



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 8, 1984

84-21

## Administration Seeks Hike In Non-Profit Mail Rates

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Reagan administration again has called for large cuts in the postal subsidy which provides reduced rates for a wide range of non-profit mailers, including churches and state Baptist newspapers.

In submitting a \$926 billion budget proposal to Congress for fiscal 1985, the administration duplicated its 1984 request for \$400 million for the preferred rate mail subsidy. That amount is less than half the \$870 million Congress appropriated for fiscal 1984 and just about half the amount the Postal Service estimates necessary to preserve current rates through fiscal 1985.

Postal Service examples show non-profit rates under the Reagan budget proposal would jump 29-58 percent.

At issue is the "revenue foregone" subsidy which reimburses the Postal Service for the difference between what it charges non-profit and other preferred rate mailers and the regular mail rates. Non-profit groups benefitting from the reduced mail rates include religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, veterans and fraternal organizations.

Although it is too early to tell what Congress will do with the administration's 1985 request, lawmakers have rejected large cuts in the revenue foregone subsidy the past two years. The Postal Service Board of Governors earlier recommended \$731 for the fiscal 1985 subsidy, the amount necessary for a one-step increase in preferred mail rates. That proposal would put the rates at step 15 of a 16-year phasing process Congress began in 1970.

Non-profit mail users have criticized previous proposals for large increases in preferred mail rates, charging the rate hikes would significantly cripple their ability to communicate and raise funds at the same time the administration was urging private, non-profit groups to pick up the slack created by federal budget cuts in social services.

In addition to the \$400 million recommended for the revenue foregone subsidy, the 1985 budget calls for a \$52 million "reconciliation payment" to make up a 1982 deficit in preferred mail costs plus an additional \$240 million for liabilities incurred under the former Post Office Department prior to 1970.

The administration also has proposed "the Postal Service operate in the future within the amount appropriated by Congress each year, not receiving the additional amounts, such as reconciliation payments, to supplement the initial appropriation."

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## Prayer Vigil Holds Off Arctic Invasion Of Florida

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press  
2/8/84

PLANT CITY, Fla. (BP)--A prayer vigil is receiving credit for saving the Florida citrus and strawberry industry from devastation.

The December freezes had already severely damaged agricultural crops, but new growth on the fruit trees and the entire strawberry crop were threatened Feb. 6 when weather forecasts warned of another blast of arctic air which would plunge temperatures into the lower 20's.

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Farmers were warned even five or six hours of sub-freezing readings would destroy the new growth and put citrus trees out of production for four or five years.

Lonnie Shull, pastor of First Baptist Church in Plant City (near Tampa), was concerned for the plight of the people of the area. During his morning meditations Feb. 6, he began to feel "a tremendous burden" his church should hold a prayer vigil and "invite the people of the community to join First Baptist in praying for divine intervention in the impending disaster."

Shull and his staff contacted local radio and television stations about the vigil and put a sign in front of the church. The church's Baptist Men's group organized "hosts" to keep the vigil going throughout the night.

The six o'clock, seven o'clock and eight o'clock weather reports remained unchanged, but when the vigil began at 8 p.m. hundreds of community people began to come to the church, "some to pray for an hour and some just for a few minutes."

Throughout the night radio stations called to check with Shull and each time people came in to pray they would report what the temperature was on the bank sign across the street.

"Throughout the night our prayer was that God would hold the reading in the mid-30's," Shull said. "And he did."

At 11:30 p.m. the weather service reported clouds had unexpectedly begun forming over the Gulf of Mexico and the bruising northwest wind was dying down. By midnight the clouds had moved inland, insulating the ground from the arctic air.

Despite the fact the Tampa area "is not prone to religious observation" according to Shull, the vigil attracted statewide attention. In addition to the radio coverage, three Tampa television stations covered the event and numerous newspapers, including the Miami Herald and the Orlando Sentinel have reported it.

Shull, a former president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention who became pastor of First Baptist Church in Plant City last September, said the vigil is the talk of the town, "among the farmers and in all the coffee drinking holes." People are saying, "the prayers of the people of God" saved the economic lifeline of the area.

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Graves Acting President  
Of California College

Baptist Press  
2/8/84

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--Harold K. Graves, for 25 years president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and retired for the past seven years, has been elected acting president of California Baptist College effective March 1.

During the February meeting of the college's trustees also officially moved James R. Staples, CBC president for the past 13 years, to the new position of chancellor.

Staples plans to retire in early 1985 and will serve in a public relations and fund raising capacity as chancellor. Trustees made it clear the acting president will manage the day-by-day affairs of the school while the chancellor will report directly to the trustees' executive committee.

CBC has been in a financial struggle since news last fall of a \$550,000 current funds deficit. At the November trustees meeting it was announced an acting president would be named in February and the new position of chancellor would be filled by Staples.

Trustees instituted budget and hiring cuts and increased tuition and dorm fees.

At the February meeting trustees also tightened control over four year liberal arts college which had 678 students in the fall semester by approving mandatory chapel for freshmen and sophomores, requiring a general campus dress code and generally asking for the administration and staff to emphasize Christian distinctives.

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Also approved were six percent salary increases for next year's budget, beginning July 1.

Graves, 72, was recommended by the trustees presidential search committee. There was no indication as to when the search committee will bring a recommendation for a new president but Graves salary package of \$3,000 per month was approved through the end of June.

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Home Mission Board Names  
40 To Mission Positions

Baptist Press  
2/8/84

ATLANTA (BP)--In its February meeting, the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved eight new missionaries, nine missionary associates, 21 recipients of church pastoral aid, a national consultant and an addition to the Atlanta staff.

Peter Chen, assistant director in world religions for the interfaith witness department, will become national consultant on Asian faiths, returning to San Francisco where he lived before joining the Atlanta HMB staff in 1976, first in the language missions division.

Born in Shanghai, China, Chen was pastor of Chinese Grace Baptist Church in San Francisco for 11 years, and previously was pastor of both First Chinese Baptist Church, San Francisco, and First Chinese Baptist Church, Los Angeles.

He is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; Furman University, Greenville, S.C.; Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Texas; Soo Chow University, Shanghai, and Grace Baptist Bible College, Shanghai.

Louisville pastor Rudee B. Boan was elected to a new position as associate director of the planning and services research department. For the past year, Boan has been pastor of 23rd and Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville.

A native of North Carolina, Boan is a candidate for the doctor of philosophy degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he has earned master of divinity and master of theology degrees.

He is former associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Mt. Healthy, Ohio, and interim minister of youth for North Newton Baptist Church, Newton, N.C.

Named as missionaries were Blanche Joe Jr. and Patricia Anne Dier of Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.; James H. Gamble of Pleasant Grove, Ala.; J. Paul and Ann Lewis of Phoenix, Ariz.; Samuel and Elizabeth Anne Schlegel of Jacksonville, Fla., and Phyllis J. Weems of Manassas, Va.

Appointed missionary associates were Thelma L. Kiser of Hampton, Va.; Devane Jr. and Audrey Vera Simmons of Tallmadge, Ohio; Floyd and Myrtie Temple of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Justin Driggers of Longview, Wash.; Ann Gray of Fort Worth, Texas, and Ronald and Bennie Jones of Fort Worth.

The Diers will work as national missionaries with senior adults. He is former pastor of Village Baptist Church, Destin, Fla., and was an HMB missionary to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Ark. From 1954 to 1975, he was a United Air Force chaplain. Dier is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La., and Troy (Ala.) State University.

She is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Gamble will move to Anchorage, Alaska, where he will direct Mountain View Baptist Center. He is a former HMB US-2 missionary and earned degrees from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; Southern seminary and Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas.

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The Lewises will move to Wyoming where he will be director of associational missions for southeast Wyoming. He has been pastor of churches in Arizona, Nevada, California and Arkansas, and is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Golden Gate seminary. She has taught school since 1961 and is a graduate of California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif.

The Schlegels will focus on experimental ministries at the national level in their new role. Since 1981, they have been as Mission Service Corps volunteers ministering to Florida's water folk. He also has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Islamorada, Fla., is a graduate of Florida State University, Tallahassee, and Southern seminary. She is former minister of music at First Baptist Church, Crystal River, Fla., and has taught piano, voice and guitar in Islamorada, Fla. She is a graduate of Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C., and Southern seminary.

Weems will remain in Manassas where she will become director of weekday ministries for the Potomac Baptist Association. Since 1978, she has been associate director of Mission Center and assistant to the director of associational missions for Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia. She holds degrees from Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Kiser will stay in Hampton as she becomes director of weekday ministries. She is a graduate of Elizabeth Buxton School of Nursing, Newport News, Va., and has directed the satellite ministry of Peninsula Baptist Association in Newport News, Va., since 1977.

The Simmons will remain in Ohio as he works with students in Akron. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, La., and Southwestern seminary. She is a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College and Southwestern seminary.

The Temples will remain in Cheyenne as he becomes director of missions for Wind River and Big Horn Baptist Associations in northwest Wyoming. He has pastored North Cheyenne Baptist Church since 1974 and has served on the executive board of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention. She is a graduate of the Montgomery County Hospital Licensed Practical Nurse Program in Conroe, Texas.

Driggers will move to Woodland, Va., where he will work as a church planter apprentice. He is a graduate of Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz., and Golden Gate seminary.

Gray will begin work in Bensalem, Penn., as a church planter apprentice. She is a graduate of Blue Mountain (Miss.) College; Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and Southwestern seminary.

The Joneses will move to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, also as church planter apprentices. He is former pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Gilman, Texas, and holds degrees from East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Texas, and Southwestern seminary. She has been employed by Miller's Insurance Group, Fort Worth, Texas.

Approved to receive church pastoral assistance were Willie and Pauline Arrowood of Box Elder, S.D.; Clifford and Louvie Gose of Phoenix, Ariz.; Gerald and Judith Green of Wellsville, Kan.; Frank and Anna Gruver of Marysville, Calif.; Sammie and Susan Hughes of Wichita Falls, Texas; Chane Hutton of Falls City, Neb.; Claude and Irene McFerron of Indianola, Iowa; Daryl and Tywana Walker of Boulder, Mont.; Mark and Nancy White of Olathe, Kan., and Gary and Joye Lynne Zafuto of Kansas City, Mo.

Approved for language pastoral aid were Samuel and Rebecca Caballero of Dallas, Texas.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story is an update on a BP story mailed 2/7/84--"Strife Curfew Separate MKs, Parents in Beirut"--to provide additional information on the three MKs. Editors wishing to do so may add the fourth paragraph of the 2/7 story to the end of this dispatch to provide information on a separate incident involving missionaries.--Thanks, BP.

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Trapped MKs in Lebanon Get Back  
With Missionaries in West Beirut

By Bill Webb

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--Three Southern Baptist MKs (missionary kids) spent a night punctuated with gunfire and explosions at the American Community School in west Beirut before they were able to get back with missionaries Feb. 7.

Fierce civil strife and a government-imposed curfew trapped Ashleigh Dunn, 13, and Paul and Julie Sacco, both 15, at the American school. A teacher whose family lives on the school compound gave them lodging.

Five direct artillery rounds hit the school during the night, heavily damaging a library and laboratory. Five dormitories at the nearby American University of Beirut were hit and 20 school buses were blown up at the adjacent International College, a prep school.

The Sacco children are with their parents, Mack and Linda Sacco, from Gilroy, Calif., and McAlester, Okla., in west Beirut. Ashleigh Dunn is staying with them, unable to cross the "green line" separating west and east Beirut. She and her parents, Pete and Pat Dunn, from Mobile, Ala., live in the east Beirut suburb of Monsouriyeh.

Finlay Graham, Foreign Mission Board associate for the Middle East, who lives in Nicosia, Cyprus, said missionaries told him by telephone Linda Sacco and her four children, Paul, Julie, Annika, 6, and Aaron, 4, and Pat and Ashleigh Dunn will evacuate to Cyprus as soon as they can.

Graham has made contingency plans for enough housing on Cyprus to accommodate all 20 missionaries and nine children in Lebanon in the event of further evacuation.

He said the American Embassy could still ask all Americans who are not essential to leave the country should the situation deteriorate further. But he quickly added, "Our missionaries usually think they are essential. It's very discouraging to our national (Baptist) leaders if our missionaries leave."

Missionaries said fighting died down after Moslem forces seized control of west Beirut Feb. 7, but scattered fighting continued. Missionaries said the city is in shambles with broken glass everywhere.

The top floor of the building that houses University Baptist Church in west Beirut was shelled but damage to the church, which meets on the second or third floor, was limited to broken windows, according to volunteer Steve Fox, from Centerville, Ohio. Another direct hit destroyed the home of one Lebanese Baptist family. They were not hurt.

Fox said refugees had poured into the basement garage of the apartment building where he and his wife, Meriam, live. One refugee family included eight children and their pregnant mother who was sleeping on a piece of cardboard on the concrete floor.

Since their electricity has been out, the Foxes cooked food stored in their refrigerator and have been sharing it with that refugee family and others. A pastoral assistant at University church, Fox has tried to visit church members when he can.

Refugees continue to occupy a wing of Beirut Baptist School on the west side although Graham isn't sure if all 80 who were there Feb. 7 remain.

Missionaries on the east side, in Monsouriyeh, said it had been noisy where they live but no shells were dropping near them as of Feb. 8.

Despite all that's happening in Beirut, the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Monsouriyeh continues to hold classes, even though not all the teachers can get there.

Graham urged continued prayer for missionaries and their families. "They are grateful for all the prayers on their behalf," he added. Missionaries themselves are "trusting the Lord" for their own safety, he said, but request prayer for Lebanon.



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