



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

### NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355  
Wilmer C. Fields, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

### BUREAUS

**ATLANTA** Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
**RICHMOND** (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 17, 1982

82-165

Kansas-Nebraska Baptists  
Chastise BJCPA, James Durn

GARDEN CITY, Kan. (BP)—The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and its executive director, James Durn, have "saddened, shocked and dismayed" many Southern Baptists according to messengers to the 37th annual session of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

A resolution says unless the BJCPA and Durn "adopt a public posture on national issues more consistent with currently stated resolutions of the Southern Baptist Convention" then the Executive Committee of the SBC should, "begin the process of severing the relationship that now exists between our denomination and the Baptist Joint Committee."

The 350 messengers agreed overwhelmingly that Durn showed "little sensitivity for the convictions of the majority of Southern Baptists" when he referred to actions by "ultra-conservative crazies" and he "saddened many Southern Baptists" when he described President Ronald Reagan's proposal of a constitutional amendment on voluntary prayer as "dispicable demagoguery."

The resolution also expressed dismay that Durn is on the board of directors of People for the American Way, a group the resolution described as one which "attempts to discredit citizens' groups seeking to restore public morality."

The convention also noted that, while the Baptist Joint Committee is a joint effort of nine Baptist groups, the Southern Baptist Convention contributes approximately 80 percent of its budget (\$312,945 last year).

"I think it is important to note that this resolution is not an indictment of the Baptist Joint Committee as a whole. It is not a call to abolish the Baptist Joint Committee and it does not attempt to say what beliefs James Durn should hold privately," said John Hopkins, editor of the Kansas-Nebraska Baptist Digest. "It asked him, in his public statements, to more accurately reflect the feelings of the majority of Southern Baptists."

In other action messengers approved a record budget of \$2,452,548, reflecting an increase of approximately 6.2 percent over 1982. The new budget calls for an increase of one percent (to 25 percent) in the amount sent to worldwide mission and educational causes through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

The convention's theme, "55 by '85 Toward 200 by 2000", pointed out the KNCSB's objective of establishing 200 new churches and church-type missions by the turn of the century.

Messengers unanimously re-elected Dale Buchman, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Liberal, Kan., as president and chose Paul Anderson, pastor of Harrison Street Baptist Church, Omaha, Neb., as vice president.

Other resolutions adopted named N.J. Westmoreland (the KNCSB's first executive director) executive director emeritus and spoke against para-mutual betting.

The 1983 KNCSB annual meeting will be Nov. 15-16, at First Southern Baptist Church, Topeka, Kan.

**Bold Mission Missionaries  
Overwhelm Training Facility**

By Erich Bridges

PINE MOUNTAIN, Ga. (BP)—Callaway Gardens, the scenic resort center 75 miles southwest of Atlanta, was drastically overbooked recently—not with tourists—with missionaries.

In September, 154 new foreign missionaries moved into the resort grounds where the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board rents facilities for twice-yearly orientation sessions. The 11-week session ended Nov. 24, with the missionaries scattering to 38 countries to begin their assignments.

The 16 single missionaries and 69 couples (with 107 children) constituted the largest orientation group ever but the rented facilities comfortably accommodate only about 115. The result was closer fellowship than the missionaries bargained for.

To handle the crowd orientation center staffers divided the missionaries into four groups which attended split sessions for lectures and workshops and followed a staggered eating schedule. When the entire group gathered in the main lecture hall it usually spilled over into the adjacent library.

Families squeezed into 85 living units. Warren and Kathy Rose, on their way to Brazil, said they were comfortable with their three children in a two-bedroom unit. But most families with two children or less made do with a single bedroom and a sofa bed in the family room.

Rose added that rubbing shoulders with so many other missionaries made it harder to get to know everybody. After almost two months he encountered another couple at the laundromat whom he'd "only waved at" before.

Orientation manager Frank Wells, admitted the crowding "took its toll on the learning process," but said it's one of the growing pains of Bold Mission Thrust.

"What an exciting problem to have when so many mission groups are about to fold," said Wells, formerly a missionary to Indonesia. The missionaries "took it as a challenge to make it work and it worked."

The recent session is Wells' first since he took over management of the orientation center in March. He said he "would not have chosen to be 'baptized' under these circumstances, but I feel real good about what we've been able to pull off."

Continuing record appointments of new missionaries to meet Bold Mission Thrust goals will mean continuing large orientation groups, at least until completion of the \$9.1 million missionary learning center under construction in Rockville, Va., set to open in the summer of 1984.

Orientation sessions at the new center will be shorter and more frequent. Planners hope this will solve the current backup caused by only two sessions per year and decrease the time before new missionaries reach foreign fields.

In the meantime a special summer orientation session has been scheduled for 1983 at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. Tourist vacation reservations rule out a summer session at Callaway Gardens.

-30-

**Graham Addresses Czechs  
On Peace, Redemption**

By John M. Wilkes

Baptist Press  
11/17/82

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (BP)—Keeping a 13-year-old promise to visit Czechoslovakia, evangelist Billy Graham spoke to the eastern European audiences on themes of peace in a nuclear age and man's need for redemption.

-more-

After expressing great admiration for the "long, rich history and determination and courage" of the Czech and Slovak nations, Graham noted his visit comes at a time of great international tension.

"I have learned much about the concern and anxiety of people in this nuclear age and about the universal hunger of the human heart for peace," he said. The Baptist evangelist cautioned, however, that he was "not an ambassador for the United States. I come instead as an ambassador of the kingdom of God and the Prince of Peace."

Graham first visited the Czech Ecumenical Council and the Christian Peace Conference, an international organization which has headquarters in Prague.

He returned to the nuclear threat in his last Czech sermon Nov. 2, at the Brethren Church in Bratislava. Addressing an audience of 1,200 packed into a three-year-old auditorium designed for 380, he recalled it was Bratislava Baptist choir members who had first approached him about a visit when they sang at the European Baptist Federation Congress in Vienna in 1969.

He told the audience: "You and your generation may not live out your normal life. This is something the world never faced before where only one man or woman could push a button" to begin a nuclear holocaust "which could destroy the world."

Pleading fatigue from a similar preaching mission earlier in the month in East Germany, Graham asked long-time associate Cliff Barrows to substitute at two services scheduled in the Vinohradska (First) Baptist Church of Prague on Oct. 30. But he appeared rested and at ease the next day as he preached at the Sunday morning service of the Vinohradska church.

"Abraham laughed" was his brief text and he delighted the 1,500 persons attending with humorous illustrations and expressions. A large number responded to Graham's invitation to make commitments to Christ. Stanislav Svec, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Czechoslovakia and current president of the European Baptist Federation Council, was Graham's interpreter throughout his visit.

Graham was more formal Sunday evening speaking to about 2,500 persons in the Evangelical Czech Brethren Church of St. Salvator. "Man's greatest need is reconciliation with Christ," he said. Again many persons raised their hands at his invitation and about 40 came to the counseling room following the service.

After a stop in Lidice Nov. 1, to lay a wreath and pray at the memorial for several hundred Czech citizens martyred June 10, 1942, in reprisal for the assassination of Nazi Commander Reinhard Heydrich, Graham spoke at the Moravian capital of Brno.

More than 1,000 persons packed three floors of the Czechoslovak Brethren Church located a few meters from the smaller Baptist building which held still another 350 people listening to Graham's message via a specially rigged remote line. At least 100 persons went to counseling rooms after raising their hands in commitment to Christ.

Admission to all church meetings was by ticket. "Our buildings are far too small to hold the crowds who would show up to hear Graham so we consider that these are our invitation cards," a Baptist pastor explained.

Baptist Union leaders expressed great satisfaction with the impact of the visit on their own congregational life and its effect on others. One pastor said that a Roman Catholic bishop from his area had addressed him on a fraternal given-name basis for the first time ever and even drove several hundred kilometers to hear Graham personally.

-30-

(John M. Wilkes is a Southern Baptist missionary and director of European Baptist Press Service.)

Hawaii Baptists  
Pass \$1 Million Budget

HONOLULU, Hawaii (BP)—Its first \$1 million budget and the first increase in the Cooperative Program goal since 1952 were passed unanimously at the 40th annual meeting of the Hawaii Baptist Convention Nov. 11-13.

Messengers amended the proposed budget of \$1,153,604 to include an increase in its Cooperative Program percentage to the Southern Baptist Convention for worldwide missions from 25 percent to 27 percent.

O.W. (Dub) Eford, pastor of Mililani Baptist Church, was elected president; W.C. Garland, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Pearl Harbor, first vice president and Clifford Hoff, pastor, Olivette Baptist Church, second vice president.

Only once during the convention was there a difference of opinion expressed. This was regarding a bylaw change that would require new churches requesting seating of their messengers to wait one year before approval. This recommendation was tabled indefinitely.

The convention theme "Na Po'e O Hawaii, Imua No Ke Akua" (People of Hawaii, Go Forward for the Lord) was interpreted at each session, emphasizing looking back over 40 years of unique heritage and going forward for the Lord in the next decade.

Reflecting the multi-ethnic makeup of the HBC, messengers of the newly organized Korean Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor, Seung Bin Park, pastor, were seated. Members of Japanese, Korean, Philippine and Samoan language congregations were present, as well as multi-ethnic English-speaking churches.

The benediction at each session was pronounced by a pastor of an ethnic congregation in his own language. The opening prayer was given in Hawaiian.

The closing of an era and the beginning of a time of new challenge characterized all the sessions, highlighted by frequent references to the almost 20 years of effective leadership by Edmond R. Walker, executive director-treasurer, who resigned to accept a position as national consultant with senior adult ministries, Home Mission Board. Walker was given a standing ovation as he stepped up to make his last report to the convention.

The 1983 meeting of the Hawaii Baptist Convention will be held in Kailua-Kona on Nov. 10-13, 1983.

-30-

Utah-Idaho Messengers  
Adopt Long-Range Plan

Baptist Press  
11/17/82

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah (BP)—Messengers to the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, during their 18th annual meeting Nov. 9-10, adopted a five-year plan which emphasizes reaching people, congregational development and pastoral support.

The 192 registered messengers also adopted a \$1,179,615 budget of which \$379,227 will come from the 82 congregations affiliated with the two-state convention. From local contributions, 20 percent will be sent to support the worldwide missions and evangelism effort of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program, the same percentage as last year.

The budget includes a stipulation that staff salaries be increased. When presented, the budget included a recommendation from the staff that salaries be frozen at 1982 levels. However, messengers adopted a recommendation from the floor that the budget include a 10 percent increase, with five percent to be granted in January and the other five "if and when" the budget is met.

At the present time the convention is running 12 percent behind budget, reflective of depressed economic conditions.

-more-

In the long-range plan, goals outline increased mission activity, a 40 percent increase in baptisms and a strong emphasis on family ministries. The plan was developed by a 22-member committee at the request of the convention executive board.

During the two-day meeting messengers adopted resolutions calling on national leaders to seek peaceful solutions to all conflicts, urging Baptists to be sensitive to the physical needs of those suffering from unemployment and inflation and for convention members to covenant together to reach out and touch people in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Messengers from five new churches were seated at the annual meeting.

Carroll Reynolds, a layman from Boise, Idaho, was re-elected president.

The 1983 annual meeting will be at Mountainview Baptist Church in Boise, Nov. 7-9.

--30--

James Landes  
Returns To Work

Baptist Press  
11/17/82

DALLAS, Texas (BP)—James Landes, the 70-year-old executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, returned to work Nov. 15 after collapsing Nov. 9 during the BGCT's annual meeting in Corpus Christi.

Doctors hospitalized Landes after noting "cardiac abnormalities" when he was taken to the emergency room after becoming ill at a reception in his honor. Later tests uncovered no indication of heart problems and doctors decided Landes was suffering from a "chemical imbalance."

He was released from Corpus Christi Spohn Hospital on Nov. 11 and returned to his home near Dallas. He attended services at his home church, First Baptist Church of Richardson, the following Sunday and was back at work Monday.

He will retire from his job of nine years on Dec. 31.

-30-

Hurricane Damage  
Keys Church's Growth

Baptist Press  
11/17/82

LOS MOCHIS, Mexico (BP)—Members of Cinco de Mayo Baptist Church near Los Mochis, Mexico, know how to make the best of bad situations.

For the five years before Hurricane Lidia devastated Los Mochis, the mission, made up mostly of women and children, had struggled to survive.

But when the men of the community saw how Baptists pitched in to help in the wake of Lidia's 1981 assault on Los Mochis they became willing to listen to the Baptist message. Attendance escalated and church membership multiplied rapidly. A few months after Lidia the mission organized as Mexico's first Mayo Indian Baptist Church.

When Hurricane Paul hit this fall, damaging the roof and buckling one wall, the church decided to take advantage of the storm's demolition work. Attendance sometimes was hitting 300—more than the building could hold—so instead of repairing the latest hurricane damage church members are enlarging the entire church building.

-30-