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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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83-21

World Relief Effort  
Reaches Record Levels

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists gave a record \$5.8 million for world hunger and relief in 1982, but the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board allocated even more--\$8 million--for world relief projects.

The allocations, more than double those for 1981, funded 192 hunger and relief projects in 43 countries. The Foreign Mission Board was able to allocate more than it received because of funds on hand from previous years.

In five years Southern Baptist yearly world relief giving has increased six-fold. Because of the board's commitment to use funds wisely, missionaries had to plan carefully to take advantage of the rapid growth in hunger giving, explained John R. Cheyne, board human needs consultant.

If giving and allocations continue at the pace set in 1982, hunger and relief funds will be gone by the end of 1983. Instead, he expects the board to maintain a reasonable balance for ongoing programs and emergency needs.

In 1982, the board made a number of emergency allocations for people such as the victims of fighting in Lebanon, the 50,000 Rwandans expelled with little notice from Uganda and people going without food because of a faltering economy in Poland.

But most hunger and relief funds support programs planned by missionaries to offer long-term solutions to the hunger around them and integrated with their other work.

"Perhaps the particular significance of this record is that it is so integrated into the total mission program that it has impact far beyond what it could have if it were just a separate relief program," said R. Keith Parks, board president.

Because Southern Baptist relief work relates to the preaching of the gospel, a concern for the whole man and the starting of churches the program becomes more significant, he said.

The Foreign Mission Board's human needs program differs from that of many relief agencies because it is carried out mostly by missionaries already involved in evangelism, education, medical or other ministries.

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General Moral Crisis  
Affects Ministers, Panel Says

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2/8/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Christian ministers need to focus on their serving role and not be diverted by worldly standards of success, participants in a Christian Life Commission consultation on ministerial ethics reported.

Consultation participants dealt with issues centering on the general crisis in morality which they said is affecting not only society and local churches but also Southern Baptist ministers.

The task force noted ministers today are grappling with such moral problems as dishonesty, materialism, family breakdown, sexual temptations and alcohol.

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Task force members cited authentic evangelism as the basis for the moral standards toward which both ministers and all church members should strive. "By authentic evangelism," said Foy Valentine, executive director of the Commission, "we mean a genuine conversion to Jesus Christ as Lord, a conversion characterized by genuine repentance and true faith resulting in a changed life and a transformed morality."

Participants in the one-day consultation were Gary Cook, director of the church and staff support division of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB); Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Nashville; Brooks Faulkner, supervisor of the career guidance section of the BSSB; David George, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville; Sharon Herrington, homemaker and writer, Hermitage, Tenn. and Jerry Self, consultant on public affairs and Christian life concerns for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"Ministers today face incredibly complex moral dilemmas related to their own marriage, parenting, debt, counseling and personal stress," said Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of family and special moral concerns for the Commission and coordinator of the consultation.

"Careful attention to ministerial ethics can assist ministers in dealing responsibly with such moral dilemmas, enabling them to continue to set appropriate examples for others. The purpose of focusing on ministerial ethics is not to hamper but to help ministers develop the base of moral integrity from which a more effective Bold Mission Thrust effort can be built," Hollis said.

Participants also discussed problems related to ministers' schedules which they said have "tended to become overloaded with busywork and trivial details leaving too little time for personal needs, personal devotions and personal time with family."

"We need the recovery of the simple joys which a simpler life can bring," said Herrington, whose husband is pastor of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church.

Participants agreed that increased attention to ministerial ethics is needed throughout the Baptist teaching curriculum and that more resources need to be developed by Southern Baptists to undergird ministers for moral behavior.

"We can get so wrapped up with the familiarity of doing God's thing that holiness, with its clear distinction between right and wrong, simply gets lost," Faulkner said.

"We also need to look at the social dimensions of ministerial ethics," Valentine concluded. "In other words, ministers need not just to look at our personal relationships but also at our social relationships. The entire life and work of the church is inevitably affected by what we believe and do about the whole spectrum of concerns related to ministerial ethics."

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Refugees Disperse;  
Baptists Look To Future

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ACCRA, Ghana (BP)--The masses of refugees expelled from Nigeria have dispersed but Southern Baptist missionaries in Ghana expect to continue aid to the thousands who are resettling there.

No large groups of refugees remained in Accra, Ghana's capital, Feb. 5, reported Jim Barron, Southern Baptist missionary there. The Ghanaian government is meeting refugees at the borders with trucks and carrying them to their hometowns for resettlement.

Missionaries in Benin and Togo ceased food distribution because refugees had moved from their countries into Ghana after its border opened Jan. 29. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has provided \$45,000 for refugee relief in Togo, \$8,000 for Benin and \$25,000 for Ghana.

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Food distribution in Ghana slowed as crowds thinned but missionaries have asked for a meeting with the government to discuss further aid to the refugees. The Ghana economy is already one of the weakest in Africa and will be further strained by the sudden influx of the estimated one million refugees expelled from Nigeria.

The mass migration occurred after the Nigerian government announced Jan. 17 that all foreigners without work permits had to leave the country by Jan. 31. News reports said the government attributed its action to economic problems and social tensions created by illegal aliens that led to bloody riots last fall. Half of the estimated two million foreigners affected by the order failed to meet the deadline. The Nigerian government is allowing them to make a more orderly exit.

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New Orleans Trustees Elect  
Two Profs, Name Two Emeriti

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Two longtime members of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary faculty have been granted emeriti status by the seminary's board of trustees--

V.L. Stanfield who retired as professor of preaching in July of 1982 and John Olen Strange who retired Dec. 31.

Stanfield came to the seminary in August 1959, as professor of preaching from a similar position at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He and his wife, Verna, now live near Hattiesburg, Miss.

Strange was chairman of the division of biblical studies and professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at the time of his retirement. He had been a member of the faculty since 1953. Strange and his wife, Beth, live in Slidell, La.

In a previous action, trustees elected two new faculty members, reassigned a staff member and granted approval to conclude the purchase of an apartment complex.

C.C. Randall, pastor of First Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Ala., for the past 20 years, became the first person to occupy an endowed chair at New Orleans Seminary: The Roland Q. Leavell Chair of Evangelism.

Washburn returned to New Orleans Seminary after three years as coordinator of church music at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in San Francisco. He was elected chairman of the division of church music ministries and professor of organ.

In an effort to provide educational opportunities for ministers on the field, Tom Kinchen resigned his post as vice president of student affairs to direct the continuing education and doctor of ministry programs. He will continue to direct field education.

Replacing Kinchen as director of student affairs is Cecil Threadgill, a retired Navy chaplain completing his thesis in the doctor of education program at the seminary.

Approval was granted to conclude arrangements for the purchase of a student housing complex. The 42-unit complex, a mile from the campus, will temporarily relieve the housing shortage the school has experienced for the past few years.

Randall, a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., earned the doctor of theology degree from the seminary in 1953. He was named NOBTS alumnus of the year in 1978 and received the Freedom Foundation Award in 1968.

Washburn came to New Orleans Seminary in 1977 from Southern Seminary where he was an adjunct faculty member in the school of church music. He was associate professor of church music and organ before leaving New Orleans in 1979 for the post at Golden Gate.

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Washburn, a graduate of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., earned the doctor of musical arts degree in 1973 from Southern Seminary.

Threadgill is a graduate of Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas; Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He has concluded residency work toward the doctor of education degree at New Orleans Seminary.

Threadgill recently retired after 21 years as chaplain in the United States Navy with the rank of lieutenant commander.

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Budget Chairman Hits Plan  
To Slice Postal Subsidy

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press  
2/8/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Reagan's proposed cut in a non-profit postal subsidy would seriously undermine the efforts of Christian ministries and other non-profit organizations, according to the chairman of the House Budget Committee, Rep. James R. Jones, D-Ala.

Addressing a workshop during the annual meeting of the National Religious Broadcasters, Jones said the administration's 1984 budget proposal calls for a 49 percent cut in the postal subsidy which pays the Postal Service for providing preferential rates for a wide range of non-profit mailers.

Noting the subsidy was sliced by 30 percent in 1982 and by a net of 6 percent in 1983. Jones said the previous cuts had a "severe impact" on religious organizations and other non-profit groups.

At a time when the administration is asking non-profit organizations to pick up the slack caused by government cutbacks in social program spending, Jones described postal subsidy cuts as a "double whammy that should not be placed on these organizations."

"The president is making it very difficult for non-profit organizations like the Christian ministries to take the place of government social programs when they are hampered in their fund-raising work," he said.

Following the large postal subsidy cut in 1982 which doubled postage costs for non-profit mailers such as Baptist state newspapers, Congress appropriated \$789 million for the subsidy for fiscal 1983, well above the \$500 million recommended by the administration.

Jones said he is "very hopeful" Congress will appropriate more funding for 1984 than the \$400 million requested by the administration.

"This money is not a subsidy," Jones said. "It is an investment that makes it possible for the private sector to supplement the government's social programs--exactly what the president has in mind."

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Seminary Extension Institute  
Receives 'Stamp of Approval'

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Accrediting Commission of the National Home Study Council (NHSC) has reaffirmed the accreditation of the correspondence arm of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department at the conclusion of a comprehensive review process.

The Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute has been accredited with the NHSC since 1972, but accreditation is reevaluated every five years. Last summer the institute submitted a 200-page "Self Evaluation Report." In the fall, a five-member examining committee made an on-site visitation of the institute's Nashville offices.

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In their report to the accrediting commission, the evaluation team said, "This is a first rate institution with an excellent program. The institute operates from a strong base and possesses a strong profile for future operations. "Reaccreditation was granted "without stipulation," meaning no major deficiencies were noted.

Between 1,500 and 2,200 students per year receive some basic theological education through the institute. At least 7,000 other students take Seminary Extension courses through centers across the United States.

Courses are offered on both the pre-college and college levels for persons who have not attended seminary. The Seminary Extension Department is part of the Seminary External Education Division, jointly sponsored by the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

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Brotherhood Commission Holds  
First Ethnic Consultation

Baptist Press  
2/8/83

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Baptist men are a key to ethnic church growth and the Brotherhood Commission could play a major role in developing ethnic congregations, according to Oscar Romo.

Romo, director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board's language mission division, said the Brotherhood Commission can help ethnic churches by developing lay leadership, redefining missions organizations to meet ethnic needs and challenging men and boys in ethnic churches to become involved in missions.

Thirty-five persons representing Chinese, Korean, French, American Indian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Laotian, Japanese, Arabic and deaf language groups attended the consultation. They reviewed and evaluated Brotherhood language materials and were trained in Brotherhood work by Brotherhood Commission age level specialists at the first national ethnic Brotherhood Consultation.

The training qualifies the men to be regional and local Brotherhood trainers. They will offer Brotherhood training to local ethnic congregations and will work to start Brotherhood organizations in ethnic churches.

The consultation will be an annual event to inform language ethnic groups about Brotherhood programs, sensitize language ethnics to the need of Brotherhood programs in their churches and train ethnic language persons in developing Brotherhood organizations in local ethnic congregations.

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