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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 14, 1984

84-132

Honeycutt Rejects
Patterson Challenge

By Dan Martin

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Roy Lee Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has rejected a challenge by inerrancy leader Paige Patterson for a national debate.

In late August, Honeycutt publicly entered the controversy which has rocked the 14.1 million member Southern Baptist Convention by declaring "holy war" against what he called "unholy forces which, if left unchecked, will destroy essential qualities of both our convention and this seminary."

He made references in the August speech--at an opening convocation of the seminary's school year--to the "Independent Fundamentalist Political Party" in the denomination and its "Texas leaders," referring only once to Pressler/Patterson (Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler) as the leaders of the political organization.

Immediately, Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies and associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, issued a call for a national debate, challenging Honeycutt to substantiate his charges and to be prepared to debate whether the Southern Baptist Convention is drifting toward liberalism.

In a statement released to Baptist Press Sept. 13, Honeycutt unequivocally rejected any debate, titling the statement released by his office: "There Will Be No Debate!"

He instead proposed a return to an "open convention" and called on Pressler/Patterson "and their co-conspirators to turn off their computers, abolish their mailing lists, quit printing their scandal sheet newspapers and allow Southern Baptists to speak for themselves without external manipulation."

Honeycutt said: "How strange that Dr. Paige Patterson seems to respond to every challenge of his continuing effort to sidetrack the Southern Baptist Convention by proposing a national debate! Despite his challenge and his slanderous and defaming characterization of me as a 'fascist' there will be no debate." He said Patterson "obviously either has misstated the agenda or he fails to comprehend the basis for our fundamental disagreement."

"The crisis facing Southern Baptists is neither biblical nor theological," Honeycutt said. "It is political. However much he and his political party may use biblical and theological smokescreens, this is the issue: our convention is being wrenched apart by an unprecedented political crisis engineered by Dr. Patterson and Judge (Paul) Pressler."

In his "holy war" speech in August, Honeycutt repeatedly referred to the "Independent Fundamentalist Political Party," in the SBC, and to its "Texas leaders." He referred to Pressler/Patterson only once, he said.

Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, and Patterson emerged into the national spotlight in 1979, claiming the denomination was becoming liberal and promulgating a plan to place like-minded trustees on the boards of the 20 national agencies.

In the statement released Sept. 13, Honeycutt said: "Never before in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention have political leaders announced a ten-year plan to take over the denomination as Judge Pressler so clearly stated in his announced plan to replace trustees serving on boards of trustees, whom he characterized as 'dummies'."

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Honeycutt said some might ask why not debate the validity of the charges the denomination is being taken over by political action, and replied: "Simply stated—one does not debate self-evident truth."

He said neither Pressler nor Patterson "denies their political strategy," and cited recent articles in the Atlanta Constitution (a secular newspaper) and the Indiana Baptist, the newsjournal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

In the Atlanta article, Honeycutt said, Patterson "acknowledged...the annual practice of busing in large numbers of messengers to guarantee the election of their candidate as president..." Honeycutt added Patterson also "claimed that their political party now controls the (Baptist) Sunday School Board."

Honeycutt cited the Indiana Baptist article of Sept. 4, an interview in which Pressler "expressed the hope that editors of Baptist papers would learn the meaning of metaphors," and cited the well-known "going for the jugular" statement Pressler made in a 1982 speech.

Honeycutt said he understood the expression to be a metaphor and that "no one thought the Judge intended to commit murder...but his metaphor vividly describes his intention to drain the life from boards of trustees...."

Honeycutt said Southern Baptists "have heard enough debates claiming that one person or group believes the Bible more than another, as if God would have us subject biblical faith to a quiz show battle of wits."

He said Southern Baptists "whom I meet throughout the length and breadth of this nation want...a termination of the political takeover," and a return to "our priority to the purposes for which the convention exists: our commitment to world missions and evangelism, the discipling of believers and the preparation of every person called of God as a minister to lead a loyal Southern Baptist church to fulfill Christ's Great Commission."

Honeycutt claimed a "win-lose" debate such as Patterson proposed, would "further polarize" the convention, and called for a "return to authentic Baptist polity" and an "open convention like those prior to 1979."

He also encouraged "Southern Baptists to reaffirm the lost emphasis of the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church and the freedom which is every believer's in Jesus Christ."

If these things are done, Honeycutt said, Southern Baptists "will be free to make their own decisions. Individuals by their own priesthood will decide issues for themselves, according to freedom in Christ. Messengers (to annual sessions)...will be able to decide democratically without the lopsided influence of a political party influencing the outcome."

"Local churches by their autonomous action will make their own decisions without political manipulation. This is the way Baptists have always found the will of God in their midst."

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(The text of Honeycutt's statement is being mailed to state Baptist newspapers and the chief administrative officer of the 20 national agencies and the state conventions. Copies are available through the President's Office, Southern Seminary.)

Baptist Leaders Meet
Cuban Officials, Church Leaders

By Michael Tutterow

Baptist Press
9/14/84

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist Home Mission Board leaders reported positive results in improving relationships between Cuban Baptists and the Cuban government during their first meetings with Cuban government officials in 25 years.

Gerald Palmer, the board's vice-president of missions, and Oscar Romo, director of the board's language missions division, recently returned from Cuba where they met with a high-ranking Cuban official to discuss the progress of Baptist work in western Cuba.

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The visit, the second for both board staffers in the past six years, was the first time board personnel have had an opportunity to meet with government officials about Baptist work on the island for 25 years. Baptist work began in Cuba in 1890, the result of missionary efforts of English-speaking churches established by Americans residing on the island. When those churches requested missions assistance, the Southern Baptist Convention assigned work in Cuba to the Home Mission Board.

However, in 1965 the United States severed diplomatic relationships with the Cuban government, effectively cutting off the Atlanta-based national missions agency from supporting Baptist work in Cuba.

The 1978 visit by Romo and Palmer was designed to improve communication between Southern Baptists and the Cuban government, though the trip only afforded the two men opportunity to talk with Baptist pastors in western Cuba.

But this month's trip, the result of an invitation from leaders of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba, gave Romo and Palmer an opportunity to meet with Felipe Carneado, minister of cultural associations for the government and a member of Cuba's Central Committee, a high-ranking arm of the Cuban government.

Carneado interrupted his vacation to meet with the two Southern Baptist leaders, who described him as "personable" and interested in Baptist concerns. During the visit, Carneado announced he had signed authorization for the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba to purchase two vehicles. Romo interpreted the decision as a major step toward improved relations between Baptists and the Cuban government.

During talks with the Cuban official, Carneado indicated he was "seeking normal relations with Cuban Baptists in keeping with the law of the land." Both Romo and Palmer noted the atmosphere was more relaxed than during their 1978 visit.

Romo and Palmer also visited a government-sponsored hospital and a genetic cattle breeding project, both of which used the latest technologies. Both men added the economy appeared much improved over their 1978 visit, noting more cars, new buses and surplus food.

The two Southern Baptist leaders also noted Cuban Baptists were rebuilding the foundation of Baptist work on the island left shaky by the exodus of many Cubans during the early and mid-1960s.

"All of the 110 churches, missions and chapels are open and functioning," said Palmer. Romo added "reports indicate Cuban Baptists are providing an effective witness in their context. Baptists are using every opportunity open to them to preach and witness."

Palmer said, though they are unable to use "all the mechanisms (Southern Baptists) use, Cuban Baptists are finding many ways within their context to provide a witness."

Though they did not see all areas of the island, both men observed no evidence of persecution of either the churches as a whole or individuals. During their stay government officials placed no restrictions on their movements.

Romo and Palmer reported the Baptist seminary in Havana had 13 students enrolled for classes, significant in light of the need for leaders for Baptist churches in western Cuba. Currently there are only 65 pastors to serve the 110 churches and missions.

Though differences exist among Cuban Baptists on how to relate to the pro-communist government, Baptists still cooperate among themselves, Romo and Palmer said.

Romo and Palmer received reports from Baptist leaders that churches were growing numerically and visits to two churches seem to verify the reports. A Monday evening service drew standing room only crowds to a church house that holds about 250 people; a Wednesday service attracted more than 800 Cubans to another Havana church.

The two men said a significant percentage (estimated at 30 to 35 percent) of the worshippers were older youths or young adults.

In meetings with Cuban Baptist leaders, Palmer and Romo encouraged them to "learn to live and minister in the light of their context."

"If they are going to take advantage of the opportunities which are open to them for ministry, they will need to change some of their methods," said Palmer. "They certainly do not need to compromise principles, but sometimes procedures can be changed in order to accomplish their goals."

But the two men stressed Cuban Baptists were in no way subject to the work of the SBC Home Mission Board. "We came to be with them as brothers," explained Romo. "They will have to make their own decisions as a convention. They are an indigenous convention and have no ties to the Home Mission Board. But we're available to counsel with them in areas they desire."

Palmer added, "Baptists can be proud of the fruit of our mission work in Cuba. It would be our hope Baptists in the United States would take advantage of opportunities for witnessing to the same measure that Cuban Baptists are taking advantage of their opportunities."

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Dallas SBC Housing Form
Deadline Set October 1

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
9/14/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The approximately 4,000 rooms reserved for the 1985 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, June 11-13, will be distributed in October.

Preference will be decided by postmark, beginning with Oct. 1. Forms received by the Dallas housing bureau prior to Oct. 1 will be treated as if they have an Oct. 4 postmark, according to Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. The Dallas convention bureau will distribute the rooms according to the policy approved by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hedquist also said the time of the postmark will not be a factor, "so there is no need to stay up an mail a form just after midnight—it won't make any difference."

The housing forms were mailed to the executive officers of the state conventions and fellowships affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. A form was also included in the September 1984, issue of The Baptist Program which is mailed to Southern Baptist pastors. Hotel names, prices and their location to the convention center are included on the form.

The forms should be mailed to: SBC Housing, Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1507 Pacific Avenue, Dallas, Texas, 75201.

The forms will not be opened until Oct. 15 to make sure all forms mailed Oct. 1 arrive.

Room availability and location in Dallas is much better than in Kansas City, Hedquist said, so the pressure on the convention housing block shouldn't be as severe. "Of course everyone won't be happy—we can't put 6,000 people in the headquarters hotel (the Dallas Hilton) but the travel agencies and the SBC agencies have gotten rooms in hotels outside the block so there shouldn't be as many people trying to get the block rooms," he said.

Dallas also has 23,000 rooms compared to Kansas City's 13,000.

Hedquist also said the shuttle bus system promises to be excellent (it is set up to handle more than 20,000 riders) and parking will be "readily available" with several thousand spaces reserved for the convention center events within four blocks.

There will be three changes in the way the housing applications are handled this year, all designed to "make it harder to beat the system" and grab large numbers of rooms, Hedquist said.

First, a room confirmation will be mailed only to an occupant of that room, "so one person can't send in 50 requests and get 50 rooms." Second, hotels will not make name changes in who is staying in a room without going back through the Dallas convention bureau.

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The third change, seemingly minor, actually eliminates one of the most subtle ways to beat the system, Hedquist explained.

In Kansas City, applications were stacked by first choice after being separated by postmark. That meant if you listed something other than the three closest hotels as your first choice you were practically uncontested—and people who didn't get their first choice might not get a room at all. In Dallas, the applications will be opened in order and if the person's first choice is filled he or she will be assigned second choice, etc.

Hedquist stressed that the SBC Executive Committee can not give rooms out—only the Dallas convention bureau can do that. "But we will be glad to try and help with any other problems which come up," he said. The address is Housing Information, SBC Executive Committee, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn., 37219.

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Commission Votes To Expand
Work On Contemporary Issues

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Baptist Press
9/14/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, has voted to sponsor a series of consultations and conferences in 1984-85 dealing with the issues of pornography, alcohol and other drugs, violence, economics and peace with justice.

The commission, in its annual session also honored Foy Valentine, who is in his 25th year as executive director of the agency, and approved an operating budget for 1984-85 of \$899,000. The budget includes \$729,800 in anticipated gifts from the Cooperative Program and allows for a four percent cost of living increase for the agency's staff.

The budget represents a slight decrease from the 1983-84 budget of \$907,000.

The commission also voted to expand ongoing efforts through development of resources for Southern Baptists on world hunger, Christian women's concerns, abortion and gambling.

Officer for 1984-85 will be: Charles R. Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, chairman; David C. George, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., vice-chairman, and Lynn P. Clayton, editor of The Baptist Message, Alexandria, La., secretary.

Outgoing commission chairman David C. Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., presented the Valentines with an engraved silver dish and announced the gift of a trip to China for the couple in appreciation for their 25 years of service. The trip will be paid for by private gifts from individuals.

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Context Of Community
Affects Church Growth

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Baptist Press
9/14/84

RIDGECREST, N.C.(BP)—The community in which a church is located can determine church growth, a metropolitan missions specialist told Baptist missions leaders at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Contextual factors of a community—age, race, socio-economic standing, lifestyle and family size—can be a restraint to church growth, according to Jere Allen, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's metropolitan missions department.

After polling 50 directors of missions, chosen at random, and surveying directors of missions gathered at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist conference centers, Allen named nine reasons churches grow: pastoral leadership; attitudinal change, especially in regard to growth; revitalization of existing programs, especially Sunday school;

Awareness and responsiveness to the needs of community members; spiritual renewal through prayer and the Holy Spirit; planning and goal setting; training and utilizing pr sent leadership; evangelistic outreach and visitation and an atmosphere of love, unity and fellowship.

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Canada Planning Group
Holds First Meeting

ATLANTA (BP)—An organizational meeting of the eight-member Canada Planning Group authorized by messengers to the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention was convened in Atlanta Sept. 12 by Chairman William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board.

The group includes two representatives each from the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, the Sunday School Board and the Radio and Television Commission.

Tanner said the thrust of the four-hour meeting was to identify initial actions needed to develop broad working relationships with Baptists in Canada. "We are seeking to develop expanded mutual support systems for reaching Canada for Christ," he added.

Tanner emphasized the major function of the group is to correlate the work of SBC agencies with Southern Baptist churches in Canada.

A meeting will be held with leaders with the Canadian Southern Baptist Conference as soon as it can be scheduled, Tanner said. Also planned is a meeting with state conventions related to Baptist work in Canada.

The planning group, which will meet again in late October, will present the first of 10 annual reports to the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas.

In addition to Tanner, the group includes: Gerald Palmer (HMB), Keith Parks and Don Kammerdiener (FMB), Lloyd Elder and Richard Kay (BSSB), and Jimmy Allen and Luke Williams (RTV).

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Interfaith Report Shows
Rise In Poverty Rate

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
9/14/84

WASHINGTON (BP)—The number of Americans living below the poverty line climbed 35 percent between 1979-1983 and the income gap between the nation's poorest and richest citizens has reached record levels according to a report released Sept. 12 by an interfaith organization.

In a 41-page report on the impact of federal policies since 1980 on low income Americans, the Interfaith Action for Economic Justice—a coalition of Protestant, Jewish, Catholic and hunger organizations—cited extensive data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Congressional Budget Office, the Internal Revenue Service, Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation and other respected sources to underscore its contention that federal policies have adversely affected low income Americans.

The report, prepared for the interfaith organization by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington-based non-profit research and analysis group, declared: "The proportion of Americans living in poverty is now higher than at any time since 1965."

The document was made public at a Capitol Hill press conference where former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and U.S. Civil Rights Commission Chairman Arthur Flemming told reporters, "I have long felt that the federal government not only has an obligation to remember the poor, but to act in their behalf."

Flemming, who now heads the Citizen's Commission on Civil Rights, described the report on the impact of federal policies on low income Americans as the best he has seen.

Focused primarily on federal policy impact since 1980, the report nonetheless documents that poverty levels and gaps in the "safety net" were increasing prior to that date.

Federal budget policies "were resulting in hardship even before the current Administration took office," the report states. "The federal budget actions taken since 1980, however, have substantially aggravated this situation."

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The report cites Census Bureau data showing that one in four American children under age six lives below the poverty line, now set at \$10,200 a year for a family of four. For black children, the figure is one out of two.

The report criticized a broad range of budget cuts in programs designed to provide food, housing, education, job training and health care for the nation's poor. "The budget reductions of the 1980s have been concentrated heavily on programs for poor people," the report states.

Citing a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) study, the report said programs targeted primarily at the poor were cut \$57 billion over a four-year period from fiscal 1982 through fiscal 1985. The CBO study showed low income programs were cut "more than twice as deeply" as social programs not concentrated on the poor.

"Overall," the report stated, "the low income programs bore nearly one-third of all cuts made anywhere in the federal government, even though they constitute less than one-tenth of the budget. No other part of the federal budget was cut so sharply."

The report also criticized the 1981 tax cuts which left families at the poverty level paying more taxes than such families at that level six years ago.

Using another CBO study, the report showed the combined effect of the 1981-1985 tax and budget policies would mean an average gain of \$8,000 per year for taxpayers with incomes over \$80,000. In contrast, those with incomes below \$10,000 suffer an average loss of \$1,100 each from 1983-1985.

Calling 1985 a "pivotal year" in U.S. budget and tax policy making, the report called for solutions to the massive federal budget deficits which would not slash programs to aid the needy.

Flemming praised the report at this point, saying the document makes clear it is possible for the nation to reduce the deficits and reduce poverty at the same time.

Rep. Bob Edgar, D-Penn., charged that government had been flunking the test which judges a society's moral fiber by the way it treats people who are less fortunate.

"The message of this report is both simple and disturbing," declared Edgar, a United Methodist minister. "Poverty is on a sharp increase in America and the current economic recovery is leaving many people behind."

Edgar said he was "outraged when I read this report—as I have been outraged by the policies of this Administration over the last three and one-half years. The results are in and the gaps in the safety net seem to resemble the Grand Canyon."

Edgar said the results noted in the report were "inevitable given the Administration's philosophy of seeking to correct the national economy by providing incentives for the wealthy while abandoning traditional commitments to the poor."

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Tennessee Court Delays
Church-PAC Hearing

Baptist Press
9/14/84

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—Prosecution of 13 churches which filed a lawsuit challenging a ruling they are "political action committees" has been delayed by an order issued Sept. 13.

The churches, nine of which are Southern Baptist, had been classified as political action committees because they spent as much as \$250 in defeating a liquor-by-the-drink referendum in Jackson, Tenn., Aug. 2.

Michael Cody, Tennessee attorney general, ruled Aug. 29 the churches were political action committees under state law and must file financial disclosure forms by Sept. 17 (48 days after the election).

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Sept. 10 the churches filed a class action lawsuit seeking a declaratory judgment that the Tennessee Campaign Financial Disclosure Act is "a serious violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which guarantees religious liberty and separation of church and state."

The churches also asked for a temporary injunction from filing disclosure statements until a hearing on the case could be held or until the Tennessee General Assembly meets in January. Several legislators have indicated churches were not intended to be included under the law.

On Sept. 13 an "agreed order" was signed by the churches' attorneys, by a representative of the attorney general, a state election coordinator and a chancellor. It states the churches will have 30 days after all court rulings and appeals have been exhausted before being required to file the statements or face prosecution.

In a statement, District Attorney Jerry Woodall said the state agreed to the injunction order "in an effort to allow the churches to litigate the constitutional implications raised by the Financial Disclosure Act of 1980, while preserving the sanctions available to the state under the act."

Since this is a class action lawsuit, the injunction order also prohibits the state from exercising the provision of the law against "other churches or similarly situated religious organizations" in the 26th Judicial Circuit of Tennessee until 30 days after the expiration of any appeal related to this case.

Political observers noted this ruling has significance because there will be several referenda on local election ballots this fall. Now churches and other religious organizations can be actively involved in voicing their convictions, attorneys said.

At its meeting Sept. 14, the executive board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention passed a resolution expressing its support of the stand.

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C-N

Cooperative Program Gifts
Up In August, Below Goal

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
9/14/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The 1983-84 unified operating budget for Southern Baptist Convention national agencies apparently will be under the goal by several million dollars.

The Cooperative Program, a voluntary plan where state conventions affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention send undesignated funds to be distributed to the national and worldwide mission and education programs of the convention, received \$8,715,871 in August, 4.15 percent ahead of August 1983.

That puts the yearly total of \$99,316,609--6.44 percent (\$6,011,343) ahead of the first 11 months of the 1982-83 fiscal year. But to fund the 1983-84 Cooperative Program basic operating budget of \$114.5 million receipts for September would have to be \$15.2 million.

The highest one-month receipts in the Cooperative Program's 59-year history was \$10.2 million in January 1984. September 1983 receipts were \$9,008,042.

A budget shortfall would hit Southern Baptist mission work hard. The Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., receives 50 percent of the Cooperative Program receipts so a \$6 million deficit translates into a \$3 million shortage for the SEC's overseas mission programs.

The Home Mission Board in Atlanta receives just under 20 percent, so a \$6 million shortfall would mean a \$1.2 million deficit.

The six Southern Baptist seminaries together receive just over 20 percent.

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Other agencies and their percentages are:

Radio and Television Commission, 4.2; Executive Committee, 1.4; Annuity Board, .80; Brotherhood Commission, .74; Christian Life Commission, .62; Education Commission, .37; Public Affairs Committee, .35; Stewardship Commission, .35; Historical Commission, .34; Southern Baptist Foundation, .21, and American Baptist Seminary, .19.

The agencies are not totally dependent on Cooperative Program distribution. The seminaries and the Foreign Mission Board have development funds of their own, the two mission boards have special emphasis offerings, and many agencies sell literature.

The Baptist Sunday School Board and the Woman's Missionary Union do not receive any Cooperative Program funds but are financed by literature sales.

Mississippi is the only state convention which is ranked in the top 10 in both total dollar gifts to the national Cooperative Program and percentage increase over 1983-84. Mississippi has contributed \$5,077,022, ninth in total contributions, and is eighth (9.24 percent) in percentage increase.

The top five conventions in percentage increase are: Kansas-Nebraska, 47.95; Colorado, 22.37; Hawaii, 18.95; Nevada, 15.66, and West Virginia, 14.83 percent. The top five dollar contributors are: Texas, \$17,575,013; Georgia, \$8,256,007; Florida, \$7,750,526; North Carolina, \$6,899,609, and Alabama, \$6,660,315.

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HMB-F

Successful Deaf Ministry
Utilizes Deaf Members

By Leisa A. Hammett

Baptist Press
9/14/84

AUSTIN, Texas (BP)--To share the gospel with the more than 15 million deaf people in America, Vesta Bice believes deaf people must be trained for effective leadership.

"We've always said let's serve (the deaf), let's help them. Now we're beginning to say let's provide programs where we let them serve," said Bice.

An only child of deaf parents, Bice remembers a time when deaf people were told they could not serve. She also recalls the social stigma which prevented her own father from fulltime Christian ministry. "We don't view deaf people as whole people," said Bice.

Now she is a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer. Deaf people, like other language groups, have their own culture.

Because of the differences between deaf and hearing worlds, a lack of understanding and communication on the part of hearing people results, she said.

"They (deaf people) are not walking around wishing they could hear. They do not see themselves as handicapped," she explained. "Deafness does not affect a person's mental capacities. But, it blocks them from achieving and getting all they want. They can easily cope with (deafness) if we let them."

Having deaf parents motivated Bice to work with the deaf. Before joining the Mission Service Corps, she was executive director of Texas Foundation on Deafness and director of deaf youth for First Baptist Church, Dallas.

After founding Reach Out to Texas Deaf (approximately 14,000 members), Bice became a Mission Service Corp volunteer to train deaf Texans for positions of leadership.

She is joined by seven other Mission Service Corp volunteers--five of whom are deaf. In two years the team has trained deaf individuals in two of seven targeted Texas regions.

By 1986, Bice anticipates two additional teams who will work nationwide.

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