



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

## NATIONAL OFFICE

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

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

### BUREAUS

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** 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

March 31, 1980

80-54

Texas Board Releases  
Funds for Dallas Baptist

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has released \$75,000 in tuition equalization grants and other funds to Dallas Baptist College students after receiving "clarification" of the college's stance on a controversial "articles of faith" statement.

The funds were frozen in January when it was reported that the college was requiring all faculty, staff and trustees to sign the articles of faith, an amended version of the 1963 statement of Baptist faith and message. Dallas Baptist President W. Marvin Watson had added sentences on biblical inerrancy and the creation of man to the 1963 statement.

Mack C. Adams, head of the state student division of the coordinating board said the funds were released after the college's position was clarified by action of the Dallas Baptist College trustees on Feb. 21 and in subsequent meetings of the state officials and college attorneys and administration.

In the Feb. 21 meeting, the college trustees, at the suggestion of their attorneys, approved a "resolution of clarification" that will place the articles of faith in the college personnel manual which goes to all persons on the college payroll.

The following sentence will follow the articles of faith: "While the college does not require a specific religious belief of its employees as a condition of employment, no employee shall espouse any belief at Dallas Baptist College contrary to the above statement."

The employees no longer will be required to sign the articles of faith per se. The only signature required will be on their employment contract, which will state, among other things: "I did receive a copy of the Dallas Baptist College personnel manual and I do agree to adhere to the policies and conditions as stated in that document."

Watson said last week the clarification should not be interpreted as any "backing down" on his previous stance on the articles of faith.

"The articles of faith are in the process of becoming a part of the personnel manual," he said. "The personnel manual is adhered to and agreed to by the employees of Dallas Baptist College as it is in any other institution or organization, public or private, so I don't know how you can say 'back down' when you still have the same words in the articles of faith."

The clarification approved by the trustees Feb. 21 allows persons with beliefs contrary to those stated in the articles of faith, but specifies they cannot "espouse" those beliefs. Watson said he interpreted "espouse" to mean "advocate, state or promote."

The Texas coordinating board officials also stated that no person "may proselytize in the classroom contrary to the articles of faith" and that the articles cannot be "denigrated by staff and faculty."

They also emphasized that no person should be dismissed or reassigned because of disagreement with the articles of faith.

When the articles of faith were first required by Watson, several faculty and staff members altered them or refused to sign the document. Several trustees also refused to sign. One of the faculty members who refused to sign, Larry D. Braidfoot, instructor in religion and philosophy, was reassigned to do administrative research. Watson has insisted that Braidfoot's stance on the articles of faith had nothing to do with his reassignment. He is the person responsible for updating the personnel manual, the president said.

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Brotherhood Offers  
Messenger Child Care

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ST. LOUIS (BP)--A missions day camp will be offered for children whose parents are messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention June 10-12 in St. Louis.

More than 300 children ages six through 11 are expected to learn about Southern Baptist missions at the camp on the Missouri Baptist College campus. The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission will sponsor the day camp, as it's done for nearly a decade, with the Brotherhood of the St. Louis Baptist Association.

Faculty and students at the college in suburban St. Louis will provide the leadership of the day camp under the direction of C.J. Bobbitt, baseball coach at Missouri Baptist.

Charge for attending the day camp is \$5 per child per day, which includes transportation, trip insurance, day camp supplies, lunch on June 10 and June 12 and other activity costs.

Children will board busses at the Cervantes Convention Center each morning at 8:30 and will return to the center at 4:30 p.m. except June 11 (Wednesday) when they will return at noon.

Messengers may register their children at the missions day camp booth in the lobby of the convention center.

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Black Baptist Students  
Elect National Leaders

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Irving Ward, a student at Birmingham Baptist College, Birmingham, Ala., was elected president of the National Baptist Student Union during a four-day retreat in Memphis.

Ward succeeded Lawrence E. Haley, a student at Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, who served a one-year term.

In competition for the title of Miss BSU, Mary Williams, a student at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Ark., won the talent-based event over 30 other young women.

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The retreat attracted more than 1,600 students from 100 campuses in 20 states, eclipsing the 1979 retreat attendance by more than 200, reported John Corbitt, national director.

The gospel choir competition drew 22 entries with Henderson State University winning the large choir division and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock the small choir division.

At the president's banquet, the students honored Mrs. Irene Turner, city-wide director of Baptist Student Union, Nashville, Tenn., for 28 years, with a national director's award.

The students also commissioned 50 persons to serve as summer missionaries this summer through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board or the Baptist Student Union structure.

Other conference features included 46 seminars on subjects ranging from the moral implications of nuclear technology to a clearer understanding of the Holy Spirit.

Other new officers of the national student groups are Carolyn Gordon of the University of Missouri, Columbia, vice president; Penny Hildreth of the University of Montevallo, Montevallo, Ala., secretary; William A. Johnson of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville, treasurer; Gloria Firmin of Dillard University, New Orleans, faculty advisor; and Mikel Robinson of Kentucky State University, Frankfort, pastoral advisor.

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Hiroshima Investment Pays  
Dividends for Japan Baptists

Baptist Press  
3/31/80

HIROSHIMA, Japan (BP)--Thirty-five years after Hiroshima, the faith, prayers and money of Southern Baptists have been rewarded through a transaction of First Baptist Church of Hiroshima, Japan.

When the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima, the First Baptist Church was among those buildings destroyed. Although the building was gone, all the Baptists weren't, and when Southern Baptist missionaries returned to their work in Japan after the war they took with them \$10,000 to rebuild the church.

Years passed and the central city began closing in on the Hiroshima church. The building needed repairs and large businesses wanted the location. The congregation voted to sell for \$4.3 million and move to another site.

Cost of the new property, a sanctuary with adjoining educational building and a modern pastorium, came to \$3 million. The church voted to donate the remaining \$1.3 million to the Japan Baptist Convention for the support of the theological department at Seinan Gakuin (university) in Fukuoka.

The initial \$10,000 investment made by Southern Baptists has increased 426.3 times and will continue to support missions in Japan.

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Successes in Sabah Keyed  
To Prayers in Michigan

By Anita Bowden

SABAH, Malaysia (BP)--For years Chuck Morris, Southern Baptist missionary to Malaysia, has known that prayer support was a vital part of a successful ministry. Now he has proof.

On Jan. 13 about 100 members of First Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, Mich., prayed for Morris and his wife Erica and wrote short notes of encouragement. More than 9,000 miles away in Malaysia, the Morrises were preparing to lead a family life seminar for a church which for 10 years had opposed their leadership.

"They had been very cruel to us--ignoring our efforts to help, shunning our friendship and never inviting us to visit them," Morris says. "So naturally we were very apprehensive when they invited us to lead the seminar. In the past they had used times like this to publicly attack us and the mission."

This time, though, the church members were hospitable and friendly. The Morrises stayed at the parsonage for the first time in five years and had one of the best meetings in months.

They didn't know that St. Clair Shores church, where Morris had preached and whose pastor was his good friend, was praying for them. But when the packet of notes arrived Jan. 25 they began to understand the amazingly warm reception they had experienced during the seminar. But even that experience was not the best thing that happened.

Michael Duis was the only seminary graduate among the Kadazanan tribe, the largest tribe in the state of Sabah, Malaysia. The Morrises had been counting on him to lead a program to reach his people and others whose language he could speak. But in July last year, because of discouragement and family pressure, he quit the ministry. All efforts to reenlist him had proved futile.

On Jan. 13 Chuck felt he should try one more time to reach Michael. The next morning he and another pastor started out to find the young man. Following directions of people along the way, they finally reached a house on the side of a mountain, accessible only after a hard climb on foot.

Michael was there, but reluctant to talk with them. Eventually he invited them in and listened as Chuck explained their reason for visiting.

"He seemed moved that I cared enough," Chuck says, "but was adamant that he could not return to the ministry. After about 30 minutes I suggested that I pray for him. He reluctantly agreed. I poured out my heart to God on his behalf. Afterward I rose to leave, feeling rather dejected. That's when he said, 'While you were praying, God spoke to me and I had a revelation. I am ready to go to work in February, doing whatever the Lord will let me do to reach my people.'"

Ecstatic, Chuck urged Michael to pray with him throughout the day and then come to see him the following morning. When Michael arrived the next day he was smiling and happy. Chuck knew a church willing to sponsor him and arranged for Michael to talk to some of the people. Now all he needed was financial support.

Later that morning Chuck had tea with a wealthy Chinese man who had helped the Morrises in their work over the past 15 years. Chuck says he had never asked the man for money, but that morning he felt the urge to ask him to provide one-third of Michael's expenses. The man responded that he would be happy to do so.

"It all seemed so easy," Chuck says. "Now I know why."

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Golden Gate Seminary  
Emeritus Dean Dies

Baptist Press  
3/31/80

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--William Augustus Carleton, dean emeritus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, died March 28 in a San Rafael, Calif., hospital. The 75-year-old educator had been ill for several months.

One of Carleton's last appearances at Golden Gate Seminary was in October when he was presented the Harold K. Graves award for outstanding service to the institution.

Carleton was named distinguished professor of church history at Golden Gate in 1970 following his retirement as academic dean and vice president. He had been professor of church history at the seminary since 1953. He was elected academic dean in 1956 and vice president in 1959. In 1972, he was named dean emeritus.

Carleton was pastor of Baptist churches in Oklahoma and Illinois. He was president of the Illinois Baptist State Association in 1940, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma in 1950, and the Southern Baptist General Convention of California in 1966. He earned the bachelor of science degree from East Central State College, Ada, Okla., and master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

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