



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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80-67

Brotherhood Commission
Realigns Staff, Functions

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission adopted a succinct statement of objectives for the agency and adjusted its staff to support that purpose at the opening session of the three-day meeting at the Holiday Inn Rivermont in Memphis.

After extensive debate about whether to include a phrase mentioning "boys," the trustees representing 26 states approved an objective of "helping churches involve men and boys in missions."

Executive Director James H. Smith said his agency needs a clearly defined statement of objective to serve as a springboard for involving men in missions to support effectively the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust goal of sharing the gospel with the world by the year 2000.

In the new staff alignment, the trustees supported Smith's proposal to create a Baptist Men's and Royal Ambassador divisions out of the old program and ministries sections.

The Baptist Men's division is a first step in involving more Baptist men in missions. Smith said he hopes to have at least one million Southern Baptist men taking part in missions activities during the next 20 years. Current enrollment is less than 250,000.

In another major change, the trustees created the position of associate executive secretary and named Norman Godfrey, director of the former ministries section, to fill it.

The staff adjustments leave the commission with four divisions--Baptist Men, with David Haney, formerly director of the commission's lay renewal department, as director; the Royal Ambassador division, with Bob Banks, director of the former program section, as director; communications division, with Roy Jennings, director of the former communications section, as director; and the business division, with Lynette Oliver, director of the former business section, as director.

The realignment also created an administrative unit, which will carry the same weight as a division but will focus on administrative matters related to the work of the executive director and associate executive director.

Other personnel making major job shifts were Jack Childs, who left customer services to direct marketing, and Mike Davis, who moved from the editorship of Probe, monthly magazine for older RA boys, to direct the editorial services department.

Under the new staff alignment, major functions within the business division include customer services, merchandise services and accounting; Royal Ambassador division, Crusader and Pioneer RA boys work; communications division, marketing, art services and editorial

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services; Baptist Men's division, lay renewal, disaster relief, Baptist Men's programming and World Mission Journal, monthly publication for men; and administrative unit, world missions conferences, associational consultation, language missions and Brotherhood coordination.

In recommending staff assignments, Smith told the trustees he was matching the skills of the staff with jobs to improve the efficiency of the agency.

In remarks leading to the actions, Smith said he has had a growing conviction during the last seven months as the new executive director of the agency that Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust effort to share the gospel with the world during the next 20 years "is of God," and that it will require the services of a reservoir of Baptist laymen to succeed.

At a two-day Brotherhood leadership conference of the agency staff and state Brotherhood leaders preceding the trustee meeting, Ed Bullock of Raleigh, N.C., director of Brotherhood work for North Carolina Baptists, was elected co-convenor for a one-year term. Smith is the co-convenor of the conference representing the agency staff.

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Campus Ministers Will
Discuss Ethics in St. Louis

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ST. LOUIS (BP)--The Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers will explore ethics and campus ministry in the 1980s at the group's fourth annual meeting, June 8-9, at Stouffer's Riverfront Hotel in St. Louis.

The meeting is one of several convening in conjunction with annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 10-12, at the Cervantes Convention Center.

Speakers include James M. Dunn, executive director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, Dallas, on economics and world hunger; Paul Simmons, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., on medical ethics; Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary, on the ethics of nuclear power; and Harry N. Hollis Jr., associate executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn., on family life.

The meeting gets underway at 3 p.m., with registration, fellowship and worship on Sunday, June 8, and will convene morning and afternoon sessions on Monday, June 9. A banquet is planned Monday night at 6:30 p.m. at Third Baptist Church, St. Louis, with William M. Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., as speaker.

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House Approves President's
Draft Registration Plan

Baptist Press
4/24/80

WASHINGTON (BP)--A proposal authorizing funding for President Carter's draft registration plan passed the U.S. House of Representatives, but it is expected to meet additional opposition in the Senate.

The amended resolution, approved by the House by a vote of 218 to 188, authorizes the transfer of \$13,295,000 from funds appropriated to the Air Force to finance the administration plan to register 19 and 20-year-old males beginning when the president gives the order.

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Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., is among those expected to oppose the measure, should it reach the Senate floor. A spokesman for Hatfield indicated that the Baptist senator would consider a filibuster if it becomes apparent that there are not enough votes to defeat the measure.

The House resolution (H.J. Res. 521) provides that "none of the funds made available by this resolution shall be available for instituting or taking action to draft any individual for military service."

However, some opponents suggested that reinstatement of the draft will follow the registration process.

"We know registration is going to lead to a draft," said Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-Md. "We're lying, saying that we're going to register you, but we're not going to draft anybody," he added.

Though several proponents of the resolution insisted that the legislation is not intended to lead to a draft, Rep. Samuel S. Stratton, D-N.Y., a supporter of the measure, charged that registration was not enough.

The veteran New York representative said that the reason mere registration was being considered is the "fear that permeates a legislative body in an election year."

Nonetheless, he argued that the House should take the "first step."

"Once we have done that we can then begin to move, after the November election, to take further necessary steps to put our military manpower situation into better shape," Stratton said.

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Brotherhood Commission
Approves Budget, Urban Study

Baptist Press
4/24/80

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission approved a 1980-81 operating budget of \$2,468,964 and voted to install computer and improved telephone services during a three-day meeting of the Southern Baptist missions education agency at the Holiday Inn Rivermont in Memphis.

Agency participation in a center for urban studies with 10 other Southern Baptist organizations also was okayed. They are the Woman's Missionary Union, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, and the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

The new center for urban studies will permit agencies access to research and consultation on a common problem--how to communicate the gospel and involve persons effectively in missions in an urban setting.

The new budget, almost 12 percent higher than the present one, includes funding for a new Baptist Men's division created a day earlier to spearhead the enlistment of Baptist men in missions activity.

An organizational realignment leaves the agency with four divisions--Baptist Men, Royal Ambassadors, communications and business--and an administrative unit which carries the same weight as a division but will focus on administrative matters.

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The agency's executive committee was asked to consider in detail in July staff salary adjustments of about 10 percent.

Divisional distribution of the budget calls for business to spend \$1,071,945; administration, \$628,405; communications, \$320,245; Royal Ambassador, \$236,754, and Baptist Men, \$211,615.

Executive Director James H. Smith said the new mini-computer, expected to cost about \$41,000 plus software of about \$1,500, will be in operation by Oct. 1.

The new telephone system provides for six trunk lines and two incoming and two outgoing WATS lines. It will cost about \$32,500 and should be in operation by June 1.

In other action the trustees also increased the allowance for auto travel mileage from 17 to 18 1/2 cents per mile, effective May 1.

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Liberia Missionaries
To Remain and Minister

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press
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MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries in Liberia decided to remain in the country and minister to the people during a meeting four days after a coup toppled the government of former President William R. Tolbert Jr.

The missionaries' action came in a called meeting after the government of new head of state Master Sgt. Samuel Doe, who led the coup, moved quickly to restore order and expressed a desire for foreigners to remain in the country.

Doe also declared April 19-26 a national week of prayer and called on all pastors and clergymen to lead their people in praying for peace and prosperity for Liberia, said Buddy Norville, Southern Baptist missionary in Monrovia.

Although missionaries were able to maintain short-wave radio contact with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for several days following the coup, Norville's written report, dated April 19, was the first detailed account received at the board.

Tolbert had been president of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention Inc. and was pastor of Zion Praise Baptist Church in Bentol City, his hometown.

The April 12 coup caught everyone by surprise, said Norville. "The sound of gunfire in the early hours was the first indication that anything was taking place," he said.

Although the new government immediately took stern measures to control looting, including a dusk-to-dawn curfew, Norville said a group of Liberians claiming to be soldiers visited the campus of Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary, Paynesward City, April 13 and asked missionary Margaret Fairburn to give them the keys to two mission cars. Seminary President Bradley Brown, who lives nearby, talked them into taking only one car.

When neighbors reported that the men planned to return and rob the houses, missionaries at the seminary spent the night in the chapel. The following day, during a prayer meeting at the chapel, two carloads of soldiers searched the seminary for Tolbert's son, A. B. Tolbert. Missionaries continued their praise and worship service when the soldiers left.

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Most of the looting occurred soon after the coup before the new government took its action to restore order.

Missionaries from throughout Liberia were in the Monrovia area to celebrate the centennial of Baptist work in Liberia. Tolbert was to have spoken at an April 13 groundbreaking for a new Baptist convention building. Two Foreign Mission Board officials, who planned to join the groundbreaking ceremony, R. Keith Parks, president, and John Mills, secretary for west Africa, were on a flight to Monrovia, which was diverted to Ivory Coast after the coup.

The Baptist building in downtown Monrovia also was visited by soldiers April 17, said Norville. Soldiers shot into the third floor and attic and were seen removing a safe and other office equipment from the basement of the building. The building had been Tolbert's family residence while he was vice president. He still maintained an office on the third floor and kept his farm records in the basement.

Tolbert's death has created problems for Ricks Institute, a Baptist school in Monrovia supported by the Liberian convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Since operating funds came through the Liberian convention by way of checks signed by Tolbert, the school has not been receiving its usual operating funds. School officials said they have food supplies adequate for about a month. Many of the school's students are children of Tolbert government officials.

Thirteen former government officials were shot by firing squad April 22 on orders of the 17-member People's Redemption Council now ruling the country. Among those executed was Richard A. Henries, speaker of the House of Representatives, who had been chairman of the deacons at Providence Baptist Church, Monrovia.

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Plane Crash Unusual
Promotional Attraction

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4/24/80

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (BP)—"Preacher, you'd do anything to get a crowd!" is how one member of the Naperville Baptist Church reacted after a light plane crashed on the church's parking lot during Sunday school, April 20.

It was high attendance day, and 209 persons were in class when a light plane made a crash landing and demolished a car belonging to Bill Sutherland.

The pilot suffered broken ribs, but his three passengers were not hurt. The plane had just taken off from a private landing strip near the church when it lost power, barely cleared a row of willow trees, and then fell into the lot.

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