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The phone number remains the same.

Thanks, Baptist Press

Planned Growth In Giving Key To Bold Mission Success

By Terry Barone

DENTON, Texas (BP)--Planned Growth In Giving was presented as the key to the success of Bold Mission Thrust during a mid-January national seminar in Denton, Texas.

Planned Growth In Giving is a 15-year plan to challenge Southern Baptists to increase their level of giving to their local church and through their church to mission causes throughout the world.

Cecil Ray, national director of Planned Growth In Giving said the purpose of these meetings is to equip chosen leadership in states to become trainers and leaders for about 475 state seminars which will be attended by pastors and congregational representatives.

Ray said the state seminars will key upon the "Church Event"--a part of the Planned Growth In Giving emphasis when church members are introduced to Planned Growth In Giving and asked to make a 15-year commitment to increase their percentage level of giving to the local church.

Ray said that over the past 30 years, Southern Baptist families have not changed their pattern of giving which is about a two percent average.

He said the two percent translates into the membership of SBC churches giving in excess of \$3 billion in 1983. By the year 2000, Ray said that figure needs to be about \$20 billion to accomplish Bold Mission Thrust tasks.

Bold Mission Thrust is an effort by Southern Baptists to present the message of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000.

"This would allow the entire denomination--the churches and other entities--to take on the dreams of Bold Mission Thrust which we have been talking about," he said. "At the sustained level (two percent), we can't pull off what we (as a denomination) have planned."

He said Planned Growth In Giving is not "a fund raising drive" but an emphasis which begins with "personal commitment" and has a compounding effect throughout the denomination beginning in the local church.

T.T. Crabtree, pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo., and chairman of the National Planned Growth In Giving Task Force, said, "Planned Growth In Giving was not cooked up in the minds of denominational leaders and is not a scheme to get more money. It is a call from God to commit ourselves in a way that we've never done before.

"Planned Growth In Giving," he said, "is an invitation from God to become involved in his work at a level where we've never been before."

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He said a lost world calls us to "generous giving because there are three billion unsaved persons in the world and unless there is a radical change in the minds of Southern Baptists toward giving, we are just whistling in the dark."

William M. Pinson Jr., executive director, Baptist General Convention of Texas, said not everyone is a "visionary," but everyone is shaped by a vision and, "the dream which fashioned Bold Mission Thrust and Planned Growth In Giving will fashion us and those who come after."

Pinson said dreams don't last long and unless rekindled, they burn out. "Many times," he said, "people don't act on their dreams because they are afraid--afraid of sacrifice, work and effort. Many times, apathy and laziness can cause us to shun our dreams until they go away."

He added, "If dreams are acted upon improperly, they can become nightmares. But, if acted upon adequately, they can move us on to what we've never experienced before." He said nothing can stop what God has set forth, and "I believe he is standing with Southern Baptists."

Ray believes this is an "hour of destiny" for Southern Baptists. "I believe God is saying we have a choice to accept the task at hand or allow a theological question to split us."

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, chided Ray's comment, noting the current controversy is "causing tension which is pulling us (the SBC) apart. We hold the future of the SBC in our hands. Planned Growth In Giving can move us into Bold Mission Thrust to accomplish what we set out to do."

Several persons representing various areas of Southern Baptist life gave reports on Bold Mission Thrust and its progress thus far.

The Denton seminar was the second of five to be conducted which will train more than 800 persons. The first seminar was in Las Vegas, Nev., Jan. 7-9. Future seminars include Shocco Springs, Ala., Feb. 4-6; Ridgecrest, N.C., Feb. 25-27 and Gulfshore, Miss., March 4-6.

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(BP) photo of Cecil Ray and T.T. Crabtree available from Texas bureau of Baptist Press.

Baptist Congregation Targeted
In Jerusalem Demonstration

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
1/29/85

JERUSALEM (BP)--The Narkis Street Baptist Church in west Jerusalem has become a target of Yad Lachim, a conservative Jewish organization antagonistic toward Christianity in Israel.

At issue are the congregation's rebuilding plans for its Narkis Street facility, which was destroyed in an October 1982 fire which authorities suspect was arson.

A Jan. 23 demonstration on Narkis Street organized by Yad Lachim has stirred concern because it was promoted throughout Jerusalem with posters misrepresenting the church's pastor, Robert Lindsey, a Southern Baptist representative in Israel since 1944.

About 100 people, including women, children and teen-agers, participated in the protest.

"There were quotes on the posters, falsely attributed to Robert Lindsey, misrepresenting him and the church," said Isam Ballenger, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for Europe and the Middle East. Ray Hicks, administrator for Southern Baptist representatives in Israel, relayed the information to Ballenger.

One sentence on the Yad Lachim posters quoted Lindsey as saying, "Just give me another thousand years and I'll make them (the Jews) missionaries to the whole world."

The Narkis Street Baptist Church, founded nearly 60 years ago, is an international, English-language congregation of about 350 people. No charges were filed in the fire which gutted the 49-year-old chapel. The church since has met in a tent-like structure on the site.

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The church also was the target of a grenade explosion about seven years ago; office windows often have been smashed, and slogans have been spray painted on the property several times and later removed by the city government of Jerusalem.

Final approval for rebuilding is now before a regional planning and development council.

The congregation's request also has prompted one unnamed ultraconservative Orthodox Jewish leader to tell the Jerusalem Post that his political party, Shas, will withdraw from the municipal coalition if approval is granted.

The recent misrepresentations of Lindsey and the church point up the "intolerance of other religious groups" by Yad Lachim and similar organizations which use "methods unbecoming of the Jewish people and the state of Israel," Ballenger said. "I think that's what many in Israel would say. They don't want these people to be representative of their country."

Such organizations do not reflect "the people with whom we normally work in Israel and the official words of welcome and cooperation we have received from government leaders on numerous occasions," Ballenger added.

But extremists' activity against Christians "seems to be increasing and their influence over others in Israel may be increasing," he said, "and this is alarming."

A loudspeaker was used during the Jan. 23 demonstration, and one activist was quoted as declaring, "This is just the beginning of making trouble in this area." Among the slogans on the protesters' signs were "Get Out, Get Out" and "There is no room in this neighborhood for a congregational church and center which is missionary."

The protest license reportedly was granted in the name of one or more persons in the community, but Ballenger said most of the neighbors in the vicinity did not participate and some even voiced resentment of outsiders coming in and inciting the disturbance. About a dozen Jerusalem police were on hand to maintain order.

"We have had opposition expressed against us by ultraconservative religious people from time to time," Lindsey said, "but we also have had many expressions of encouragement by neighbors and friends who consider our church to be a very positive part of the neighborhood."

Ballenger notified the Department of State after being alerted about plans for the demonstration and was told American officials in Israel would monitor the situation. "Because of the anxiety created by this (protest), many of the Christians in Israel were fasting and praying Jan. 23," he said.

Ballenger believes Yad Lachim also was involved in generating negative press accounts last fall against Jewish congregations in Israel, including one in Ashkelon with which Southern Baptist representatives James and Elizabeth Smith work.

The Smiths reported they were "accused of 'poisoning' innocent young people with our religious beliefs and baptizing them into 'Gentile' Christianity."

A congregation in Tiberias was evicted from the building in which they had been meeting.

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Understand Aging,
Leaders Challenged

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press
1/29/85

ATLANTA (BP)—American attitudes toward aging have changed from respect to fear and misunderstanding in the last 100 years, leaders of senior adults were told in Atlanta.

"In the 1980s we have become afraid of the future," said Ben Dickerson, director, gerontological studies program, Waco, Texas. "This fear creates barriers to ministry." Dickerson spoke at the first National Conference on Aging sponsored by the family ministry department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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Dickerson said Southern Baptists must redefine aging as a potential opportunity for growth instead of a period of life solely characterized by problems. "If we are going to become all God intends for us to be we must accept the totality of life which includes growing old."

According to Dickerson, today's society attaches social norms and stereotypes to senior adults, thereby limiting ministry opportunities. "The Bible speaks of the rewards of old age, but in our society we have focused too much attention on the problems," he explained.

He noted natural biological process may bring about some declines in hearing, eyesight, muscle flexibility, oxygen levels and blood pressure. "But senior adults are not a homogenous group. Some people may not experience any of these problems while another experiences all of them to some degree."

Age grading of senior adults is misleading, he feels because, "As persons grow older they have fewer similarities. The gospel recognizes the individuality of persons and stresses a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is how we must approach senior adults."

Dickerson admonished leaders to consider the evangelism challenge the senior adult group poses. He noted there will be 32 million persons 65 or older by the year 1990.

"Our potential for ministry is unlimited," he said. "By the year 2020 one out of every four adults in the United States will be 65 or older. July 1, 1983, marked the beginning of a new time because for the first time there were more older people in this country than youth."

"Our challenge is clear, Jesus Christ gave us the mandates to seek and to save the lost, but also to be about doing good. I believe the senior adult segment of our society demands our attention." Examples can be found in the economic problems of many elderly persons.

"Although the poverty level has dropped among the elderly from 35 percent to 14 percent in the last two decades, there are still a great many people who need our help, Dickerson said.

He cited widows who have smaller incomes since their spouse has died, persons who never gained pensions or persons who must pay for the institutional care of their spouses.

"When we look at the total welfare figures we see that only 14 percent represent the elderly, but 67 percent of the elderly on welfare are women. In addition, there are 13 million widows out there who receive no pension benefits," he challenged.

Dickerson noted in the last 15 years the federal government has tried to meet the needs of the elderly by raising social security benefits nearly 200 percent. He also listed increased medicare, medicaid and social services benefits.

But, he explained, "We are expecting the federal government to determine the needs and provide care for our elderly neighbors. We, the church, are putting our responsibility off on the government. Jesus called us to be the ministers."

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Bibles Received
In USSR

Baptist Press
1/29/85

MOSCOW (BP)--A shipment of 10,000 Russian-language Bibles dispatched from the United Bible Society's headquarters in Stuttgart, West Germany, arrived in Moscow Dec. 11 and have been distributed among the churches of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists.

"The believers have offered their thanksgiving to God for this blessed gift," a Baptist spokesperson said. The Bibles were financed with UBS funds along with European Baptist Federation contributions.

Also in December 1984, the AUCECB printed and distributed some 15,000 hymnals with music, to be used primarily by church choir members. The collection, "an absolutely new hymnbook," was prepared by the Union's music commission, presided by E.S. Goncharenko.

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**National Baptists To Build
Adjacent To ABTS Campus**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc. broke ground Jan. 24 for a multimillion dollar facility adjacent to the campus of American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tenn.

National Baptists have sponsored ABTS jointly with the Southern Baptist Convention since 1924. The NBC, Inc. is the largest black religious organization in the world with 30,000 churches and seven million members worldwide, according to Cecilia Adkins, executive director of the Sunday School Publishing Board of the NBC, Inc. which is located in Nashville.

The facility, to be known as the World Baptist Center, is the first building to be constructed by the NBC, Inc. since 1935 when the publishing board headquarters were built, according to T.L. Jemison, president of the NBC, Inc.

In an article published in the National Baptist Voice, the convention's news organ, Jemison said a national headquarters is needed because the convention has grown in number and in the range of programs and ministries.

"We must bring the office of our boards and auxiliaries together in one place. This will allow them to work more effectively together," Jemison said. Various components of the convention are located in different parts of the country although the official headquarters are in Jemison's hometown of Baton Rouge, La.

The 90,000 square-foot building will house office space, conference rooms, classrooms, residential space and a 500-seat chapel which also will be used by ABTS. Jemison said the facility is expected to be completed sometime in 1986.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the SBC Education Commission and head of the Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, welcomed Jemison and National Baptists to Nashville following the groundbreaking at a dedication service for ABTS's new Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame will honor outstanding alumni of ABTS.

Walker cited ABTS as a "jewel of cooperation between two great conventions" and pledged continuing cooperation in working with National Baptists and ABTS in order to provide "outreach to a needy world."

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**Seventh President Inaugurated
At Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary**

Baptist Press
1/29/85

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)—The seventh president in the 35-year history of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Ruschlikon called in his inaugural address Jan. 11 for the seminary's mission and identity to be catholic, apostolic, reformed and evangelistic.

James Altus Newell based his address on I Corinthians 13 and told the solemn convocation being catholic should "embrace God's care for all kinds of persons;" the apostolic tradition should contain "the historic witness of the church grounded upon biblical authority," and being reformed means "we are not simply recipients of the Reformation but participants in the continuing reformation which God wants to bring."

But he insisted the institution should be "unashamedly evangelical." "We exist at a community to be an instrument of God's redemption in the world, to train for ministry, to bear witness and to be witnesses, and to lead others to become Christ's disciples and to grow in faith," he said.

Newell was elected president in July 1984. He formerly was pastor of First Baptist Church of Opelika, Ala.

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