began to experience what other major denominations had seen a decade earlier--annual declines in Sunday School enrollment which continued through 1971. Then after five years of gains, slight losses were suffered again beginning in 1977 and continuing through 1979.

In 1975 the board began to promote a new approach to enlargement called ACTION, created by Andy Anderson. Its effectiveness is illustrated by the fact that the 2,000 churches which conducted ACTION campaigns in 1976 averaged enrollment gains of 18 percent.

Under the direction of Harry Piland, director of the board's Sunday School department, a comprehensive strategy is currently being developed to increase the enrollment in Southern Baptist Sunday Schools from its present 7.3 million to 8.5 million by 1985.

Baptist churches today use their Sunday Schools to engage in evangelism and outreach, subscribe their budgets, train their leaders and conduct other basic projects. As the Bible-teaching agent of the churches, Sunday School has played a major role in the advance of the denomination to its present strength.

Adapted from an article which will appear in the October 1980 issue of "Sunday School Leadership." Lynn May is executive director of the Historical Commission of the SBC.

(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Cothen, Nine Others Named
To BJCPA Search Committee

WASHINGTON (BP)--A search committee of 10 persons has been named to seek a successor to James E. Wood Jr., who recently resigned his post as executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here.

Grady C. Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn., will serve as chairman of the search committee.

Other members are Gideon K. Zimmerman, chairman of the joint committee and executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference, Villa Park, Ill.; Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.; Charles G. Adams, pastor of Hartford Avenue Baptist Church, Detroit; William Cober, associate general secretary of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., Valley Forge, Pa.; K. Duane Hurley, executive secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Plainfield, N.J.

Also, William F. Keucher, pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Detroit, and current president of the American Baptist Churches; Pearl McNeil, ecumenical officer, American Baptist Churches, Valley Forge, Pa.; Warren R. Magnuson, general secretary of the Baptist General Conference, Evanston, Ill.; and Harry A. Renfree, executive minister of the Baptist Union of Canada, Calgary, Alberta.

Cothen said any interested Baptist is welcomed to make recommendations concerning the Washington post to him in care of the BJC search committee, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234, or to any other member of the search committee. He promised that all recommendations will receive "careful consideration."

Wood, whose resignation takes effect May 31, will return to the faculty of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, where he will direct the J. M. Dawson Studies in Church and State and become Simon Bunn Professor of Church-State Studies.

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College Investigates
Theft Indictment

Baptist Press
2/6/80

DALLAS (BP)--A Duncanville, Texas, man, indicted last May for felony theft of trade secrets, will remain as an instructor at Dallas Baptist College while the charges against him can be looked into, President Marvin W. Watson said.

Thomas Kent Atkins was named to replace Larry Braidfoot, an instructor in philosophy of religion, on the college's faculty, after Braidfoot was reassigned at the start of the spring semester to do institutional studies. Braidfoot, a faculty member since 1973, is one of the faculty members who have refused to sign Articles of Faith submitted by Watson and approved by the trustees in November.

Atkins, a Duncanville builder, was indicted for felony theft of trade secrets after he was charged with stealing blueprints from a Dallas architect and private contractor. His trial is scheduled for Feb. 25 in 204th District Court in Dallas.

Watson said he was "looking into it" and added, "Whatever we do will be done in Christian spirit as the facts reveal themselves."

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