

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355W. 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) Lloyd T. Householder, 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. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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Committee Struggles With
Annual Budgeting Process

By Norman Jameson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists will consider their largest budget in history when elected messengers convene in St. Louis June 10-12 to examine a \$90 million Cooperative Program proposal.

That \$90 million budget proposal will be the primary source of funding for the mission enterprise of 18 agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention during the 1980-81 fiscal year. It will be derived from the voluntary gifts of 13.4 million members in 35,605 churches.

Agency requests exceed expected resources. Adjusting these differences is the source of annual agony for the 66 men and women of the SBC Executive Committee who must consider the needs of each agency and recommend allocations to the gathered messengers at the annual meeting of the convention.

The annual budgeting process is also the source of concern for the SBC agencies, which depend primarily on the Cooperative Program for their operating funds. This year the Foreign Mission Board has publicly expressed concern over its share.

The Cooperative Program budget goals for distribution of undesignated funds are the result of a 15-month process that begins in July of the previous year with a letter from the executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee asking agencies for their budget requests. In September, the agency executives present their requests to the Executive Committee.

September 1979 requests for the 1980-81 budget totaled \$82,527,677 but projected income from the churches forced the Executive Committee to limit the operating budget to \$74.5 million. The proposed \$90 million budget goal includes a \$2.5 million capital needs segment and a \$13 million Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds.

The detailed agency requests were compiled into a 126-page book and distributed to all Executive Committee members and about 300 other convention leaders. The Executive Committee program and budget subcommittee met for two days in January to hear the agency executives again, to study the needs as they relate to each other and to develop a proposal for consideration by the entire Executive Committee. The proposal was then widely circulated to Baptist leaders and to the denominational press.

In February the entire Executive Committee in an open meeting in which no questions were presented, unanimously endorsed the budget proposal for presentation to the convention messengers in June. If approved, the budget allocation becomes operative in October, completing the 15-month budget cycle.

Changes in the budgeting procedure have been infrequent since the Cooperative Program was initiated in 1925. During the 1950s allocation of receipts evolved from a percentage to a dollar basis. This allows the Executive Committee to respond more readily to changing needs of the agencies, since they are no longer locked into recommending for each agency the same percentage of a sum that could be larger or smaller than expected.

So while Cooperative Program receipts are always divided 100 percent between the various causes, the percentages that each agency administers on behalf of the churches will fluctuate each year. But always, reflecting Southern Baptists' concern for missions and need for the trained leaders necessary to carry out the mission enterprise, the two mission boards and six seminaries receive the major portion.

In the proposed 1980-81 budget, the Foreign and Home Mission Boards and the seminaries will receive \$67,115,000 or 90.22 percent of the available operating funds. That is an increase over the 89.91 percent they are receiving in the 1979-80 budget. The other 10 agencies share the remaining 9.78 percent.

All of the agencies receive significant dollar increases in the proposed budget though ten will receive a smaller percentage of the Cooperative Program income. The increase or decrease in percentage for any of the agencies is small. But even minor percentages amount to significant dollar amounts when dealing with the sums of money the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program represents.

When Foreign Mission Board trustees were informed the board would receive a \$2,706,430 increase in the proposed budget (up 8.1 percent) but a decrease in its percentage of total receipts from 48.69 to 48.4, they protested in letters to members of the Executive Committee. Others protested who thought the mission enterprise of the convention was being undercut. The difference in percentage represents \$216,050.

Seminary students are the primary beneficiaries of the shift. With an anticipated enrollment increase of 643 in 1980, additional funds for them were considered necessary by the Executive Committee.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, says the primary problem is that the anticipated receipts are not enough to meet the needs of the agencies as they respond to the mandate of the Southern Baptist Convention to carry out their program assignments.

The Southern Baptist Convention portion of the Cooperative Program is receiving a smaller percentage of the money contributed by Southern Baptists through their churches. For example, in 1958-1962 churches sent an average of 10.16 percent of their offering plate dollar for state and world missions through the Cooperative Program while in 1974-1978 the average was 8.84 percent. State Baptist conventions keep about 65 percent of that Cooperative Program money and send 35 percent on to the national Cooperative Program.

Total gifts in the churches in 1979 were \$2.1 billion. According to projections, if the churches had maintained the 1958-62 average of giving to the Cooperative Program, the 1980-81 operating and capital needs budgets of the Southern Baptist Convention would be \$16 million higher than it is. For the Foreign Mission Board, that increase would mean an additional \$7.74 million.

The solution to the growing financial needs for all Baptist causes is a new boldness in support through the Cooperative Program.

Rayhorn Added to SBC
Committee on Resolutions

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--James E. Rayhorn Sr., a layman and dentist from Richmond, Va., has been added to the Southern Baptist Convention resolutions committee by SBC President Adrian Rogers.

Rayhorn will take the place of Adrian Hall, pastor from Las Vegas, Nev., on the 10-person committee announced earlier by Rogers. The committee will report to the SBC when it meets in annual session in St. Louis, June 10-12.

Wayne Allen, pastor of East Park Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., is chairman of the committee. Other members besides Allen and Rayhorn are Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis; Tal Bonham, executive secretary of the Ohio Baptist Convention; Ed Drake, an attorney and member of First Baptist Church, Dallas; Richard Sutton, a physician and former SBC second vice president from Topeka, Kan.; Mrs. Harold O'Chester, pastor's wife from Austin, Texas; Mrs. George Tharel of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ark.; Wendell Freeze, a layman from Yuma, Ariz.; and Ernest Walker, a pastor from Lake Charles, La.

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Rogers Meets Menachem
Begin, Tells of Faith

By Norman Jameson

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin courteously received six evangelical Christian pastors who met with him in Washington to share their personal faith.

Adrian Rogers, Southern Baptist Convention president who was among the six, said the 40 minutes spent with Begin "was one of the most significant opportunities that I've ever had to witness for the Lord Jesus."

The group, which included Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta, was selected by Jerry Falwell who had been invited through the Israeli embassy to assemble a group to meet with Begin. Falwell, founder of the Old Time Gospel Hour and pastor of the Independent Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., is an outspoken supporter of Israel and has met with Begin four times in Israel.

Rogers said the group intended to show Begin their concern for Israel, to tell him they were praying for peace, "and to bear witness to him of God's love for him and our love for him and for the nation of Israel."

The group did not have a chance to address the question of religious freedom in Israel, especially concerning a recent law that may be interpreted as a limitation on evangelical efforts.

Rogers felt, however, that Begin had a better understanding of evangelical Christians after the meeting. Falwell said that things are improving in Israel for Christian witness, and if Begin had total authority they would improve even more.

"We were careful to make a distinction between ourselves as evangelicals and the National Council and World Council of Churches, that have not always had a pro-Israel stance," Rogers said. "We also tried to make a distinction between a Bible-believing Christian and erstwhile crusaders and others who had persecuted Israel."

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Rogers and Falwell indicated that Begin was courteous, warm and greatly encouraged by the meeting. Falwell said the group's message to Begin could be interpreted as telling him "the vast majority of Americans, and certainly the overwhelming majority of Bible-believing Christians, stand by Israel."

Falwell said he urged Begin to "stand strong" on the matter of Israeli settlements. If the settlements are removed, he said, there would be no justification for military presence in the area and he predicted "Soviet generals would be stationed in Bethlehem."

America and Israel have a mutual need for each other, Rogers said. Israel's obvious need for American financial and military support is countered by America's dependence on Israel as one of the last bastions of democracy in that area.

"Russia has designs on the entire Middle East and is making her presence felt more and more there," Rogers said. "I read recently that the Russians are soon going to be impoverished for oil and they are looking with an insatiable appetite to the oil rich fields in the Middle East and have always wanted a warm water port."

"Just from our personal interests as a nation, apart from biblical prophecy, we would want Israel there as a bulwark against Russian aggression. I still believe the Scripture where it says, 'those who bless Israel, God will bless, and those that curse Israel, God will curse.'"

Also in the meeting were James Kennedy, pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Greg Dixon, pastor of Indianapolis Baptist Temple; and Wendell Zimmerman, editor of the Baptist Bible Tribune in Jacksonville, Fla.

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Zimbabwe Missionaries Join
Independence Celebration

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SALISBURY, Zimbabwe (BP)--A crowd of 40,000 specially invited persons watched Prince Charles hand the scroll making Rhodesia the independent country Zimbabwe to titular President Canaan Banana, April 18.

The crowd, which cheered as the British flag was lowered and the new flag raised, included envoys of about 100 countries and two Southern Baptist missionaries, David and Linda Coleman, who work in Salisbury.

The Colemans are among 43 Southern Baptist missionaries who continued work in Zimbabwe throughout the seven-year war for majority control of the country. A December peace treaty and election at the end of February led to granting of legal independence.

The new prime minister, Robert Mugabe, who led the largest faction of the guerrilla army, has stated in both public and private interviews that his government wants churches to continue with their work, Coleman said. "All Christians are praying that this attitude will filter through to all levels, that all intimidation will cease, and that the gospel will continue to be preached unhindered."

The organization of Baptist missionaries in Zimbabwe will meet April 26-May 3. Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, said he expects a number of requests for new personnel to come from that meeting.

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In anticipation of a peace settlement, missionaries there have already requested five church developers, two women's workers, an editor for the publishing house and four medical personnel, he said.

The request for medical personnel, however, is being delayed awaiting development of plans for Sanyati Baptist Hospital. Although missionary physicians visit the hospital, no missionaries have lived on the Sanyati compound since the guerrilla murder of Southern Baptist missionary Archie G. Dunaway Jr. in 1978.

Following that incident no new missionary personnel were assigned to the country until a volunteer couple was named to work at the publishing house in November 1979. A missionary journeyman was approved recently to begin training in June.

Coleman, treasurer and business manager for the Zimbabwe missionaries, and his wife also attended the official opening of the American Embassy the afternoon of the signing ceremony.

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One Found Guilty
In Douglass Death

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OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--One of two men charged with the murders of a Southern Baptist pastor and his wife has been found guilty and sentenced to die.

Steven Keith Hatch, an itinerant oil field worker, was found guilty of murder in the deaths of Richard and Marilyn Douglass in their rural home Oct. 15, 1979. He was given the death sentence for each murder and was sentenced to 90 years in prison for aggravated assaults on the Douglass children who were wounded.

Co-defendant Glen Burton Ake, 24, was ruled insane and unfit to stand trial. He is undergoing treatment in a mental hospital in northeast Oklahoma.

Douglass was pastor of Putnam City Baptist Church. He and his wife had been foreign missionaries to Brazil.

District Judge Floyd Martin, a Southern Baptist and member of First Baptist Church, El Reno, was judge and jury. Hatch had requested a no-jury trial.

Hatch, 26, denied that he shot the Douglasses during a robbery attempt which netted about \$50. He claims that he was outside the home when Ake shot each member of the Douglass family, all of whom were bound and gagged.

Oklahoma law provides that any participant in an armed robbery in which death occurs is guilty of murder, which carries an automatic death penalty by lethal injection. The conviction will be appealed. Ake will stand trial if he's ever ruled competent to do so.

Prosecuting attorney Earl Goerke said during the trial that the Douglasses were "killed for nothing more than being good, fine Christian people."

Leslie Douglass, 13, is living with relatives and attending school out of town. Brooks, 16, will graduate from Putnam City High School in the spring.

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ERISA Amendment Introduced;
Annuity Board Urges Action

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--A "church plan" amendment to pending pension legislation, aimed at correcting what the Southern Baptist Annuity Board considers an unconstitutional invasion into church affairs by the Internal Revenue Service, will be introduced before May 1, according to Annuity Board general counsel Gary S. Nash.

The amendment, to be introduced by Sen. Herman E. Talmadge, D-Ga., a Southern Baptist, represents the best opportunity to date of overcoming what the Annuity Board sees as serious deficiencies in the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). That law would drastically affect church pension plans by Jan. 1, 1983, unless corrective legislation such as Talmadge's is passed by Congress.

S. 1076, known as the "multiemployer bill," is to be marked by May 1, at which time a final version of the pension legislation will presumably be acted upon by the finance committee. If passed by that panel, it will then go to the Senate floor for action.

Nash said the Talmadge church plan amendment encompasses the objectives of the Annuity Board and of the larger Church Alliance for Clarification of ERISA, a coalition of persons acting on behalf of the pension programs of 27 religious denominations. The Alliance, chaired by Annuity Board President Darold Morgan, represents member pension boards from the entire religious spectrum, including Protestant, Catholic and Jewish bodies.

Morgan urges Southern Baptists to encourage senators on the finance committee "to support the 'Talmadge church plan amendments' to S.1076 when the legislation is marked up in committee in April."

Nash said the Talmadge amendment would insure that church agency employees may continue to be included in church annuity plans. Among those who stand to lose the right to continued participation in church plans by the Jan. 1, 1983, effective date are the employees of SBC agencies, hospitals, schools, children's homes, and virtually all other denominational workers outside local church ministries.

The amendment, if accepted, would also remove the basis for what Nash called "significant government entanglement in the affairs of churches" by having the effect of forbidding the IRS from defining "church agency," an action Nash and others feel to be an unwarranted intrusion by the IRS into church affairs.

In addition, the Talmadge amendment would define the term "employee" of a church to include a minister in the exercise of his ministry, regardless of its specific relationship to a local congregation and would establish a retroactive correction period and procedure to restore church plan status to denominational plans which inadvertently fail to meet the technical requirements of the present law.

The new amendment is co-sponsored by Senators David L. Boren, D-Okla., a former professor of political science at Oklahoma Baptist University, and Lloyd M. Bentsen, D-Texas.

The Senate Finance Committee, where the nuts and bolts issues will likely be decided, is chaired by Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La. Other members of the committee are Abraham Ribicoff, D-Conn.; Harry F. Byrd Jr., I-Va.; Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis.; Mike Gravel, D-Alaska; Spark M. Matsunaga, D-Hawaii; Daniel P. Moynihan, D-N.Y.; Max Baucus, D-Mont.; Bill Bradley, D-N.J.; Robert Dole, R-Kan.; Bob Packwood, R-Ore.; William V. Roth, R-Del.; John C. Danforth, R-Mo.; John H. Chafee, R-R.I.; H. John Heinz III, R-Pa.; Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo.; and David Durenberger, R-Minn.