



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 18, 1982

82-166

South Carolina Doubles Budget In Just Five Years

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP)—A move to make the abortion policy of Baptist hospitals in South Carolina more restrictive was rejected by the South Carolina Baptist Convention but messengers did recommend all Baptist institutions be very careful to check the religious preferences of prospective employees.

South Carolina Baptists completed a five-year drive to double the budget by 1983 by adopting a budget of \$17 million (the 1978 figure was \$8.5 million). Of that amount 38.31 percent (a reduction from the 38.71 percent in the 1982 budget) will go to worldwide mission and educational ministries through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

A proposal to limit abortions at the two hospitals operated by the General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, "to cases of extreme emergency when the physical life of the mother is clearly in jeopardy" was defeated by a standing vote after debate.

Convention officials stressed the hospitals perform only therapeutic abortions under the existing policy which allows the procedure when it is necessary to protect the "physical or mental health of the mother." Cases of rape and incest are considered under the "mental health" part of the policy.

The successful resolution called on Baptist institutions to give preference to qualified Southern Baptists and other evangelical Christians (in that order) when hiring and to require a statement of religious commitment and a statement of commitment to the institution's purpose.

The resolution was apparently in response to recent publicity about a professor at a South Carolina Baptist university.

A tenured member of the music faculty at Furman is a Christian Scientist and, on three occasions, has used facilities at Furman to host Christian Science meetings.

Messengers elected a recently retired state convention executive, B.F. Hawkins of Greenville, president. Hawkins retired last year as director of Cooperative Program promotion and stewardship development for the convention after a decade at that post. He is a former pastor and director of missions.

M.B. Morrow Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Gaffney, was elected first vice president and George Dye, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ft. Mill, was chosen second vice president.

There were 2,200 messengers registered for the meeting.

The 1983 convention will be Nov. 15-16 in Columbia, S.C.

Louisiana Baptists Speak
On Creationism, Prayer

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

LAFAYETTE, La. (BP)—Louisiana Baptist messengers validated the 1982 convention theme of "Bold Going" by approving recommendations to enter into partnership missions with the Nevada Baptist Convention and the Zimbabwe Baptist Convention.

Messengers also approved a \$15,850,000 budget for 1983 that includes a \$350,000 challenge goal and 34 percent designated for Southern Baptist Convention-wide causes, the same percent as last year. The budget represents a 10 percent increase.

When the budget adoption seemed to be going in a routine manner, Perry Sanders, pastor of Lafayette First Baptist Church where the sessions were held, came to the platform to challenge Louisiana Baptist churches to take "seriously the goal and make it a reality even if it means sacrifice."

He said, "We've got to get with it on a worldwide basis even in the face of economic conditions if we are to reach the world for Christ."

Perry Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, was returned to a second term as president. Ray Frye, an Alexandria businessman, was elected as first vice president from serving as second vice president this year. Marilyn Dickinson of Baton Rouge was elected second vice president.

Among 14 resolutions approved without comment were statements on creationism, volunteer prayer and gambling.

The creationism resolution urged Louisiana Baptists to educate their children into belief of divine creation, reject attempts by any school to teach any theory of creation as fact and take action when the opportunity arises to oppose the teaching of any religious dogma, favored or opposed by Louisiana Baptists, in our public classrooms.

The volunteer prayer resolutions stated "we implore the courts and Congress to stay within the confines of the previous U.S. Supreme Court ruling that declares that only government sponsored and prescribed scripture reading and prayer is unconstitutional and did not declare unconstitutional truly voluntary expressions of individual faith."

On the subject of gambling, under study by a state committee to explore the possibility of a state lottery, the messengers voted to commend "the legislature for refusing to further legalize gambling" and urged the group to reject any recommendations in the future.

Prior to convening the sessions Nov. 15-17, members of the executive board elected Charles Harvey, director of evangelism. Harvey, pastor for the past 29 years of Sunset Acres Baptist Church in Shreveport, is a past Louisiana Baptist convention president and past chairman of the SBC Executive Committee.

Harvey succeeds Leonard Sanderson who recently retired and will assume office after the first of 1983.

The 1983 will be held at First Baptist Church, Bossier City Nov. 14-16.

-30-

J.R. Ewing Provides Key
For Scottish Baptist Witness

By John Rutledge

Baptist Press
11/18/82

PLANO, Texas (BP)—J.R. Ewing of the television show "Dallas" will never be mistaken for a Baptist missionary. And Prairie Creek Baptist Church in Plano doesn't look like Southfork—the Ewing's home on the television series.

But Plano is near Southfork—and that was enough to get students in Scotland listening to what a mission team from Prairie Creek church had to say about Jesus Christ.

-more-

"It was crazy but it (the popularity of 'Dallas') gave us a hearing," Ron Barker, minister of evangelism at the church, said. "We were free to talk about Texas, sing and give a 10-15 minute message about why we were there, about Jesus Christ.

"We had expected to get into maybe a third of the schools in the area we visited but every school invited us and we eventually spoke to thousands of students over a two-day period."

The most vivid memory of the partnership mission trip was an incident at Wigtown. "The church there only had five members," Barker said. "But the town hall was packed to see us."

Throughout the service of witnessing, singing and testimonies, several teen-age boys in the town pounded the building with rocks.

The next day Barker and some of the laymen talked with some of the boys, got into a soccer game with them and eventually became their friends.

"Before we left several were saved. In fact they were so sad to see us go that some of them drove 50 miles to Girvan where we were conducting the next meeting," Barker said.

The group included Barker and his wife, three other couples and two women, all from Prairie Creek church. They were invited by the Baptist church in Ayr through the Foreign Mission Board's partnership missions office to conduct witness training sessions and evangelistic services, as well as visit in nursing homes, home coffees and other community events.

During the first week in Scotland, Barker and Howard Ramsey, the personal evangelism director from the Home Mission Board, conducted a seminar for about a third of the Baptist pastors in Scotland and the president of the Baptist Union on the HMB's Continuing Witness Training program.

"It mainly concerned how to involve laymen in witnessing. "We got an overwhelming response," Barker said. "The pastors are very positive and biblical but lack know-how."

One benefit of the trip was that "our people got in touch with missions," Barker said. "When we give we know where it's going now. The motivation for Cooperative Program giving increases when missions becomes personal."

It also opens people's eyes to the needs at their doorstep. "They come back with a heart for the people around them," he said.

In Scotland, where unemployment is running at 20 percent, people are searching for something, Barker said—hope. And honesty.

During one service at Wigtown the woman who played the organ started playing the wrong tune to the song and had to start over. She turned to the audience and apologized.

Later a 26-year-old man was saved. He said the turning point was when that woman acknowledged, "I'm sorry, I was wrong."

"When she said that I knew it had to be real. I'm used to people trying to put something over on me," the man said. "I'm not used to that kind of honesty."

-30-

Kentucky Ups CP Giving;
Honors Retiring Executive

Baptist Press
11/18/82

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)—Messengers increased Kentucky's gifts to national and worldwide Southern Baptist causes and commemorated the upcoming retirement of Executive Secretary Franklin Pearce Owen at the 145th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

-more-

A 1983-84 budget of \$16.5 million was adopted. This includes an operational budget of \$13.5 million (of which 36 percent will go to the SEC Cooperative Program—an increase of one percent from last year), a Bold Mission Challenge of \$2 million (with 36.5 percent to go to SEC causes) and other estimated income of \$1 million.

The increase in the SEC share of the budget was in keeping with a goal adopted last year to increase giving to the SEC Cooperative Program to 40 percent by 1990.

Owen and his wife Sue were honored Tuesday evening before the convention crowd at Immanuel Baptist Church. They were presented two books of bound letters from friends, a biographical portrait, a bouquet of roses and a check for \$15,000.

A day earlier in the November meeting of the executive board, Owens' tenure was extended through June 30, 1983, to permit him to be a consultant as needed by the convention. A successor to Owen is expected to be named at a Dec. 2 meeting of the executive board. Harold Wainscott, a retired minister from Covington and chairman of the search committee, said a nominee will be recommended at that meeting.

In a run-off, Curtis Warf, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pikeville, was elected president over Don Mathis, pastor of Corbin's Central Baptist Church.

There were five nominees for president including Mrs. Wayne (Lealice) Dehoney of Louisville, believed to be the first woman nominated for the office in the convention's history. Her husband is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Others officers include Douglas Strader, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, first vice president and Bill Tichenor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Princeton, second vice president.

In a rather quiet session the messengers adopted resolutions on repeal of a bill increasing wages and benefits of legislators, in support of those fighting the sale of alcoholic beverages, called for stiffer penalties against drunk drivers and urged cooperation with authorities in halting the sale of cocaine and marijuana.

A final tally indicated 2,104 messengers and visitors attended the convention. The 1983 convention will be Nov. 15-17, at First Baptist Church, Paducah.

-30-

Georgia Convention
Approves Record Budget

Baptist Press
11/18/82

ATLANTA (BP)—The most harmonious annual meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention in many years saw adoption of a record 1983 Cooperative Program budget of \$19.1 million.

Georgia Baptist Convention messengers also elected Nelson L. Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, president.

The \$19.1 million budget will be divided equally between Georgia and SEC causes, each receiving 45 percent (the same as last year) after deduction of about 10 percent in shared, administrative and promotion costs. James N. Griffith, executive director-treasurer of Georgia Baptist executive committee, said if the budget is fully funded more than \$4 million will go to the SEC Foreign Mission Board.

Not a word of debate came when the budget was adopted. The entire executive committee report took only 30 minutes to complete.

Neither did a word of debate ensue when Georgia Baptists were asked to approve a motion asking SEC Executive Committee to call a special session to seek solutions to doctrinal controversies in Southern Baptist life. Similar motions have been presented in other states.

-more-

Messengers also approved a motion praising governor-elect Joe Frank Harris for statements that he would veto any legislation seeking to legalize para-mutual gambling. The Georgia General Assembly has debated legalized gambling for almost 20 years and Baptists have been leaders in opposition.

The Georgia Baptist executive committee was instructed to investigate the feasibility of creating a sister relationship with a foreign country where Southern Baptists have missionaries. Georgia already has such a relationship with Baptist Convention of New York.

The only other resolution presented was one praising the 30-year ministry of E.A. Verdery as director of chaplaincy services at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta. While the Georgia convention was in session, Verdery was elected by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to become professor of practical theology and pastoral care at International Baptist Seminary in Switzerland.

Jack U. Harwell, editor of the Christian Index, was given several gifts by the convention in honor of his 25th anniversary with the state newsjournal.

The Georgia Baptist Convention voted to hold its 1983 session in Macon Nov. 14-16, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Mercer University moving from Penfield to Macon.

-30-

Water Pump Spurs Church
Development In Kenya

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press
11/18/82

NYAHURUJU, Kenya (BP)—Kenyan officials turned out in force here to receive a \$15,000 water pump Southern Baptists financed for Kenya's drought-plagued Nyandarua district as the first phase of a hunger and relief project.

Tom Jones, Baptist Mission of Kenya treasurer, told the group the gift came because of Southern Baptists' concern for the spiritual and physical welfare of Kenyans.

"When the time comes for you to put up new churches just contact me and we will give you the plots," District Commissioner Philemon Elisha Mwhisaka told Jones, missionaries Al Cummins and Jim Green, and Baptist Convention of Kenya Vice Chairman Eluid Mungai.

The district commissioner praised Baptists for "preaching the love of Christ and then showing it in action by giving a pump" which will revolutionize the lives of 10,000 families.

Churches, Mwhisaka said, play an important role in his district. "Our people must be fed spiritually as well as physically. When people are revived spiritually, it will change their attitudes and lessen crime. Laws will not change people, but Jesus Christ will."

Mwhisaka, an Anglican layman, also asked the missionaries and Mungai what Christian literature they could provide for his office. They promised to send Baptist-produced Bible Way Correspondence School literature for him to pass out to his constituents.

The pump, financed by Foreign Mission Board hunger and relief funds, will power a water distribution system for a large segment of the 350,000-population district.

It will allow residents to reduce health and hunger problems by providing plentiful, pure water for their families and livestock, by improving crop yields and ultimately, nutrition.

The mission will also consider providing pipes to extend the capability of the system and has promised that agricultural missionary Ron Bodenhamer will come to the district to counsel farmers on effective water use and agricultural techniques.

"We haven't been able to get many to attend our district literacy training sessions because they always have the excuse they must find water for their families," he said. "Now that we have a pump to bring it to them they won't have that excuse anymore."

-30-

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