



**-- FEATURES**  
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March 2, 1981

81-34

Webb Weaves Fund Raising  
Through Grueling Dog Race

By Celeste Pennington

NOME, Alaska (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Bill Webb will add a new dimension to church construction when he hooks up his team of mongrels and huskies for a race across the Alaskan wilderness.

March 7, Webb is to join 58 other mushers in the Iditarod, the annual 1,049-mile trek from Anchorage to Nome. The race takes 14 to 15 days for the winner; up to 30 days for others.

The top 20 finishers will split a \$100,000 purse (\$24,000 for first place; \$1,000 for 20th).

While Webb would like to be among the top 20, his real objective as a first-time contender is to raise \$100 for each mile he crosses over the frozen landscape to pay for property and building materials for a church-parsonage. With volunteers from Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Texas and California, Webb has spent the past three short summers building the structure.

"I would like to get all the 1,049 miles committed for the church," says the soft-spoken Webb, pastor of Nome Community Church, counselor of alcoholics and director of a receiving home for neglected and battered children.

Garbed in heavy boots, thick down pants, parka and knit cap, Webb has worked day after day with the dogs, urging them, guiding them, shouting orders into the stiff Arctic wind: "Hey, line up! Line up, Punkin! Haw! Haw! Haw, Siga!"

He has worked to build the dogs' strength to pull not only his weight, but supplies and dog food: five pounds of meat per dog per day. He has worked in the face of stinging cold which during the race will numb the dogs' feet and frostbite 90 percent of the Iditarod contenders.

Webb admits the path ahead is grueling. Yet, he reminds, building a two-level church in Nome was no easy task. Materials were barged or air-freighted out of Seattle and Anchorage. The bulk of construction was undertaken with limited equipment, often by inexperienced volunteers.

Even now, with the Iditarod upon him, Webb is looking ahead to new projects. He is working toward a detoxification center and halfway house for alcoholics in Nome. He is involved with a project to help battered women, planning to build a receiving home.

And, says Webb, "I'm looking forward to a time when we fill this (church) up with people and we need to build a (separate) parsonage."



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**After Two Years, Missionaries  
Get Two New Visas in Indonesia**

By Anita Bowden

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)--After a year and a half of restrictions and delays in visa renewals, the government of Indonesia has approved two new visas for missionaries.

One visa application was approved after having been in process for six months but the second was approved in less than a month. It has been two years since the Indonesian government granted a new visa to Southern Baptist missionaries.

"It now seems evident that Indonesia is open for new missionaries to come and give assistance," said William Wakefield, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for South and Southeast Asia. "I believe that the two visas coming this close to each other and the last one so fast reflect a favorable attitude of the government toward granting new visas for Baptists."

"And it's significant that both these visas are for field evangelists," he added. "I'd like to stress that in contrast with what we've experienced in the past two or three years it is now evident that the Indonesian government is willing for new missionaries under our board to come into Indonesia."

In July 1979 missionary families began receiving restricted visa extensions stamped with the notation that they could not be renewed. Government letters indicated that missionaries who had been in Indonesia at least five years would have to leave when their visas expired.

Under those restrictions almost 90 percent of the Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Indonesia would have been forced to leave the country within two years.

Missionaries and board officials called for prayer intervention and Wakefield described the situation as the "gravest crisis...in our Southeast Asia ministry since Vietnam and Laos fell."

After three months of tight restrictions, visa renewals began trickling through, most without the stamped notation, "may not be extended again." Later, even the non-extendable visas were renewed after the decisions were appealed. By mid-1980 the situation had improved greatly, though no new visas had been granted since February 1979.

The Indonesian government's attitude on visas reflects a general policy of encouraging foreigners to train Indonesians to replace them. A vocal group among the Moslem majority would like to see all Christian groups leave Indonesia.

This feeling was reflected in 1980 when Southern Baptist missionaries learned the Baptist hospital in Bukittinggi, a strong Moslem area, would have to relocate.

Negotiations for land and facilities farther south on the island of Sumatra are going well, according to Wakefield. Included in the agreement to move the hospital was a provision that the government be less restrictive in granting new visas.

"We asked for a guarantee of a minimum 10-year period for medical personnel," Wakefield said. "We told the government that we couldn't train Indonesians to take over the hospital in less than 10 years. We also hoped the same time period would be applicable to other types of missionaries."

"It appears that the government is doing everything it can to work cooperatively with us in relocating the hospital in a satisfactory manner in Lampung," Wakefield said. "We have appreciated greatly the good will demonstrated by the government in this and trust this attitude will continue to be evident throughout the period of reestablishing the hospital. And I would hope that this period of good will will become a permanent condition in our relationship with the Indonesian government."

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Former SBC Presidents  
Mixed On Bylaw Change

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press  
3/2/81

DALLAS (BP)--Reaction from six of the last seven Southern Baptist Convention presidents is mixed over a proposal to clarify the role of the president in nominating the convention's committee on committees.

The SBC Executive Committee on Feb. 17 approved a revision of Bylaw 21 which will be considered at the annual meeting in Los Angeles in June.

The bylaw currently states that the president, "in conference with the vice presidents," shall appoint the committee on committees. The committee on committees, made up of a pastor and layman from each state and the District of Columbia, nominates the committee on boards, which nominates persons to serve on boards of trustees for SBC agencies and institutions.

The importance of the president's nominating powers has been heightened in recent years because of reported attempts by a group allegedly attempting to control appointments to the boards of trustees through presidential appointments to the committee on committees.

The revision of the bylaw obviously intended to clear up any confusion over whether "in conference with the vice presidents" as stated in the current bylaw means the president and vice presidents should appoint the committee on committees jointly.

The revision, which will require a two-thirds majority for passage in Los Angeles, states that the "committee on committees...shall be appointed by a committee composed of the president, as chairman, and the two vice presidents."

B. Conrad Johnston, an Executive Committee member from Salem, Va., proposed the change, asking simply that "in conference with" be deleted and the word "and" be substituted for them. The subsequent revision was fashioned by the Executive Committee's bylaws workgroup.

Johnston's suggested change in Bylaw 21 followed criticism of the appointments of then SBC president Adrian Rogers to the committee on committees last year.

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Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., who stepped down from the SBC presidency after only a one-year term, said he feels the proposed revision is "reactionary" and he will vote against it for that very reason, but he added that if it passed he "wouldn't lose any sleep over it."

"I think if the bylaw had been written (as proposed) to begin with, that would be fine," he said. "I just don't like to see it done as a reaction."

He also acknowledged "the inference, I think, and I don't want to be paranoid about this, that perhaps I did not consult with my vice presidents—which I did. I named people that Abner McCall (first vice president) and Don Touchton (second vice president) suggested and people I suggested and were suggested to me, after consultation. The person who says that is not true does not know the facts."

Rogers said he felt the revision "is an attempt by the more established powers that be to try to head off at the pass what they think might come to pass and I just think what has served us through the years ought to continue to serve us."

Jimmy R. Allen, now president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission and whom Rogers succeeded as president, said he would have preferred Johnston's original wording rather than the "committee" wording and said making the president a member of a committee "seems to undercut" his role and would be a step in the wrong direction.

He said, however, he feels there is strong sentiment across the convention for allowing the vice presidents an active role in the process. "I think the people want that," he said, "but they will not, I believe, make the president the chairman of a nominating committee."

Three other former presidents, Jaroy Weber of Dallas, 1975-76; Owen Cooper, of Yazoo City, Miss., 1973-74; and Carl E. Bates, of Charlotte, N.C., 1971-72, all said they favor the change. James L. Sullivan, Nashville, Tenn., 1977, was not available for comment.

Weber said he thought it was a "good motion." "Most presidents I know would cherish the opportunity to share in that responsibility, for it to be a joint decision because it is so significant. I see nothing wrong with the proposal," he said.

Bates said the joint selection process was the way he worked it in his presidential years.

"I didn't know it was supposed to be any other way," he said. "I sat down with the vice presidents and also invited state executive secretaries and others. The vice presidents I served with will tell you we sat down and talked and wrote the state convention presidents and executive secretaries—we didn't know any other way."

"I think it is a good thing. These vice presidents are more than figureheads; the president is not the only one the convention elected and sometimes (in off-presidential years) the contest for vice president is even more heated than that for president."

Cooper, who is a member of the Executive Committee, said his reaction to the revision was "positive."

"When I functioned as president, I used the vice presidents as if they were members of a committee," the Mississippi layman said. "I think the present wording is a little fuzzy and ought to be more specific. What does 'in conference with' mean?"

"I feel this is more specific and gives a little broader-based denomination process. No one person can know everybody in the convention."

Current SBC President Bailey E. Smith, of Del City, Okla., who voted in favor of the bylaw revision, said, "The change was not directed toward me, and I do not feel threatened by it. I think it is an effort to more evenly distribute the power of appointment."

Margaret Dunaway Dies;  
Husband Slain in 1978

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Margaret Lanier Dunaway, 57, Southern Baptist missionary to Zimbabwe and widow of slain missionary Archie G. Dunaway Jr., died March 2.

Mrs. Dunaway was a nurse and director of the school of midwives at Sanyati (Zimbabwe) Baptist Hospital when her husband was murdered there by guerrillas in June 1978. She has been living in Nashville since then and was on medical furlough for a malignant brain tumor when she died.

Funeral services and burial were in Nashville.

Appointed in 1947, the Dunaways spent 17 years at Okuta, Nigeria, where she was director at the Baptist maternity and health center. They also spent a year in Jos, Nigeria, as house-parents in a hostel (dormitory) for missionary children and another year in Salisbury, Rhodesia, (now known as Zimbabwe) in language study.

A Nashville native, Mrs. Dunaway was a graduate of Georgia Baptist Hospital's School of Nursing in Atlanta, and Tennessee College for Women in Murfreesboro. She also attended Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now merged with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.,) and the Mary Breckinridge Hospital of the Frontier Nursing Service in Hyden, Ky., where she received registered nurse standing.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Mary Margaret Dooley and Martha Dunaway, both of Nashville; two sons, John of Nashville and Mark of Phoenix, Ariz.; and three grandchildren.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

February Cooperative Program  
Receipts Dip After Record

Baptist Press  
3/2/81

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--February's contributions through the national SBC Cooperative Program, following January's record, decreased 4.4 percent over February 1980.

The decrease, from \$7,109,343 in 1980 to \$6,797,730 in 1981, can be attributed to a quirk of the calendar. In 1980, the "13th" check from the Baptist General Convention of Texas arrived in Nashville in February for distribution. This year, the \$1.3 million check arrived in January, pushing the January totals to a record 44.7 percent increase, but dropping the comparable February figure.

Had the Texas check arrived in February this year as it did in 1980, the January 1981 increase would have been 24.8 percent, instead of 44.7 percent and the February total would have seen a 13.8 percent increase, rather than a 4.4 percent decrease. Taking January and February receipts together, the two-month period shows a 19 percent increase over the same two months in 1980.

Designated contributions, primarily for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, increased 5.4 percent to \$23,713,045, over February 1980.

For the year, undesignated contributions are \$34,455,667, up 14.1 percent over the same five months last year; designated contributions are \$35,247,750, up 11.5 percent; and total designated and undesignated contributions are \$69,703,417, up 12.8 percent over last year.

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CORRECTION: In BP story mailed 2/27/81: "Texas Group Urges 'Press Safegurads'; change fourth from last paragraph to read: "Medaris was one of 16 editors directly responsible to convention executive directors. Nine other executive directors also serve as editors and nine of the state Baptist newspapers have independent boards of trustees appointed by state conventions." Also, add to third from last paragraph, Virginia and Kentucky, and delete them from the last paragraph.

Thanks, BP