

**(BP)****BAPTIST EXPRESS**  
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**Two Top Officials Resign  
Miami Baptist Association**

By Adon Taft

MIAMI (BP)—Two top officials in the Miami Baptist Association have resigned in a rift over the denomination's work with ethnic groups.

Dottson L. Mills, director of missions for the association of Southern Baptist churches, and John Pistone, director of language missions, were asked to resign after what Ron Mensinger, moderator of the association, described as a "strong misunderstanding."

"There was a difference in personalities and in their view of missions," said Mensinger, pastor of the Sierra-Norwood Baptist Church.

"It was much more than a difference in philosophy or personality clash, although it certainly was that," Mills said.

He was picked for his post nearly four years ago because of his 21 years of experience as a missionary in Costa Rica, Argentina and the Caribbean Islands; his knowledge of Spanish, French and Portugese, and his familiarity with Miami (where he grew up and was ordained).

Pistone, a native of Argentina who speaks Portugese and Spanish, sees the issue as one of attitude. He said he and others felt Mills "wanted the ethnics to be subjugated to the Anglos" in the association which includes 38 Spanish-language congregations, seven French-speaking ones, two Jamaican, two Indian, one Chinese and one Russian among the 116 congregations. The Miami Baptist Association has more than 50,000 members.

Mills was reluctant to discuss the situation which he described as "very unfortunate" but indicated he felt there was a separatist movement among the Spanish-speaking members of the association. "I tried to have one association, one fellowship, one body," he said. "But there were a lot of things working against that.

"I still feel there is a place for a strong Miami Baptist Association with churches of all ethnic groups cooperating," Mills said. "I don't want to create any more problems. We've got to get started rebuilding."

Luis Rasco, a Cuban who is president of the Spanish-speaking Pastors' Conference, denied there is a separatist movement. "We have the best relations with the Anglo pastors," he said. The leader of the Spanish-language congregation at West Hialeah Baptist Church pointed out Mills resignation was requested by Anglo pastor Jim Washer of Ojus First Baptist Church after Pistone was forced to resign after six years in his position.

Mensinger said the present structure of the association, in which Pistone reported to Mills, to the Florida Baptist Convention and to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, added to the problem.

That situation will be changed in a restructuring report originally scheduled to be presented Oct. 25 but which has now been delayed indefinitely, Mensinger said. The recommendations would have the director of language missions report directly to the association's director of missions.

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Pistone has rejected an offer by the Home Mission Board to be relocated. Instead he will continue the development of his own evangelistic association. He is committed to preach for a city-wide crusade for the area's Spanish-speaking churches in the Dade County Auditorium, Nov. 7-12. He said he also will lead such a crusade for the Haitian churches in Miami in February and will preach for an evangelistic crusade in Chile next Easter.

Pistone also operates a consumers cooperative in Miami.

Mills indicated he is considering other associational missionary posts in Florida.

J.C. Walters, pastor of Wayside Baptist Church and a former associational missions director in St. Petersburg, will direct MBA operations until January when an interim director will be employed, Mensinger said. Walters is chairman of the MBA's missions committee.

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(Adon Taft is religion writer for the Miami Herald)

Congress Preserves Current  
Non-Profit Postal Rates

By Larry Chesser

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WASHINGTON (BP)— The stop-gap funding measure approved by Congress before it adjourned for the Nov. 2 general election maintains, for the time being, existing non-profit postal rates.

The measure will fund federal agencies and programs through Dec. 17, by which time Congress must pass the regular appropriations bills for fiscal 1983 or be forced to come up with another stop-gap measure.

Rates for non-profit mailers such as Baptist state papers performed like a roller coaster during 1982. In January, due to a shortfall in another continuing appropriations measure Congress passed in late 1981, non-profit rates jumped from step 10 to step 16 of a 16-year phasing process begun in 1970 to gradually move preferred mail rates toward the full attributable costs by 1987. The increase doubled the postage costs of most Baptist state papers.

Then, when Congress included a \$42 million postal subsidy in an emergency supplemental appropriations measure last July, non-profit rates were brought back to step 13.

Non-profit rates are expected to climb again when Congress enacts the regular funding bill for the Postal Service, but not nearly as drastically as the January 1982, increase.

Consideration of fiscal 1983 funding bills for the Postal Service and other government departments is anticipated when Congress reconvenes in a lame duck session Nov. 29. Though the outcome remains uncertain, both Senate and House appropriations committees have approved \$708 million revenue foregone subsidy for the Postal Service—a figure which would put rates somewhere between step 14 and 15. President Reagan had requested only \$500 million for the subsidy, a figure which would have pushed rates beyond the January 1982 levels.

Final approval of the postal subsidy figure remains uncertain, however, since the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill of which it is a part exceeds President Reagan's spending request for these agencies.

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Schools Turning Infidel  
Former SBC Head Charges

By Helen Parmley

Baptist Press  
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DALLAS (BP)—W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, warned Baptists Sunday they are in danger of losing their educational institutions to "the liberals."

"All the great old universities of the world were established by the church for religious purposes -- to train the ministry and godly laypeople," he said. "All of us know the great old schools are now completely secular. All are lost to the faith. They are infidel institutions."

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"It is the same pattern I see no less in our great Baptist institutions."

On the occasion of his 38th anniversary in the pulpit of the Dallas church, the largest congregation in the Southern Baptist Convention, Criswell for the first time publicly lashed out at the so-called "liberals" in the three-year old debate on biblical authority which has threatened to split the nation's largest protestant denomination.

The debate over biblical inerrancy has focused on charges by ultraconservatives that Baptist-owned universities and six seminaries increasingly are being dominated by liberal staff and faculties. The inerrantist want to rid the institutions of those who do not proclaim a belief in inerrancy (that the Bible is without error).

Moderate conservatives, who claim the Bible is infallible in its message, accuse the inerrantists of imposing a creed on the SBC, an autonomous denomination with no creed, canon law or ecclesiastical bureaucracy.

Criswell, who served two terms as president of the SBC (1969-70), decried comments recently by two denominational leaders about the battle for the Bible, charging their concerns were misplaced.

He cited such universities as Brown and Wake Forest that he said were established by the church and then "lost to the faith." He also mentioned the University of Chicago, saying: "No sooner was the school endowed than it turned infidel. The liberals siezed it. All our great institutions of the north are secular and infidel; now they are doing the same thing in the south."

Criswell said he expected to hear denominational leaders speak out about these losses. Instead, he said, he heard the "head of a Baptist agency" say Baptists are straying from their purpose of missions with an overemphasis on Biblical authority. (He referred to a speech by R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.)

"He (Parks) lives in a city (Richmond, Va.) where a university (The University of Richmond) was lost," Criswell said. "Why doesn't he say anything about the castigation of that school?"

Criswell quoted a recent talk by William L. Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church of Atlanta, in which Self warned Baptists are in danger of being stampeded from their goals of missions and evangelism into a "swamp of creedalism."

"What creedalism?" he asked. "Because of the insistence that teachers and professors believe in the word of God? I don't understand why our denominational leaders seek to cut down those who stand up for the infallible, inerrant word of God."

"The liberals are taking our institutions away one by one," he said.

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(Helen Parmley is religion editor of the Dallas Morning News)

Churches, Colleges Bound  
Together N.C. Report Says

By Bill Boatwright

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ASHBORO, N.C. (BP)—Christian colleges and churches are bound together because the God of reason is also the God of salvation, a report on Baptist colleges and churches says.

The report was issued by the North Carolina Baptist Council on Christian Higher Education and made public at a council meeting Sept. 28.

"Since creation and redemption have the same source (God)," the report reads, "it follows they have an ultimate compatibility. God is both creator and redeemer."

The separation of creation and redemption was termed "heresy" which usually results in a clash between so-called liberalism and pietism in church and college life.

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Churches may opt for piety while colleges feel more comfortable in a "liberal" tradition of learning. Both reason and piety, the report underlines, have roots in God.

The Christian college is the place offering "students an opportunity to find this ultimate compatibility between reason and faith."

The 11-page report was based on a two year study which included a direct mail survey of North Carolina Baptist church leaders. The survey revealed both clergy and laity in the state saw the basic purpose of Baptist colleges "to afford excellent education under Christian auspices."

Only five percent of those surveyed stated the basic purpose of Baptist colleges was to "prepare for church vocations" with another five percent stating "to evangelize."

More than half of the respondents feel North Carolina Baptist colleges are "moderately secure" as compared to public colleges and universities. Also, 43 percent of the clergy and 36 percent of the laity feel the state's seven Baptist colleges receive "too little" financial support from the denomination.

The report also talked about a "hopeful future" between the state denomination and colleges.

There must be a "serious search to identify areas of mutual concern" between colleges and churches with the recognition that the "probable future of Baptist colleges will be determined by the quality of their relationship with the sponsoring church body."

The report concluded with a statement on the projected decline in the number of college-age students over the next several years. The projection listed a "bottoming out" of the decline around 1997, followed by a quick recovery in numbers of college-age students through the year 2010.

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(Boatwright is director of communications for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina)

Hurricane Repeats Mexico Hit,  
Baptists Speed Aid To Victims

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$30,000 Sept. 30 to aid victims of Hurricane Paul which hit the west coast of Mexico almost a year after Hurricane Lidia left 50,000 area residents homeless.

Hurricane Paul hit Los Mochis before dawn Sept. 30 with winds up to 112 miles per hour and heavy rains. Many homes were destroyed and power and water lines knocked out. Several Baptist churches were damaged and one pastor's home destroyed.

Southern Baptist representative Mike Hull, who coordinated Southern Baptist relief efforts with Mexican Baptists in the wake of Lidia, will again coordinate relief efforts. Half of the \$30,000 is for food and half is to provide temporary shelter and begin home reconstruction.

The nearby Baptist camp, which had to be rebuilt after Lidia, was again heavily damaged, said Timothy T. Brendle, consultant for community development for the Foreign Mission Board.

Texas Baptist Men have been put on alert to respond to the disaster and a volunteer team already recruited by California Baptist Men to help with Lidia repairs will leave for Los Mochis Oct. 9. Two volunteer teams from California and Arizona went to Los Mochis earlier in the year to help with hurricane reconstruction.

Hull reported a new openness to Baptist work in the Los Mochis area following earlier relief efforts. In the first three months after Lidia 300 people professed faith in Christ and attendance at local Baptist churches nearly doubled.

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Zimbabwe Mission Pioneer  
Clyde Dotson Dies At Age 77

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Emeritus Southern Baptist missionary Clyde J. Dotson died Sept. 30 in Oxford, Ala., after seeing his dream of a string of Baptist missions across Africa come true.

Dotson, 77, a native of Tuscumbia, Ala., applied in his early 20s to serve with the Foreign Mission Board in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), but the board was deeply in debt and could not support him. Undaunted, he and his first wife, the former Hattie Thigpen, went to Rhodesia in 1930 under an interdenominational missions agency. The only Southern Baptist missionaries in Africa were stationed in Nigeria.

In Rhodesia he began translating parts of the Bible into the Ndua language which the couple printed on the mission's hand press. The British and Foreign Bible Society asked him to translate the whole Bible, which he did, taking 14 years and earning an honorary life membership in the Bible society.

After almost 20 years with the interdenominational agency he felt a strong desire to see a distinctively Baptist witness in Southern Rhodesia and independently established Baptist mission points in Gatooma (now Kadoma), Gwelo (now Gweru), Bulawayo and Shabani.

His persistent correspondence with the Foreign Mission Board paid off in 1950 when George Sadler, then secretary for Africa, Europe and the near East, visited the area and recommended Southern Baptists begin work in Rhodesia. The Dotsons were appointed as the country's first Southern Baptist missionaries.

Before he retired in 1972 Dotson saw a Baptist seminary and hospital established and work opened in other Rhodesian cities. Baptist work had also been started in 15 other African nations.

His first wife was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1955 and he married Ebbie Kilgo in 1957. She died the next year of pregnancy complications.

He met his third wife, Anneli Valtonen of Finland, in 1960 when she was en route to Southwest Africa to serve as a Lutheran missionary nurse. Although both continued to their respective mission fields, she moved to Rhodesia and they were married two years later. He resigned from missionary service and they came to the United States to study at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1963 Mrs. Dotson was appointed and Dotson was reappointed to Rhodesia.

In 1973, a year after his retirement from 42 years of missionary service Samford University, where he received the bachelor of arts degree, honored Dotson as alumnus of the year.

Besides his wife who lives in Oxford he leaves seven children. The oldest, Lolete, is a Southern Baptist missionary nurse in Bophuthatswana now on furlough in Birmingham, Ala.

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

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission will mail to state papers a photo to accompany the BP story—"Captain Kangaroo Unhappy With Broadcasters' Values"—mailed 9/30/82. Thanks, Baptist Press.