

The logo consists of the letters 'BP' in a bold, sans-serif font, enclosed within a pair of parentheses. The entire logo is set against a solid black rectangular background.

BAPTIST PRESS

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83-155

Draper Pleads for Unity
On Theological Essentials

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)--Calling for unity within the denomination on the things that are essential, Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. said Baptists must agree to disagree on the things that are not essential to salvation.

One thing that is not essential and on which agreement is not necessary, said Draper, is the question of ordination of women.

"I don't believe the Lord requires me to have an opinion on that in order to be saved," said Draper in an address to directors and staff of the SBC Home Mission Board.

"We are going to have differences at some points, but those differences should not and must not destroy the unity of spirit that is ours as born-again believers," he said.

The SBC President listed five theological precepts he feels are essential for Baptists to have unity of spirit. They are redemption by the blood of Christ, the deity of Christ, substitutionary atonement, the resurrection of Christ and justification by grace through faith.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, pointed out only God can create spiritual unity, stressing true spiritual unity is possible only among born-again Christians in the family of God.

Unfortunately, Draper admitted, Southern Baptists do not have a good track record on preserving the spiritual unity which God gives his family.

Draper said both conservatives and moderates in the SBC have been vicious toward each other and have used tactics and techniques unbecoming to Christians.

"There is a wrong way to stand for orthodoxy, a bad way to defend that which is right," he said. Most Baptists, he observed, are more concerned about who is wrong and right than about restoring unity in the fellowship.

Draper made a distinction between the need for unity and the desire among some Baptists for uniformity. "We're not trying to produce religious clones," he said. "Unity does not require uniformity.

"We need to trust each other as brothers with respect and recognition of the differences and needs that exist, or we need to recognize that some of us are lost and need to be saved," he said. "The bottom line is we are going to have to decide if we really believe each other is saved," he observed.

Draper said in his efforts as president to bring about unity he had met with his sharpest critics and with those he had criticized the most. He discovered "they are not as bad as I thought."

Part of the problem is Baptists who differ don't know each other personally and don't consider each other brothers. He added Baptists have so much access to the press they kill each other in the press without ever meeting personally.

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Baptists need to decide how much diversity and plurality they can stand on the non-essentials, but must emphasize instead the basics and essentials, he said.

"Part of our diversity is that we are not looking at the same goals," he said. "I believe the purpose of the church is to save souls. It may be the real battleground (among Baptists) is evangelism and not theology.

"My hope and prayer is that any among us who cannot stand on the basics that all of us know we cannot give up would have the integrity to leave," he said. And those who remain need "to have the integrity to love each other and move together toward a common goal."

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WRAP-UP

HMB Adopts Budget, Tanner
Urges Canadian Expansion

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press
10/13/83

ATLANTA (BP)--It will be a devastating blow to the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust if the Southern Baptist Convention refuses to seat messengers from Canada, SBC Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner said in his annual report to the board.

Meeting in semi-annual session, the 82-member board adopted a record \$57.3 million budget for 1984, approved a mid-range plan with goals and objectives for the years 1984-1990, elected five new department directors and appointed and approved 46 missionaries.

In his report to the board, Tanner said a special committee appointed to study whether to seat messengers from Canadian Baptist churches faces three options.

First is to recommend the Canadian Baptist messengers be seated, thus giving full recognition to Southern Baptist people and churches in Canada. Tanner said this is the choice he hopes the committee will make.

The second option is to defer or delay any action by the SBC concerning messengers from Canada and the third is to recommend that messengers from Canada not be seated.

"I would rather delay any decision than to see the SBC register a negative vote," Tanner told the board, which offers assistance to churches in Canada through associations in New England and the Northwest with which they are already affiliated.

"I cannot conceive of anything potentially more devastating to Bold Mission Thrust than this kind of action," Tanner said.

The special committee to study the Canadian question was approved after C.B. Hogue, a former vice president of the Home Mission Board now serving as pastor in Tulsa, Okla., offered a constitutional amendment adding the words "and Canada" to the article dealing with seating of convention messengers.

The committee, composed of 21 persons and chaired by Fred Roach, a layman from Dallas, will hold its first meeting Oct. 17-18 in Nashville, Tenn.

Tanner also warned in his annual report against voices which would attempt "to dissipate and polarize our efforts to reach this nation for Christ.

"We must resist such polarization and continue emphasis on the main thrust of our opportunities in missions, evangelism and ministry," he said.

Tanner told the board he had decided not to recommend a name change for the HMB because he did not want to interject a possible name change into the convention in Kansas City when the Canadian study committee would bring its report.

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Tanner summarized major accomplishments in each of the board's 13 program areas last year, and presented to the board for approval a 13-page list of program goals for 1984.

Board members also adopted a 43-page mid-range plan called "Direction '90" detailing HMB goals, objectives, guidelines and strategies for the years 1984-1990.

Leonard G. Irwin, vice president for planning, explained the mid-range plan is based on a comprehensive review of the board's 13 programs and an update of "Target AD 2000," the board's long-range plan for its work to the end of the century.

The \$57.3 million budget approved for 1984 represents an increase of \$8.6 million over the budget for 1983. Of that amount, an increase of \$2.3 million is expected next year in income from HMB church loans interest and fees. About \$44 million (\$22 million each) is expected from the SBC Cooperative Program (the convention's unified giving plan) budget plan and from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

In other actions, the directors voted to approve a special allocation of \$25,000 for building construction at Hawaii Baptist Academy in Honolulu, elected five new department directors and adopted resolutions of appreciation for six retiring staff members and one staff member who died recently.

Elected department directors were Jere Allen, metropolitan missions department, promoted from associate director of the department; Ken Carter, associational evangelism department, a position he held previously before becoming pastor of First Baptist Church, Miami, Okla.; C. William Junker, editorial department, moving from the promotion department directorship; Clay Price, program research department, and Phillip B. Jones, planning and services research department.

Resolutions of appreciation were adopted for retiring workers Ernestine Adams, director of deputation services; Harold Culbreath, director of auxiliary services; Margaret Peterson, librarian, and Geraldine Long, Julia Dye, and Lillian Scott, secretaries. A memorial resolution was adopted commending the late Thomas H. Baker, director of the art department, who died in July about a year after retirement.

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Southern Baptist Protests
ABC's TV Series 'Lottery!'

By Tim Fields

Baptist Press
10/13/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--ABC's new prime time television series "Lottery!" is a blatant misuse of the public airways, a Southern Baptist opponent of gambling has charged.

Larry Braidfoot, general counsel and director of Christian citizenship development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, is calling on 14 million Southern Baptists to send letters of protest to the show's sponsors and to ABC television.

In a letter to ABC President Frederick Pierce, Braidfoot said that by airing the new show the network has "either intentionally or unwittingly become an advocate of legalized gambling."

Braidfoot said his charges were substantiated by the show's executive producer, Rick Rosner, in an interview published in TV WEEKLY. Rosner is quoted as saying, "I think if we are successful, I think we will be a 60-minute commercial once a week for having a lottery. And I frankly see nothing wrong with that."

Braidfoot told the network executive the statements attributed to Rosner "are comments which would could expect from a gambling industry lobbyist.

"They are shocking coming from the executive producer of a television show beamed on a major network during prime viewing time," Braidfoot wrote.

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"If Mr. Rosner had done his homework and incorporated it he would know that the lottery, like the illegal numbers game, is a parasite which preys upon the lower economic class of American society.

"Many Southern Baptists with whom we are personally acquainted were deeply disturbed about 'Lottery!' from the time it was announced several months ago," Braidfoot continued. "The gambling industry is currently embarked on a well-financed push to greatly expand its opportunity for legal operation. Now that 'Lottery!' has premiered, the concerns about the show are clearly justified."

In his letter, Braidfoot told the network executive he was not surprised the show reflects a rosy view of the lottery. "The exclamation point in the title certainly would appear to be an attempt to communicate excitement and enthusiasm at the prospect of reward," Braidfoot wrote. "There certainly would be little attraction to viewers who tune in weekly to watch the struggles of those who pay out money in hopes of a big payoff which never occurs.

"The staff of the Christian Life Commission and many Southern Baptists do not regard 'Lottery!' as a responsible programming decision by ABC television."

In his effort to rally a Southern Baptist protest to the new show, Braidfoot says the most effective action is to write sponsors of 'Lottery!'. "The show's sponsors change from week to week and there are national, regional and local sponsors, so Southern Baptists need to write all companies which sponsor 'Lottery!' in their communities," he said.

In addition to writing letters of protest to sponsors, Braidfoot urged Southern Baptists to write immediately to Frederick Pierce, president, American Broadcast Companies, Inc., 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019.

"Southern Baptists are engaged in an uneven struggle in many states in which the gambling industry will spend millions of dollars to seek further legalization of lotteries and all other forms of gambling," he warned.

"I urge Southern Baptists not to be silent as corporations sponsor a show which is an admitted 60-minute commercial for legalized gambling."

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Cochranes, Parks' Friends
Donate to Learning Center

Baptist Press
10/13/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A Richmond, Va., couple and friends of the Foreign Mission Board president and his wife have made major donations to the board's missionary learning center.

J. Harwood and Louise Blanks Cochrane of Richmond are donating an approximately 160-acre parcel of land in North Carolina toward construction of the center on a 233-acre site near Richmond they donated earlier.

Friends of R. Keith and Helen Jean Parks, mostly from their native Texas, have already donated more than \$122,000 toward construction of one of 11 missionary housing units at the learning center. The building will be named for the Parks.

The Cochranes' gift is undeveloped land on Rt. 70 between Raleigh and Durham near the Raleigh-Durham airport and the Research Triangle Industrial Park. It adjoins the Overnite Transportation terminal in the area. Cochrane, a Southern Baptist layman and Foreign Mission Board member, is founder, board chairman and chief executive of Overnite Transportation, one of the nation's largest trucking firms.

The Cochranes' latest gift has not been appraised, but earlier gifts of stock and land were valued at about \$1.5 million. The missionary learning center, named for Baker J. and Eloise Cauthen, the board's executive director emeritus and his wife, will be used to train new missionaries and volunteers and debrief workers returning from overseas. The center will open in April 1984.

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Board Okays Interview Process,
Approves \$136 Million Budget

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted a record \$136,648,000 budget for 1984 at their October meeting and after a 45-minute discussion also updated the interview process for selection of new missionaries.

The budget, up 8.49 percent over the 1983 figure, represents more than a \$10 million increase, with almost all of the additional funds going to support the board's increasing missionary force, now pushing toward 3,400.

President R. Keith Parks, noting that more than 61 percent of the budget next year will be used to support these missionaries, said "the most important thing we do in foreign missions is to send missionaries to incarnate the gospel."

And it was the selection process for these missionaries that occupied a big part of the board attention. A special subcommittee report, which ultimately was approved with only two dissenting votes, sought to clarify the roles of various board committees involved in the appointment process.

The report said responsibility for recommending candidates for appointment rests with the human resources committee, whose 40 members include almost half the total membership. Most of the confusion has centered on the role of separate area interview committees, which have been meeting with candidates only a few hours before their appointment.

Some members of these area committees, which work with area directors in coordinating Southern Baptist efforts in eight different parts of the world, have felt they were supposed to vote on the candidates. An action approved at the September meeting of the board said these area committee sessions are not a part of the personnel selection process but a "time of sharing with missionary candidates and affirmation."

Most of the work is done weeks, or sometimes even months, earlier by two subcommittees of the human resources committee. These board members review material submitted by staff consultants who have conducted personal interviews with the candidates, processed their application forms, reviewed their personal histories and sought to clarify any questions related to the candidate's salvation experience, doctrinal beliefs or evidence of a call to missions.

The new process specifies the personnel selection department "continue to give priority attention in candidate screening to:

- A. theological dimensions,
- B. commitment to and subsequent involvement in personal evangelism,
- C. the development and maintaining of a wholesome Christian home life, and
- D. the ability to develop meaningful and healthy interpersonal relationships (especially among colleagues)."

Mary Strauss of Hagerstown, Md., a member of the special study committee, said that seminaries are being informed that beginning April 1, 1984, all those invited to candidate conferences must first have completed "continuing witness training or comparable training that includes hands-on personal witnessing experience."

The request is part of the board's stepped-up effort to train all of its missionaries to be more effective witnesses. Many are being trained through MasterLife, a program designed to help Christians become true disciples of Christ and then to train others.

Kenny Lewis of Brownsville, Texas, said the subcommittee's report answers "most of my concerns" but said he felt the material on candidates now being given to the area committees is not quite sufficient. He introduced a motion to ask that this material include the candidate's testimony, biographical sketch and doctrinal statement.

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Henry Crouch of Charlotte, N.C., chairman of both the human resources committee and the sub committee that presented the report, said his group considered the concern raised by Lewis but felt it would be wrong to suggest that the area committees were in the "interrogating, investigating business." He noted the report does say "full material is available to any board member upon request."

Only 10 board members voted in favor of Lewis' amendment.

The report said the meetings which formerly have been called the "area interview committees" will be redesignated "area committee/candidate meetings" and will be held at least one day before the appointment service.

It also recommended that, in order to involve all board members in the selection process, each Foreign Mission Board member be assigned to the human resources committee at least one year, preferably during his or her first year on the board. An amendment which would have prohibited first year members from serving on the committee was defeated.

In other actions, the board named 31 new missionaries and reappointed four, honored 30 retiring missionaries with service totaling 1,021 years, and approved reorganization of its management services office.

Vice President Sidney C. Reber has announced he will retire Jan. 31 as head of management services. Beginning Feb. 1 Reber's duties will be incorporated under those already carried by Homer Beaver as vice president for administration.

Reber and his wife, Alwilda, were missionary associates in Singapore, Malaysia from 1962 to 1969, when he came to Richmond to head the management services division, later renamed the office of management services.

The board approved \$2 million in appropriations, \$1 million for a loan fund for the purchase or construction of overseas missionary residences to be repaid by missions in 10 years. The other \$1 million was appropriated for urgent capital needs, including church repairs, missionary automobiles, educational facilities and missionary housing.

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Staff Changes Made
By Directors Of HMB

By Patti Stephenson

Baptist Press
10/13/83

ATLANTA (BP)--Eight persons were named to fill staff positions and five staff jobs were created by directors of the Home Mission Board during their October meeting.

Because of the increased demand for comprehensive data in missions planning, the directors approved restructuring of the HMB's Research Division to include two departments.

The program research department will be headed by Clay L. Price, a missions researcher since 1979. Jack Washington, presently the division's services researcher, will act as the department's associate director. Their previous positions were eliminated.

Phillip B. Jones, currently the division's associate director, will direct the planning and services research department. An associate director will be elected later.

Price, a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin, and West Georgia College, Carrollton, will oversee research projects for the missions and evangelism sections.

Price was a US-2 missionary in San Jose, Calif., 1971-73, and an HMB missionary associate in Atlanta 1973-74. He was a research technician for the HMB's office of missions surveys and special studies 1974-78.

Washington joined the HMB in 1982. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Previously, he was an HMB missionary associate with the Birmingham Baptist Association 1974-81.

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Jones is a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Georgia State University, Atlanta. He will direct research efforts for the planning and services sections. He has been associated with the planning section and research divisions since 1974.

Kenneth E. Carter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Miami, Okla., was elected director of the associational evangelism department, a position he held previously from 1979 to 1982. Carter will help develop a comprehensive evangelism strategy for associations.

Carter, a graduate of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Texas, and Southwestern seminary, was pastor of churches in Texas and Oklahoma from 1958 to 1974. He was director of evangelism for the Illinois Baptist State Association and was director of small church and revival evangelism at the HMB 1976-79.

Jere Allen was promoted from associate director to director of the metropolitan missions department, succeeding Don Hammer, now a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He will help research needs and design techniques for expanding SBC work in metropolitan communities.

Allen, who came to the HMB in 1979, was director of the department of special mission ministries for the Alabama Baptist State Convention 1977-79, and was a consultant for churches in changing communities in Alabama 1975-77. He was pastor of churches in Kentucky and Virginia from 1959 to 1975. Allen is a graduate of Auburn (Ala.) University; Southern seminary, and Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.

The directors approved a title change for George W. Bullard Jr., from assistant director to associate director of the metropolitan missions department.

C. William Junker, director of the promotion department since 1980, was elected director of the editorial department, succeeding Walker L. Knight, who retired in March. Junker will oversee production of home missions books, the HMB's magazine, news and information services and typesetting.

He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and Southwestern seminary, and directed the Baptist Student Union in Chattanooga, Tenn., 1954-57. He joined national student ministries at the Baptist Sunday School Board as director of student evangelism in 1957. From 1963-76, he was director of editorial services, and then communications/promotion specialist until 1979.

Myra A. Book was elected director of deputation services. She will succeed Ernestine Adams, upon her retirement at the end of the year.

Book will enlist and deploy home mission speakers for world mission conferences and other events. She is a graduate of Truett-McConnell College, Cleveland, Ga., and has served as a secretary at the HMB since 1962.

Board members also approved five new positions: associate director, personal evangelism department; associate director, military chaplaincy; director, records management services; assistant director, media production, and director of financial resources.

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46 Persons Assigned
HMB Missions Posts

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10/13/83

ATLANTA (BP)--Six persons were appointed missionaries, 16 missionary associates and 24 approved to receive pastoral aid by Home Mission Board directors during their October meeting.

Appointed as missionaries are Lawrence and Elizabeth Harp, Gaithersburg, Md.; Daniel and Holly Lindsey, Madison, Ill., and Ellis and Sarah Pitman, Camarillo, Calif.

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Missionary associates are Thomas and Elizabeth Blase, Creve Coeur, Mo.; Theodore and Claudia Mall, North Richland Hills, Texas; Carver and Janice Tinsley, Hammond, Ind.; Ravina Towe, Midwest City, Okla.; Spencer and Ivy Walwyn, St. Croix, Virgin Islands; Dennis and Linda Fowler, Broken Bow, Neb.; Donald Lee, Tacoma, Wash.; John and Barbara Strain, Springfield, Ill., and John and Bonnie Valentine, Douglas, Ga.

The Harps will work with students in Morgantown, W. Va. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. She also is a graduate of the University of Maryland, the University of Louisville and Southern seminary. He has been employed by Electronic Data Systems in Bethesda, Md., and worked as a campus minister in Louisville, Ky. She has taught school since 1978.

The Lindseys will move to Los Angeles where he will be metro evangelism consultant. He earned degrees from Baylor University and Southern seminary, and has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Madison, Ill., since 1981. She is a graduate of Montana State University, Bozeman, and is a substitute teacher in Madison Public Schools.

The Pitmans will remain in California where he will direct associational missions for Harmony Baptist Association. He is a graduate of California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif., and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Camarillo, Calif., since 1972. She is a graduate of Presbyterian Nursing School, Charlotte, N.C., and Pacific Christian College, Fullerton, Calif. Since 1977, she has been a staff nurse at Channel Islands Urological, Oxnard, Calif.

As missionary associates, the Blases will remain in Missouri where he will direct church extension in St. Louis. He has been pastor of Downtown Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., since 1980 and holds degrees from the United States Air Force Academy, University of Missouri, Columbia, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., She is a graduate of Auburn (Ala.) University and the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and has held the position of medical/surgical nurse at North Kansas City Hospital since 1981.

The Malls will move to New York City, where he will be a national ethnic missionary relating to the United Nations diplomatic community. He is a graduate of Harish Chandra College in India, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Since 1977, he has been director of communications at First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas. She is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and is homemaker.

The Tinsleys will continue to live in Indiana where he will be director of missions for Northwest Baptist Association in Gary. He is a graduate of Shurtleff College in Alton, Ill., and has been pastor of State Street Baptist Church in Hammond, Ill., since 1955. He also was president of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and held other SCBI offices. She is employed as a secretary at the Bank of Highland.

Towe will continue to direct the Baptist Women's Center in Oklahoma City, Okla. She holds degrees from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas; Prairie View (Texas) A&M University and Southwestern seminary.

The Walwyns will remain in the Virgin Islands where he will continue as director of missions in Christianstead, St. Croix. He has held that position since 1981 and previously was a mission pastor in Christianstead.

The Fowlers will remain as church planter apprentices in Broken Bow, Neb. He is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

Donald Lee also will work as a church planter apprentice in Tacoma, Wash. He is a graduate of Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss. and Golden Gate seminary. He has been employed as a painter since 1981 and is a former assistant director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The Strains will be church planter apprentices in Rock Island, Ill. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She holds degrees from Mississippi College, Clinton, and New Orleans seminary.

The Valentins will remain in Georgia as church planter apprentices. He earned degrees from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas; Tulane University, New Orleans and Southwestern seminaries. She is a graduate of Lamar University and is a teacher in Aledo, Texas.

Approved to receive church pastoral aid are Royce and Betty Ann Christmas, Juneau/Douglas, Alaska; Curt and Natalie Cole, Marysville, Ohio; David and Lyndal Edward, Lyndon, Kan.; Raymond and Marie Edwards, Lockport, Ill.; Jerry and Laura Gleason, Bartlett, Ill.; Joel and Patricia Harris, Tigard, Ore.; Ronny and Julia Moore, Silver Lake, Kan.; Robert and Joyce Rachug, Fort Mohave, Ariz.; Dennis and Charyl Scroggins, Ocean Park, Wash.; Gene and Lorna Takakai, Kamuela, Hawaii; and Wayne and Marsha Fults, Blanding, Utah.

James and Mary Sok of Kansas City, Kan., will receive language pastoral aid.

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New Mexico Partnership
Teams Return From England

By J.B. Fowler

Baptist Press
10/13/83

ALBUQUERQUE (BP)--A planeload of New Mexico Baptists, tired from witnessing, preaching and singing in a land where there are "more Moslems than Methodists and more Methodists than Baptists," have returned home from a Partnership Evangelism project.

Some 162 New Mexicans were joined by 71 Baptists from Maryland and others from several states to give a total of 230 Baptists participating in the event, co-sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

After meeting for a welcoming banquet in London on the night of their arrival, the teams of pastors and laypersons fanned out across England where they preached, sang and witnessed for eight days to their English cousins.

At the welcoming banquet, the group was greeted by English Baptist leaders, which included Sir Cyril Black, a former member of Parliament. After warming the crowd up by talking about close ties between the U.S. and Great Britain, the elderly statesman told the mission there are "more Moslems in England than Methodists, and more Methodists than Baptists."

Exploring the liberalism that pervades the state-sanctioned Anglican Church, Black said British Baptists are committed to preaching the gospel of redemption through Jesus Christ in a nation which is in a state of "moral and spiritual concern."

Sounding more like the late Winston Churchill than a Baptist layman, Black pled with the American Baptists, saying, "We need all the help we can get in turning it (England) back to God."

At the victory banquet at the conclusion of the eight-day event, New Mexico Baptists almost unanimously agreed they didn't want any more hot tea for a while. When the hostesses served roast lamb, the westerners said they had visions of green chilis and enchiladas.

During the victory banquet, SBC Foreign Mission Board coordinator Wayne Bristow interviewed several New Mexicans about their impressions of the effort.

Calvin Partain, president of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico and pastor of First Baptist Church of Gallup, said he had discovered afresh "the importance of the power of love."

Jim McKinnon, Albuquerque layman and member of Hoffmantown Baptist Church, said, "My life will be different. It will now be much easier to be a witness in my own community.... We have never met such marvelous and wonderful love."

British Baptist Union spokesman Lewis Thistlebrook expressed appreciation to the team members for coming, and said, "Your love has touched many hearts this week. Many will remember what you have said, and it will turn them to the living Christ."

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