



-- BAPTIST PRESS

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81-27

Reagan Repeats Pledge For Tuition Tax Credits

WASHINGTON (BP)--Renewing his promise to work for passage of tuition tax credits for education at all levels, President Reagan nevertheless asked supporters of the measure to push first for his economic recovery passage outlined in an address to the nation Feb. 18.

Reagan, who advocated tuition tax credits during his campaign for the presidency, cited the controversial scheme to allow taxpayers who send their children to private schools a credit against taxes owed to the federal government as one of "many other desirable tax changes" he will seek later.

After reviewing the major features of his overall economic plan in the speech, made to a joint session of Congress, Reagan declared: "I'm well aware that there are many other desirable tax changes, such as indexing the income tax brackets to protect taxpayers against inflation. There is the unjust discrimination against married couples if both are working and earning; tuition tax credits; the unfairness of the inheritance tax...."

"But our program for economic recovery is so urgently needed to begin to bring down inflation that I am asking you to act on this plan first and with great urgency. Then I pledge I will join with you in seeking these additional tax changes at the earliest date possible."

Baptist denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention, have repeatedly opposed tuition tax credits and other measures to benefit private schools from public funds. Through the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, they are gearing up for a major battle on the subject in the new Congress.

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Coloradan Held As Spy
370 Days in Yemen Jails

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2/19/81

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP)--DuWayne Terrell, a 24-year-old Colorado man who worked for a time with Southern Baptist-related institutions in Israel, arrived home Feb. 10 after spending 370 days in Yemeni prisons.

Terrell became involved in the ministries of Jerusalem House, a student center, and taught Sunday School in the Jerusalem Baptist congregation while doing independent studies in Israel from 1975-77. He later worked in summer camps at Baptist Village, Petah Tiqva.

His studies eventually took him to Yemen, where he was arrested Feb. 4, 1980, while visiting the burial site of a Yemeni Jew who had become a famous poet and folklorist in Israel. He was accused of being an Israeli spy although formal charges were never lodged with the American consulate and the American government was never given any reason for his detainment, Terrell says.

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Wire service reports said Terrell admitted under torture to being a spy and implicated another American, 60-year-old William Thomas Jr. of Madrid, Spain, as a spy. He later denied both confessions.

"I have no plans to go back," Terrell says. "I will stay out of the Middle East for awhile and stay in my own country and will probably go to school here in the spring."

Terrell was not affiliated with a Southern Baptist church when he went to Israel but says he probably will become involved with a Baptist church now that he is home. His parents are Church of Christ members.

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Missionary Kid Saves
Manila Family From Fire

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2/19/81

MANILA, Philippines (BP)--Missionary Kid Glenn Davis saved a Filipino family of five from almost certain death when he woke them from sleep in their burning house in Manila, Philippines.

Davis, son of Southern Baptist missionaries Gerald and Glenda Davis, was returning to the student dormitory at midafternoon when he saw the sudden burst of flame. His loud yells of "fire" awakened the family as they slept in the second floor of the old wooden structure. The house was enveloped by fire within a few minutes.

His calls brought his older brother, Gregory, bounding out of the dorm with a fire extinguisher, which proved ineffective against the rapidly advancing flames. The old structure was located directly across a narrow street from the dormitory.

The blaze also destroyed two small dwellings and gutted a furniture factory. Observers said wind direction and quick response from the fire department saved the dorm from destruction, though it was blistered by the heat. Eight children of Southern Baptist missionaries who live outside of Manila live in the large two-story house. Paul and Lucy Sheriff, new missionaries from Texas and Oklahoma, are house parents.

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Note: Gerald and Glenda Davis are from Alabama and Mississippi.

Cooperative Program Budget
Nearing \$100 Million Mark

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A national Cooperative Program budget of \$94 million, which will fund the work of 20 Southern Baptist Convention agencies, has been approved for presentation to the 1981 SBC annual meeting in Los Angeles.

The budget includes a basic operating total of \$83.4 million, a capital needs section of \$3,000,600, and a Bold Mission Thrust Challenge goal of \$6,599,000.

The operating budget, which represents an 11.95 percent increase over 1980-81, is considerably short of the requests made by the agencies for operating funds for 1981-82.

"Regrettably, requests always exceed the available funds," said Gene Watterson, chairman of the budget and planning subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee.

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The 20 agencies, in presentations to the committee in September and again at the budget hearings in January, requested funds totalling \$90,947,048, a 22.08 percent increase.

Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shelby, N.C., told committee members the process of preparing the budget is "a lengthy process," which took into account "the trend toward double digit inflation worldwide, as well as in the United States. We considered inflation which often seriously threatens the goals and aims of the Foreign Mission Board, and which affects the home fields as well."

Under the budget proposal, the Foreign Mission Board will receive nearly half of the operating budget.

"I think it is significant the allocation to the Foreign Mission Board is 49 percent of the total," said Reginald McDonough, program planning secretary for the Executive Committee, pointing out the percentage is up from the 1980-81 budget, when the FMB received 47 percent of the goal.

The Foreign Mission Board requested \$45,074,000, a 25 percent increase over 1980-81. The allocation is \$40,966,000, an increase of \$4,608,996, or 13.33 percent, over the previous year.

The Home Mission Board requested \$17 million, a 17.2 percent increase. Its allocation is \$16,263,000, an increase of \$1,763,000, or 12.16 percent, representing 19.50 percent of the budget.

The Annuity Board requested \$450,000, a 28.5 percent increase and received an allocation of \$378,000, an increase of \$28,000 or eight percent, representing .45 percent of the budget.

The seminaries:

Golden Gate asked \$1,754,094, a 25.53 percent increase; allocated was \$1,568,920, a \$171,563 or 12.28 percent increase representing 1.88 percent of the budget. Midwestern requested \$1,804,380, a 20 percent increase; allocated was \$1,603,658, a \$127,929 or 8.67 percent increase; representing 1.92 percent of the budget. New Orleans Seminary requested \$3,375,078, a 28.4 percent increase; allocated was \$3,001,066, a \$318,468 or 11.87 percent increase; 3.60 percent of the budget.

Southeastern Seminary requested \$3,159,144, a 23.9 percent increase; allocated was \$2,808,956, a \$261,822 or 10.28 percent increase; 3.37 percent of the budget. Southern Seminary, requested \$4,627,278, a 20.5 percent increase; allocated was \$4,115,177, a \$278,662 or 7.26 percent increase; 4.93 percent of budget. Southwestern Seminary, requested \$5,645,639, a 22.56 percent increase; allocated was \$5,021,123, a \$416,892 or 9.05 percent increase; 6.02 percent of budget.

The commissions:

Southern Baptist Foundation, requested \$239,725, a 25.5 percent increase; allocated was \$197,800, a \$17,375 or 9.63 percent increase; .24 percent of budget. American Seminary Commission, requested \$182,000, a 10.3 percent increase; allocated was \$177,700, a \$13,375 or 8.14 percent increase; .21 percent of budget. Brotherhood Commission, requested \$782,000, a 15 percent increase; allocated was \$702,000, a \$52,000 or 8 percent increase; .84 percent of budget.

Christian Life Commission requested \$600,000, a 27.2 percent increase; allocated was \$494,200, a \$41,700 or 9.22 percent increase; .59 percent of budget. Education Commission requested \$352,160, an 11.5 percent increase; allocated was \$342,500, a \$28,450 or 9.06 percent increase; .41 percent of budget. Historical Commission, requested \$308,000, an 18.4 percent increase; allocated was \$280,900, a \$20,900 or 8.04 percent increase; .34 of budget;

Radio-Television Commission, requested \$3,808,000, a 12 percent increase; allocated was \$3,677,400, a \$277,400 or 8.16 percent increase; 4.41 percent of budget. Stewardship Commission, requested \$345,000 or 11.29 percent increase; allocated was \$315,800, a \$29,600 or 10.34 percent increase; .38 percent of budget. Public Affairs Committee, requested \$324,600, or 11 percent increase; allocated was \$337,800, a \$51,800 or 18.11 percent increase; .41 percent of budget. (NOTE: The committee submitted a revised request, asking a one-time allocation for purchase of equipment.)

The SBC operating budget, which finances the ongoing operation of the convention, was allocated \$1,173,000, an increase of 22.97 percent. The increase, according to Tim Hedquist, assistant to the treasurer and director of financial planning for the Executive Committee, resulted from a decrease in other sources of revenue for the SBC operating budget. Despite the increase in Cooperative Program allocation, he said, the total increase of income for the SBC operating budget is only 10.14 percent.

The allocation is 1.41 percent of the Cooperative Program budget.

The \$3,000,600 capital needs budget allocates \$578,310 to Midwestern Seminary; \$1.5 million to New Orleans Seminary; \$137,000 to Southern Seminary; \$675,290 to Southwestern Seminary, and \$110,000 to the Radio-Television Commission.

Phase One of the Bold Mission Thrust challenge goal allocates \$50,000 to the Annuity Board and \$30,000 to the Stewardship Commission.

Phase Two allocates 50 percent or \$3,259,700 to the Foreign Mission Board; 20 percent or \$1,303,880 to each the Home Mission Board and the Radio-Television Commission and 10 percent or \$651,940 to the six seminaries.

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'Denominational Loyalists'
Watch, Wait for Action

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
2/19/81

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Cecil Sherman's "denominational loyalists" are watching and waiting on key appointments before deciding whether to oppose a second term for Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith.

Sherman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., said Smith has promised to appoint "all kinds of Southern Baptists" to the key committee on committees.

"He did not tell me who those people were," Sherman told Baptist Press. "Naturally, I am very curious; I would like to have a chance to look at them."

Sherman added: "It would be very helpful to all parts of the convention if the appointments to the committee on resolutions and committee on committees were released early. By so doing, Bailey Smith could allay many fears."

It has been suggested Smith announce his appointments by early April in order to allow all parts of the convention to study them and make a determination if he has followed through on his promise.

Sherman made his comments on the crucial appointments in the wake of a meeting which drew 13 men from 10 states to discuss conditions in the 13.6 million-member denomination and to map strategy for the 1981 meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 9-11 in Los Angeles.

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Sherman, who also is president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, said the discussion centered on "how we are doing in getting people to go to Los Angeles," and how the participants feel "about the performance" of Smith, elected at the 1980 annual meeting in St. Louis.

The question, Sherman said, is whether Smith "is doing the agenda" of Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, and Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas.

The "agenda," Sherman said, is the stated aim of Pressler to "go for the jugular" of the SBC by electing agency trustees committed to biblical inerrancy. Pressler made the statement during a meeting in Lynchburg, Va., in September 1980.

"The group rather agreed there is not any real evidence the Pressler/Patterson agenda is being performed," Sherman said, adding that real proof will be found in the appointment of key committees.

"If Bailey Smith does not appear to be the agent of the Pressler/Patterson agenda and is president of all Southern Baptists in his appointments, chances are we will not present anybody to oppose him," Sherman said.

"I would be very pleased if Mr. Smith serves all Southern Baptists and is elected to a second term. I have not been out to get him and I don't think anyone in our group is out to get him.

"But we made some connections I think are reasonable connections. Pressler/Patterson took credit for electing Bailey Smith as they took credit for electing Adrian Rogers (immediate past president of the SBC). I think they assumed Mr. Smith would do their agenda as did Mr. Rogers."

He alluded to remarks Smith made following his election as SBC president which indicated inerrancy would be a factor in appointments.

"We had every reason for concern," Sherman said, commenting Smith has recently talked of unity and promised to be the president of all Southern Baptists. "Now," he said, "Mr. Smith is saying different things and there does not seem to be that reason for concern. For that, we are very grateful."

The aim of the "denominational loyalists," he added, is not to defeat Smith, but "to frustrate the Pressler/Patterson agenda, which I think is destructive to the SBC and to our missions goal."

Sherman, who has publicly said he does not believe in inerrancy, said the group is "looking for a broadly-based convention. People do not have to see things the way I do. I don't think inerrancy should be considered when choosing convention leadership any more than should pre-millennialism. However, there should be some relationship between denominational support and denominational leadership."

Sherman declined to identify how many people have been encouraged to attend the convention, and explained the effort is to encourage "informed participation" rather than to control the convention.

"I can't turn a screw and make a bunch of people vote a certain way. We will lay out our rationale and hope people buy it. We are not out to manage the convention," he averred.

"The majority will prevail," but he believes the Southern Baptist Convention actually is far different than that expressed in 1979 in Houston and 1980 in St. Louis. "I think the last two conventions have been atypical...I believe a different majority exists," he added.

He said another meeting is planned "before the convention," but declined to be more specific, except to note it would be after the appointments are announced.

"In the late spring we will get up a little paper, outlining our position. We will give our judgment of the situation and ask people to support it. Some will respond favorably, but others will not buy in.

"You'll see the train coming, if it is going to come at all," he concluded.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

Missionary Force Grows Slowly
While Volunteer Numbers Swell

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press
2/19/81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The number of Southern Baptists flooding overseas as volunteers jumped 27 percent in 1980 and the total missionary force increased by 2 percent. But the number of career missionaries rose by only two persons.

That is causing concern for Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrators who say the career missionary is the core of the Southern Baptist mission enterprise overseas.

"If it (career missions) begins to decay, it's only a matter of time before the decay affects the total system," said Bill W. Marshall, vice president for human resources for the board.

"Almost all short-term ministries are dependent upon those people who stay long enough to learn the language and make themselves available and vulnerable to those to whom they go," said Marshall. "There is a difference between a visitor and a neighbor. God's mission methodology in Jesus was to become a neighbor."

Applied to 1980 forces, that means most of the 4,818 volunteers who went overseas in 1980, plus the 246 missionary journeymen, 15 special project workers and 244 missionary associates who were on the field at the end of 1980 could not have been used if they hadn't been working with some of the 2,554 career missionaries who still comprised the bulk of the overseas missionary staff. The distinction between missionary associates, who serve renewable four-year terms, and career missionaries has become blurred as many associates now have served more than 10 years on the field, Marshall added, however.

Louis R. Cobbs, director of personnel selection for the board, pointed out that for the third year in a row, the Foreign Mission Board has appointed more than 300 missionaries a year while other mission agencies are retrenching. In 1980, the board appointed 330 new missionaries, down from a record 350 in 1978 and 332 in 1979.

Some of those 330 met long-standing needs. After five years in which few new missionaries went to east Asia, that geographical area received 38 new career missionaries, twice as many as any other area of the world.

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Of the total 330 missionaries commissioned in 1980, Japan received 20; Korea 19; Taiwan 17; and Hong Kong/Macao 12.

In 1979 no career missionary nurses were appointed, but in 1980 five nurses and 15 in other categories were appointed to countries where Southern Baptists have medical missions. No career missionary physicians were appointed, however, said Cobbs.

The personnel selection department is optimistic about the outlook for physicians, said Cobbs, because they are in contact with 12 who may be ready for appointment within the next two years.

The typical newly appointed missionary couple in 1980 was about 30 years old with two children. The typical missionary associate was 48 or 49 and the typical journeyman was 23.

There were 279 losses among the missionary force in 1980, with resignation accounting for 143 losses. Although the number of resignations was the highest in Foreign Mission Board history, Cobbs said 16 of these resigned for a family member to accept a job at the home office in Richmond.

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Hispanic Congregation Chases
Clouds From Cuban Refugees

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
2/19/81

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Black clouds of hate greeted 128 Cuban refugees to north Texas, but a Hispanic Southern Baptist church chased the clouds away.

The incident started when a group affiliated with Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Hurst brought the Cubans—all males—from Fort Chaffee, Ark., to nearby Haltom City.

Their arrival didn't go unnoticed.

"The press, radio and television made of the event a misproportioned spectacle which very quickly inspired unfounded fear in a few citizens," said Hugo Ruiz, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Central (Central Baptist Church) in Fort Worth.

But misproportioned or not, the Cubans' arrival was a spectacle. Anglos who helped them received death threats; callers promised to bomb the hotel where they lived; local residents protested their presence to the city council. Even the Christian community was "upset" because they came in such large numbers, one pastor confided.

Pushed by such pressures and facing a monumental language barrier, the Bellevue group asked Ruiz and Iglesia Bautista Central for "spiritual assistance" and other help.

"Because of similarities in backgrounds and culture, the Bautista Central congregation was able to relate to the refugees in ways no other church could," said Oscar Romo, director of language missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Among members of the church were Cuban families who came to the United States for the same reasons the newcomers came—"frank disapproval of communism as a system and philosophy," Ruiz said.

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With such a kindred spirit, the church "accepted the challenge not as a form of social altruism, but as a missionary challenge," he said. "Each...member understood that instead of having to go to the mission field, the mission field was coming to them."

While Ron Meers, a Bellevue church member and instigator in the sponsorship program, continued to help them find jobs, the church tended to other needs.

A night school was started to teach the men English and give them social orientation which could help them adapt to their adopted culture. Clothes and other necessities were handed out. Church vehicles picked up refugees and brought them to Sunday School and worship services. Members gave Bibles to the refugees.

Volunteers were motivated to help the Cubans, said Rutz, "by Christ, who teaches us all that in him there are no boundaries nor differences of marginal points. In him, we are one, constrained by the strength of his divine love."

Their labor was not in vain; Rutz reported "about 100" professions of faith among the refugees.

As the men have found jobs and integrated into society, many of them have moved to other areas, yet a "good percentage" of the original 128 attend Iglesia Bautista Central.

"There is no longer a need to pick them up; they come on their own and are many times accompanied by others whom they have met and with whom they have shared what they found in Christ," Rutz said. "Some are taking doctrinal orientation classes and have asked to be baptized."

The pastor admits "It hasn't been easy for them, nor has this undertaking been easy for us." Still, memories of trouble and hardship diminish when the Cubans talk about their new-found lives.

"Before, I felt lost and discouraged," one explained. "Now I feel secure because I've found the family I never had."