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November 19, 1984

84-168

**More U.S. Aid Urged
For Ethiopian Famine**

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--A member of the House of Representatives' Select Committee on Hunger has urged the Reagan administration to take steps already authorized by Congress to bolster the United States' response to the famine in Ethiopia.

Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, the first member of Congress to visit Ethiopia in more than a year, told reporters at a Capitol Hill press conference the "misery and despair" he saw in the African nation is "beyond imagination."

Hall, who heads the International Task Force of the Select Committee on Hunger, praised efforts of private voluntary organizations at work in Ethiopia and said the U.S. government should do more.

Specifically, Hall called on President Reagan to use authority Congress granted under the Foreign Assistance Act to borrow up to \$50 million to purchase "non-food supplies" needed in the relief effort. "Sacks of grain and rice can save no lives sitting on loading docks or broken trucks since the relief effort needs truck tires, airplane tires and spare truck parts."

The Ohio congressman also said tents, blankets, well-drilling equipment and medical supplies are urgently needed.

In addition, Hall urged the administration to make greater use of Section 416 of the Agriculture Act which authorizes donations of surplus wheat and commodities. He also cited the U.S. government's four million metric ton wheat reserve, of which 300,000 metric tons are available for food emergencies.

In a related move, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., also urged Secretary of Agriculture John Block to release immediately the 300,000 metric tons of wheat available in the Emergency Food Reserve to aid famine relief efforts in Africa.

Hall noted the emergency food reserve has not been used since it was set up in 1980 and said the president "should without delay release this 300,000 tons."

"It is unconscionable people on the other side of the globe die of starvation while mountains of food--yes, literally mountains of food--pile up in our silos and warehouses."

Hall estimated Ethiopia will need 1.3 million metric tons of food during the next year but less than 25 percent of that amount has been delivered or pledged.

Expressing confidence in the U.S. political will to help the Ethiopians, Hall said, "Just give me an airplane to take the decision makers to see what I have seen and we'll get every penny we need."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Tennesseans Reject
New Women's Statement

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Messengers to the 110th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a mission partnership with the National Baptist Convention of Venezuela and adopted a record \$19,625,000 Cooperative Program goal, but declined to consider a resolution on the role of women in Baptist life.

A record registration of 1,714 messengers accepted the report of the resolutions committee to not bring back any of four resolutions submitted by messengers dealing with women's role. Instead, the committee reported that a resolution affirming the role of women, without any mention of ordination, passed by the 1983 state convention was adequate.

The convention approved a three-year relationship with Venezuelan Baptists, beginning in November 1985, upon completion of a five-year hunger and relief project with the Foreign Mission Board in Burkina Faso (Upper Volta).

In the past five years, more than 600 Tennesseans have gone to that western African nation to participate in water conservation, agricultural, public health, literacy and evangelistic projects.

The \$19,625,000 Cooperative Program mission giving goal is 7.24 percent higher than the \$18.3 million goal for the convention year just concluded.

The new Cooperative Program goal increased the percentage shared with the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program from 36.25 percent to 36.5 percent. This is the eighth consecutive year the percentage has been increased, after remaining at 33.33 percent for 16 years.

Resolutions passed by the convention expressed affirmation for all boards, institutions, commissions, agencies and auxiliaries of the Southern Baptist Convention and Tennessee Baptist Convention; opposed a proposed state lottery in Tennessee, and opposed a United States ambassador to the Vatican.

Another resolution affirmed in spirit and principle a proposal presented by former SBC President Franklin Paschall in a message to the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference dealing with the current SBC controversy.

Paschall's proposal was the SBC authorize "a committee which would include representatives of agencies and leaders of the conservative group who feel there has been a departure from what is commonly believed as expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message.

"The committee would report to the Southern Baptist Convention as soon as possible on specific ways to affect reconciliation, strengthen unity and equip us to meet the awesome challenge of today's world with the glorious gospel of Christ."

During the report of the resolutions committee, an attempt was made to bring one of the women's role resolutions out of the committee to the convention floor. This motion was defeated on a standing vote by a 4-1 ratio.

Jack May, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Memphis, was elected convention president.

The 1985 convention will meet Nov. 19-21 at First Baptist Church, Memphis.

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Paschall Wants Committee
To Facilitate SBC Peace

Baptist Press
11/19/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—H. Franklin Paschall, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has proposed a committee approach to end the current controversy in the denomination.

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Paschall's recommendation came in separate speeches at the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference in Nashville and the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Louisville.

Later in the week at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the messengers unanimously approved a resolution to affirm the spirit and the principle of the proposal.

Paschall suggested "the Southern Baptist Convention authorize the appointment of a committee which would include representatives of our agencies and leaders of the conservative group who feel there has been a departure from what is commonly believed among us as expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message. This committee would report to the Southern Baptist Convention as soon as possible on specific ways to affect reconciliation, strengthen unity, and equip us to meet the awesome challenge of today's world with the glorious gospel of Christ."

The latter part of Paschall's message dealt with the current atmosphere within the denomination. "In our day of division and an hour of hostility in the convention, it is imperative that every Southern Baptist seek to know and to have the mind of Christ."

Noting the convention has become politicized, polarized, and divided right down the middle, Paschall predicted, "A split or splintering is not only possible but inevitable unless we mend our ways.

"I know we can and I believe we will mend our ways," the retired pastor of Nashville's First Baptist Church added.

Stating he is a "conservative in theology" and that the Bible is "the Book of my life," Paschall noted he had refused to be a part of any faction in the convention. "I am identified with the Southern Baptist establishment, but I am also one of the grassroots people. It is therefore easy for me to understand from whence come the differing points of view."

Paschall emphasized the recommendation was his own idea. "I have met with no group in political caucus. I have no ax to grind."

He believes the Baptist Faith and Message is a good and acceptable basis for our fellowship and the solution to the convention's problems. "With this basis, let those who have sharp differences talk and pray until a way is found for us to be one people once more in faith and mission," Paschall explained.

"Then there would be no need to organize and to politicize before each annual session of the convention," he said. "Then we can have an open convention, letting the Lord lead us in all matters, including the election of the president, trusting one another to do what is right before God."

At the end of his messages Paschall invited conference attenders to kneel in prayer and to commit themselves to pray for the peace and healing of the convention.

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October Cooperative Program
Receipts Below Year Ago

Baptist Press
11/19/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—First month contributions to the 1984-85 national Cooperative Program, the unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, were slightly behind October 1983 figures.

Voluntarily gifts to the national and worldwide mission and education programs of the SBC from the 37 state conventions were \$8,603,213--\$35,042 less than a year ago. The fourth Sunday of the month was Oct. 28 which meant many contributions would not have worked their way from the local church, through the state conventions and to the national level until after the monthly books were closed.

A spot check of contributions in mid-November showed many states were up considerably.

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In the 10 previous Octobers, the first month in the SBC fiscal year, budget receipts had shown increases. In seven of those years, the increase had been in double digits. It was the sixth time in the past decade monthly income fell below the same figure from a year earlier.

In order to fund the 1984-85 basic operating budget of \$118 million, national Cooperative Program monthly receipts must average \$9,830,000. Spokesmen for the SBC Executive Committee pointed out accurate budget projections cannot be made on the basis of the first month.

The leading dollar contributors to the national Cooperative Program for the first month were: Texas, \$1,612,138; Florida, \$867,253; Georgia, \$752,725; Oklahoma, \$680,520, and North Carolina, \$504,396.

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National SBC Causes
Get 50-50 Florida Split

Baptist Press
11/19/84

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (BP)—Florida has become the first state convention in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention to officially channel one half of its undesignated Cooperative Program receipts to world missions through the national body.

Oklahoma Southern Baptists also approved a 50-50 split but voted after Florida.

The 1,954 officially registered messengers to the 123rd annual meeting adopted a \$17,608,544 basic Cooperative Program budget which means national SBC causes will receive \$8,804,277 if the budget is fully funded. A potential windfall of \$1,144,556 is included in a \$2,289,112 advance budget for receipts over and above the basic budget.

Last year Florida sent 49 percent of its receipts to the national Cooperative Program.

In other actions the messengers elected two former convention employees as officers for 1985. Bill Hickem, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Jacksonville and a former assistant executive director of the convention was elected as president. Max Cadenhead, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Naples and a former evangelism associate was elected first vice-president. Charles Suttle, a Jacksonville layman and member of the state board of missions was elected second vice-president.

Resolutions opposed the advertising, sale and use of alcohol as a beverage, casino gambling and a state lottery, abortion except in the case of a threat of death to the mother, pornography and drugs.

Messengers also set the second Sunday in July as World Hunger Relief Day and adopted Bold Mission Thrust priorities and goals through 1990. The priorities include the national Planned Growth in Giving goals which include increasing Cooperative Program percentage to national SBC causes to 51.5 percent.

Messengers approved articles of incorporation and bylaws for the Florida Baptist Witness, the official state Baptist news magazine. The action followed a statement by Witness chairman, Carroll Kendrick, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Orange Park, in answer to charges the commission had not dealt with criticism of the editor, Jack Brymer.

"Let me assure each of you that your commission is ready and willing to deal publicly on the floor of the convention with any matter left to our charge," Kendrick told the messengers. No questions were asked.

He said the commission had dealt thoroughly and completely with the rumors and found them to be false. The statement also said the commission was unanimous in support of the editor and reaction to the editor's leadership was overwhelming.

The 1985 meeting of Florida Baptist Convention will be held in Miami, Nov. 11-13.

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Ethiopian Hunger Offering
Taken At Northwest Convention

KELSO, Wash. (BP)—The 37th annual meeting of the Northwest Baptist Convention responded to the drought in Ethiopia and learned the past 24 months have seen new churches started at a record rate in Washington and Oregon, the two states in the convention.

Clint Ashley, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pullman, Wash., and immediate past vice-president, was elected president of the convention. Dan Sorenson, layman from Hall Boulevard Baptist Church of Tigard, Ore., was elected first vice-president, and Vernon Holliday, pastor of First Baptist Church, Klamath Falls, Ore., was named second vice-president.

Seventeen new churches were accepted into the NWBC. Combined with the 18 organized last year, this is the most SBC churches ever organized in a two-year period in the Northwest.

The 538 messengers also adopted a \$1,632,028 budget for 1985. Of this figure, 33 percent, the same as last year, will go toward national SBC causes.

The NWBC executive board brought a 10-point recommendation to the messengers establishing a receiving office in Canada for Cooperative Program and special offering funds and pledging the convention's full support as the Canadians seek to organize as a separate entity. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Resolutions encouraged every NWBC church to participate in the upcoming Planned Growth In Giving emphasis; asked churches to recognize their ministry to their staff's families, even as the staff ministers to the church, in light of the growing number of pastors being dismissed and again expressed the convention's support for the churches in Canada in their efforts to reach their nation for Christ.

A motion from the floor brought by Bob Stapp, pastor of Royal Oaks Baptist Church, Salem, Ore., also was approved by the messengers. The motion read: "In light of what we've been reading in Baptist Press and the other media with respect to biblical or theological positions, I move we call upon, through Baptist Press, those involved in such dialogue to exercise Christ-likeness in attitudes and actions and to use rhetoric to reflect that Christian charity and a desire for Spirit-led unity which Christ set forth."

During the last session of the convention, NWBC executive director-treasurer Cecil Sims relayed the concern expressed to him by an executive board member about the hunger situation in Ethiopia. He suggested an offering be taken which would be sent through SBC relief channels to those who needed to be fed. An offering of \$886 was collected.

Next year's NWBC meeting will be held in Yakino, Wash., Nov. 12-14.

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Abortion Policy OK'd
By South Carolinians

Baptist Press
11/19/84

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (BP)—After extended discussion, a majority of messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention voted to uphold an abortion policy which the trustees of the Baptist Hospital had unanimously recommended.

During the Nov. 13-14 annual meeting in Myrtle Beach Convention Center, the 2,300 registered messengers also adopted a 1985 Cooperative Program budget of \$19 million and elected a Greenville pastor as president.

Following debate which consumed much of the Wednesday afternoon session, messengers voted 758-565 to approve the abortion policy recommended by hospital trustees. The 1983 convention instructed hospital trustees to amend its policy to allow abortions only in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the mother is threatened.

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After studying the issue for months, trustees adopted a policy stopping short of that, saying "abortions are performed only, when in the professional judgement of the attending physician, they are medically necessary and comply with the staff regulation of the hospitals."

The policy emphasizes abortions are not performed at Baptist hospitals in Columbia and Easley for patient convenience. It also says the number of abortions and indications for abortions will be monitored monthly and every premature termination of pregnancy reviewed.

The \$19 million budget adopted by the convention reflected an increase of \$1 million over 1984. The money will be divided between the state and Southern Baptist Convention, with 61.68 percent staying in South Carolina and 38.32 percent going to SBC causes. Last year, 61.7 percent remained in South Carolina and 38.3 went to SBC causes.

The basic budget is \$16,750,000 with a bold mission challenge of \$2,250,000. The challenge portion will be split evenly between the state convention and the SBC.

Earl Crumpler, pastor of Edwards Road Baptist Church, Greenville, was elected president of the state convention, succeeding M.B. Morrow, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gaffney. George Dye, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Mill, was named first vice-president and Jimmie Harley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Florence, was named second vice-president.

In other convention action the messengers approved a variety of resolutions. The convention went on record:

--calling for the South Carolina legislature to enact stricter laws dealing with driving under the influence of alcohol.

--registering continuing opposition to the appointment of the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and asking South Carolina Baptist church members to express their disapproval on the appointment to elected officials.

--voicing opposition to legislation allowing the sale of alcoholic drinks on Sunday.

--asking Baptists to call on political representatives to stop cable television pornography.

--agreeing that the "matter of ordination of ministers be left to the local congregation."

The 1985 annual meeting will be Nov. 12-13 in Greenville Memorial Auditorium.

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South Carolina Group Sets Plan To 'Take Back' SBC

Baptist Press
11/19/84

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (BP)--Approximately 175 persons gathered at Ocean View Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach, S.C., heard the president of Southern Baptists' oldest seminary explain, "we want to take back what has been lost."

The statement, by Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Louisville, Ky., referred to gains in control of the Southern Baptist Convention by what Honeycutt called the "independent fundamentalist political party."

The SBC will convene in Dallas June 11-13 and Honeycutt urged Southern Baptists to "vote your conscience. Southern Baptists ought to do their duty and maintain their integrity."

Honeycutt, who earlier in the day had spoken at the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said, "Nearly everywhere I go people are concerned. Groups are springing up and people are asking, 'How can we stop this?'"

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He said he is "quite optimistic" the Dallas meeting can halt what he characterized as six years of "creating our own ruin as Southern Baptists."

"This is not a theological issue," he said, "but a political issue with theological overtones and as a political problem, it involves a political solution."

Honeycutt said he is ill at ease using political methods, but added, "I must be involved. Never before have I been involved in such a conflict and I don't want to be again."

He said he is also uncomfortable with political organizations on either side of the conflict. "We don't need an 'us'," he said, "anymore than we need 'them'".

Honeycutt said "our heritage as Southern Baptists is at stake." He also said the more conservative group is trying to "rewrite history."

"We have never been held together by a theological system," he said, "but rather by a way of doing evangelism, missions and education."

Referring to the Southern Baptist Convention's "tremendous sense of unity and diversity," he said, "We have something unique in Christianity."

A. Harold Cole, retired executive secretary-treasurer of the South Carolina convention, presided at the meeting.

Describing his 43 years in ministry as "a heavy investment in the Southern Baptist Convention," Cole said he never has known a crisis "of the serious dimension of today."

Cole said he had "prayed and been patient," but now it is time to "holler fire." Challenging Southern Baptists to "work within the frame work" of the SBC and to vote, he said, "I can no longer watch the convention be torn apart and changed."

David Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, said the "mainstream of Southern Baptist life has not been represented" at recent Southern Baptist Conventions. He pointed out only 446 of the state convention's 1700 plus churches had representatives at the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City and only nine had more than five messengers.

South Carolina attendance in Kansas City was 915, he said.

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Southern Baptists Send \$50,000
To Ethiopia, Study Ways To Help

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press
11/19/84

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists have sent \$50,000 to Ethiopia for famine relief and will send a team to explore other ways they can help alleviate hunger there.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board wired the money to help missionaries assist other evangelicals who are feeding about 10,000 people daily around Walata in southwestern Ethiopia. The money should help feed another 15,000 each day, said John Cheyne, the board's relief specialist.

Cheyne expects to leave Nov. 23 with one or two other staffers to help Ethiopia missionaries explore creative ways to help with famine relief in spite of a small mission staff and other limitations.

The Foreign Mission Board has spent more than \$3 million for African relief and development during 1984 and expects to spend another \$3 million during 1985 as Southern Baptists contribute the funds, said Cheyne. Most relief agencies are predicting the drought will continue next year, becoming even worse in some countries.

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About a fourth of the board's worldwide relief allocations this year—more than \$1.7 million—has gone for food distribution in African countries such as Mali, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

In recent years Southern Baptist church members have given about \$6 million a year for worldwide hunger and relief. Because they already had given to help such needs, the Foreign Mission Board was able to send the \$50,000 the same day missionaries requested it, said R. Keith Parks, board president.

Southern Baptists who give for hunger relief can be sure their money will be used for that because they've already given through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to provide the system of missionaries through which such relief can be administered, said Parks.

The Foreign Mission Board is far more than a relief agency, he said. Southern Baptist missionaries make a day-in, day-out commitment to live among a people, to offer spiritual and physical ministries which can help transform their lives.

Thirty to 70 Southern Baptists a day—torn by television reports of the Ethiopia famine—have been calling the Foreign Mission Board since the end of October asking how they can help. They have given more than \$5,700 designated for Ethiopian relief this year and much more for African relief. In addition, the Northwest Baptist Convention, in its annual meeting Nov. 13-15, took a special offering for Ethiopian relief, collecting \$886.

Ethiopia is suffering some of the worst famine in Africa, but more than 20 African nations are suffering critical food shortages this year. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization already has listed 11 countries where it expects food shortages next year and predicts that list will grow.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Ethiopia have been trying to find a way to minister to drought victims in the countryside for the past two months, said Davis Saunders, the board's director for Eastern and Southern Africa. Because the government in recent years has restricted their work to the area of Addis Ababa, the capital, they decided to cooperate with evangelicals already working in the southwest. Food is available to most people in Addis.

"Development must be a big part of what we do," said Saunders, who pointed out missionaries have been involved in development since beginning work in Ethiopia in 1967. Jerry Bedsole, a veterinarian, and Lynn Groce, an agriculturalist, help train Ethiopians in skills essential for feeding their country.

Southern Baptist personnel in Ethiopia include three missionary couples: Lynn and Suzanne Groce of Garden City, Mo., and Tampa, Fla., respectively; Jerry and Rosie Bedsole of Thomaston, Ala., and Spitlog, Mo., and Troy and Jewell Waldron of Silver Spring, Md. Journeyman Mary Lou Jackson of Amsterdam, Mo., and special assignment worker John Lawrence of Minden, La., are also in Ethiopia. One other couple, Ray and Lauralee Lindholm, of Lemoore and San Luis Obispo, Calif., respectively, are on furlough in Dallas.

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Art Toalston To Join
Foreign Board News Staff

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11/19/84

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Art Toalston, co-news director at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will join the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's news and information services department as staff writer Jan. 2.

He fills a vacancy left when Bill Webb was elected editor of the Illinois Baptist.

Toalston, 34, was religion editor for more than five years at the Jackson (Miss.) Daily News before entering Southwestern seminary's master of arts in communications program in mid-1983. He became co-news director there in February and has continued his studies.

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Born and reared in Alliance, Ohio, Toalston received the bachelor of science in education degree from Bowling Green (Ohio) State University. He worked as staff writer for the Courier in Findlay, Ohio; regional editor for the Review Times in Fostoria, Ohio; and education and religion writer for the Middletown (Ohio) Journal before going to Jackson.

Toalston has also been a correspondent for Religious News Service and Christianity Today.

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

Petty Reelected
In Michigan

Baptist Press
11/19/84

WARREN, Mich. (BP)—Carl Petty, pastor of Westside Baptist Church, Flushing, was unanimously reelected to a second term as the president of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

Rochelle Davis, pastor of the Temple of Faith Baptist Church, Detroit, was elected first vice-president, and Leo Evans, pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Lansing, was reelected second vice-president. Davis, a black pastor, will be chairman of the executive committee of the state executive board.

Some 48 new church-type chapels have come into existence since the convention last met and 10 mission chaples were constituted into churches during the year. There are now 207 churches affiliated with the state convention.

During the 27th annual meeting, a budget of \$2,420,742 was adopted of which \$982,588 will come from the congregations. Other major sources are the Home Mission Board with a supplement of \$1,019,721 and the Baptist Sunday School Board with a supplement of \$44,010.

The convention voted to give 27 percent of its undesignated funds to world missions through the Cooperative Program, a one-half percent increase—the 14th year in which a one-half percent increase was made.

The convention also adopted a recommended new church annuity plan to become effective January 1988.

The convention, through a resolution, affirmed opposition to abortion on demand.

The 1985 meeting will be at Monroe Missionary Baptist Church in Monroe, Nov. 12-14.

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