



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

February 23, 1984

84-30

SBC Budget For 1984-85
 Anticipates Lower Increase

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The upward spiral in operating budgets of Southern Baptist Convention agencies will slow dramatically in 1984-85.

The annual meeting of the 14.1-million member denomination this June will consider a national Cooperative Program budget for its next fiscal year of \$130 million, with \$118 million designated as operating budgets for the agencies of the convention.

That compares to a \$125 million budget for 1983-84 (\$114.5 million operating).

"This was more than an agonizing decision--it was gut-wrenching," said John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., and chairman of the program and budget subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the convention. He told the February meeting of the Executive Committee, "Our best hope is that everyone will be equally dissatisfied."

To that end, the subcommittee that the majority of the agencies get the same percentage increase over their 1983-84 budgets--2.79. The six seminaries will receive a block amount which equals 2.79 percent but the fund are pro rated among the schools on the basis of a complex formula so the increase will vary from campus to campus.

The Foreign Mission Board, which will receive 50 percent of the Cooperative Program budget, was given a 3.06 percent increase over the current fiscal year.

"We certainly don't desire that this (the same increases for everyone regardless of budget requests) become a precedent for future budgets but felt in these circumstances it was the fairest thing we could do," Sullivan explained.

When the program and budget subcommittee met in January to work out the details of the budget, they had known for four months projected income was almost \$21 million below the budget requests from the agencies.

The Cooperative Program operating budget had increased by double-digit percentages in eight of the past nine years, including increases of 18.49 percent for 1983-84; 15.87 percent for 1982-83 and 10.67 percent in 1981-82.

The 1984-85 three percent increase is the smallest in 15 years (1970's was 2.2 percent).

The Cooperative Program isn't the sole source of revenue for the agencies but is the major one. Other revenue comes from endowments, special offerings, literature sales, etc.

The total budget of \$130 million is a record but also is the lowest increase in many years (four percent). The total budget increase is greater than the increase in operating budgets because the capital needs portion of the budget jumps from \$3,340,385 to \$6,874,000. The capital needs portion of the budget is set several years in advance and has already been approved at an annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The third section of the budget, the challenge budget, was decreased from \$7,159,615 to \$5,126,000. The capital needs portion cannot be funded until the basic operating needs are fulfilled and the challenge portion cannot be funded until after capital needs

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The small increase in 1984-85 is a realization of the slowing of inflation and reflects an effort to keep budget expenditures in line with realistic income projections.

There was no discussion when the budget was presented to the full Executive Committee and it passed without opposition. Final approval of the budget will be at the annual meeting of the convention in June at Kansas City, Mo.

Agency funding for operations in 1984-85 (followed by the amount requested) includes:

Foreign Mission Board, \$59 million (\$67.86 million); Home Mission Board, \$23,266,977 (\$27 million); Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, \$234,218 (\$250,650); Annuity Board, \$943,656 (\$1,068,000);

Brotherhood Commission, \$872,625 (\$976,235); Christian Life Commission, \$729,843 (\$903,750); Education Commission, \$435,644 (\$487,370); Historical Commission, \$404,600 (\$603,360); Public Affairs Committee, \$411,436 (\$464,000);

Radio and Television Commission, \$4,947,872 (\$6,554,096); SBC operating (includes Executive Committee as well as budget for planning and holding annual meetings) \$1,681,003 (\$2,316,000); Southern Baptist Foundation, \$250,202 (\$282,472) and Stewardship Commission, \$407,221 (\$475,000).

The seminaries, their allocations and percentages increases (followed by requests) are:

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1.53 percent and \$2,032,771 (\$2,402,651); Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, 3.18 percent and \$2,385,849 (\$3,006,010); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 3.36 and \$3,832,442 (\$4,523,756);

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 1.96 and \$4,044,974 (\$4,915,534); Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2.76 and \$5,180,138 (\$6,114,863) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 3.26 and \$6,788,529 (\$8,204,882).

The Baptist Sunday School Board and Woman's Missionary Union do not receive Cooperative Program funds but generate their own revenues by the sale of literature.

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Committee Recommends
Not Seating Canadians

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
2/23/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Canada Study Committee will recommend the SBC Constitution not be amended to allow seating of messengers from Canadian Southern Baptist churches.

The select 21-member committee appointed to study amending the SBC Constitution to add Canada to the territory of the denomination, unanimously adopted a recommendation that the constitution not be changed, but that the SBC "render all possible assistance to Canadian Southern Baptist churches to achieve their agreed upon objective, including the development of a Canadian Southern Baptist entity."

The two page report, negotiated following four day-long meetings of the entire committee and three regional subcommittee meetings, will be recommended to messengers at the 1984 annual meeting of the 14.1 million member denomination June 12-14 in Kansas City, Mo.

The committee was created by action of the 1983 annual meeting to consider a proposal by C.B. Hogue, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla., that Article II of the constitution be amended to add the words "and Canada" to the territorial area of the SBC.

Currently, the constitution specifies membership in the denomination is limited to Baptists "in the United States and its territories...."

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In its report, the committee acknowledges its "primary assignment...was to consider whether the constitution...should be amended to include the words 'and Canada.'"

However, the committee said it "became aware that this assignment could only be approached by considering the total implications of the decisions, including existing relationships between Canadian churches and state conventions to which they relate."

After "receiving counsel" from representatives of Canadian Southern Baptist churches, the Northwest Baptist Convention--which includes some 60 churches in Canada among its membership--SBC leaders and Baptists in Canada not related to the SBC, the committee report says the "essential question it believed it had to answer was: 'How can Southern Baptists best achieve our mutual goal of helping reach Canada for Christ?'"

The committee solution is to recommend the constitution not be amended, but "an aggressive, evangelistic strategy utilizing increased Southern Baptist leadership and resources" be developed.

The recommendation includes creation of a Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group to consist of executives and representatives from the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Radio and Television Commission as well as representatives of other agencies.

Under the plan, the HMB representative would be chairman "thus identifying the continuing leadership role of the Home Mission Board," which has a continuing relationship with missions and evangelization of Canada.

The planning group will be responsible for "correlating the work of the agencies of the SBC with churches in Canada in responding to requests, initiating program actions and developing plans, in areas such as missions, evangelism, theological education, literature, student work, media and the sending of Canadians as missionaries."

In addition, it would work with Canadian leadership to assist with development of a strategy for missions and evangelism, consult with Southern Baptist Convention state leadership in the states relating to Canada, and report annually to the SBC on the growth and development of work in Canada through 1994.

In an effort to intensify involvement by members of Canadian churches, the report recommends an observer be selected to attend one meeting a year of the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Sunday School Board and the Executive Committee.

The final recommendation is that there be "encouragement of increasing involvement between churches, associations and state conventions in the United States and churches in Canada.

Following the meeting, Chairman Fred Roach, a Dallas homebuilder, said: "I think the committee got to the point where it had to answer the question, 'What is the best position the Southern Baptist Convention can take at this time to reach a long term solution?'"

"This decision does not preclude any decision which will be made later," which will allow the Canadian Southern Baptist churches to "determine if they wish to consider seating or to move toward their own national entity."

The final meeting of the committee largely was spent in reviewing the information and options before the committee.

Midway through the session, Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., representing the Home Mission Board, moved the committee "come to the point of decision: Do we or don't we seat messengers from Canada."

Raymond Spence, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., and chairman of the Foreign Mission Board, said: "To me the issue is not seating or not seating. The issue is the evangelization of Canada. I am convinced we have taken the right position (a negotiated response) to this matter."

Earl Craig, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., and an at-large member, said: "Most of us came to the committee saying, 'Why not seat them?' but we have discovered there are many tremendous problems. The issue is not as simple as whether to seat the messengers or not. I hope the convention elected us to study the matter and make a decision based on that."

Craig added many Baptists still see the issue in simple terms and want to seat messengers from Canada. "We should not vote on what we think the constituency wants, but should make the decision based on where the study has led us."

Emit Ray, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Miami and member of the Home Mission Board, said the decision "represents a compromise between the heart and the head." He explained in his heart, he favors seating the messengers, but in his head, he knows the situation has many complications, implications and problems.

Clifford Vick, pastor of Lincoln Street Baptist Church in Portland, Ore., representing the Northwest Baptist Convention, echoed Ray's sentiments, and likened the development of churches in Canada to the nine-months gestation period of a baby.

"If it is brought forth prematurely, it is very bad for the child and the parent," he said. "I cannot vote to seat them (Canadian churches) because it is premature."

Gerald Palmer, vice president of the missions section at the Home Mission Board and a resource person to the committee, indicated he supports the committee report, and added: "I am very concerned that we do not predetermine the direction the Canadian churches will take. I think the decision should be deferred until they have coalesced into a body of their own."

"I feel there are some decisions they have to make that they have not yet made," he said.

When the secret ballot vote on Price's motion was taken, the committee voted 12-5 not to amend the constitution to include Canada.

After that decision, the committee spent the remainder of its time preparing its recommendation. When it was presented, the vote was 15 to accept the report, one to reject it and one abstention.

Price told the committee he was the "no" and urged leaders to prepare a "detailed and exhaustive rationale. That document will be essential to getting it (the recommendation) passed by the messengers."

He asked for another vote, and the final count was 17 for the report, none against.

The recommendation will be presented during a meeting of the Canadian Southern Baptist churches in Edmonton, Alberta, May 1-3 prior to being presented at the SBC in June.

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Reagan Pushes Lawmakers
On School Prayer Proposal

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press
2/23/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--As the U.S. Senate neared a long-awaited debate on his proposed constitutional amendment to restore oral prayer to public school classrooms, President Reagan called on lawmakers "to reaffirm that voluntary school prayer is...a basic right of our people."

At the outset of a televised news conference Feb. 22, Reagan identified school prayer as one of three issues "at the top of the domestic agenda" for the immediate future. The others were crime and budget deficits.

Noting the Senate is about to consider school prayer proposals, the president reminded lawmakers "a huge majority of Americans favor restoring this long-cherished tradition of religious freedom." He continued: "I urge the Senate to reaffirm that voluntary school prayer is, indeed, a basic right of our people, and I hope the House will follow suit."

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Besides the president's measure, whose primary Senate sponsor is S n. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., a separate proposed amendment by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, is also pending on the Senate calendar. Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., long an advocate of school prayer, reportedly is ready to push his own amendment.

The Reagan/Thurmond proposal reads: "Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or by any state to participate in prayer. Nor shall the United States or any state compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools."

Hatch's proposal, introduced by the Utah senator last year because he said the Senate would not pass the Reagan amendment, calls for a moment of silent prayer and for equal access to classroom space for students who on their own initiative wish to gather for religious purposes. Reagan has said repeatedly he opposes the Hatch measure as unnecessary.

Baker's proposal goes beyond the president's amendment in that it contains no restraining language to keep Congress or state legislatures from deciding the content of prayers to be recited in public schools.

According to many observers on both sides of the school prayer debate, the final outcome on any of these proposals remains in doubt. Because each comes to the Senate in the form of a constitutional amendment, a two-thirds vote of all senators--67--is required for passage.

Once a constitutional amendment is approved by two-thirds of all senators and representatives, it then goes to the state legislatures, where three-fourths--38--must ratify.

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New Hunger Committee
Established By House

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
2/23/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Select Committee on Hunger designed to coordinate congressional actions on hunger issues has been established by the U.S. House of Representatives.

By a 309-78 vote, the House authorized establishment of the committee which will have no legislative jurisdiction but will be empowered to conduct a comprehensive study of domestic and international hunger problems as well as review executive branch recommendations on hunger. The panel would be composed of 17 members appointed by Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass.

A separate funding resolution for the committee will be considered at a later date.

Once funded, the new committee would be required to report to the House "as soon as practical during the present session of Congress, the results of its investigation and study." Recommendations by the hunger panel would then be referred to existing House committees with jurisdiction over hunger related issues.

Rep. Tony P. Hall, D-Ohio, floor manager of the hunger panel resolution, said "Hunger is a plague on this Earth--but is one that can be cured."

Hall said the new committee would "provide the necessary mechanism to coordinate existing congressional action on domestic and international hunger."

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Survey Shows Baptists Gain
In Reaching U.S. Counties

Baptist Press
2/23/84

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists made slow but steady progress last year in their attempt to place a Southern Baptist church or mission in every county in the United States, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board researcher says.

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A 1983 survey of state directors of missions indicated 504 counties in the United States lacked a Southern Baptist church or mission, said Clay Price, HMB missions researcher.

The figure represents a net drop of eight from the 512 counties reported as unentered in 1981, the last available year for figures, Price said.

"Since 1973, SBC churches have been organized in 168 counties which previously had no Southern Baptist churches," he noted.

An unentered county is defined as one without an SBC church or mission, said Price. The survey showed 65 counties have been entered since 1981; 57 previously entered counties were reclassified as unentered, he explained, adding if an existing church or mission disbands or relocates to another county it is possible for a previously entered county to revert to unentered status.

About half of the 57 counties added to the unentered list were in Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin, Price noted, while 31 of the 65 counties dropped from the unentered list were in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York and Pennsylvania.

Price said 28 states listed at least one unentered county; 55 percent of the unentered counties are located in five of the 28 states. Nebraska ranked the highest with 66 unentered counties, followed by Minnesota (62), Iowa (58), Wisconsin (49) and South Dakota (40).

Eight states had less than five unentered counties, including two states--California and Rhode Island--which reported only one unentered county each.

According to the 1980 census, the unentered counties had a combined population of 8.2 million people, said Price. Of the 504 unentered counties, state missions directors listed only 147 of them as high priority areas for church extension, he added. The remaining unentered counties were ranked as medium or low priority. Wisconsin had the largest number of high priority counties with 21.

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Student Directors Pledge
To Fight Hunger At Home

By Michael Tutterow

Baptist Press
2/23/84

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--Members of the State Baptist Student Directors Association have voted unanimously to lead in promotion of domestic hunger projects among their campuses.

Nathan Porter, national consultant for domestic hunger for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, introduced 83 "Jerusalem Projects" (domestic hunger relief ministries in 18 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) during the group's 25th annual meeting in Little Rock. Porter proposed Baptist Student Union groups underwrite a portion of or the total expense for specific domestic hunger relief projects.

Projects range in cost from \$150 for a New York mission congregation to provide food for low-income families to \$24,000 to help the Baptist Center in Miami, provide food assistance to some 1,000 Haitian refugees who pass through the center daily. A request of \$8,000 for Washington would provide food for diplomats living in the D.C. community who, because of a coup or other change in government in their home country, become economically stranded. A group could underwrite the total expense of the project, or a portion of it; \$100 would feed one diplomatic family for about one week.

Jerusalem Projects offer an opportunity for local and state BSU groups as well as churches to become involved in domestic hunger relief, Porter explained. The projects, he added, "will raise the awareness of the need as well as the extent and gravity of the problem of hunger in the United States."

Porter assured student directors monies given will be used "100 percent" for food relief or buying seed or other food-related items. No funds will be used in development programs, said Porter, because they are already part of Christian social ministries missionaries' regular programs supported by Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter offering funds.

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"What Jerusalem Projects have done is increase our capabilities for emergency food relief," said Porter. "And it's just in the nick of time because the need is so desperate, so urgent, just for survival."

"The impact of Jerusalem Projects is not fundraising at all," insisted Porter, "but the education of those who sponsor such projects and the overall concern it will generate for prayer support, local ministry involvement and advocacy on behalf of the poor."

Groups which support one of the Jerusalem Projects will work directly with HMB Christian social ministries missionaries. Working with home missionaries will increase students' awareness of mission needs in general and will increase personal support for home missions, added Porter.

Jim Greene, director of the division of campus ministry for North Carolina Baptists and president of the State Student Directors Association, said, "The Jerusalem Projects allow our students to know about, pray for and give to meet the needs of some of God's children. We acknowledge ourselves as rich persons to whom the gospel speaks with powerful clarity. This will prod and help us act responsibly."

Porter called on Baptist campuses to conduct hunger surveys to assess local needs. He noted the Pan American University (Edingburg, Texas) BSU recently conducted a hunger survey and discovered "an alarming poverty level in that county of 60 to 70 percent, with 40 percent unemployment." Nearly 50 percent of the 240,000 residents received food stamps, but only 60 percent of those who qualified for the program took advantage of the benefits, he said.

The students also found a critical need for volunteers to staff existing programs as well as help establish new feeding programs in the area.

Porter said attitudes toward poor people claiming they cheat, take advantage of food stamp programs, and are con artists who don't want to work and don't deserve help only hinders ministry to the poor. Student participation in Jerusalem Projects will provide an experiential education that will reshape Baptists' thinking about the poor, he added.

"One of the best ways to overcome these prejudices and myths about the poor is through personal involvement in ministries to and with poor people."

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MSC Physician
Heals Scarred Souls

By Michael Creswell

Baptist Press
2/23/84

BRIGHAM CITY, Utah (BP)--At 64, Missions Service Corps volunteer Roberta Edwards is a trim, active widow who loves anything Indian. Her apartment in Brigham City, Utah, boasts Navajo rugs and striking paintings of and by Indians.

But her volunteer work with home missionary Bruce Conrad at the Intermountain Intertribal School is the greatest evidence of her love for Indians.

"Roberta is unique," Conrad said. "She's just a good resource person, a good Bible teacher and has many talents and abilities she usually is willing to share."

Like the Indians she loves, Edwards is friendly but reserved. Door-to-door witnessing is something she simply cannot do. Yet for years she has presented a strong Christian witness by making her faith a part of developing friendships.

In a quiet, deliberate way she has helped change the lives of both students and adults. Once she reached a wayward Baptist couple by writing letters of encouragement each week for four months.

If volunteer Edwards looks at home on the Intermountain campus, it may be because physician Edwards was medical officer on the campus from 1956 until her retirement in 1972.

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Operated by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Intermountain school has about 400 students. Indians from some 40 states and some 80 tribes board there while receiving their high school educations.

After her retirement from public health service and her husband's death, Edwards became active in the student ministry in 1979. She later became a MSC volunteer, continuing a lifetime commitment to missions.

Edwards' first commitment came at age 16 when she first dedicated her life to Christian missions. After completing her medical degree she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board to Nigeria, West Africa. She used her skills in a small but effective bush clinic.

In Nigeria she married another missionary and had two sons. They felt at home in Nigeria with hopes of many years of service to come.

But tragedy struck. Their sons came down with polio, and a third child was born with a serious spinal defect. The couple had to return to the United States to get proper medical care for their children and were forced to resign as missionaries.

Since the Home Mission Board was not appointing physicians when she retired from the FMB, Edwards entered public health service, moving to Intermountain school in 1956; her husband became a teacher there.

But Utah wasn't Nigeria.

"I wasn't very happy," she admitted. "My first love was surgery, I felt this was a waste of my time. Every time I heard someone talk about the need for a doctor on the foreign mission field, I really felt frustrated."

She told her problems to a close friend. "I thought she would say, 'Well, we'll pray for the Lord to open a way for you to go back into foreign missions.' But what she said was, 'Well! I guess we'll just have to pray for you to want what the Lord wants for you.'"

"That response," Edwards recalled, "set me back on my heels. I began to pray like that. And I realized my commitment to be a missionary did not end with my resignation from the Foreign Mission Board. Even though I was paid by the U.S. government, I had the same responsibility to be a missionary wherever I was planted."

Today Edwards is involved in several types of ministry. But her first love is still the students from Intermountain. "I like what I'm doing," she said. "I find it very rewarding. I like the students, I enjoy their friendship. I know how to be a friend to them and I know how to listen to them. While many of them are reticent at first, they'll talk about themselves, about their aspirations, their problems, their dreams."

She continued, "A lot of people ask me if I don't think I'm wasting my time to do what I do. I don't think I am. I think I'm uniquely qualified for what I do here because I have worked with Indians these many years and I understand them from the standpoint of their culture and their problems and how their minds work."

"I can feel like my skills are well used here. Even though I don't set bones or repair lacerations or deliver babies any more, there are still broken hearts that have to be mended. There are lacerated lives that have to be put together with a minimum of scarring."

She concluded, "And to see a soul newborn into the Kingdom of God is the greatest thing there is."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press
(Adapted from the November-December issue of Missions/USA, the Home Mission Board's magazine)

Longtime Mexico Educator
Switches To Evangelism

By Judy Garrett

MEXICO CITY (BP)--After 17 years as a seminary president, Pat Carter believes God wants him a little closer to the action.

The 57-year-old Texan and Southern Baptist representative resigned the presidency of the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary to begin a new career as church planter in one of Mexico City's most exclusive areas, Lomas de Chapultepec.

Carter describes the change as "God's initiative" in his life. "I like to think of God's will in terms of God's initiative because to me it's more vivid, it's more life-touching," he says. "It's saying God is so interested in me and in you he takes the initiative and has a plan for everything we do."

The plan began at Peniel Baptist Church, where Carter was minister of extension. He and about 20 young people of the church, (who call themselves "The Workers,") wanted to start a mission church, but weren't sure where to begin.

They agreed to pray for guidance three times a day with prayer partners. For six weeks they fasted from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Nothing happened.

Carter began to worry he might have led the young people into something foolish. Others in the church also wondered about the wisdom of the plan. One member told the pastor the youths were the laziest group of "workers" he had ever seen.

Then a seminary student, Eduardo Traconis, visited Carter. He wanted to evangelize the Lomas area of Mexico City, where he lived, and needed a church to sponsor his work. Carter explained the youth group's search for a mission field and Traconis joined that group in seeking God's leading. They all gathered for a prayer retreat, prayed all night and unanimously decided to begin work in the Lomas area.

Carter himself still wasn't sure. He didn't want to interpret enthusiasm as God's will and waited for specific assurance. Meanwhile Traconis introduced him to some Christian neighbors in Lomas, Beatriz Carpio and her daughter, Miriam Cossio.

The two had begun a Bible study in their home and they invited Carter to teach. He hesitated; they were members of another denomination and he didn't want to proselyte members of their church. But the mother-daughter team wasn't easily put off. First they offered to start a separate Bible study. Then they voluntarily became Baptists.

The original Bible study had attracted an average of seven people per session. The first night Carter came to teach last spring, 40 people crowded into the home. At last he was convinced. He became permanent leader of the study and "The Workers" youth group began distributing letters of invitation to all the homes in the area.

Attendance at the Bible study grew and in May the group began Sunday afternoon services in a local church building. In June, Carter resigned as seminary president to devote full time to the Lomas ministry.

Sunday services now draw 90 or more people. A second Bible study has been launched for new believers and "seekers." A seminary professor and Baptist layman assist Carter with teaching and ministry. Carter works with a group of six committed men in the congregation who may soon function as deacons.

The mission church's budget, says Carter, is "just exploding!" October gifts of 90,000 pesos (about \$600) were more than triple the goal for the month, and in November receipts surpassed 200,000 pesos (more than \$1,300).

The congregation is studying spiritual gifts so each member can apply his own gifts to ministry. Musical and dramatic presentations have been tailored to attract residents of the sophisticated community. Miriam Cossio, a professional vocalist, sings in the services and is part of a group which performs at other churches.

Carter is in no hurry for the congregation to organize formally as a church. He wants the members to be more firmly grounded in the faith first. But already the mission is planning its own mission in the nearby Polanco area, another affluent section. Carter has rented an office in Polanco and offers free counseling. He is organizing a group of Christian psychologists to expand the service.

When he left the seminary, Carter and his wife, Evelyn, dreamed of having more time to spend together. But he's putting in more 12-hour days than before. They're not disappointed, however.

"It is wonderful to feel the Lord's leadership and be able to follow it and have your salary and financial backing and to know your fellow missionaries back you up," Carter says.

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(Judy Garrett is press representative for the Mexico Baptist Mission.)

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

In Baptist Press story, "Beirut MKs Smelled Shells, Felt Dust From Explosion," mailed 2/21/84, please make the following correction. In the third graf, delete the word sand .

Thanks,
Baptist Press

LYNN MAY BO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
137 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37234

460 Jam s Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

BAPTIST PRESS



Handwritten notes:
2/14
2/15
2/16