



-- BAPTIST PRESS

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Bibles Attract 'Takers' At Moscow Book Fair

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--While stealing religious books may seem contradictory, three Southern Baptist exhibitors at the recent Moscow International Book Fair were not upset that several Bibles and other books disappeared from their booths.

James Clark, executive vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Dessel Aderholt, director of the board's Broadman division, and Bob Boyd, executive director of the Protestant Church-Owned Publishers Association which represents 30 religious publishers, traveled to Moscow for the fair where attendance exceeded 165,000.

Clark and Aderholt manned the exhibit for Broadman and Holman, the Bible publishing division of the board. Boyd directed the PCPA exhibit for the biennial fair which included two large buildings of exhibits by technical, art, religious and general publishers.

"Bibles were definitely the most looked-at books at the fair," said Boyd, whose booth included a pulpit Bible in Russian on loan from Judson Press.

In addition to Bibles, other popular book topics in the exhibits were home and family life and sex education, said Aderholt. Several copies of a Broadman book, "Thank God for Sex" by Harry Hollis, were among those which turned up missing.

In addition to the disappearance of small Bibles from both exhibits, Aderholt said many people pulled out paper and pencils and sat down to copy portions of the Scriptures and other books.

Under guidelines of the government-sponsored six-day fair, exhibitors could not sell or give books away. However, the government reviewed books for possible purchase of translation rights.

The Soviet government took options on two Broadman books about sports personalities and has four months to decide on purchasing rights. The books are "Only the Pure in Heart Survive," by Tennessee State University women's track coach Ed Temple, and "A Whole New Ball Game," by University of Mississippi football coach Steve Sloan.

"The government was not interested in the Christian testimonies that are a part of these books but the fact that they are about sports figures," said Clark.

However, he said, "We found people anxious to hear talk of religious and spiritual matters."

Boyd said common questions included: Do you really believe in God? Do you really practice your religion? Do you sell a lot of religious books in the United States? Do many

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people go to church in your country? Are Bibles easy to get?

Clark and Aderholt were unsuccessful in getting three boxes of souvenirs--T-shirts, bookmarks, pencils and balloons--into the country to give away at their exhibit.

"We believe the problem was that the bookmarks contained Scripture verses," said Clark.

After attempting to negotiate for the boxes throughout the fair, Clark was told five minutes before the fair ended that he could have everything but the T-shirts.

When Clark asked them to destroy the materials since he now had no use for them, he was told by a man with the auspicious title, Chief of the Group of Experts, that the items would be shipped back to Nashville at Clark's expense.

Despite the problems, Boyd said, "Our purpose is to keep the door open for religious literature and I'm willing to keep going on that basis."

While no decision has been made on whether Broadman and Holman representatives will return in 1983, Clark said they were encouraged by American embassy officials to come back "to show a slice of American life that Russians don't get to see any other way."

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Stanton Nash To Join
Southwestern's Staff

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Stanton Nash, vice president for development at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, will join the development staff of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Dec. 1.

Nash, who will retire Oct. 31, from the Mill Valley, Calif., seminary, will be director of planned giving, assisting Southwestern on a part-time basis as a consultant with wills, trusts and estate planning.

Nash has served on the Golden Gate staff since 1965. He previously was executive secretary-treasurer of the Hawaii Baptist Convention and was on the staffs of churches in Texas, Alabama, Georgia and Oklahoma.

"Stanton Nash is a man with invaluable experience in all phases of Southern Baptist life," said John Earl Seelig, vice president for public affairs and chief fund raising officer.

Nash, a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and Trinity University, is married and has four children. His son, Stanton II, is a master of church music student at Southwestern.

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Georgia Children's Homes
Names Duvall Director

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ATLANTA (BP)--L. Don Duvall, pastor of Bainbridge First Baptist Church for seven years, will become executive director of Georgia Baptist Children's Homes Nov. 2.

Duvall was elected at a special called meeting of Children's Homes trustees Sept. 29. He will succeed Leonard Pedigo, executive director for 11 years, who was killed in an airplane crash in July.

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Duvall, a long-time leader in Georgia Baptist activities, is a native of Atlanta. He attended Georgia State University, received an A.B. degree from Columbia Bible College, a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a master's degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary. He also has taken postgraduate clinical pastoral training.

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Editor Marse Grant
Announces Retirement

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10/2/81

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--Marse Grant, editor of the Biblical Recorder, journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, for 22 years, announced Oct. 1 that he will retire in September of 1982.

Grant, 61, who has been editor of the weekly newspaper since 1960, said the retirement was "totally my decision. The only pressure I have had is to remain."

He is a diabetic, and he said his health was a factor in the decision, but not a major one.

Writing in his column in the 115,000 circulation newspaper, he said: "I have never been the rocking chair type and don't plan to be then, although my wife (Marian) and I look forward to more time for writing, traveling, and in general taking it a little slower."

Grant, a layman, was editor of Charity and Children, a publication of the North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes, for 10 years prior to assuming his role at the Biblical Recorder.

"This has been a hard 32 years," he said. "But there's never been a dull moment being a Baptist editor. And that's why it has been exciting."

He is probably best known in North Carolina for his role in the defeat of the 1973 state-wide referendum for liquor by the drink. The referendum was thoroughly defeated with 97 counties voting against it. Five years later the legislature gave counties the right to hold liquor by the drink elections.

"I suppose from the standpoint of achievements that might have been a high mark," he said.

Grant said he is considering writing a book on the last 50 years of the Baptist state convention called, "Baptist Giants," and will travel. "I haven't become addicted to golf. Travel is my golf and jogging and everything else rolled into one."

He also expects to stay active in Baptist life. "People have respect for the Recorder," he said. "They may disagree with it but because of its long history among North Carolina Baptists, I think it has tremendous influence."

However, he added, "I think it is sometimes credited with more influence than it has."

He said he has only a few suggestions for his successor: "I have always tried to be fair, honest and balanced in what I wrote. I certainly would hope any editor who follows me would adhere to those basic principles. I would also urge any editor not to forget the local church. That's where we get our strength and substance."

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"And one very important suggestion. Always be wary and watch with care any religious group planning to exert influence on the government. Much of our basic freedoms are derived from and are maintained by the separation of church and state. When interest in government becomes heavy handed, separation is in danger and our freedom is in danger."

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. said he was "disappointed to learn of Grant's retirement. Not only more than a million North Carolina Baptists but all North Carolinians will miss his leadership and voice of reason."

Tommy Joe Payne of Greenville, chairman of the Recorder board of directors, said Grant "has been one of the strongest and most effective voices for good in North Carolina. Finding a successor to him will be a tremendous responsibility."

Payne added: "Few people have influenced Baptist life or the state at large more than he has."

Payne said a board meeting on Oct. 5 was to appoint a search committee.

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September Gifts Push
Into Challenge Funds

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10/2/81

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist giving through the national Cooperative Program ended the 1980-81 fiscal year nearly \$4.7 million into the Bold Mission Thrust Challenge goal.

September's undesignated mission gifts through the unified budget were \$6,577,346, most of which went toward a \$13 million challenge goal because all of operating and one-fourth of the capital needs budgets were met with receipts through August.

The challenge goal is to fund projects for Bold Mission Thrust, the convention's ambitious project to present the gospel to every person by the year 2000. The Foreign and Home Mission Boards will receive 72 percent of the challenge funds, the six seminaries will share 15 percent, Radio-Television Commission 10 percent and Brotherhood Commission three percent.

"This is a significant statistic because it is the first time in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention that we have received so much of the Bold Mission Challenge budget," said Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. "Projecting into next year, there is the real possibility that Southern Baptists will achieve the entire Cooperative Program and challenge goal of \$93 million.

"I want to express my deep appreciation to the churches for their giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program."

September gifts were up 11.2 percent over September 1980 and bring year-to-date totals to \$81,685,873, a 13.83 percent increase over the 1979-80 receipts. This was toward a \$90 million goal, including \$74.5 million basic operating; \$2.5 million capital needs and the challenge.

Designated offerings were down 40.4 percent from September 1980, to \$793,675. For the year, designated offerings totaled \$71,530,258, an \$8.1 million or 12.75 percent increase over 1979-80.

Total designated and undesignated offerings were \$153,216,131, up \$18 million or 13.3 percent over last year.

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Baptist Agency Joins Fray
Over Religious Solicitation

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist attorney John W. Baker has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to affirm lower court decisions that strike a Minnesota law regulating public solicitation of funds by religious groups.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, for which Baker is counsel, joined by the National Council of Churches and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting claims by the Unification Church that the law amounts to an unconstitutional establishment of religion.

Baker, who wrote the brief, said the Baptist agency entered the case not because it supports the goals or methods of the Unification Church, but because the principle at issue is "crucial."

The 1980 Minnesota Charitable Solicitations Act distinguishes between two types of religious organizations: those which derive some of their income, but less than 50 percent, from soliciting the public at large, and those which receive more than 50 percent from such solicitation.

Claiming that such a distinction would inevitably entangle the state in the internal affairs of religious groups, the Unification Church challenged the law in federal district court. Both the U.S. District Court for Minnesota and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the church, invalidating that portion of the law making the distinction.

But Minnesota officials earlier this year appealed the circuit court's ruling to the Supreme Court and the high court agreed to review it.

In their brief, the Baptist Joint Committee, National Council of Churches and Seventh-day Adventists asked the high court to go beyond the lower rulings, arguing that the Minnesota law violates all three prongs of a three-part test used for the last decade to decide such "establishment" issues.

The law "seeks to regulate religious organizations," the brief argues, while its "primary effect is to inhibit the free exercise of religion" and "excessively entangles the state in church affairs."

As to Minnesota's claim that the law's primary purpose is to protect the public from fraudulent solicitation, the brief replies that the state should use its penal laws "against those who commit fraud upon the public," laws which apply to all groups, including religious organizations.

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CORRECTION:

In BP mailed 9/15/81, page 5, "Annuity Board To Adopt New Insurance Program," please change fourth paragraph to read Designed, rather than Designated, Insurance Program.

Thanks

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