



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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 9, 1985

85-123

FMB Votes \$162 Million Budget,
Includes Hunger, Relief Funds

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board adopted a record \$162.3 million budget for 1986 at its Oct. 7-9 meeting to finance the work of its more than 3,500 missionaries worldwide.

For the first time the overall budget includes funds Southern Baptists are expected to give for overseas hunger and relief efforts. In the past these have been counted apart from other receipts. Hunger and relief contributions for 1986 are projected to total \$12 million, about 7.4 percent of the budget.

The hunger-relief projections are being included to give "a complete picture of the board's total income, even though it is designated," said Carl Johnson, vice-president for finance.

But Johnson emphasized the change won't affect the way hunger funds are spent. "One hundred percent will still be sent to the mission field," he stressed. "Everything that's given for hunger and relief will be spent for hunger and relief. Not one penny will be spent for administration or promotion."

Counting hunger and relief projections for both years, the 1986 budget represents approximately a \$4 million increase, or 2.5 percent jump, over 1985. Excluding hunger-relief, the increase totals about \$6 million, or 4.2 percent. Either way, the percentage increase continues a downward trend in recent years. The 1985 budget reflected a 5.5 percent increase. The 1984 and 1983 budgets marked 8.5 percent and 20.15 percent jumps, respectively.

If the 1985 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$70 million is met, it will fund more than 43 percent of the 1986 budget. The Cooperative Program is expected to provide \$60.3 million, about 37 percent of the total.

Lottie Moon funding will continue to be the bigger of the two percentages for the near future, according to Johnson. "This year we're talking about a \$10 million difference almost," he said. "That's a huge difference. And the difference is growing." But board budget planners hope Southern Baptists' Planned Growth in Giving emphasis will eventually enable the Cooperative Program once again to surpass the Lottie Moon offering in foreign mission support.

Additional revenue sources will include an estimated \$3.6 million in various designated contributions, primarily for missionary support, and a projected \$11 million in investment income.

More than 87 cents of every mission dollar will be spent for overseas ministries or directly related expenses, with \$90.1 million reserved for supporting missionaries and their families. Another \$36.8 million is earmarked for mission field operating expenses, and \$15 million will go to capital projects such as missionary housing, churches, Baptist schools and other institutions.

The Richmond home office budget for administration and promotion totals some \$19.3 million, approximately 11.9 percent of the overall budget. That reflects a growth of about \$1.5 million over the 1985 home budget. Much of the increase will fund staff and equipment for the new Data Systems Development Department, created by the board in December 1984 to meet the need for increased computer operations.

The \$15 million budgeted for overseas capital projects and needs reflects some serious belt-tightening in field mission budgets worldwide. Directors of the board's eight geographic areas worked with missionaries on all fields to redirect more than \$8.5 million from projected operating funds to capital needs. Coupled with \$6.5 million budgeted from the 1985 Lottie Moon offering, the funds will enable missionaries to take advantage of the strong American dollar before it loses value.

Financial experts have been predicting the dollar will decline in value overseas, and some devaluation is now being encouraged by the U.S. government to help the American balance of trade. But no one can predict when or how much the dollar will fall. Meanwhile, the Foreign Mission Board is making more money available at this "opportune moment" to finance needed capital items, said board President R. Keith Parks.

"If the dollar drops 10 percent in value, we wouldn't have those extra funds to use," Parks said. "If it drops 20 percent, we're in trouble."

--30--

Georgia Association Team
Builds Three Iowa Churches

By Sherri Anthony Brown

Baptist Press
10/9/85

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP)--What started as a mission trip to construct a new building for one church in Iowa ended with a team of Georgia Baptists building three churches in nine days, though some said it couldn't be done.

The mission project was accomplished by a 47-member building team from Noonday Baptist Association, with offices in Marietta, a suburb of Atlanta.

"We originally intended to build one church in Adel, Iowa," explained Bob Franklin, director of missions for the association. Later the group was asked to complete a church building in Waukee, Iowa, 10 miles from Adel and build a church building in Monroe, Iowa, 65 miles from Adel.

Hugh Roberts, a general contractor from Marietta and a member of Eastland Heights Baptist Church, agreed to be the "foreman." He decided the team could do the work on all three churches.

Roberts, a veteran of mission trips through Carpenters for Christ--a national, non-denominational organization--had dreamed of leading such a group from his association.

"We have become complacent in the South. We have everything at our fingertips. It's good to be part of Southern Baptist work in a place where nothing is taken for granted. It brings churches together," he said.

The group included members of 13 churches: Blessed Hope, Cloverdale, Eastland Heights, Kennesaw Avenue, Locust Grove, Milford, Noonday, Rose Lane, Smyrna First, Stilesboro, Wildwood, Woodstock First and Zion. They built the church building in Adel from the foundation up. Only the basement was dug before they arrived.

They completed most of the Monroe church, and put the finishing touches on the Waukee church, which had been started by two other mission crews from Tennessee and Missouri.

It was the first church building for each of the three Iowa churches, with total membership less than 50 each.

Most team members were inexperienced in building, as well as mission trips. "This is the first time the association has sponsored a mission trip," said Bob Franklin. "And it's already caused more discussion than anything else we've done." Two of the 13 churches have since voted to take teams from their churches next year.

Bob Beeman, an electrician from Rose Lane Baptist Church, went because he discovered "they couldn't have done it without me. My pastor told me they needed an electrician. I've never done this before, but I enjoy helping people, so I paid my \$258 (for plane fare and expenses) and went. Now I plan to go on one trip a year."

--more--

Bud Garvin, member of Locust Grove Church, recalled his visit to the Sand Lumber Company near Adel. "We told the guy who owned the lumber company what we were doing. He said we couldn't do it, but that he wasn't going to be the one who stood in the way." The owner provided an employee to run errands for the team whenever they needed lumber or supplies.

After this first mission trip, Garvin donated a 22-foot van to transport tools and equipment to future mission trip sites. "I can't really put my feelings into words," Garvin said. "But I wouldn't trade the experience for anything."

--30--

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

Stress Demands Skills
In Coping, Relaxing

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
10/9/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--In today's hurried, complex world of constant demands, every person experiences stress and must learn to cope with it or suffer physical, mental, emotional and spiritual problems as a result.

Joe Richardson, personnel counselor at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and author of a new church training equipping center module, "The Christian and Stress," said Christians may actually increase their stress levels by placing unrealistic expectations on themselves.

As examples, Richardson cited the minister who believes he is not doing God's will unless his church membership doubles and parents who try to build a healthy home life and also be at church every time the doors open.

"We make rules for ourselves we can't possibly fulfill," said Richardson.

Another way Christians increase their stress is by feeling guilt because they believe if they were really living according to God's will, they would have no stress.

"Stress is the body's response to any demand made on it," Richardson emphasized. "In stressful situations, the body perceives that some kind of threat exists. The body says, 'fight or run' and gears up for that. The result is stress."

For example, Richardson cited the description of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before his arrest when his perspiration was likened to drops of blood. "That is a picture of someone experiencing intense stress," he noted.

While the negative effects of stress are most often highlighted, stress is also necessary and good in some circumstances, Richardson said. For example, exercise places stress on the body that is healthy. Also, a person may be able to be more productive at work under certain kinds of stress.

However, the negative results of stress may include forgetfulness, inability to concentrate, procrastination, insomnia, anger, lethargy, panic or fear, illness, anxiety, loss or increase in appetite and depression.

Ironically, Richardson said he experienced a lot of personal stress while writing the module on stress. "It was incredibly difficult to come up with ideas. I could not concentrate.

"I've not been able to see a lot of differences between Christians and non-Christians in their abilities to deal with stress," said Richardson, noting the increasing death rate due to heart attacks among Baptist pastors.

He said learning practical ways to deal with stress can be a significant study for a church group. "The church is a perfectly legitimate place to develop the skills to cope with all of life," said Richardson.

Exercise, diet, sleep, relaxation techniques and learning to set realistic goals are all important in learning to deal with stress, according to Richardson.

--more--

He said he hopes persons who study the module on stress will decide "they aren't helpless victims of stress. There are specific things to be done."

However, he cautioned, "don't try to do everything at once. People should not approach stress management with the attitude, 'I'm no good unless I change everything now.' Instead, they should decide, 'I'm going to work on this and feel good about myself.'"

--30--

Supreme Court Returns;
Rejects Religion Cases

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
10/9/85

WASHINGTON (BP)--Returning to the bench Oct. 7 for what is expected to be another historic year in church-state law, the U.S. Supreme Court nevertheless rejected a dozen newly appealed disputes in religion cases from across the nation.

Already scheduled for argument and decision in the new term--which runs from October through June--are four church-state cases, including a key dispute over "equal access" to public school property for student-initiated religious clubs on secondary school campuses.

In disposing of some 1,000 cases overall on its first day back after the traditional summer recess, the high court without comment disposed of religion cases in several categories. By declining to hear the disputes, the court left in place lower court rulings in the cases.

--The justices refused to review a decision of the Texas Supreme Court that the state's requirement for a license to operate a childcare facility did not violate the religious rights of the Corpus Christi People's Baptist Church, an independent congregation. Appealing to the nation's high court, attorneys for the church had argued the licensing law violated the free exercise of religion clause of the First Amendment. (84-1791, Corpus Christi People's Baptist Church v. Texas)

--Likewise left standing was a decision of the Virginia Supreme Court involving another independent Baptist congregation that objected to a state judge's appointment of a commissioner to resolve an internal dispute over whether to dismiss the pastor. The commissioner was authorized to oversee a congregational meeting where the issue was to be decided, accompanied at his discretion by a deputy sheriff. Although a faction of the New Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., objected, the state's high court ruled the judge was within constitutional limits in appointing the commissioner. (84-1926, Reid v. Gholson)

--In two other internal church disputes, the justices declined to disturb rulings by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and an Illinois appeals court that local Presbyterian congregations may retain their church property despite voting to withdraw from their mother denomination, the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) under so-called "neutral principles of law" regarding disputed property, both lower panels held, state courts may intervene in such disputes. (85-10, Presbytery of Beaver-Butler v. Middlesex Presbyterian Church; 84-2035, York v. First Presbyterian Church of Anna, Ill.)

--The high court also refused to intervene in a family dispute over the religious upbringing of children. A Massachusetts woman whose former husband was awarded custody of the couple's daughters sought review of the custody decision, claiming the judge discriminated against her because of her zeal as a "born-again" Christian. But the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, the state's highest tribunal, upheld the lower judge's action. (85-232, Patchett v. Patchett)

--In an unusual copyright case, the high court upheld a jury's award of \$190,000 to a publisher of religious music for actual damages inflicted by unauthorized reproduction of music from hymnals and songsheets by Catholic parishes in and around Chicago, Ill. At the same time, the justices agreed with the trial court's refusal to award the larger sum of \$1.5 million sought by the music company, which claimed each of the Chicago archdiocese's parishes could be sued as a separate legal entity. (84-1915, F.E.L. Publications v. Catholic Bishop of Chicago)

--more--

--In a case involving a Jehovah's Witness who died on the operating table after refusing a blood transfusion, the high court left standing a decision by the Washington Supreme Court upholding a jury's award of limited damages for negligence on the part of the attending physician before the transfusion became necessary. The jury nevertheless determined that 75 percent of the fault for the woman's death was attributable to her refusal to permit the transfusion. (84-1989, Shorter v. Drury)

--The justices also let stand a ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upholding a classroom teacher who assigned a student to read an alternative book to Gordon Parks' The Learning Tree after the student protested the volume's alleged ridiculing of Jesus Christ. The student took the teacher and school district to court, claiming that despite the option to read another book, inclusion of Parks' work on a required reading list enshrined secular humanism as a state religion. (84-1984, Grove v. Mead School District)

--Likewise upheld was a decision by the Florida Supreme Court that ruled earlier in favor of a state law banning pari-mutuel betting on Sundays. (84-1941, Calder Race Course v. Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering)

--And in three separate cases in which religious discrimination in employment was claimed by a Catholic, a Jew and a Baptist, the justices upheld lower rulings disallowing the claims on grounds that none of the three demonstrated that religion was a relevant factor. (84-2021, McGreevy v. The Dannon Co.; 84-2031, Meiri v. Dacon; 85-145, Douglas v. Travelers Inns)



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY NO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE
NASHVILLE, TN 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION