



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

December 7, 1982

82-175

Polish Bible Sales Up As People Seek Certainty

By Martha Skelton

WARSAW, Poland (BP)--More and more Polish people are turning to the Bible amid the uncertainty of conditions in their east European country.

Since 1981 Bible sales have increased from 160,000 to 400,000 a year through the British and Foreign Bible Society, an organization that has been selling Bibles, New Testaments and scripture portions in downtown Warsaw since 1816.

Additionally, Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders have requested a million copies of a 1966 translation of the authorized Catholic version of the Bible. By the end of the year about a quarter-million of these Bibles will have been brought into Poland.

"Most things have become uncertain," said Barbara Enholc-Narzynska, general secretary of Poland's British and Foreign Bible Society. "People are looking for something unchanging."

The Warsaw facility prints and sells a complete set of Bibles in more than 70 languages including English, Slavic languages, Greek, Hebrew and Latin, the latter mostly for theological students.

No Russian-language editions have been possible since a 1970s incident in which a group from Holland was caught trying to smuggle a number of Russian Bibles bought at the shop into the Soviet Union.

The bookstore's ministry extends beyond its location in Warsaw. Last year 11,000 Polish-language Bibles were shipped to the United States and the store often ships Bibles to people who formerly studied in Poland and want to continue using the language.

The Bible society works only in the open and through official channels to produce and sell its Bibles. It is a "long way of working," Enholc-Narzynska admitted. "But this way it is possible to have more Bibles for the people."

Bible access in Poland hinges on several factors, the availability of paper being the most crucial. Because of a paper shortage throughout the country even newsprint must be imported. The Bible society depends upon tons of paper being donated each year so it can print needed Bibles. Because paper is not available locally the government permits such imports without duty charges. The Bibles are printed on state-owned presses in Warsaw and Wroclaw.

Changing prices also pose a problem. Production costs went up 300 percent this year after price structures for Bible sales had been set. The society faces a similar increase in 1983.

Another problem is distribution. Since martial law was declared in December 1981, the society has been unable to ship Bibles by mail. Many churches, including Baptist congregations, now gather requests, pick up bulk orders in Warsaw and sell them at book tables in the churches. In this way the churches also can make contact with people outside their membership.

Plans also are underway to open a second Bible bookshop in Gieszyn near the Czechoslovakian border.

Medical Costs, Retirement
Topics at Pensions Conference

By Ray Furr

DALLAS (BP)--Rising health-care costs and current trends in retirement planning were the central topics of discussion at the 68th annual church pensions conference Dec. 2-3.

Pension board executives from 45 religious affiliations were told Americans must change their lifestyles and reduce medical insurance abuse if they want insurance premiums decreased.

Jerry Brockett, an actuary for the Wyatt Company, said Americans overeat, overdrink, do not get enough exercise and "consume too many noxious agents such as cigarettes, liquor and caffeine."

He noted health-care costs have increased an average of 14 percent per year in the last decade. "I believe we could decrease that by at least 2.8 percent if we will improve our lifestyles," he said.

Concerning abuse Brockett noted that both the doctor and the person insured are responsible. "Sixty percent of the cost difference between the average annual inflation rate (8.5 percent) and the average health-care costs (14 percent) is due to abuse," Brockett said. Some physicians perform unnecessary surgery so patients should get a second opinion before having a major operation, he continued.

As for the abuse by the patient, "those insured tend to think their financial resources are unlimited when it comes to medical care." Brockett urged conferees to encourage their constituents to reduce unnecessary medical visits and drugs.

C. Allen Stiteler, vice president of Hay-Huggins, an actuarial consulting firm, said current trends and retirement planning have been greatly influenced by the economy and reactions to government regulations. He said in the last several years inflation has become a major factor in calculating benefits needed for retirement.

He noted that a person who had been retired five years and had experienced a 10 percent inflation rate in those years could expect the real value of his retirement income to decrease to 62 percent of its original value. He predicted the inflation rate would hover around 10 percent for the next five years.

As for government regulations Stiteler said companies have improved employee pension plans and have attempted to coordinate these pensions with social security. In 1974 (before the passage of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act) 40 percent of the companies surveyed required employees to work 15 years before they could have complete ownership of their pension plan but, "In 1982 none of these companies required this provision," he pointed out. Also, these companies no longer require mandatory retirement at age 65, whereas in 1974, 91 percent of those employers surveyed did.

A cost of living raise in post retirement benefits has also become a trend. "Our survey showed 60 percent of the employers are giving cost of living raises to retired employees," Stiteler said.

Stiteler said a person would need approximately 61 percent of his current income to maintain his pre-retirement standards of living and "social security will not meet this estimate." He said individuals need to look to pension plans and personal savings in addition to social security for an adequate retirement income.

The meeting marked the first time the conference has met in Dallas. The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention hosted several of the meetings.

First Female Trustee Leaves
\$1 Million To Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--More than \$1 million will be added to the endowment of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as the result of the generosity of Mary Jo Gheens Hill, first woman trustee of the seminary.

Her legacy for the seminary, which is in addition to more than \$750,000 in gifts made during her lifetime, will support a variety of needs including an endowed professorship named for her late husband, C. Edwin Gheens, who also had been a long-time trustee of the seminary. The \$500,000 gift will create a distinguished teaching post as part of the seminary's new Center for Christian Family Ministry.

She established a permanent trust of \$250,000 to support the Gheens Lectures which she and her husband had funded on an annual basis for 25 years.

Her estate furnishings, most of them antiques and appraised at more than \$250,000, also were given to the seminary. They will be sold and the proceeds used to establish the Mary Jo Gheens Hill Endowment Fund.

In addition she specified \$25,000 to help endow the operation of Faculty Center, a seminary guest house in which she had special interest.

She died June 4 after having served on the seminary board from 1966 to 1979.

-30-

Tenth Youth World
Conference Announced

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
12/7/82

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--Youth from around the world will gather in Buenos Aires in a show of global and spiritual unity July 11-15, 1984, for the Tenth Baptist Youth World Conference.

An estimated 6,000 Baptist youth from 60 countries are expected for the conference, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, in the new Obras Sanitarias Stadium.

The conference, originally planned for 1983, was delayed because of the Falklands-Malvinas conflict involving Great Britain and Argentina.

Local arrangements chairman Raul Scialabba expressed hope that holding the meeting in Argentina would be perceived as a spirit of fraternity and Christian love in spite of political, racial, social and economic differences around the world.

Paul Montacute, national youth officer for the Baptist Union of Great Britain, expects several British youth to attend.

Argentine Baptists are very enthusiastic about the opportunities of hosting a worldwide Baptist conference in their country which is 98 percent Catholic. It will give Baptists there tremendous visibility and a positive witness to people with whom they otherwise would have no contact.

This will be the first time for the conference to be in a country where English is not understood by a majority of the residents. Consequently, the program will be bilingual with English-Spanish translations from the platform for all speakers. Translations in French, Japanese, German and Chinese will be provided via headsets.

Bob Taylor, chairman of the youth committee of the Baptist World Alliance, said youth attending the conference will receive a new world consciousness that is essential today.

-more-

"Missions is just a word to many youth who only read about needs in other countries," commented Taylor, who also is coordinator of youth ministry in the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "There is nothing like travel into another culture to get a world vision and sense of mission to see how the gospel applies to every culture."

Taylor, underscoring the importance of such a conference to the host country, said there are only 36,000 Baptists in all of Argentina. "This is a way for us to present a world witness to the Spanish people of Latin America."

The program will reflect the international flavor of a world meeting with program representatives from five continents.

"The goal of the program is to demonstrate unity through diversity," according to Beverly Sutton, program chairperson and field services department director at the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham. "We hope the program will show the message of peace is not just the absence of war between nations but an energizing personal peace available through Christ."

Each day of the five-day program will focus on one area of the theme--"Jesus Christ--The Trust: Our Faith, Our Commitment and Our Peace." Prayer and dialogue will center on specific needs of a nation each day.

Because of varying economic situations around the world registration fees vary. Registration will be \$60 per person for the U.S.A., Canada, Europe, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. It will be \$20 per person for Latin America, South America, Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, Asia and the Middle East. On Oct. 1, 1983, registration fees will increase to \$70 and \$25 respectively.

Registration forms and informational brochures are available by writing to the Tenth Baptist Youth World Conference, 1628 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 U.S.A. Please specify the number of registration forms and brochures needed.

-30-

Southern Seminary Gets
\$229,000 Trigg Trust Fund

Baptist Press
12/7/82

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has received a \$229,000 trust fund from the estate of Mary Cofer Trigg of Elizabethtown, Ky.

Income from the undesignated endowment fund will supplement Southern's general operating budget, thus supporting the seminary in perpetuity.

Trigg was an active member of the Severns Valley church and "was there every time the door opened for as long as her health allowed," said her former pastor Verlin Kruschwitz, assistant director of the seminary's Boyce Bible School. She died last June.

Her gift to Southern stemmed from her appreciation for the seminary and her pastors who had been Southern graduates and "her lifelong interest in learning," Kruschwitz said.

-30-

Louisiana College
Professorship Endowed

Baptist Press
12/7/82

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)--The second endowed academic professorship in the history of Louisiana College has been created with a \$100,000 gift from Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Clover of Jackson, Miss.

-more-

The professorship honors the late E.O. Wood, long-time chairman of the department of psychology and debate coach at Louisiana College.

Wood taught at Louisiana College from 1923 to 1949 and was chairman of the department of psychology at Baylor University for 21 years before his death in 1970.

-30-

Morris Early Elected Head
Of Southern Baptist Foundation

Baptist Press
12/7/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Morris Early, vice president of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith and manager of operations for the Nashville office, has been elected president of the board of directors of the Southern Baptist Foundation. He succeeds William E. Crook, Nashville businessman. Early is also chairman of the board of trustees at Belmont College in Nashville.

The Southern Baptist Foundation manages funds for agencies and institutions and assists individuals with estate planning to leave funds for the benefit of Southern Baptist causes.

Early has been chairman of the foundation's investment committee for three years. That committee was praised by Hollis E. Johnson III, executive secretary-treasurer, for its contribution to the investment performance of the various accounts.

Also at the foundation's annual meeting Dec. 1, it was reported one convention agency account measured by a national evaluation firm placed the foundation in the first percentile over the past eight years. This means that the foundation out-performed 99 percent of the almost 4,000 investment managers surveyed, Johnson said.

Johnson announced a record total assets of \$29,185,781 as measured by book value. He also reported income produced by those assets increased 9.9 percent to a record total \$249,032.

-30-

A.L. Butler Joins
Midwestern Seminary

By Cathy Chute

Baptist Press
12/7/82

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A.L. "Pete" Butler has been named head of the church music program at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will join the faculty Feb. 1, 1983.

Butler, elected as associate professor of church music education, comes to the seminary from First Baptist Church of Ada, Okla., where he has served as minister of music the past 23 years.

Butler will spend the spring and summer of 1983 projecting the seminary's music program for the following academic year. He will conduct workshops in the churches and be active in visiting on college campuses among other responsibilities.

A native of Noble, Okla., Butler is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and earned the master of sacred music degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

He has been president and vice president of the Baptist Musicians of Oklahoma, second vice president of the Southern Baptist Music Conference and was on the board of directors of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He has composed music for Broadman Press, Fine Arts Music Press and Word, Inc. He also has written for the Church Musicians.

-30-