



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

OCT 8 1985

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(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, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201-3355, Telephone (214) 720-0550
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. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

October 8, 1985

85-122

**Israeli Commission Counters
Plan To Replace Burned Church**

JERUSALEM (BP)--Three years after the Narkis Street Baptist Church was destroyed by arsonists, the congregation has learned its rebuilding plans have been rejected by a regional development commission.

However, the commission reportedly will allow a 60-seat worship center--equivalent to the one gutted Oct. 7, 1982--and other improvements at the site.

The 300-member congregation had been seeking permission to build an up-to-date facility encompassing a 400-seat auditorium, several Sunday school rooms and office space.

According to a statement issued by the church's pastor, Robert Lindsey, "Members of the district planning commission have privately reported that after a stormy session three members voted to grant the approval as requested (by the congregation) and six others voted to deny (it)."

Formal notice of the commission's decision has not been received, said Lindsey, a Southern Baptist representative to Israel since 1944.

"We have to accept and forgive those who voted against the church's (rebuilding) plans," Brad Young, a Southern Baptist living in Israel, exhorted fellow church members in an Oct. 5 service.

Young, referring to the arsonists, also said, "We have to love the people who persecute us."

He urged a response to the commission's decision be formulated, expressing the church's opposition but maintaining the integrity of its Christian stance.

Young expressed "confidence that God is working and all will work out for good."

At the close of the service, worshipers moved from a tent-like structure, where services have been held since the fire, to the remains of the chapel. They read a section from the Old Testament, Haggai 2:1-9. Lindsey said verse 9 is of particular encouragement to the congregation, "The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house."

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee**

"We feel God wants us to rebuild," Lindsey said.

The church's proposed replacement of its former chapel, which was built in 1933, would have cost \$1 million. Already, \$500,000 has been contributed by groups, congregations and individuals in numerous countries, including many in the United States.

Lindsey said the congregation hired a well-known Jerusalem architect, Zev Baran, to draw up rebuilding plans. Approval from the city of Jerusalem came last fall and "most of the officials were extremely helpful," the pastor said. But the plans have been bogged down in the regional development commission since November 1984.

Slowing down the process has been opposition from Y'ad L'achim, a conservative Jewish organization antagonistic toward Christianity. Prior to a commission hearing earlier this year, Y'ad L'achim organized a protest in front of the church Jan. 23, promoting it with posters throughout Jerusalem. About 100 people, including women, children and teen-agers, participated.

Congress Fails To Hike
Tax On Beer And Wine

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--An Oct. 1 increase in federal alcohol excise taxes is "grossly inadequate," according to a Southern Baptist ethicist who has called for significant increases in alcohol taxes.

Foy Valentine, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said the 19 percent increase solely on distilled spirits represents "only token action when dramatic initiatives are required to deal with the unacceptable budget deficit and to help reduce our country's epidemic problem of alcohol abuse."

The National Alcohol Tax Coalition (NATC) has proposed major increases in the excise tax and the equalization of the tax rate for all forms of alcoholic beverages, recommendations strongly endorsed by Valentine, whose agency deals with alcohol-related issues.

With the 19 percent increase on distilled spirits, the liquor tax, adjusted for alcohol content, will be 17 times the tax on table wine and four times the tax on beer. Even doubling the tax on liquor would only restore federal liquor taxes approximately to their 1974 level, according to a study by the NATC.

Until Oct. 1, the alcohol excise tax had not been increased since 1951. In the meantime, the report said, the value of the alcohol tax dollar has shrunk by 75 percent, depriving the Treasury of billions of dollars.

Federal taxes now amount to less than three cents on a can of beer and less than a penny on a glass of wine. Increases proposed by NATC would raise the taxes to about 23 cents per serving.

Supporters of the proposals argue such actions could help cut the federal budget deficit by bringing in more than \$10 billion a year in new revenue. They also believe the proposals would reduce drinking--and drinking-related problems--especially among teenagers.

Like Valentine, NATC spokesman George Hacker described the Oct. 1 hike in the liquor tax as "too little, too late."

"From either a deficit-reduction or health-policy perspective," the increase "is like trying to empty an Olympic-size pool with a shot-glass," Hacker said. "For 34 years Congress ignored alcohol taxes, allowing inflation to erode them to one-quarter of their 1951 value. Now, when billions are needed to stem economy-strangling deficits, Congress settles for a liquor tax increase that will have only minimal revenue effect."

Hacker added, however, the battle is "far from over." Raising alcohol taxes and eliminating the disparity between the tax rates on liquor and beer and wine remains an issue the NATC hopes will be discussed in the debates over deficit reduction and tax reform, he said.

Valentine urged Southern Baptists to express their views to elected representatives on two key committees, the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. "Support of these measures can literally save lives as well as billions of dollars," he said. "We must be diligent in our efforts to stem the tide of alcohol abuse."

--30--

Missions Retirees Experienced
Milestones, Humor, Rewards

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
10/8/85

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Mail was carried in a backpack to Stockwell and Darlyne Sears in remote Indonesia years ago. "We were at the ends of the earth...but we found God was there to greet us," Sears recounted in a service honoring 36 retiring Southern Baptist foreign missionaries.

The Seares, now of Rosenberg, Texas, were among the first missionaries who, in 1951, opened Southern Baptist evangelistic work in Indonesia.

--more--

Numerous milestones, rewarding experiences and humorous instances from the missionaries' 1,202 total years of work were mentioned during the Oct. 7 service in Richmond.

Sears, for example, was a missionary to China, as was his aunt, Mary Sears Connely, and his grandfather, George Sears. Sears was among about 200 Southern Baptist missionaries who left the country when the communist government came to power. Other new retirees who also worked in China are Mildred Lovegren, now of Gaston, Ore., and Ruby Wheat of Wichita Falls, Texas.

Lovegren, who later did student and social work in Hong Kong and Macao, told of a return trip to China in June 1983 and said, "Thousands of churches in China are open again. The Lord God who opened those churches can also keep them open."

Wheat, who later worked in Pusan, Korea, was made an honorary citizen of the city and given a solid gold key in January 1984 for her 30 years of nursing and administrative work at the Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital there.

Another emeritus couple, Alvin and Doris Spencer, now of Charlotte, N.C., were the first Southern Baptist missionaries to begin evangelistic work in Okinawa in 1960. Juanita Harper, now of Corpus Christi, Texas, and her late husband, Wimpy, were Southern Baptists' first missionaries to Tanganyika, now Tanzania, in 1956. Her most recent place of service was Nairobi, Kenya.

Don and Vi Orr, who worked 34 years in Cali, Colombia, were the first music missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Orr, of Midland, Texas, noted the "miracles" that led to his missions service, such as his conversion to Christianity, surviving 203 bombing runs during World War II and the sense of call that struck him and his wife when they were students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "With this many miracles to get us to the mission field," Orr said, "you can imagine how many it took to keep us there."

"There were times," said Bryant Durham, now of Lithonia, Ga., "in which I wondered if I would ever make it to a retirement service." During civil strife in Nigeria in the late 1960s, for example, the missionary evangelist remained in the country while his wife, Ina, and their family returned to the United States for two years. The Durhams later worked in Upper Volta, now called Burkina Faso.

"We witnessed the birth of several nations as they moved from colonial status to independence" during their 34 years in Africa, Durham said. But more important, he said, was "the rebirth of dozens and dozens of people" from paganism or Islam.

Three generations of missions work in Brazil are connected with Edward and Lois Berry, now of Benton, Ark. His parents, William and Olga Anne Berry of Memphis, Tenn., worked in Brazil 41 years and his daughter, Laura Anne Spiegel and her husband, David, are missionaries there now. The new retirees worked in Brazil 32 years. He did mass media work, then religious education, while she was a teacher and mission treasurer and historian.

Another missionary to Brazil, David Mein, now of Valdosta, Ga., succeeded his late father, John Mein, as president of the North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary. David Mein also is a former president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

Mein's wife, Lou Demie, laughed in telling of a stray bullet that stung her three years ago and dropped into her open Bible while her husband was preaching on "How to Deal with Your Problems." The incident occurred during an outdoor meeting of a new congregation. The bullet didn't pierce her skin and must have flown a considerable distance.

Virginia Wingo, missionary to Italy who now lives in Pineville, La., was honored during the service even though she retired in 1982. "It just took me a long time packing," she quipped. The past three years, she has been associate pastor of a church near Turin, Italy. For 20 years, she directed a girls' school in Rome.

Other new retirees, their places of service and current residences are Tom and Mary Gullatt, Japan, Fairburn, Ga.; Hugo and Doris Parkman, Philippines, Decatur, Ga.; Victor Davis, Brazil, Richmond, Va.; Fred and Mariruth Hawkins, Brazil, Columbia, Tenn.;

John and Jean Poe, Brazil, Newton, N.C.; Jo Stover, Brazil, Green Acres, Fla.; John and Maurine McTyre, Chile, Tampa, Fla.; Antonina Canzoneri, Bahamas, Jackson, Miss.; E.V. and Frances May, Caribbean, Livingston, Texas; Morris and Joyce Wright, Caribbean Christian publications in El Paso, Texas, El Paso; Stella Austin, Nigeria, Lenoir, N.C.; and Logan and Ginny Atnip, Zimbabwe, Houston.

—30—

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

BJCPA Opposes Removal
Of Charitable Deductions

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press
10/8/85

WASHINGTON (BP)—Acting as congressional debate heats up over President Reagan's tax reform package, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs went on record Oct. 7 opposing a provision that would remove deductibility for contributions made to charities by taxpayers who do not itemize deductions.

Responding to an urgent appeal from Executive Director James M. Dunn, the BJCPA executive committee adopted a resolution supporting continuation of income tax deductions for all taxpayers who give to charities and opposing "any tax law change that would abolish such incentives for charitable giving."

Current law allows taxpayers who itemize their deductions to deduct up to one-half their adjusted gross income for gifts to charitable organizations, including churches. Taxpayers who file the so-called "short form" and do not itemize deductions will be permitted to deduct 50 percent of their gifts to charities for tax year 1985 and 100 percent in 1986. But the provision for non-itemizers expires after 1986.

In taking the action, the BJCPA executive committee made plain its appeal for deductions extends to deductibility for contributions to all charities, not churches alone. Dunn cited published projections that more than 80 percent of American taxpayers are expected to file the short form if President Reagan's tax reform package becomes law.

In a related action, the 12-member committee—which meets semiannually and acts for the full, 44-member BJCPA between the latter's annual meetings—instructed its staff to develop an "apology" for charitable tax exemption to counter the notion set forth in recent Supreme Court decisions that such exemption amounts to governmental subsidy. The staff was asked to present its findings at the next meeting of the full BJCPA in March 1986.

Other actions taken by the executive committee included authorization of a study of BJCPA representation from its eight constituent bodies, establishment of a law library, and adoption of a budget for 1985-86.

BJCPA Chairman Wes Forsline, an American Baptist pastor from Minneapolis, named Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, William Cober, an American Baptist executive, and John Binder, executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference, to study the structure of the full committee. The study panel is expected to recommend streamlining representation to reflect more accurately the relative numerical strength of and financial contributions by member bodies.

Action establishing the John W. Baker Memorial Law Library followed announcement that Mary Baker, widow of the late BJCPA general counsel, and her four sons have donated Baker's collection of legal volumes to the agency he served for 15 years before his death last January.

Newly elected general counsel Oliver S. (Buzz) Thomas will seek donations in the form of additional volumes from other Baptist attorneys across the nation. The agency also will use memorial funds honoring Baker to expand the specialized, church-state collection.

Executive committee members—including Southern Baptists Elder, Harold C. Bennett and Carolyn Weatherford—also adopted a \$575,600 budget for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, 1985, a figure that includes \$418,900 from the SBC Cooperative Program.

—30—

Professor Teaches
Kenyans About Cows

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--Seminary professor Vance Kirkpatrick teaches Kenya Baptist seminary students how to raise milk cows.

"We are developing good breeding stock and will sell them a heifer at reduced rates when they graduate," the Louisiana Baptist missionary-in-residence said, noting the Kenyan pastors can raise a cow on one-third acre of land and double their income by selling the milk. "Also they have milk for the children to improve nutrition."

Raising dairy cattle in Kenya is not new but cattle that will produce four or five gallons per day are a rarity. "Most of their cattle produce one or two quarts. People sit around and watch us milk because of the quantity," he said.

Kirkpatrick, a native of Lake Charles, La., teaches pastors in the Southern Baptist Theological Education by Extension program where he is director of the Kenya Branch of the International Baptist Theological Seminary of Eastern Africa. Enrollment is about 725.

He and his wife, Cherry, a native of Ruston, La., are on furlough until June.

Of course, Kirkpatrick's main ministry is training Kenya national pastors for ministry. This is done by an extension program where students remain on their field for ministry as they study and at a campus where they come periodically for a two-week residence study.

Kirkpatrick and his wife live in Limuru, a community with a population of about 2,000. Nairobi, the capitol city, has a population of about 1,250,000.

"Our philosophy of theological education focuses on keeping pastors in their communities where they can minister and make a living for their families," said Kirkpatrick. He said most of them remain in their communities even after seminary education is complete.

A new program established by the Kenyan government just recently will establish teaching religion in public schools. Baptists have a post-graduate study program for advanced students which will prepare them to teach religion in the schools.

"This will provide an outreach for our ministers as well as helping them to supplement their income," he said.

The Kirkpatricks, both are graduates of Louisiana Tech in Ruston, have a daughter, Caña, who is a student there and a son, Kyle David, who is in school in Alexandria.



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE
NASHVILLE, TN 37203