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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. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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Tanner Warns Against Counterfeit Goals

By Jim Newton

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP)--Warning that Baptists must depend on God instead of denominational programs, Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner said there is no room for counterfeit goals in the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust.

"We've got to believe it can be done," Tanner said regarding the Bold Mission Thrust (BMT) plan to proclaim the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

Speaking to the annual National Conference of Evangelism Directors meeting in a San Juan hotel, Tanner emphasized, "God can do it, even if we can't." He encouraged the state and national evangelism leaders to develop strategies and programs and work to accomplish the goals--but to depend more on God than on their strategies and programs.

"We cannot say, tongue in cheek, 'We've got to reach our land for Christ,' and then say on the other hand, 'We know this is an impossible goal,'" Tanner said. "There is no room for counterfeit goals in Bold Mission Thrust."

Tanner acknowledged the SBC is lagging behind current BMT goals in both the number of conversions and starting new SBC churches. Citing reports projecting the number of baptisms for 1981-82 at about 400,000, Tanner observed "that's 600,000 behind the 1 million a year we will have to baptize to reach BMT goals by the year 2000.

Pointing out about half the number of new churches started each year are lost because of merger and disbanding, Tanner said it will be necessary to start about 28,000 new churches to reach the goal of 50,000 SBC congregations in America by the year 2000. "We have to admit we will lose half the churches we start."

Tanner commended the leadership of Robert L. Hamblin, the HMB's vice president for evangelism who addressed the group for the first time after two months in his new role.

Hamblin told the evangelism directors Bold Mission Thrust is nothing but a new name for an old task Christians have had since Jesus gave it to them. "We can do it and we must do it because it is the will of God," Hamblin stressed.

Hamblin warned against getting involved in theological discussions instead of doing God's will. "We can fight battles that have been fought through the centuries and we can quibble over little words that aren't very important and we can argue about who believes the Bible the most and who has the right theology and doesn't but there is a world of people lost and dying and our responsibility is to take Jesus Christ to those people," Hamblin said.

Hamblin called for unity in evangelism and missions within the denomination "because we believe the Bible and because Jesus Christ is Lord and Master of our lives."

"Our responsibility," he said, "is to take the gospel to the world, enfolded in our own personal love for God and for each person in the world so we can make the gospel believable."

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Several speakers during the four-day meeting at La Concha Hotel in San Juan emphasized prayer as the key to the success of Bold Mission Thrust and all evangelistic efforts. "We must die to our programs and let God make them viable and effective through the power of prayer," said Glenn Sheppard, special assistant in prayer for spiritual awakening at the HMB.

D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, led three Bible studies on the Lord's Prayer, saying Bold Mission is nothing but an empty dream if it is not dependent upon prayer instead of "our program and our system."

Kenneth L. Chafin, former director of the HMB evangelism division and pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, called for a comprehensive SBC strategy for winning America to Christ, discussing eight factors that must be considered in such a strategy.

Chafin's eight factors included acknowledging the gospel is the only word that speaks to the deep and profound needs of modern mankind, that all strategies will succeed or fail to the extent they help the local church, that strategy designers must understand their field and its needs and that if the SBC continues as it is now, "we will not win America to Christ."

Other factors he listed included the need for defining a Biblical theology for evangelism, the need to triple the number of SBC congregations as part of a strategy to start new churches, continued SBC emphasis on equipping the laity for missions and evangelism and challenging people with something so big it can't be done without God.

SBC President James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, listed several major problems he sees facing SBC evangelism.

Draper cited the problems of urbanism, a concern for true discipleship, the breakdown of the family, the advance of secular humanism and worldly values in the church, the increase of leisure time in an affluent society, adverse theological winds, business as usual in the church and the need for creative, aggressive leadership in SBC evangelism.

Draper warned that "the extreme theological stance of the left will absolutely kill evangelism," adding if conservatives don't "stand firm there'll be no evangelism. Your jobs (as evangelism directors) will be abolished."

The evangelists heard three addresses dealing with the challenge of reaching small towns, the inner cities and the suburbs.

Anthony Campolo, American Baptist sociologist from Eastern College, Philadelphia, Pa., said the reason Southern Baptists are not succeeding in the inner cities is because they are preaching a white, cultural Jesus who is a reflection of SBC culture.

Saying he was more of a fundamentalist than most Southern Baptists, Campolo said most SBC pastors have a problem with success and wealth and have adopted a worldly materialistic lifestyle.

Clark Hutchinson, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., told of his church's rapid growth, but added: "sometimes it is more difficult to reach the up and out than the down and out. Many of our people will give \$25 to help reach the down and out but they won't do anything to reach a rich person."

Charles Roesel, pastor of First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Fla., said he once felt God would never do much in a small town like the results of the super churches in the big cities until revival swept across the church where he is pastor. "It can happen anywhere."

About 30 churches in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands held revivals in connection with the conference, about half with Spanish interpreters for the evangelists. Larry Wilkerson, director of evangelism for Puerto Rican Baptists, said about 100 persons made public decisions for Christ, according to initial reports, but Wilkerson said the number may double when final reports come from the churches holding revivals after the conference.

Board Adds Three To Staff;
Seeks Replacement For Marshall

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Three new staff members were announced at the December meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and steps were taken to seek a successor for Bill Marshall as vice president for human resources.

Marshall was elected Dec. 2 to succeed Franklin Owen as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. His resignation at the FMB is effective Jan. 31.

President R. Keith Parks praised Marshall's 19 years of service as both a staff member and missionary of the board and said the record 406 additions this year to the missionary force are a "tribute to the human resources staff and to Bill's leadership."

Parks will seek recommendations from both board members and the staff of persons who should be considered. He hopes the position can be filled by the April board meeting.

The board approved creation of a new medical services department to be directed by Merrill D. Moore, a Knoxville, Tenn., emergency surgeon and former missionary to Gaza. Moore, a native of Alabama, will manage health care for missionaries, enlist and evaluate medical missionary candidates and volunteers and coordinate the board's medical meetings.

Franklin Fowler, the board's senior medical consultant, will join the new department. Fowler will continue evaluation of medical missionary candidates and management of health care for missionary families overseas. He also will continue as a consultant to the overseas office for medical mission strategy on the mission fields.

Jimmy Maroney, missionary to Kenya and director of the Center of Urban Evangelism in Nairobi, will become associate director for Eastern and Southern Africa on Jan. 1 and Helen Siner Wood, a former missionary to Luxembourg and Belgium, will become student coordinator.

Maroney will assist Davis Saunders in supervising the work of more than 460 missionaries in 16 nations. Wood will correspond with pre-college and college young people interested in mission service and also visit college campuses to present overseas mission opportunities. Her husband, Rudolph M. Wood, is pastor at Belmont Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Va. She will commute to Richmond for her new assignment.

Following their business sessions in Richmond board members traveled to Charlottesville's First Baptist Church, where missionary Lottie Moon was baptized in 1858, to take part in the naming of 62 new missionaries. These, plus five others reappointed or reemployed and one special project worker, brought the year's missionary additions to the record 406 total--51 more than the previous high of 355 named last year.

The board also paid tribute to Thelma Bryant, administrative assistant for eastern South America, who is retiring Dec. 31 after more than 34 years' service. She will spend the next six months as a volunteer secretary to the administrator of the Baptist hospital in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Allocations for hunger and relief work overseas have reached \$6.8 million, more than double the figure for the same period last year. Contributions from Southern Baptists for these human needs ministries thus far in 1982 are \$4.1 million with another \$700,000 expected in December.

The board's record allocations this year include a number of long-term projects aimed at alleviating the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Such major projects have helped reduce a backlog of hunger relief funds which had build up because of record giving in recent years.

Merrill Moore To Direct
New FMB Medical Department

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Merrill D. Moore Jr., former missionary physician in Gaza, will become director of a new medical services department at the Foreign Mission Board Feb. 10.

The 49-year-old Alabama native will manage health care for foreign missionaries, work on the enlistment and evaluation of medical missionary candidates and volunteers and coordinate the board's medical mission conferences and symposiums. He will also be liason to the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship.

Moore and his wife, the former Patricia Pitchford of Oklahoma, were Southern Baptist missionaries to Gaza from 1964-1976. He was a staff surgeon at Baptist Hospital (now Ahli Arab Hospital).

Since 1977 Moore has been in emergency medicine in Knoxville, Tenn., in association with Knoxville Emergency Physicians. The Moores are members of Monte Vista Baptist Church, Maryville, Tenn. They have two children: Melissa, 20, and Douglas, 12.

Moore was reared in Tennessee. He received a bachelor's degree from George Peabody College for Teachers (now part of Vanderbilt University), Nashville, Tenn., and the doctor of medicine degree from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He also attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He interned at the University of Oklahoma Hospital, Oklahoma City, and completed his surgical residency at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, 1982 president of the Tennessee chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians and an active member of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship.

The new medical services department approved during the board session will colsolidate medical services and enlistment in one unit under the office of human resources. The department will correspond with medical and health care students interested in missions, coordinate mission promotion on medical and nursing school campuses and enlist medical volunteers and disaster response teams.

The department will also administer the medical receptorship program which enables medical students and residents to work in Baptist hospitals overseas for up to three months.

Franklin Fowler, the board's senior medical consultant in the overseas operations office, will join the new department. Fowler will continue evaluation of medical missionary candidates and management of health care for missionary families on the field. He will also continue as consultant to the overseas office for medical mission strategy overseas.

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

Texas Baptists' Goal
Surpassed By \$1.5 Million

By Orville Scott

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DALLAS (BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Texas' Executive Board was told Dec. 7 that despite the uncertain economy churches have already exceeded the state-wide Cooperative Program missions goal by \$1.5 million this year.

For the first 11 months of 1982 the budget goal was \$41,616,663 said James H. Landes, executive director of the 2.2-million-member state convention. Churches already have given \$43,177,860 for Cooperative Program causes, an increase of 13 percent over the same period last year, Landes said.

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At their annual convention in Corpus Christi last month Texas Baptists adopted a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$50 million in 1983 to help support the work of 23 children's homes, universities and hospitals plus more than 6,000 Southern Baptist missionaries in 100 nations.

In other action the board heard a report that during the past three years 3,700 volunteers paid their way to serve in missions work in Brazil and reported more than 90,000 decisions for Christ.

A similiar evangelistic program called Partnership Mexico will begin Jan. 1 with Texas Baptist volunteers serving alongside Mexico Baptists in evangelism, church construction and other ministries.

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New Political Right
Seeks 'Order' For U.S.

Baptist Press
12/9/82

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The "loss of civility" is the biggest problem hindering communication between the proponents of the New Religious Political Right (NRPR) and those of more moderat and liberal views, according to Samuel Hill, author of the New Religious Political Right.

"The majority of us," he said, "have not taken the time to find out what the issues are."

A standing room only audience at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary heard Hill chastise both the Moral Majority and their avowed opponents, Norman Lear's People for the American Way, saying the latter group can be "just as bad as the new religious political right." He feels there is a real problem with dialogue.

Hill, chairman of the department of religion at the University of Florida, spoke on "The Theological Orientation of the New Right," and said the driving force behind the NRPR is its desire to bring order out of what is perceived as chaos. Followers of NRPR see Jerry Falwell and U.S. Senator Jesse Helms as prophets of the movement.

According to Hill, other issues important to the NRPR are the status of the nuclear family, a belief in a special destiny for the United States and the definition of a republic.

Hill said the NRPR has taken this belief in a special destiny and matched it with "a precise code of behavior." He sees such concerns as school prayer, teachings about creation and homosexuality as consistent with those concerns. Related to this is the NRPR support for a strong military defense, because, Hill said, the NRPR believes "God wants this country to survive."

"The nuclear family and everything connected to it is the heart of the movement," Hill said. "Anything unisex is anathema." The concern about abortion, divorce and the break up of the nuclear family naturally follow.

Hill claimed the NRPR views the American form of government as a republic but not as a democracy, defining a republic as a government of law, rather than of the people, holding that government of the people tends to become tyrannical. For them it is God's law that is necessary. "The NRPR is committed to a world view, the center of which is order," he added. Declaring, "they are not pushing Christianity as such, they are pushing Bible--Bible law," he cautioned, "the NRPR may be swapping one tyranny for another."

Hill emphasized that, while there are many fundamentalist Christians in the NRPR, many others in the movement are not Christians at all. Some, he said, are Jewish or Mormon and some are not religious at all. "Many support it for patriotic reasons," he explained.

But Hill also identified several individuals and groups who do not affiliate with the NRPR although they have been incorrectly identified with the movement. Among those he listed were northern evangelicals, the Southern Baptist Convention, Billy Graham, Rex Humbard and Oral Roberts.

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