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FMB Approves
Record Budget

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A record 1983 budget of \$125,952,000, one-fifth larger than this year's, won quick approval Oct. 13 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

President R. Keith Parks said a combination of sacrificial giving by Southern Baptists, favorable return on investments and good money management made possible the 20.15 percent budget increase.

He emphasized it is also a budget based on faith because it includes the entire \$58 million goal for this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. This offering alone is expected to provide more than 46 percent of the 1983 budget.

The budget reflects a 16.87 percent increase in the board's receipts from the Cooperative Program, which will provide more than 40 percent of the budget income.

"This budget," Parks said, "is dollars and cents evidence Southern Baptists are still true to the originating purpose that unites us around the propagation of the gospel at home and throughout the world."

He said it also underscores "the cooperative spirit that has characterized Southern Baptists from the beginning."

The vast majority of Southern Baptists, he said, are still committed to working together through the Cooperative Program to do more to win the world to Christ than "any one of us can do on our own."

Parks said the budget is "clear proof of the biblically based convictions" of Southern Baptists.

"There are a few who call themselves Southern Baptists who have lost their commitment to the Bible," he continued. "They do not provide much support for this budget. There are also a few who call themselves Southern Baptists who emphasize other beliefs to the neglect of missions and cooperation. And they do not provide much of this budget.

"However, the preponderate majority of Southern Baptists hold firmly to the authority of the Bible and the conviction that this must be expressed in world missions. If we ever lose missions as our central thrust, we may continue to be conservative biblically and theologically, but no longer be the Southern Baptist Convention we have been."

The 1983 budget continues to accelerate the percentage of funds going overseas and whittles the home office budget percentage to 11.47 percent. In 1981, the home office percentage was 12.61 percent.

The two-year reduction of 1.14 percent in home office percentage will provide an additional \$1,435,853 in 1983 funds for field budgets, Parks said.

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Capital needs overseas—those that pay for such projects as church buildings and missionary residences—increased from \$8 million in 1982 to \$13.7 million in 1983. Of this, \$12 million will come from the Lottie Moon offering.

The board appropriated \$2 million out of current funds to help purchase housing units for its almost 3,200 missionaries. The money, with a similar amount set up last year, will go into an interest-free housing loan fund so that individual mission fields can more quickly get missionaries out of expensive rental housing. The money will be paid back out of the various fields' budgets.

In other actions, the board voted to begin work in Norway and French Guiana Nov. 1, honored Edna Frances Dawkins for 35 years' service and continued to strengthen its missionary retirement plan by eliminating the three-year waiting period before new missionaries can qualify for it.

It also honored 27 retiring missionaries with a combined 891 years of service; named 34 new missionaries, including one member of its own staff, Marjorie Basden, reappointed one couple and employed three special project medical workers.

Despite transfer of two couples to begin work in Norway and French Guiana, the board's country count will remain at 96. Libya and Nicaragua are being dropped because missionaries no longer are able to work in those countries.

Dawkins, honored at a board luncheon, will retire Dec. 31 after service that has put her in contact with perhaps more missionaries and mission candidates than any other staff member.

Following years of work in missionary personnel selection and with students interested in missions, she took on a new job 10 years ago to establish fellowship groups for more than 2,800 former or emeritus missionaries.

The board action to add new missionaries immediately to its retirement plan with the Annuity Board will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1982. A special appropriation of \$605,000 covers these retroactive pension contributions for 1982.

Carl Johnson, vice president for finance, said only financial limitations in the 1982 budget kept these new missionaries from being covered when the board upgraded its pension plan last December.

Unusually high interest rates for the last several years have helped provide additional income both on the board's endowment investments and on short-term investment of funds awaiting use overseas. But Johnson noted that interest rates already are going down and the board is seeking to use these investment returns for years to come.

Board members put a \$20 million ceiling on the board contingency reserve after adding \$3 million to bring it up to that level. It also transferred \$3 million from investment income to its endowment and trust funds.

Income from both the contingency reserve and the endowment and trust funds will be used to help meet the urgent needs of the budget, Johnson said.

Southern Baptist Convention action allows the board to have a contingency reserve fund equal to six months of the board's operating budget, which for 1983 would amount to about \$55 million. But Johnson said the board believes the \$20 million reserve will be adequate to meet any emergency it could foresee at this time.

Lewis Myers, director of consultant services, reported that more than \$5.9 million in hunger and relief funds have been released this year, more than double the amount released in the comparable period last year. The figure is running far ahead of receipts during this period.

HMB Adopts \$47.9 Million
Budget, Elects Banks VP

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board adopted a \$47.9 million budget for 1983, elevated Bob Banks to a new position as vice president for administration, appointed 72 new missionaries and celebrated the board's 100th anniversary in Atlanta.

The \$47.9 million budget is an increase of almost \$5.7 million over the 1982 budget of \$42.2 million. It will permit a 10 percent salary hike for appointed missionaries.

Robert T. Banks, associate to the president, was promoted to a newly-created position of vice president for administration, effective immediately. Banks, a native of Griffin, Ga., came to the HMB last year after seven years with the SBC Brotherhood Commission and 20 years with the Oklahoma Baptist Brotherhood Department.

Two other new staff positions, were created but not immediately filled—assistant director, metropolitan missions department, and associate vice president, evangelism.

In addition to adopting the budget, the board approved 1983 program goals for the agency and adopted a distribution plan for 1983 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering receipts. With a goal of \$25 million for 1983, the offering will provide \$16.2 million for direct support of home missionaries and field ministries, \$2.8 million for special HMB projects, and \$6 million for "advance in critical areas."

In his annual report to directors, HMB President William G. Tanner reported receipts through the 1982 Annie Armstrong Offering is \$1.1 million over what was given by the same period last year, but still short of the \$22 million goal. So far this year, \$19,085,000 has been given through the home mission offering. Tanner told board members projections indicate gifts through the offering probably will reach \$19.5 million in 1982.

In a 40-minute report summarizing major accomplishments of the agency last year, Tanner told not only the statistics, but talked about people who "are on mission for Christ" in seeking to proclaim the gospel to everyone in America.

He cited specifically a group of 20 Baptist young people at the World's Fair in Knoxville who have shared their faith in a musical drama 600 times in 180 days to about 800,000 people, and a group of Baptists at a county fair in the Midwest who gave 4,650 cups of cold water in Jesus' name.

He told of a bi-vocational pastor and law enforcement officer who is leading his congregation to reach every non-Christian in his community, and of a small association with only 15 churches seeking to establish 16 new church-type missions in the next two years.

"Our Lord has challenged Southern Baptists to continue on to the frontiers of need," Tanner said. "He has thrust us in a time of unusual opportunity in our nation."

Pointing out there has never been a time when as many Christians are concerned about missions, Tanner reported there are 3,000 HMB missionaries, serving in every state, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands.

"We are standing on 'dead center' of opportunity with expertise, funds, programs, commitment of hundreds of thousands of people, and a goal to share the gospel with everyone in America," he said.

In other business, the HMB directors voted to move the HMB refugee resettlement offices from Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, to leased space on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, and deeded several pieces of property owned by the HMB to other Baptist groups.

The action included transferring ownership of about 40 pieces of property in Cuba to the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. Valued at \$2 to \$3 million, the property includes churches, a retirement home, an encampment, and several other tracts.

The board also gave an Indian residence in Citronelle, Ala., to E. R. Isbell, who is retiring after 25 years as Indian missionary, and released a gift lien held on the pastorium of First Chinese Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

Resolutions of appreciation were adopted for the late Sue Latimer Wesberry of Atlanta, pastor's wife and denominational leader who was a member of the board for five years until her death; and three retired employees: John Havlik, director of evangelism education/writing; Ruth McKinney, secretary to the president, and Elizabeth Dennis, secretary in the Christian social ministries department.

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Draper Affirms FMB, Parks;
Terms SBC Struggles Healthy

By Anita Bowden

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—James T. Draper Jr. emphasized his belief in Southern Baptists and in the value of missions as he spoke at the October meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The SBC president told 375 people at a board luncheon Oct. 13: "Mission work has to be evangelistic, church-starting and Bible-centered." Turning to R. Keith Parks, board president, he said he appreciated the explanation of strategy, with its emphasis on starting churches, which was presented earlier during the board meeting.

Draper also expressed regret that his former pastor (W.A. Criswell of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas) recently said things critical of Parks which received wide publicity. (Criswell) "spoke hastily...and not accurately," he said.

Even though the SBC is involved in a struggle now, Draper said, "I believe the greatest days are ahead for us."

He said he believes the struggle, which is making Baptists examine themselves, will make the denomination strong. "When we look back on it, it will be a healthy thing. I believe in Southern Baptists."

Later, during an interview with Richmond-area news media, Draper said he understands that there are those in the convention who don't trust him because they feel previous leaders made promises which were not kept. "I can't change things without some time," he said. "And the question is, are they going to give me enough time."

Draper said he believes the most concentrated area of theological liberalism in the denomination is in the universities rather than the seminaries. He emphasized he is not interested in firing professors but in making sure conservative views are allowed space in the classroom.

"I'm seeking parity," he said. Both the more liberal and the more conservative interpretations of scripture should be presented in the classroom, he said, and the student allowed to make his own decision, rather than be ridiculed for his beliefs.

During the luncheon, Draper told how his church, First Baptist of Euless, Texas, has participated in Texas Baptists' Mission To Brazil project, matching cities in Texas with cities in Brazil for evangelism.

"It has revolutionized our church," he said.

Since the church's involvement began, one family has donated a house to be used as a furlough home for missionaries and another family has pledged to completely furnish it. Two deacons have expressed the feeling God may be leading them to foreign missions, Draper said. Giving through the Cooperative Program and to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions also has increased in recent years.

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Sticking to a missions theme, Draper said Southern Baptists are in crisis today: "A crisis of concern—we don't care enough about the unredeemed people; a crisis of contact—we need to get out where the people are; a crisis of conviction—we need to sharpen our convictions about sin, and a crisis of commitment—we're not doing what we should."

Draper said he prays that Southern Baptists will "live and move to please God. If we do, we'll be successful in our mission enterprise and everything our hands find to do."

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Foreign Board Names
34 New Missionaries

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10/14/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board named 34 missionaries Oct. 12, including Marjorie Basden, the board's manager for world mission conferences.

Basden plans to marry missionary Bill Graves Dec. 17 and will be his secretary. Graves, associate to the director for Middle America and the Caribbean is based in Puerto Rico.

Basden, the former Marjorie Abbott, is a native of Tennessee. She joined the Foreign Mission Board staff in 1978, handling contacts with college and pre-college students interested in missions. She became manager of the World Mission Conference section in 1981. She was married to the late Harold Basden, Southern Baptist pastor and Foreign Mission Board staff member, who died in 1969.

The board also reappointed James and Georgie Williams Teel of Texas, missionaries in Ecuador and Argentina for 20 years before their resignation in 1976. Teel, currently assistant vice president for development at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, will work as a general evangelist in the Dominican Republic. Mrs. Teel will be a church and home worker.

Before joining the Hardin-Simmons University staff, Teel was assistant director of Cooperative Program promotion for the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other new missionaries:

John and Sherrie Smith Ashcraft, of California and Oregon, respectively, assigned to Nigeria; Kent and Debbie Crone Blevins, South Carolina and Nebraska, to Portugal; Roger and Carol Morgan Busby, Alabama, to Venezuela; Jim and Kay Willingham Chandler, West Virginia and Texas, to Taiwan; Rhonda Farrell, California, to Mexico;

Mike and Betsy Dobbins Fleenor, Alaska and Alabama, to Macao; Roger and Diana Clardy Gaunt, Missouri and Kentucky, to the Dominican Republic; Dan and Debra Gardner Gregg, Texas, to Hong Kong; Bob and Cindy Bens Harr, Oklahoma and Illinois, to Brazil; Gene and Nancy Balentine Hines, North Carolina and South Carolina, to Japan; Ron and Cindy DeVane Reynolds, Florida, to Japan;

Steve and Anne McPherson Seaberry, Texas, to Liberia; Bill and Kay Parsley Stiles, Texas and Oklahoma, to Tanzania; Sonny and Deen Walker Sweatman, Georgia and North Carolina, to Zambia; Troy and Deborah Jewell Waldron, Washington, D.C. and Virginia, to Ethiopia; Al and Becky Kidd Weir, Tennessee and Mississippi, to Nigeria, and Paul and Laura Jo Owens Shelton, Uruguay and Florida, to Argentina.

The Board also named three special medical workers during its October meeting: Dean and Beth Robertson Byrd, Alabama, assigned to Ghana; and Connie Haga, Georgia, to Yemen.

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