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## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 29, 1985

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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Nashville, Tennessee

85-88

Coup Topples Ugandan Leader;  
Baptist Missionaries In Kenya

**MOMBASA, Kenya (BP)**--Southern Baptist missionaries to Uganda were in neighboring Kenya for a meeting when Ugandan President Milton Obote was overthrown in a coup July 27.

Whether or not missionaries will return to Uganda will depend on the stability of the new government, said John Faulkner, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's associate director for eastern and southern Africa.

Twenty-one missionaries and their families, three journeymen and a volunteer were in Mombasa, Kenya, for the annual meeting of Uganda missionaries when they got word July 26 the American Embassy had asked all Americans to leave Uganda because of fighting, said Faulkner.

Obote's civilian government was overthrown the next day after a month of tribal infighting within the Ugandan army. Military officers who seized power announced they had suspended the constitution and closed the borders but would hold free elections.

The missionaries felt God's timing had protected them, said missionary Rob Norman from Lawndale, N.C., in a phone interview July 29. The mission meeting originally was scheduled earlier, which would have placed most of the missionaries in Uganda when the coup came.

Though they were glad they were out of the country during the coup, they feared Ugandan friends might be caught in the fighting, Norman said, and tears were shed for them. Missionaries Walter and Billie Allen, stationed in Lira, Obote's hometown, were especially concerned about what might happen to their friends there. The Allens are from Wylie and Venus, Texas, respectively.

Norman said they had heard of no missionaries seriously injured in violence that accompanied the coup. But they have heard of much looting, especially in the downtown section where the Baptist bookstore and offices are located.

Brig. Basilio Olara Okello, who led the coup, was second in command of the force that toppled dictator Idi Amin in 1979, setting the stage for Obote's return to power in national elections. Obote had been overthrown by Amin in a 1971 coup.

Most churches, including Baptists, were banned by Amin, but two Southern Baptist missionary couples were allowed to stay in the country and operate a Bible correspondence school. When Amin was ousted, churches were allowed to reopen and the Southern Baptist missionary force grew rapidly.

The missionaries are staying in Kenya until they have further word on conditions in Uganda.

Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Uganda include, from Arizona, John Dina, journeyman from Phoenix, and John Stone, volunteer from Hereford; from Arkansas, Conley and Kaye Williams, Springdale, and Boyd Pelley, journeyman from Mena. From Florida, Kay (Mrs. Paul) Eaton, Clearwater (the Eatons are scheduled to begin furlough Aug. 3 in Inverness, Fla.), and Richard Goodgame, Clearwater (the Goodgames are on furlough in Houston).

From Minnesota, David and Darlene Sorley, Minneapolis; from New Mexico, Paul Eaton, Farmington; from North Carolina, Robert and Mickie Norman, Lawndale and Lincolnton, respectively;

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From Ohio, Larry and Sharon Pumpelly, Newark and Cuyahoga Falls (the Pumpellys are on furlough in Powell, Ohio), and Jack Frost, Chillicothe (appointed in May and not on the field yet).

From South Carolina, George and Doris Berry, Saluda and Traveler's Rest, and Robert and Barbara Hunter, Greenville and Piedmont. From Texas, Walter and Billie Allen, Wylie and Venus; Harry and Doris Garvin, Cisco and Hamby; Susan (Mrs. Richard) Goodgame, Houston, and Jimmie and Peggy Hooten, Iowa Park and Dallas. From Virginia, Jim and Linda Rice, Christiansburg.

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Cooperative Program Income  
Up \$7.5 Million Over Last Year

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press  
7/29/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—At the end of the third quarter voluntary contributions through the Cooperative Program, the national unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, are running more than \$7.5 million ahead of the previous fiscal year.

October 1984 through June 1985 contributions through the national Cooperative Program were \$88,134,621—a 9.39 percent increase over the October 1983-June 1984 figure of \$80,569,759.

"The continued growth and strength of the Cooperative Program is meaningful in that it translates into continued growth and strength in the programs Southern Baptists have created to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the entire world," Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said.

The 1984-85 basic operating budget of \$118 million funds the work of 20 Southern Baptist Convention agencies—and almost 70 percent of that amount goes to foreign and home missions and more than 20 percent to the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Unlike last year, when income was \$5.56 million short of the basic budget of \$114.5 million, the prospects for meeting the 1984-85 basic budget are good.

After 75 percent of the fiscal year, receipts are at 74.69 percent of the total. And for each of the past five years the last quarter income has been higher than the third quarter. Last year, for instance, contributions the last three months were \$1,653,373 above third quarter receipts.

"Southern Baptists continue to say spreading the gospel is primary and they are willing to reach into their pockets and pay the bills," Bennett said. "The impact of 36,500 autonomous churches pooling resources through the Cooperative Program provides a daily response to the New Testament challenge of 'How can they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?' (Romans 10:14-15).

"We are sending missionaries and training preachers at an escalating rate—but we are very aware that the needs of world that is needy both spiritually and physically is also escalating. I'm confident Southern Baptists will continue to respond to the challenge with their lives and with their resources. I commend our churches and the state convention leaders."

Fifteen of the 37 state conventions affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention have increased their gifts through the Cooperative Program by more than \$100,000 over last year and two conventions—Georgia and Texas—are more than \$1 million ahead of a year ago.

Georgia, always a major contributor, has sent \$7,959,030 since last Oct. 1—an increase of 31.36 percent and a dollar increase of \$1,900,164. Texas, which is up 7.85 percent, has increased \$1,126,862 to a nine-month total of \$15,472,125.

Other conventions with significant dollar increases are: Alabama, \$444,761 (8.11 percent); Arkansas, \$355,085 (11.99 percent); Florida, \$859,774 (13.59 percent); Illinois, \$235,371 (19.79 percent); Kentucky, \$289,692 (8.16 percent); Louisiana, \$237,100 (6.29 percent);

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Mississippi, \$156,960 (3.81); Missouri, \$110,879 (3.45); North Carolina, \$357,746 (6.32); Oklahoma, \$362,889 (6.72); South Carolina, \$336,943 (7.38); Tennessee, \$448,143 (9.31), and Virginia, \$226,140 (6.55).

Though the dollar figures aren't as impressive, the percentage increase among the newer Southern Baptist state conventions are noteworthy—including Wyoming which increased its gifts 205.99 percent (from \$13,951 to \$42,689) and New England which is up 86.34 percent (from \$25,183 to \$46,927).

"One of the exciting threads in the fabric of the Cooperative Program is that the \$15,000 Southern Baptist churches in Iowa have given this year is added to the \$15 million from Texas Baptists and with all the other gifts—big and small—from across the United States. Our mission and education programs are as much an extension of SBC churches in Maine and Oregon and South Dakota as they are of our churches in Georgia and Florida and Tennessee," Bennett said.

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Former SBC President  
J.D. Grey Dies At 77

Baptist Press  
7/29/85

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—J.D. Grey, 77, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, died July 26 in Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans after a long illness.

Grey, pastor-emeritus of First Baptist Church of New Orleans, was president of the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination 1951-52. At the time of his election, he was the youngest man to have held the presidency.

His wife of 57 years, Lillian, died in February.

Grey was pastor of the New Orleans church from 1937 until his retirement in 1972. During his tenure, the church grew from 1,500 members to more than 4,000 and increased contribution from \$26,000 to \$650,000.

He also had been president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, a director of Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, and held many civic posts in the Louisiana city. A biography, "Saint J.D.", was published in 1969.

Grey was born in Princeton, Ky. He was named only by the initials J.D., but later adopted James David as his name. He was a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned a master of theology degree in 1932.

Prior to assuming the pastorate of the New Orleans church, Grey was pastor of student churches in Tennessee and Texas and First Baptist Church of Denton, Texas.

He is survived by twin daughters, Mary Beth and Martha Ann, and three grandsons.

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K. Owen White Dies  
In Tucson At Age 83

Baptist Press  
7/29/85

TUCSON, Ariz. (BP)—K. Owen White, president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963-64, died in Tucson July 12. He was 83.

White, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, for 12 years, was elected president of the SBC six months after being elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and held both posts simultaneously.

He was elected to the SBC position as a champion of those opposing a perceived liberal drift in the convention's seminaries.

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In 1962 he branded a book written by then-Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City professor Ralph Elliott as "poison that can lead to confusion, unbelief, deterioration and ultimate disintegration" of the Baptist faith.

The book, The Message of Genesis, said that some stories in the first book of the Bible could be interpreted as symbolic and not literal truth. That same year, White introduced a resolution at the SBC convention censuring the teaching of the book. The resolution was adopted and Elliott later left the seminary faculty.

Controversy in his church followed his election as SBC president.

Just days after his election a black student requested membership at FBC, Houston. After a private conference White, who as early as 1957 had taken public stances in favor of peaceful integration of public schools in Texas, recommended the request be denied because, "his motivations for requesting membership were not what they should have been."

An ad in a Houston newspaper announced FBC, Houston, had been selected because White was president of the SBC. The Houston chapter of the Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE) picketed the church for awhile, attracting national news coverage.

In 1965, shortly after the church voted 206-182 for a policy barring black members, White announced his resignation to become metropolitan missions coordinator for Southern Baptist work in the Los Angeles area.

He said the vote was not a factor in his decision but was disappointed by the action, stating publicly he felt the vote did not "reflect the true spirit of the church. It expresses the politicking of a few who were negative on the question."

He retired from the California post in 1968.

White was born in 1902 in London, England and moved with his family to British Columbia in 1907. Raised a Methodist, he entered the Bible institute of Los Angeles in 1921 and became a Baptist. Later he graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He was pastor of churches in California; Washington, D.C.; Texas; Arkansas and Georgia.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. K. Owen White of Tucson, who is seriously ill.

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Baylor Trustees Select Hillis  
As Executive Vice-President

Baptist Press  
7/29/85

WACO, Texas (BP)--Baylor University trustees appointed William D. Hillis as executive vice-president, selected a building contractor for the \$12 million special events center and heard a report that freshman applications for the fall semester are up more than 21 percent from last year.

The action came during the trustees' July 19 meeting on campus.

Hillis' appointment is effective Aug. 15. He fills a position left vacant by Reynolds when he became president. Hillis is a medical doctor whose research led to the first vaccine against hepatitis.

He has been president of the board of trustees of The Baptist Home of Maryland, president of the Baptist Convention of Maryland and a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He resigned from the SBC Executive Committee in August 1981 when he became professor of biology and chairman of the biology department. At the time, he held joint teaching appointments at the School of Medicine and the School of Hygiene and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. In 1985 he was named to the Cornelia M. Smith Professorship of Biology, an endowed professorship.

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A 1953 Baylor graduate with a bachelor of science degree, Hillis has a doctor of medicine degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he also received postgraduate training and did his internship and residency work.

H.A. Lott Inc. of Houston was named general contractor for the special events center. The firm was general contractor for the Astrodome, The Summit and Hofheinz Pavillion in Houston, among many other Texas-area convention centers.



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