



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 25, 1982

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### WRAPUP

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#### Executive Committee Recommends

#### No Separate Baptist Press Agency

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention will recommend to messengers at the 1982 annual meeting in New Orleans that separate agency status not be granted to the denomination's news service, Baptist Press.

Committee members approved a recommendation to "continue to operate Baptist Press as a part of the Executive Committee with the assurance that Baptist Press will continue to serve Southern Baptists with the support and freedom necessary to maintain credibility and effectiveness."

The proposal to grant agency status to Baptist Press, which has operated as part of the Executive Committee since 1946, was made during the 1981 annual meeting in Los Angeles by messenger Jimmy Stroud of Knoxville, Tenn. The motion, which was referred to the Executive Committee for study, urged creation of a separate agency "in order that it (BP) may be assured to function as a free Baptist Press...."

An extensive study revealed little support for Stroud's proposal, according to Wilmer C. Fields, director of the news service. The study revealed the news service "now has great freedom ..." and that agency status "would be no further guarantee of greater freedom." It also noted agency status would require much more Cooperative Program money to maintain the current level of news operation.

In a separate action, committee members "declined to consider" a proposal to establish a Southern Baptist Convention Center in Jerusalem, Israel. The possibility such a center could be constructed was presented to the Executive Committee after it arose during a December trip to Israel, led by SBC President Bailey E. Smith, and sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

During that trip, an Israeli travel agency executive suggested that Southern Baptists build a facility as an orientation center for Baptist visitors to Israel. It was proposed the facility also could be used for historical display, a library, a graduate school, a church or other special ministries.

Smith and Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, were taken to one proposed site, containing nearly three acres, where Mt. Scopus meets the Mount of Olives. Estimated cost of the land is as much as \$5,752,500.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, commented he believes the "action taken by the Executive Committee is very appropriate. I feel any Baptist effort outside of the United States ought to be coordinated with national Baptists and missionary personnel on the field."

During the two-day meeting, committee members also approved Bold Mission Thrust emphases for 1985-1990, and adopted a statement concerning SBC committee functions.

Members approved 1985-90 Bold Mission Thrust Program emphases, with the theme, "Cooperating in Bold Mission Thrust." Specific goals adopted include a 10 percent increase in baptisms per year, 5,000 new churches organized by Sept. 30, 1990, 10 million persons in Bible study, 4 million people in discipleship training, an additional 3,000 students in seminary, and 20,000 churches conducting stewardship emphasis annually.

The goals also call for 7,660 missionaries at home and abroad by the end of 1990, the use of 200,000 short-term volunteers annually, and 3 million persons participating in missions education.

The goals also call for every church in the convention to increase Cooperative Program giving by a minimum of one percent a year.

In response to two motions adopted at the 1981 annual meeting, the committee adopted an operation and funding policy statement for SBC committees. One of the motions called for standardization of operating procedures, including a provision for redress. The other called for adequate funding for the SBC resolutions committee.

The statement says "an appeal or redress related to any committee action or recommendation is presently available during the annual meeting of the SBC," and specifies that committees will have adequate funding to do their work.

In other business, the committee:

--Heard reports from Harold C. Bennett on his recent trip to China, and Bailey E. Smith on his December trip to Israel;

--Instructed the SBC Brotherhood Commission to devise a plan on lay involvement in Bold Mission Thrust, and to report back to the Executive Committee in June;

--Accepted as information a report that the bylaws workgroup of the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee, in consultation with the newly appointed legal affairs committee, will continue its study of the SBC Constitution and Bylaws, particularly the article on convention membership;

--Approved image magnification for the 1983 SBC in Pittsburgh; set St. Louis as the site for the 1987 meeting, and San Antonio, Texas, as the host for 1990, unless 1988 or 1989 become available in the Texas city;

--Set an eight percent salary adjustment for Executive Committee staff members for the 1982-83 budget year;

--Accepted the resignations of three committee members. Hugh D. Boring, of Bellevue, Wash., resigned because of a move to Wichita, Kan.; William D. Hillis of Baltimore, Md., moved to Waco, Texas, and E.B. Smith of Mason, Ohio, moved to Kentucky;

--Appointed replacements for two members of the SBC committee on boards, commissions and standing committees. Byron Banta, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Payson, Ariz., replaces Fred North, who left Arizona to accept a California pastorate, and Harold N. Jarnagan, pastor of Kennewick (Wash.) Baptist Church, replaces James W. Wilcox Jr., who left Oregon to become pastor of a church in Kansas;

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Kentucky Brotherhood  
Director Dies At 57

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Baptist Press  
2/25/82

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Calvin D. Fields, 57, director of the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood for a month, died Feb. 25 after suffering recurring heart attacks.

Fields, who had been associate Brotherhood director for 16 years prior to assuming the directorship Jan. 16, was hospitalized in Richmond, Ky., Feb. 19, after suffering an attack near Winchester. On Feb. 21, he suffered cardiac arrest, and was stricken again early Feb. 25.

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He was born in Marlowe Mining Camp, near Whitesburg, Ky., and graduated from high school in Louisville. After service in the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, he graduated from Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He was pastor of several churches in Kentucky, and director of missions for three Eastern Kentucky associations prior to joining the Brotherhood staff in 1966.

He was married to the former Marian Wigglesworth of Cynthiana, Ky., who survives. Also surviving are two daughters, Carol of Dallas and Becky of San Francisco, and two sons, Randy who will graduate this spring from Georgetown College, and David, who will graduate from the University of Louisville.

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Louisiana Baptist Youth  
Prepare For New Orleans

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Baptist Press  
2/25/82

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Louisiana Baptist young people will witness door-to-door in six areas of metropolitan New Orleans on the Saturday prior to the Southern Baptist Convention, June 15-17.

Calvin Cantrell, associate evangelism director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, said a 13-week DiscipleYouth training program currently is underway in preparation for the event.

The program, produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board, is designed to teach young people to be better witnesses. Louisiana was selected for the pilot project.

A mass rally in New Orleans Municipal Auditorium June 11--featuring concert musician David Meece and evangelist Arthur Blessit--will launch the effort.

Some 5,000 young people, mostly high school age, are expected to participate. Most will be from Louisiana, Cantrell said, but others will come from adjoining states. Churches in the areas to be covered are being asked to provide housing and adult guides for out-of-towners.

"Each group will have adult supervision as they go into the areas," Cantrell said. "We will not send the young people into high crime areas or into the inner-city."

All information gathered from the homes visited will be given to Baptist churches in the areas worked.

"We anticipate the evangelism effort will be a growing spiritual experience for our young people," Cantrell said. "We request prayers that many who are visited will be saved as a result of the effort."

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Correction: In (BP) statistical story entitled "SBC Shows Healthy Gains; Training Figure Jumps," please add byline: By Jim Lowry.

Thanks,

Baptist Press

## Leaders Grapple With Ways To Plan Ministries In Cities

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ATLANTA (BP) -- Southern Baptist leaders grappled for two-days with ways to plan effective strategies for reaching 46 percent of the United States population who live in the nation's 50 largest cities.

The think tank brought together top pastors and denominational leaders in the effort to focus on megalopolitan missions. The effort was in response to a motion passed at the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention in Los Angeles "to strengthen our witness to the millions of unreached people who live in our vast metropolitan areas."

The meeting was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board metropolitan missions department, and dealt with strategies to reach the "mega" cities, or those with more than 1 million population. There are 50 cities in the nation classified as "megas" and which contain 46 percent of the nation's people.

HMB President William G. Tanner, warning "if we lose the cities, we'll lose the country," recommended a "teamship approach" to winning the cities. He praised SBC agencies for creating Center for Urban Church Studies as a resource bank, citing it as "one of the most effective things that the agencies have done together."

The center, housed at the Baptist Sunday School Board, is a cooperative venture between the Foreign Mission Board, HMB, BSSB, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, and the six SBC-affiliated seminaries.

Tanner also urged support for the HMB's 10-year emphasis on mega focus cities, another "teamship" involving local churches, associations, state conventions, SBC agencies in planning strategy for the 50 most populous cities in the nation.

The focus cities effort will target five cities per year, beginning in 1983 and continuing through 1991. The first five cities will be Buffalo, N.Y., Detroit, Baltimore, Louisville, Ky., and San Francisco.

In discussing ways to reach the cities, a number of participants voiced opinions.

Don Sharp, associate director of church extension for the Metro Chicago Baptist Association, called for Southern Baptists to realize "the black church is the only entity blacks have in the city and they won't tolerate dictation from Southern Baptists." He suggested a hybridized approach, which would incorporate Southern Baptist strategy into the black church setting.

Ian Chapman, pastor of Third Baptist Church in St. Louis, sounded the need for a "new breed of pastor" and recommended the establishment of an SBC-wide network of urban pastors.

Tom Wolf, pastor of the Church on Brady in Los Angeles, pointed out Southern Baptists have a need "to challenge young seminarians to give away their lives in the inner city."

After hearing statistics which show SBC growth is lagging behind population increases in the South, Charles Lee Williamson, missions strategist for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, warned SBC agencies to "stop seeing the South as a bastion and see it as a mission field."

Francis DuBose, missions professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, just across the bay from San Francisco, declared it is time "to take a hard look at the SBC's stewardship of people and funds in mega cities."

Betty Boch, a minister at the Church of the Covenant in Birmingham, Ala., voiced the need to consider the efforts of other denominations in the mega cities and to encourage links between inner-city and suburban churches in developing focus cities strategy.

In concluding the two-day think tank, metro missions department director Don Hammer said: "Southern Baptists are coming to grips with the city, but many questions. As we fine tune focus cities as a strategy umbrella, every Southern Baptist should be reflecting on how he or she can plug in."

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Australian Professor  
Joins Golden Gate Staff

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Baptist Press  
2/25/82

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)-- Craig P. Skinner, professor of practical theology at Biola University's Talbot Theological Seminary, has been elected professor of preaching at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Skinner, a native Australian, will join the Baptist seminary Aug. 1.

Prior to moving to Talbot, in La Mirada, Calif., in 1979, Skinner spent 20 years in the ministry in Australia. He was a pastor, then academic dean at Baptist Theological School in Brisbane, Queensland.

He became a Southern Baptist in 1963, and was pastor of churches in Georgia and Illinois. He holds a master of theology degree from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Chicago, the education specialist degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Queensland.

He has written books on expository preaching, church growth and a biography of C. H. Spurgeon.

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