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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 20, 1982

82-103

**Temporary Rate Reduction
Set For Non-Profit Mail**

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--A temporary postal rate reduction for Baptist state papers and other non-profit mailers has been set for July 28 as the result of an amendment to a recently enacted urgent supplemental appropriations bill.

The \$42 million added to the emergency appropriations measure by Senate and House conferees will partially rescind the large increases which doubled postage costs for most preferred-rate mailers last January. A Postal Service spokesman estimated the extra funding will mean a reduction of postage rates of about 25 percent for most second-class mailers through the current fiscal year which ends Sept. 30, 1982.

Technically, the new appropriation will move these mailers to step 13 of a 16-year phasing process Congress initiated in 1970 to adjust preferred rates toward full attributable costs in gradual increments. That phasing process was short-circuited last January after Congress sharply reduced funding for the subsidy, requiring an immediate jump in the rates from step 10 to step 16.

The rate reduction will prove to be short-lived unless Congress elects to fund the subsidy at a figure higher than that contained in its preliminary budget for fiscal 1983. That budget, which set non-binding spending targets, recommended \$400 million for the revenue foregone subsidy, an amount which would require additional rate hikes beyond those put in place last January.

The amendment providing the additional 1982 funding for the Postal Service had been pushed by Sen. Quentin E. Burdick, D-N.D. Burdick had successfully attached a \$62 million amendment to earlier versions of the emergency funding measure passed by Congress, but vetoed by President Reagan. The \$62 million figure would have reduced the non-profit rates beginning June 20, through the remainder of the fiscal year.

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**Block Room Reservations
For 1983 SBC Are Drawn**Baptist Press
7/20/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) -- John E. Saunders of Kansas City, Mo., will get first preference for block room reservations for the 1983 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

Saunders' name was the first one drawn July 19, as the order of priority in assigning blocks of rooms for the convention was established.

The drawing marks the third time the system has been used to establish the order of assignment of block rooms for the annual meeting of the 13.8 million member denomination.

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Tim Hedquist, convention manager for the SBC Executive Committee, said the system was established to give everyone an equal opportunity to reserve blocks of rooms. Previously, it was a "first-come, first-served system." Hedquist said travel agents and others made requests two or three years in advance, "thus tying up the available rooms so that pastors from Podunk didn't have a chance."

The drawing establishes an order of priority, necessary since 191 requests were made for the 1983 annual meeting. Of those, only 35 or 40 will be filled, Hedquist said. Convention guidelines allow only 40 per cent of the available hotel rooms to be assigned through the block reservation system. Each block is limited to 50 rooms, he said.

"This means that 60 per cent of the hotel rooms in Pittsburgh will be available for individual reservations," Hedquist said. "Requests for individual room reservations will be received after Oct. 1, and the reservation forms should be available through most state conventions by mid-September."

He added blocks of rooms are held only through March 1, 1983, at which time they are made available for individual reservations.

Those who received preference in block reservations must use at least two-thirds of the rooms they request, or they will not be considered in the 1984 drawing.

Others among the top five drawn July 19 are: Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.; Edmund E. Ellis, pastor of Courtland Baptist Church of Courtland, Va.; Sherrill Stevens, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., and Ron Cherry, pastor of Park Tower Baptist Church of Plano, Texas.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Baptist Press

World Cup Witness
In Spain successful

Baptist Press
7/20/82

MADRID, Spain (BP)—Two hundred people made decisions for Christ and more than 200 others signed up for a Bible correspondence course after a six-week partnership evangelism project in Spain which coincided with the World Cup soccer finals.

Fifty-two young people from eight countries, including 25 from Oklahoma, participated. Oklahoma and the Spanish Baptist Union have a partnership relationship continuing into 1983. Other team members were from Yugoslavia, Spain, Mexico, Poland, Panama, Brazil, plus missionary kids from Austria and Ecuador.

They spent two weeks in five Spanish cities and then two weeks working in six churches in Madrid, in addition to orientation periods.

Adult team leaders included project coordinator Bill Wagner, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board evangelism consultant for Europe and the Middle East; missionary Reggie Quimby of Jativa, Spain; and John Tresch, head of the evangelism department at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

Team members used a variety of efforts including tract distribution, open air services in parks, cafe (coffee) bars set up in churches, skits, mime, music programs, sports and puppetry. Witnessing centered on tracts and marked New Testaments, with young people from local churches or team translators assisting.

After a week of orientation in Madrid the teams were assigned to work out of churches in the cities in which World Cup games were being played. The Baptists distributed tracts and invitations to coffee bars around the stadiums before and after games. In Bilbao, where the English soccer team was playing, pastor Julio Diaz had the words "Baptist Church" painted on the facade of the church building to identify it for English-speaking visitors.

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Team members wore t-shirts and jackets with a globe and a soccer ball logo designed by Justo Correntero, a member of First Baptist Church, Madrid.

The effects of the campaign will be seen in the lives of teams members, local church youth groups and their churches in addition to the lives of those reached with the gospel, according to Wagner. "I don't think I ever really had a world vision," said Donna Wright of Lawton, Okla. "I couldn't say I had really seen the numbers, the lostness. Now I have."

Both team and church members reported a new ease in witnessing.

"Sometimes people are more willing to listen than Christians are to share. They are more willing to receive than we are to tell them about Christ," says Jose Francisco Fernandes Galan, a deacon of the church in La Coruna.

Maximo Garcia, promoter and coordinator of missions for the Spanish Baptist Union and head of the steering committee for the project, was pleased the young people of his Villaverde Baptist Church, Madrid, were involved in the project. "(Spanish) youth have it easy, they have in comfortable," he says. "They need to see (other) young people willing to sacrifice time, money and effort for the Lord."

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BP photos to be mailed by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Baptists Help Neighbors Clean Up
Town After Flood Strikes

By Patti Stephenson

Baptist Press
7/20/82

ESTES PARK, Colo. (BP)--Members of Estes Park Baptist Church have joined neighbors and shop owners in cleaning up debris strewn in the wake of a 30-foot wall of water which surged through this resort town last Thursday (July 15).

A 70-year-old earthen dam high in Rocky Mountain National Park collapsed around 6:30 a.m., dumping tons of water into the Fall River. A garbage collector who heard the roaring water alerted park rangers, who helped evacuate the 3,000-resident town before the flood struck at 7:30 a.m. The swift, muddy torrent swept buildings, mobile homes and cars through the town's main street, causing an estimated \$20 million in damages.

One camper was found dead and three other tourists are presumed buried under mud and debris.

Joe Herndon, pastor of the 56-member Estes Park Baptist Church, said shops, motels and restaurants on the west side of town were hardest hit. He reported no property damage suffered by church members, but added, "The damage done to the businesses here means a loss of jobs for some of our people."

Church members have begun collecting food and clothing and providing shelter to an estimated 60 persons left homeless by the flood. Church deacon Amos Johnson, owner of Brookside Cabins, took in one family whose mobile home was one of 30 washed away at Fall River Village. "No one really believed it could do this kind of damage," Johnson said.

Curious tourists and concerned citizens by the thousands have flocked to see the devastation downtown and some businesses have now reopened, according to Johnson. Linda Harrison and her 13-year-old son, Eric, employees of Mountain Man Restaurant and members of Estes Park Baptist Church, expect to return to their jobs in a week after gaping holes in the floor and walls have been repaired and caked mud has been blasted away by high-pressure water hoses.

"We're just lucky that we'll still have jobs," Harrison reflected. Noting that many businesses unable to afford high-priced flood insurance will be unable to recover from the loss, she added, "I'm not worried so much about how we'll get by as I am about other people who lost everything."

As Estes Park residents continued shoveling out mud and clearing debris with cranes and by hand, Johnson observed, "Usually this is kind of a clannish town, with people staying on their own property. But this kind of thing brings everyone together."

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SBC Churches Not Reaching
The Poor, Professor Claims

By Jim Newton

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Southern Baptist churches are neglecting the poor and the blue collar workers, emphasizing instead reaching upper and middle class Americans, a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary says.

Ebbie Smith, professor of Christian ethics and missions at the Fort Worth seminary, spoke five times to associational directors of missions during Home Missions Week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, saying the socio-economic status of most Southern Baptist church members is much higher than the population in their communities.

Smith said the same trend is true in almost every denomination which is following "an upward mobility pattern" in attracting white collar church members in preference to the poor and blue collar workers.

"It terrifies me that a tremendous residue of people are not being reached by anyone," Smith said, observing that Assembly of God churches, which were strong on reaching the poor and blue collar workers in the past, are fast becoming middle class churches.

Income has become less a determinant of social class in recent years, since average incomes for craftsmen and foremen are often higher than office workers and sales people, Smith said. "The deciding line between blue collar and white collar is more accurately the distinction of manual and non-manual type work than income levels," Smith explained.

The seminary professor said he is convinced there is a distinct relationship between socio-economic status and church membership, and that blue collar workers are uncomfortable in the worship styles of middle-class white collar churches.

Citing a study at Southwestern seminary, Smith said he found only three students who are committed to working with lower socio-economic groups after graduation. Seminary training, he said, seems to be drawing ministers away from the working class and rendering their ministry among the working class more difficult and less likely.

"Unless there is a drastic turnaround, Southern Baptists will find their ministers have less interest in serving lower-class churches and less ability in relating to lower-class people," Smith said. "This leadership difference is reaching crisis proportions.

Citing church growth strategies based on a "homogeneous unit" concept, Smith suggested Southern Baptists specifically organize churches to reach people on the poverty level and among blue collar workers, as well as churches targeted toward upper and middle classes.

Smith called for multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-racial associations where true fellowship and brotherhood takes place, with each church seeking to reach groups of people reflecting the community in which the church is located.

Smith discussed the so-called "homogeneous unit principle" of church growth, insisting that the concept should actually be called the "homogeneous unit strategy" instead of a "principle." A strategy, he said, "is a means to an end," while "principles are more absolute; they indicate the way something ought to be."

Espoused by Donald McGavern of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., the church growth "homogeneous unit principle" (or strategy) says evangelism is more effective, and church members are most comfortable, when members seek to reach their own kind of people, including their own ethnic, racial, language, cultural and socio-economic groups.

Even those who question the strategy admit it works, Smith said. The homogeneous unit principle (strategy) has been criticized by many theologians who claim it seeks to produce segregated, racist churches.

Smith said churches and associations need to develop a "mosaic concept" in which each person, each group, adds its own color, texture, and shape to the whole, that the whole is incomplete without the pieces, and the pieces are less beautiful unless seen as part of the whole.

Smith also called for different standards of success, saying churches must return to the conviction that "success rests totally in doing the will of God." Baptists must agree that "small can be beautiful" and reject the concept that bigness and power are not the only criteria for success.

He urged Baptists to become "servants" who seek to meet the needs of others rather than insisting on having their own needs met. "Jesus in his life and work provides the ultimate model of servanthood."

Smith said Christ's model of leadership by servanthood should be followed by individual Christians, families, pastors, churches, associations and conventions. "The servant refuses to follow authoritative methods so prevalent in the world," he said.

Smith rejected the concept that the husband and pastor should be authority figures over the wife, family and church, and that others should be submissive to such authority, saying the husband and pastor should instead be servants of the family and church, using Christ's leadership model of servanthood.

In another major address during the conference, James Nelson, director of the HMB associational missions divisions, pointed to the New Testament pattern of churches, saying it is clear the pastor was never lifted up as a "superstar" but rather as a leader who trained lay persons for ministry.

Nelson said Baptists give good lip service to the role of the laity and the involvement of women in ministry, but actually are not effectively utilizing the laymen and women in the churches in the work of the ministry. In the early Christian church, "there was no big deal made about who was ordained, who was unordained, who was male or female, who had a high degree of education or who didn't," Nelson said.

Both Nelson and Smith called for a more significant use of bivocational ministers and women in starting new churches and in ministry, and to use every resource available to reach every person in America, especially the poor who seem to be overlooked by too many churches.

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W.H. Jackson, EWA Men
Plan To Accept Challenge

Baptist Press
7/20/82

NARABI, Kenya (BP)--Baptist men across the world are reaching out energetically for a new international involvement in evangelism and missions, Baptist World Alliance president Duke McCall declared as the third world conference of Baptist Men got underway July 16.

McCall, chancellor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., commented that he expected Baptist men of the world to prosper under a new arrangement in which W.H. "Dub" Jackson Jr. will coordinate the EWA Men's Department with offices in Fort Worth.

Jackson, a former Southern Baptist missionary and former president of the World Evangelism Foundation, was named assistant to the EWA president last May. Now, in addition to those duties, the Men's Department has asked Jackson to coordinate its work worldwide. Jackson said, "I am sure there is a world challenge for Baptist men and we are going to find it and accept it."

McCall, noted that he senses new directions in the EWA in several areas. There is a resurgence of the work of the layman. The EWA is changing from a body in which members mainly talk to each other, to a body of members who want to "do something to make a difference." McCall said laymen will no longer be passive recipients of a ministry, but will insist on being active participants. Warren Hultgren, president of Friends of EWA, told Jackson, "we stand ready to support a genuine world challenge for the EWA and for the men of the EWA."

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