



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. Hasty, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

December 11, 1984

84-178

SEC Squabbles Hurt
Us, Say Missionaries

By Karen Benson

WACO, Texas (BP)—Zero budgeting. No additional missionaries. No additional workers.

When Southern Baptist missionaries Al and Peggy Cummins on the mission field in Nakuru, Kenya, kept getting those advisories from the Foreign Mission Board, they were confused. When their salaries were adjusted downward three times in one year they were hurt.

When they returned to the United States on furlough earlier this year and found out about the fussing and bickering in the Southern Baptist Convention and the cutbacks in Cooperative Program giving, they became angry.

On the mission field, the Cumminses didn't understand what was happening within the convention back home. "We really didn't have any inside information," Cummins said. "But I hadn't been home a week until I began to hear the charges of churches withholding Cooperative Program money. You know, that's the lifeway of doing things."

Cummins said he finds it "very unusual that when there have been real attempts by someone to stop the flow of Cooperative Program dollars, I haven't seen anyone else hurt but us—and we have been hurt," he pointed out.

Now, he said he feels just like the old saying that "the ones we love the most, we hurt the most."

Said Cummins, "I know there's not a one of those folks out there that would deliberately do this to hurt us. But somehow they've got it in their heads that they're going to hurt a seminary, or a college. But you know, those places have got millions of dollars. The only ones I've seen so far that have been cut up have been those that are out there trying to do the work of the Lord on the field."

The very thing that pulls Southern Baptists together is mission causes around the world, Mrs. Cummins said. "That cements our relationships, and yet it's the very thing that's suffering by all this bickering. That's very hard to take. You've got your own problems in adjusting your life and trying to solve your own convention problems abroad, and then you've got this underlying insecurity from home. It makes it hard."

The uncertainty and uneasiness within the SBC is leading to discouragement among missionaries throughout the world, Cummins said. "It kind of gives you second thoughts about getting ready to go back overseas, 10,000 miles away from home knowing that there are those who would love to see us go under, simply because of the way they're withholding their money."

The cutbacks may eventually have an impact on other SBC agencies and institutions, Cummins said, "but I'll tell you who's going to go first—it's going to be us."

What makes the situation even worse is that missionaries from other denominations have long envied the Southern Baptists for the way that the denomination supports its missionaries—and that image is in danger of crumbling, Mrs. Cummins said.

"We have the very best support out there of any other denomination in the world. We don't have to spend our time begging for money, because it's there. Everyone is envious." But now, "for us to throw that away is unbelievable to me, nearly ungodly," Cummins said. "I know of so many other missionaries who would love to come under our system."

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The only way for Southern Baptists to reverse this current trend, Cummins said, is for individual Baptists to become involved in mission causes and to care personally about physically and spiritually hungry world.

"I'm astounded at Christianity at times, especially during this very difficult time in the world," Cummins said. "We've got 40,000 people dying a day, and yet the most important thing we've got going over here is fussing. You know, God Almighty is going to hold us accountable for this like we've never seen before. I'm surprised God hasn't settled this already.

"When you have an issue this tremendous, of life and death to so many people, and when there is so much shouting and tumult going on over here so that you can't hear the cries, then Satan has won."

The Cumminses, missionaries-in-residence at Baylor University, plan to return to Kenya in early January. Cummins will assume new missionary duties as a human needs coordinator, supervising Foreign Mission Board projects in Kenya relating to food distribution, clean water supplies, preventive health care, and retraining and "retooling" Kenyans to minister the gospel.

But their overriding personal interest is in helping to alleviate world hunger--and making others aware of the seriousness of the world hunger problem.

"But sometimes we get so caught up in the millions and billions of dollars that we sort of forget that the little 50-cent pieces and dollar bills add up," Mrs. Cummins said. "Just 50 cents a day--the price of a Coke--would feed a person for a week. If just those few that are concerned about world hunger would say, 'Alright, I'll do without Cokes and give \$10 a month and just make those little kinds of sacrifices, then when the drought comes and we need \$75,000, all of those 50-cent pieces are going to be there."

But such concern has to become a lifestyle in order to be effective in the long term, Cummins said. "It has to begin with more than just somebody giving money. It has to begin with an understanding that we are accountable and responsible for what God has given us--little or great. God may give us a lot, or he may give us a little. The question is, how will we use it. Where it all starts is with understanding and recognizing that there is a problem."

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John Havlik
Dies After Surgery

Baptist Press
12/11/84

ATLANTA (BP)-- John F. Havlik, retired director of evangelism education and writing for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, died Dec. 10 of a heart attack following quintuple bypass surgery a week earlier.

Havlik, 67, had worked with the nation-wide Baptist mission board for 17 years before his retirement in March, 1982. Previously, he was director of evangelism for Baptist state conventions in Louisiana (1961-64) and Kansas (1956-61), and was adjunct professor of evangelism at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

He was pastor of Fair Park Baptist Church, Dallas; Baden Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.; East Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. and Beaumont Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., before becoming evangelism director of the Kansas Convention in 1956.

The native of Milwaukee, Wisc., was a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kan. Survivors include his wife, Anna Mae Havlik of Atlanta; a daughter, Mrs. Brenda Roach of Atlanta and two sisters and a brother in Oklahoma.

Services were scheduled at Patterson Cascade Hill Funeral Home, Atlanta, Dec. 13. The family requested contributions be made to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board hunger relief fund in lieu of flowers.

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Informed Baptist Students
Organized In Waco

By Karen Benson

WACO, Texas (BP)—Paul McCoury feels most high school and college-age Southern Baptists are ignorant about Southern Baptist history and heritage, about current denominational issues and about future goals of the convention.

McCoury, a senior religion and journalism major at Baylor University and executive director of the Informed Baptist Students, hopes the recently formed "independent grass-roots information movement" will change things.

The group plans to distribute information to Southern Baptist youth providing factual information about Southern Baptists. Even if nothing else is communicated, IBS is devoted to informing students about Southern Baptists' long-term beliefs in the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church, and the separation of church and state, he said.

IBS student leaders are encouraging fellow students to consider becoming messengers from their local churches to the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas in June 1985. Their goal is to have 500 registered messengers who are college or seminary students.

During the convention, IBS will offer daily meetings geared for college-age messengers and student observers. The meetings will be held at Gaston Avenue Baptist Church in Dallas and will be "open meetings where we will present the items to be voted upon that day," McCoury said. "We will represent all candidates and all points of view."

Topical issues also will be discussed at the meetings, such as religious liberty, the priesthood of the believer, local church autonomy and individual involvement in the Cooperative Program. Guest speakers who already have committed to address these issues include James Sullivan, former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; Bob Maddox, newly elected executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State; and Chester Swor, Christian author and speaker.

Formed just a few months ago, IBS now has a newsletter mailing list of more than 1,500. Its 15-member board of directors represents such colleges as Hardin-Simmons University, Oklahoma Baptist University, East Texas Baptist University, Houston Baptist University and state colleges in Colorado, Texas and California.

By February, IBS expects to have chapters established on every Southern Baptist school in Texas. Plans are to branch out across the country from there.

McCoury emphasizes the organization is not affiliated or aligned with any "political faction" within the SBC. In fact, some of the IBS officers are on "opposite ends of the denominational spectrum," McCoury said. "Sometimes our 15-minute officer meetings turn into three-hour sessions," he said.

During the organizational stages, the IBS student leaders have consulted with adult leaders from both sides of the denominational controversy, McCoury said. "We recognize that we are young, inexperienced students who are striving to educate ourselves in our personal discipleship and involvement in local Southern Baptist churches," he said.

"We realize the importance of consulting with older and wiser Christian servants—ministers, Baptist Student Union directors and denominational leaders. But we do not want to present a particular side on any specific issue."

IBS student leaders have visited with Houston Judge Paul Pressler; Baylor President Herbert Reynolds; William Rogers, dean of the School of Christian Education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and James Landes, former executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas who is distinguished visiting professor of religion at Baylor; among many others.

"Our generation of students is suffering from the syndrome of expecting simple answers to complex questions," McCoury said. "Many students are blindly following statements made by denominational leaders without personal contemplation and prayer."

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Since college and seminary students are the "future leaders of the SBC," it is imperative they become much more knowledgeable about Southern Baptists, he said.

McCoury is excited about the role young Southern Baptists can play in the denomination. "The younger generation does, indeed, have a message of unity brought about by Christlike love. The young should have a voice in denominational policies," he said. "We don't have all the answers, but we have a cause."

IBS headquarters is located in Waco, Texas. Mailing address is: P.O. Box 6231, Waco, Texas, 76706. Phone number is (817) 752-3322.

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Scriptures Ordered
For Distribution

Baptist Press
12/11/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Southern Baptist dream of mass Scripture distribution is taking a giant step toward reality with the production of five million New Testaments.

Holman Bible Publishers, a division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, placed the order for printing with Kingsport Press, Kingsport, Tenn., for two million King James, two million New American Standard and one million Spanish New Testaments.

The printing of five million Good News America New Testaments is the largest single order ever undertaken by Kingsport Press, which is the world's largest printer of Bibles.

To acquaint Southern Baptists with the New Testaments, a free copy is being mailed to every pastor in the Southern Baptist Convention to Johnnie Godwin, director of Holman.

Godwin said Holman has worked closely with the Sunday school and church training departments of the board, Home Mission Board and state convention leaders to make the Good News America New Testaments available for the Oct. 20-26, 1985, Scripture distribution and prospect discovery. The Scripture distribution is in preparation for national simultaneous revivals planned for the spring of 1986.

Officials of Kingsport Press reported the printing will take more than 25,000 pounds of ink and enough paper to fill 62 tractor-trailers. There will be 19,000 miles of paper used, which represents approximately 26,000 trees an average size of eight inches in diameter.

Printing the New Testaments will require the press to run for 82 days, 24 hours per day. An average of 2,600 of the Good News America New Testaments are printed every hour the press runs, which equals approximately 44 per minute. Printing started around the first of November and is expected to conclude in mid-January.

Godwin said the New Testaments will be made available by Holman at cost for churches beginning in January by ordering from the materials services department of the Sunday School Board. Quantities will be monitored carefully by Holman and additional copies will be printed when supplies are low.

In another Southern Baptist mass Scripture distribution project in the spring of 1984, churches in the Baptist General Convention of Texas gave away 1.1 million New Testaments published by Holman.

Ordering information for the Good News America New Testaments was included with the free copy to pastors or may be obtained from the Sunday School Board.

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

CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Elder Urges Recommitment To Bold Mission Thrust," mailed 12/7/84, in ninth paragraph the four year increase in Church training nrollment should be 235,000--not 35,000 as sent.

Thanks, Baptist Press

Troubled World Needs
Christmas Message

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--In "tragic contrast" to the Christmas tidings of "peace on earth," Christmas 1984 comes on the eve of "a ghastly milestone in humanity's pursuit of the Biblical ideal of peace," noted Foy Valentine.

The executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission pointed out in 1985 the nations of the world will establish a new record in annual military spending, surpassing for the first time the one trillion dollar mark.

About 75 percent of the trillion dollars will be spent by the United States and the Soviet Union, together with their major allies.

In 1970 the global spending level on arms was approximately \$270 billion. Since then, however, the rate of military spending in the world's 28 "developed nations" has increased about five percent annually after inflation is eliminated.

"This unconscionable arms race consumes an enormous amount of our world's limited resources and imposes a tremendous burden on our economies," Valentine said.

"The nations are inexorably destroying each other, even if the weapons we build and set in place are never used. Money spent for bombs and missiles and submarines and warships and military airplanes cannot be spent to relieve the starving in Ethiopia, support food production in India, undergird economic development in Central America or develop better public education, health delivery systems, housing and criminal justice at home."

Valentine, who was recently in the Soviet Union at the invitation of Russian Baptists, pointed out in 1982 the U.S. devoted 6.4 percent of its gross national product for military spending and the U.S.S.R. spent about 15 percent of a much smaller gross national product for military purposes.

He also noted "the tragic irony" that more than 40 percent of the \$36.5 billion in arms sold or given by the United States to other nations in 1982 went to the Middle East, "the region where the Prince of Peace was born almost 2,000 years ago."

"Nothing could be more in keeping with the spirit of Christmas and the flame of hope kindled by the birth of our Savior than for Christians to recommit ourselves to pray fervently and to work faithfully for peace with justice," he concluded.

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Canadian Pastors Plea For Help In Evangelism," mailed 12/7/84 please delete 10th paragraph as sent and substitute the following:

Phillip Yung, pastor of Good News Baptist Church, told the group 46 percent of the two million people in the association are of ethnic and/or language background, and five percent do not understand English. Vancouver Chinese Baptist Church, the largest Southern Baptist congregation in the association with 350 members, includes members from 10 nations.

Also, in 13th and 14th paragraph, please change the spelling of Bartow to Barteaux.

Thanks,
Baptist Press
