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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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80-68

Pennies Support  
World Missions

By Norman Jameson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The world mission enterprise of the Southern Baptist Convention is funded by voluntary contributions which amount to a fraction of the money given in 35,605 local churches.

Churches decide individually what percentage or dollar amount of their budget they want to send for world missions through the denomination's Cooperative Program. In 1974-78, the gifts averaged 8.84 percent of the offering plate dollar received by the local church.

That money is then sent to the church's Baptist state convention office of which there are 34. Once a year the local churches send messengers to their state convention meeting, where, among other things, they decide what percentage of the income received by the state convention to forward for work administered by the SBC agencies.

Historically, the state conventions have forwarded about 35 percent of their income for SBC causes. Many are currently into long-range plans that will raise that percentage.

Eighteen convention agencies then derive their primary support from those funds forwarded to and disbursed by the SBC Executive Committee. The Sunday School Board and Woman's Missionary Union receive no SBC Cooperative Program funds. The Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board derive about half their budgets from annual special offerings.

The 18 agencies, established by messengers at annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings over the years, survive on about 35 percent of the 8.8 cents of each offering plate dollar forwarded by local churches.

That means 3.1 cents of each offering plate dollar from Southern Baptist churches supports the work of two mission boards which employ 6,000 career missionaries; six theological seminaries with some 11,000 students (and the Seminary Extension Department for another 10,500 students); plus the work sponsored by other agencies such as the Brotherhood, Christian Life, Education, Historical, Radio and Television, and Stewardship commissions; the Southern Baptist Foundation; Annuity Board; the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; and the Convention operating budget.

The mission boards and seminaries will receive 90.22 percent of the funds in the proposed 1980-81 budget. The other 10 agencies will share the remaining 9.78 percent.

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Scales New Officer  
For R-TV DevelopmentBaptist Press  
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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--John J. Scales of Resource Services Inc., a Dallas-based fund raising consulting firm, has been named vice president of development for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, effective May 1.

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The commission's development department, which Scales will head, has been an ongoing program of the commission for several years. Carlyle Hayes, director of development since July 1979, will continue in the department.

Scales' responsibilities will be to undergird the agency's ministries, including raising capital funds for expansion, equipment, production costs and "all phases of our future," according to Jimmy Allen, commission president.

Scales, 39, said he is glad "to be a part of an organization that is making a meaningful contribution to individuals at the point of sharing the gospel and providing a high standard of morality for our people."

Scales is former vice president for development at Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee. At OBU he directed a \$1.8 million campaign for the university's learning center, established an estate planning program and an annual giving program for operations, scholarships, and special projects and directed the \$600,000 capital campaign for a fine arts center.

At Resource Services Inc., he has been a fund raising consultant for private institutions, organizations and several religious denominations. His activities include raising more than \$1.6 million for a new conference center for Union Baptist Association, Houston.

An Oklahoman, Scales was a consultant in Royal Ambassador work for the SBC Brotherhood Commission, 1968-69, before joining OBU as vice president for development. He is a graduate of OBU and holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He has done graduate study at Oklahoma State University, where he directed the Baptist Student Union.

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Lee Porter Announces  
SBC Registration Process

Baptist Press  
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The first phase of increased checking of the registration process for messengers elected by churches will be implemented at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in St. Louis in June.

The increased attention to the registration process follows an investigation of the process at the SBC in Houston last year which turned up a number of violations of the process and procedures in need of correction.

The investigation by Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, at the request of the SBC, however, failed to uncover any massive wrongdoing which would have affected the election of Adrian Rogers as SBC president. Question was raised about the election following efforts of a group pushing biblical inerrancy to elect him. The 1980 SBC will vote on several proposed bylaw changes which grew out of the investigation.

Porter outlined several steps persons must take in St. Louis to receive accreditation to vote as messengers in SBC business sessions.

1. A person must be elected properly by the church under constitutional requirements which permit one messenger for each "cooperating church" and one additional messenger either for each \$250 of contribution to the work of the SBC or each 250 members. The church must use either the contribution test or the membership test, not a combination, Porter said. No church, under constitutional limitations, may have more than 10.

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2. A church allowed the full complement of 10 messengers should elect no more than 10 persons." The constitution has no provisions for alternates and alternates will not be registered," Porter said.

3. Persons elected must be a member of the church which elects them.

4. Messengers must register personally and present proper credentials from their church. "If they do not bring properly filled and signed messenger cards they will then have to contact the credentials committee," Porter said. "If they can show the credentials committee a letter from their church stating they were elected messengers in accordance with constitutional requirements they will receive credentials.

"If they don't have written confirmation they will have to fill out a form for credentials attesting they were elected. After that they must present that form to the credentials committee to be checked. If it is approved they will be given credentials."

"We will continue to operate on our historic assumption that churches will properly elect and properly certify election of their messengers and that individuals will honestly represent their election," Porter declared.

"However, because of the problems in Houston the procedure will be more closely checked and further controls added in the future as Southern Baptists get acclimated to the new approach. We must maintain the integrity of the registration and voting process," Porter said.

"Lack of a properly filled out registration card will create a time consuming process," Porter said. "It would be worth a few minutes before the convention for messengers to assure proper election and certification." He said proper messenger cards are available to churches through state Baptist offices and most associations.

Porter said registration for the SBC will open at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, June 8, at the Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis preceding the convention and will continue until the convention ends on June 12.

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#### Wrapup

Brotherhood Sets Objective,  
Budget, Staff Alignment

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission adopted a statement of objective, approved a 1980-81 operating budget of \$2,468,964, and adjusted the agency's staff.

The wide range of trustee actions of the Southern Baptist missions education agency also included setting up machinery for a 75th anniversary celebration of men and boys work in 1982-83, and admonishing national Boy Scout leaders concerning a proposal to merge Royal Ambassadors, Baptist boys missions education organization, with scouting in Southern Baptist churches.

In other business, the trustees agreed to buy a computer system for about \$42,500 and an improved telephone system for \$32,500.

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An objective of "helping churches involve men and boys in missions" was okayed by the trustees after extensive debate about the wisdom of including the phrase mentioning "boys."

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

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

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

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

Upon Smith's recommendation, the trustees elected David Haney, director of the lay renewal department of the commission for six years, as the director of the Baptist Men's division, and Bob Banks, director of the former program section, as director of the Royal Ambassador division.

Other divisions of the agency are business, directed by Miss Lynette Oliver, and communications, directed by Roy Jennings. Both headed the previous business and communications sections. The realignment also set up 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.

The new budget, almost 12 percent higher than the present one, calls for business to spend \$1,071,945; administration, \$628,405; communications, \$320,245; Royal Ambassador, \$236,754; and Baptist Men, \$211,615.

To prepare for the anniversary celebration of men and boys work, the trustees authorized the appointment of a special anniversary committee of trustees, agency staff and state Baptist Brotherhood leaders and asked for a report in six months.

Oral instructions to the committee include a request to focus on activities which would bring one million men and boys together during the celebration.

At the request of a Royal Ambassador committee, the trustees reaffirmed a 1975 position which asked the national office of Boy Scouts of America to discontinue promoting a proposal to combine the two programs in Southern Baptist churches.

Trustees also asked their executive director to communicate their concern to Boy Scout leaders "about the continuing use of copyrighted Royal Ambassador material and programs" without the consent of the agency.

State Baptist Brotherhood leaders contended the unauthorized materials were being distributed in North Carolina, Florida, Texas and Kentucky.

The commission currently provides missions education material to almost 250,000 boys in 12,000 Southern Baptist churches throughout the United States.

"I am stunned and shocked that an issue almost five years old would be revived at this time," H.M. "Smoky" Eggers told Baptist Press. Eggers directs Baptist relationship for the Boy Scouts of America and is executive director of the Association of Baptists for Scouting.

Eggers, a Southern Baptist layman from Irving, Texas, said there were incidents in Texas about five years ago in which unofficial literature and an unofficial experiment advocated a merger of Scouts and RAs.

"But we disowned that sort of activity," Eggers said. "If the Brotherhood Commission has an evidence of such unofficial activity anywhere, I wish they would let me or our national chairman, Albert S. Lineberry Sr., of Greensboro, N.C., know about it.

"With all the negative hands reaching out to our youth in these troubled days, it would behoove us as Christian youth leaders to use every positive means to reach, win and hold youth for Christ," Eggers said.

He said he would redouble efforts in every conference or training session, in the event some volunteer Scouters are unofficially advocating merger with RAs, "to take extra measures" to oppose that approach.

"We believe a church can have both Scouts and RAs separately," he said, noting that 2,006 churches have both, out of 29,013 Southern Baptist churches which have Scout charters.

"If a church cannot have both, however, it ought to have Royal Ambassadors first," said Eggers, a former RA.

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Media Should Be Slave;  
Not Master, Says Allen

By Renee Wash

Baptist Press  
4/25/80

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—"Television should be our instrument, not our master," according to Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission President Jimmy Allen.

Allen told about 100 participants in the sixth annual Radio, Television and Cable Consultation in Fort Worth that Iranians used electronic media to revolutionize their way of life and that Christians could do the same to create a spiritual awakening.

"The Iranians created the groundwork for their revolution by reaching a few people at a time through cassette tapes. Then they began broadcasting on radio and television," said Allen, who spoke with the Ayotollah Khomeini in Iran in December concerning the release of Americans held in the embassy there. "Christians are spreading the most revolutionary message of all times. God has already done the work. All we have to do is tell about his love by using every tool available."

The consultation was jointly sponsored by the Radio and Television Commission and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth where some of the sessions were held.

Seminars and discussion also covered the possibility of advanced technology bringing churches closer together in the 80s; the effects of evangelistic broadcasting on society; possible changes in worship as a result of broadcasting services on television; and methods of training students in media ministry.

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"The real problem in dealing with broadcasting is that we don't have enough imagination to meet God on his terms," Allen said. "We fail to reach those in need, not because our dreams are too big, but because they're too small to accomplish God's goals."

Southwestern President Russell Dilday discussed the responsibility of the seminaries to train their students not only in the theological aspects of religion but also in what they would face in ministering to people on a day to day basis.

"Giving students a strong theological, philosophical, biblical background is essential, but it must be balanced by a great deal of practice in how to get the message over to all kinds of people, Christians and non-Christians alike," Dilday said.

He urged all seminaries to consider the rapid increase in technology and initiate more courses on the use of the media, both electronic and print, in religious communication.

Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., described how churches can rework their Sunday morning worship services to interest more people.

"The entire content of the service must be person centered," he said. "Viewers should be addressed as individuals, not in groups of thousands. Extend them an invitation to join the congregation. Make them feel they actually are in the sanctuary."

Dehoney suggested using two or three short theme songs to play at the beginning, end and in the middle of the service. This creates familiarity and helps the viewer feel a part of what's taking place.

Other advice was to keep the service moving quickly, have the congregation participate as much as possible and take on a lively, happy tone in the music and expressions of the congregation.

"The main purpose is to make the television viewer feel welcome," Dehoney said. "If he does, he might not just tune in next Sunday, he might come in person."

Jim Goodnight, president of Goodnight Consulting Groups, Dallas, Texas, predicted the rapid advancement of technology may someday result in the development of an "electronic cottage" enabling consumers to order goods, participate in television shows and even hold jobs without leaving their homes.

Although this will eventually result in bringing the family, community and church closer together, the technology will be so complicated and the rate of change so fast that many people will tend to become lonely and feel confined to their homes.

"More than ever the church should let people know they are not alone in a world of abstract symbols and impersonal computers," Goodnight said.

If the "electronic cottage" becomes reality, television evangelists might be among the first to use it to their advantage, said Jeffrey K. Hadden of Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, who predicted a greater interest of evangelists in the political arena in the future.

Consultation participants also heard advice on how to be more effective in their presentations on television and radio, how to write for broadcasting, and on the importance of using quality sound and lighting systems for churches that broadcast.