

FEB 22 1985



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

February 21, 1985

85-18

ACTS Fund Campaign
Okayed; Loan Delayed

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A three-year, \$6-million fund raising campaign to finance the ACTS television network has been approved by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, but approval to borrow up to \$10 million for 10 years has been delayed.

The action was taken during the February meeting of the Executive Committee, which is required by the SBC Business and Financial Plan to approve fund raising campaigns by national agencies, and to give consent for "incumbrances which cannot be repaid out of anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three years."

The Radio and Television Commission, which operates the American Christian Tel vision System network, had asked to be allowed to conduct a special solicitation drive to raise \$12.5 million to fund ACTS through fiscal 1986, and for authority to borrow up to \$10 million with a 10-year maturity.

The recommendation to delay approval of the total solicitation and the loan while approving the shorter term fund raising effort was made by the Business and Finance subcommittee after an all-day session with Jimmy R. Allen, RTVC president, and other representatives of the Fort Worth, Texas-based agency.

"We have looked long and hard at these two requests," said Harmon Born of Atlanta, chairman of the subcommittee. "We believe we have come up with best possible solution."

Born added the Executive Committee "is not trying to substitute our judgement for that of the trustees of the Radio and Television Commission. But we are required by the (business and) financial plan to study this. We must have all of the data we can gather."

Born said representatives of the subcommittee will go to Fort Worth to study the matter as soon as the financial audit for fiscal 1984 is completed at the commission. The audit reportedly will be completed within 30 days.

Allen told Baptist Press he is "pleased" with the action of the Executive Committee in approving the solicitation campaign. "They did not turn down anything we asked," he said. "The key for us is the right--or the privilege--to conduct a public campaign."

He said the only question to be resolved about the campaign is "whether it will be three or five years. We wanted it to be five years because it gives us more latitude to negotiate with groups. We can function with three years, but we would rather have had five years."

Allen added the committee "did not turn down" the request to borrow up to \$10 million, but postponed it "because they need more information. We have invited them to come here to Fort Worth to study it and they will report back (to the Executive Committee) in June."

John Roberts of Greenville, S.C., chairman of trustees and editor of the Baptist Courier, said the loan and the campaign are linked. "We are after the loan and the collateral. We are going to launch a fund campaign and then borrow against that. We need money faster than we can raise it. We need to go to the bank right away (to borrow the money) and then have a campaign to pay it back."

--more--

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

Roberts added: "Time is both our enemy and our friend right now. We think that in 24 to 30 months we will have sufficient revenues coming in to meet most of our obligations. But from now until then, we are going to be operating at a loss...."

Allen said the RTVC "has to raise something like \$7 million above the Cooperative Program" budget allocation to fund the operation of ACTS, a Christian television network operating 24 hours a day through cable television outlets and low and full power TV stations.

For 1984-85, the RTVC will receive \$4.9 million through the Cooperative Program (the denomination's unified plan of collecting and distributing funds). According to the commission's financial statement, the 1984-85 budget is \$13.1 million, of which nearly \$6 million will be used to fund ACTS.

Allen said the commission "has a cash flow problem now. We need \$1.1 million and that is part of the bridge the \$10 million loan would take care of."

RTVC trustees, during their January meeting, gave approval for a \$1.4 million short term line of credit to pay current operating expenses of the network. Agency executives have authority to borrow that amount without Executive Committee approval.

Allen described the situation as being like "starting a new business. When you begin you need money right then. We need the money up front. The capital campaign is the solution, but we need a line of interim financing available. In 30 months, we will have sufficient revenue, but we need to get through the startup phase until the money flow starts."

He added the \$10 million loan request also would retire about \$4 million previously borrowed to fund the ACTS operation, leaving \$5 or \$6 million to fund the network through fiscal 1986, at which time it is hoped ACTS will be generating enough income to pay its way.

Representatives of both the RTVC and the Executive Committee say the financial situation is complicated because a national TV network is a new area for Southern Baptists.

Tim A. Hedquist, director of financial planning for the Executive Committee, said part of the five hour meeting was spent trying to "understand new terminology and technology. The RTVC is talking in new terms. This is ground we have never plowed before."

Hedquist added if the \$10 million had been requested "to build a new dormitory at one of the seminaries, we probably would have completed the discussion in 15 or 20 minutes. But this (funding of ACTS) is something we have never done before."

Both Hedquist and Born said there is a commitment to helping ACTS succeed, but there also is a determination to practice fiscal responsibility.

"One of the reasons the loan was not approved was that the audit was not available," Hedquist added. "We have many of the projections on hand, but to have validity there must be an audit report."

He added the Executive Committee "has been working with the RTVC for several weeks to ascertain where they are (financially)."

A time for the study session between representatives of the Executive Committee and trustees of the RTVC has not been set. The RTVC trustees' executive committee will meet March 5, and a full meeting of the board is scheduled April 15-16.

—30—

Falwell Warns Of SBC Split;
Predicts Abortion Victory

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
2/21/85

DALLAS (BP)—Independent Baptist pastor and television preacher Jerry Falwell recently spoke on abortion at the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention. Earlier he offered his analysis of what may happen to the SBC if Charles Stanley is not reelected its president.

—more—

Falwell addressed the abortion issue during the opening night session of the annual School of Prophets sponsored by First Baptist Church in Dallas, where he shared the podium with Bailey Smith, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla.

Earlier, while in Nashville, Tenn., on a fund raising push for Liberty Baptist College, he predicted the 14.3-million member convention would split if Stanley is not elected to a second one-year term at the SBC's annual meeting in Dallas this June.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta, was vice-president of Moral Majority (which Falwell founded) in 1980, though he is no longer officially connected with the group.

Falwell told the Dallas audience momentum to protect unborn children is gaining so rapidly he expects to read headlines soon announcing, "Abortion Outlawed in the United States."

Falwell, pastor of 21,000-member Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va., (one of the largest independent Baptist churches in the world) and speaker on the nationally televised Old Time Gospel Hour, said a new anti-abortion film, "The Silent Scream," was recently shown on the Cable News Network. The 28-minute film shows a 12-week-old fetus being aborted.

Before and after the film, a public poll was taken asking: "Do you favor some type of legislation to protect the life of the unborn?" Falwell said 75 percent of those polled before the film aired favored such legislation. Afterward 91 percent favored the legislation.

"Usually pollsters and those on the other side so word it that you cannot get a correct answer," said Falwell. "It's always skewed. For example they ask, 'Do you favor a constitutional amendment that would ban all abortions?' Well I vote against that, because I think when the life of the mother is threatened it would be a viable exception."

He also noted his pragmatic acceptance of, but theological disagreement with, those who want to include victims of rape and incest as exceptions to laws banning abortion.

Though his choice would be not to include those exceptions, he compared the situation to negotiating with a airplane hijacker and said he would be willing to try to get the women and children freed first and then try to get the male hostages released.

"Ninety-nine percent of abortions performed are convenience abortions which could be outlawed even with the exceptions," he said.

Falwell said in the response to President Reagan's request, the 535 members of Congress and the nine Supreme Court justices all have been given copies of the film.

Within the next four years, said Falwell, "our beloved president" will probably appoint two to four new Supreme Court justices, and the issue will come before the court.

When it does, said Falwell, churches should simultaneously provide "a system of maternity homes, crisis pregnancy centers and adoption centers adequate to professionally handle 1.5 million women a year who will not be able to have abortions." The system would not cost the patients or the taxpayers—but should be financed "through the church of the Lord Jesus Christ," said Falwell.

Plans are being made to provide 50,000 preachers with copies of "The Silent Scream."

"Evangelicals led by Charles Finney and others broke the back of slavery," said Falwell. "It would be a great thing for this group to liberate the unborn, and do it soon, if we're going to survive as a nation."

In Nashville, Falwell told religion editor Frances Meeker of the Nashville Banner, if Stanley is defeated for president, "the split could come by the conservatives cutting out their support of the Cooperative Program (the SBC's national, unified budget supported by voluntary contributions) or the conservatives just might move out en masse."

Stanley's reelection, however, would "be another step forward to bringing the Southern Baptist Convention back where it should be and where most Southern Baptists are."

—30—

Executive Committee Backs
Revisions In SBC Budget

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
2/21/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist agency heads have stressed the "cooperative" in the Cooperative Program while adjusting the convention's national unified budget to current economic realities.

What one observer described as "possibly the best spirit of teamwork we have ever had in the budget planning process" was evident in the 1985-86 budget goal of \$130 million which was approved by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee at its February meeting.

Also approved was a plan to extend previously approved capital expenditures for 1984-88 through the 1989-90 fiscal year.

The proposals will be presented to messengers at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas next June for final approval.

The 1985-86 figure is the same as the 1984-85 budget goal, an attempt to bring budget expectations and receipts into harmony.

National Cooperative Program income has continued to post healthy increases in terms of "real dollars" over the past several years but the rapid drop in inflation put the long term budget planning process used by the SBC in a bind.

Budgets are approved two years in advance by messengers to the annual meeting. The 1983-84 budget goal assumed inflation of eight percent but the actual rate was about three percent and contributions—though up approximately \$10 million compared to 1982-83—totalled just over \$108.8 million.

Projections for 1984-85 indicate income should be around \$118 million.

Capital needs are not funded until the basic operating budget (\$114.5 million in 1983-84 and \$118 million in 1984-85) is met. Therefore \$3.4 million in capital needs from 1983-84 and \$6.87 million in 1984-85 were carried over into the 1985-86 planning process.

The 1985-86 provides \$120.6 million for the basic operating budget. Funding priority for income above that will go to the 1983-84 capital needs and 1984-85 capital needs will be funded next. The remaining \$1.56 million of the \$130 million is last on the priority list and will be distributed on the same percentage basis as the basic operating budget.

Each of the 19 SBC agencies which receive funding through the national Cooperative Program (which is based on voluntarily contributions from the 36 state conventions affiliated with the SBC) present budget requests to the Executive Committee which has the responsibility of recommending the budget to messengers to the convention.

"Each of the agencies are well aware of the changing economic climate and exhibited Christian spirit of cooperation and understanding in the whole process," Reginald McDonough, associate executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, explained.

"Obviously each agency heads feels strongly about the tasks they have been called to do to help share the message of Jesus Christ to the world and each has financial needs to finance their evangelistic and educational programs.

"Yet the pervading sense in the entire process was 'Let's face financial reality, be fair to everyone involved and trust God to continue to bless our efforts'... Things get much more competitive when there are more discretionary funds available," McDonough said.

—more—

Normally the SBC budget parameters are set during the September meeting of the Executive Committee but the belt-tightening process was extended five months this time until February.

In the 1985-86 basic operating budget the Foreign Mission Board will receive 50 percent; the Home Mission Board will receive 19.72 percent and the six SBC seminaries will share 20.56 percent, divided according to a complex formula based partially on enrollment.

The other agencies included in the disbursement are: Annuity Board, Southern Baptist Foundation, Commission on American Baptist Seminary, Brotherhood Commission, Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Executive Committee, Historical Commission, Radio-Television Commission, Stewardship Commission and the Public Affairs Committee.

--30--

Administration Seeks Cuts
In Annual Postal Subsidy

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
2/21/85

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Reagan administration's fiscal 1986 budget proposal calls for the virtual elimination of the subsidy which permits reduced rates for non-profit and other mailers.

Specifically, the administration's new budget would cut \$981 million from the "revenue foregone" subsidy which Congress uses to reimburse the Postal Service for the reduced rates charged to a variety of mailers. According to a congressional budget spokesman, the proposal would provide only \$39 million to cover the cost of free and reduced rates for blind and handicapped individuals.

However, the administration also announced it would propose legislation to permit the Postal Service to maintain reduced rates for non-profit mailers and most other reduced-rate mailers by allowing an overall increase in regular rates to cover the cost of subsidized rates.

The Postal Service revenue foregone subsidy has been an annual target of proposed budget cuts by the administration since 1981. With the exception of a large hike in non-profit rates in early 1982 due to a shortfall in congressional funding of the postal subsidy, Congress has generally kept rates for preferred mailers steady by providing full funding for revenue foregone. A House budget panel spokesman told Baptist Press it is too early to predict what Congress will do with this year's request.

--30--

CORRECTION: In BP mailed 2/13/85, please make the following correction. In story "Israeli Congregation Harrassed, Barred From Rented Building" please change paragraph two on page 5 to read: The city's mayor, Ezekiel Harmelech, and its leading Rabbi, Simcha Kook, both condemned the November move of the congregation to its new location and the presence of believing communities in Rehovot. Their statements have been "contributing to the atmosphere of violence," Moaz charged.

Thank you,
Baptist Press

Missionary Resigns
In Doctrinal Flap

By Marv Knox

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)—A Southern Baptist foreign missionary has resigned his appointment amidst disagreement over remarks he made at Louisiana College last fall.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has accepted the resignation of Edward L. Taylor Jr., missionary to Brazil since 1979, effective June 30, at the end of his current furlough.

Taylor is spending his furlough—the 1984-85 academic year—as a missionary-in-residence at Louisiana College in Pineville, and teaching classes as an adjunct instructor in the Baptist school's department of religion. In Brazil, he taught at North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary in Recife.

Taylor's remarks were made during a chapel address at LC last November. Quotes from that speech are unavailable to the Baptist Message because all three parties involved—Taylor, the college and the board—have refused to grant access to tapes or transcripts of the speech.

However, persons who have heard or read the speech say the controversial portion of it relates to the validity of Roman Catholic practice and tradition, as well as the appropriate Southern Baptist response in their evangelistic efforts in predominately Roman Catholic countries.

Taylor's speech apparently disturbed some of his audience, who passed along a tape of his address to a Louisiana Baptist pastor, who later turned it over to the Foreign Mission Board.

Taylor subsequently was called to the FMB offices in Richmond on Jan. 30. He met with R. Keith Parks, president; Charles Bryan, senior vice-president for overseas operations, and Thurmon Bryant, area director for eastern South America and Taylor's supervisor.

The four of them had what was described as a "concerned conversation" about Taylor's theological beliefs.

Taylor resigned some time between that session and the meeting of the FMB's directors in Richmond last week. Taylor declined to comment on his situation. However, he did stress, "I still support what the board is doing overseas."

In a prepared statement, FMB President Parks noted he and the other two administrators felt Taylor's theological views were in line with those of most Southern Baptists at the time of his appointment.

But Taylor apparently encountered an "overwhelming experience" in Brazil which caused him to question his own theology, Parks added, noting he believes Taylor now is going through the process of working through these theological questions.

"The present tension between his experience and his basic belief has not been integrated or synthesized in a way that we feel is satisfactory for him to be a teacher in our theological seminary," Parks said. "So, in light of that...he submitted his resignation."

Concerning the possibility of Taylor's reappointment as a missionary, Parks said he told Taylor he hoped he could work through "what are apparent contradictions and find a satisfactory integration of them, and then we would give reconsideration."

Louisiana College responded to the situation in a statement released by Public Relations Director Lyn Rollins.

"This is a personnel matter between Dr. Ed Taylor and the Foreign Mission Board," Rollins said. "The college deeply regrets the disruption of the personal and professional life of Dr. Taylor and his family."

Taylor will continue as missionary-in-residence, teaching in the LC department of religion through the end of the current semester, Rollins said.

Taylor was born in Greenwood, Miss., and considers Milan, Tenn., his hometown. He is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He was pastor of churches in Tennessee and Kentucky prior to his appointment by the Foreign Mission Board.

—30—

(Knox is associate editor of the Baptist Message, newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.)

Russian Baptists Continue
Reconciliation Efforts

By John Wilkes

Baptist Press
2/21/85

KIEV, U.S.S.R. (BP)—Leaders of two major Baptist groups in the Soviet Union have taken another step in reconciliation efforts which began with discussions in 1983.

A leader of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union (AUCECB) participated in a worship service in late January in a Kiev church affiliated with the Council of Evangelical Christian-Baptist Churches, which split from the AUCECB about 25 years ago.

AUCECB churches are registered with the government. The Council of Churches has been known for its protests against registration, but a growing number of its congregations have become registered in recent years.

Overall membership in churches related to the AUCECB, according to the government, is 540,000, but other estimates place it between four and seven million. In churches related to the Council of Churches, membership estimates range from 40,000 to 400,000.

Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and European Baptist Federation (EBF) representatives preached at the Puchov Street Baptist Church in Kiev in January at the invitation of the pastor, Nikolai Velichko, and other congregational leaders. Alexei M. Bichkov, AUCECB general secretary, acted as interpreter during the two-hour service.

Baptist dissident Georgi Vins, now in exile in the United States, is a former member of the Puchov Street church, which has been registered with the government since 1976.

About 1,000 people crowded into the church building for the service. Afterward some 60 leaders of the congregation, plus pastors and evangelists from other independent Baptist groups, joined the Baptist World Alliance and European Baptist Federation representatives for several hours of discussion.

Representing the alliance were Denton Lotz of Washington, D.C., deputy general secretary, and Raul Scialabba of Argentina, youth department chairman. Knud Wuempelmann of Denmark, the federation's general secretary-treasurer, spoke in behalf of European Baptists.

Wuempelmann told the congregation that in all his years as a Baptist pastor the experience he is most grateful for came "a few months ago when I was able to kneel in prayer with your pastor and other Baptists in Moscow at one of the reconciliation meetings. That was most heartwarming; it most certainly had the blessing of the Holy Spirit, and it was a strong example of our oneness in Jesus Christ."

Lotz said there are divisions between rich and poor, black and white and among Christians throughout the world, but Jesus Christ said, "If you love me, we shall have unity."

Velichko, the church's senior pastor for nearly 10 years, told the members, "We are grateful to have as our guests these brothers who preach Jesus Christ."

One of the participants in the subsequent discussion period told the group, "My prayer life has been changed. Now I pray for the BWA and the EBF. I even pray for you, Denton, for you, Knud, and for Gerhard Claas (BWA general secretary) by name."

—more—

Another said, "After this meeting I shall pray for the AUCECB and for the Council of Churches and ask God to give the world a great revival through Baptists."

In interviews, leaders of the congregation sought to clarify that Georgi Vins, who figured as part of a prisoner exchange between the U.S. and the Soviet Union several years ago, was never one of the church's pastors. They said, however, the church ordained Vins as an evangelist in 1963.

The church currently has three pastors, a large number of deacons and about 800 members.

From 1980 to 1983, AUCECB congregations in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic recorded 7,475 baptisms, according to figures released by the AUCECB press service.

Also in the republic, largest and most populated of 15 in the Soviet Union, the AUCECB registered 76 new churches and church groups from 1980 to 1984 and built or acquired 118 prayer houses or church buildings, 50 of which were new structures.

AUCECB congregations reported "152 brothers were ordained as pastors and 229 persons were ordained as deacons" from 1980 to 1984.

—30—

(Wilkes is director of European Baptist Press Service.)

Hollis Urges Ban
On Alcohol Ads

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
2/21/85

WASHINGTON (BP)—Congress should let common sense prevail in the current debate over radio and television advertising of alcoholic beverages, a Southern Baptist ethicist has urged.

In written testimony submitted to a Senate subcommittee on alcoholism and drug abuse, Harry N. Hollis Jr. of the Christian Life Commission claimed "common sense can lead to only one conclusion: If advertisers pay millions of dollars to buy ads, they must do so because they know the ads will shape attitudes about alcoholic beverages and motivate many people to buy alcoholic beverages."

The subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.), is sponsoring a series of hearings on broadcast advertising for beer and wine.

Hollis and other staff members of the Southern Baptist Convention agency have publicly supported Project SMART (Stop Marketing Alcohol on Radio and Television), a national petition campaign which calls for either an end to broadcast alcohol ads or equal time for health messages about alcohol. More than 700,000 people have signed the petition.

The nation's beer and wine industries spend \$750 million annually on radio and television commercials. Project SMART supporters claim the heavy advertising contributes to the nation's growing drinking problem by painting a false picture of drinking.

One of the tragedies, said Hollis, "is that many of those whose attitudes are being shaped (by the advertising) are children and young people." While "there is much damage that cannot be undone," Hollis said a ban on broadcast advertising of beer and wine can help to prevent further alcohol abuse.

Broadcasters, he said, "can keep functioning without alcoholic beverage ad revenues. The question is whether the nation can afford to keep educating—in reality miseducating—youth and adults with the glorification of alcoholic beverages."

Hollis also gave the subcommittee a copy of a resolution passed by messengers to the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention which called for a ban on alcohol ads in the broadcast media.

—30—

Grain Imports Vital
To African Nations

NEW YORK (BP)—The 21 countries of Africa most dramatically affected by the current famine can afford to import only half of the grain required to meet their food shortage crisis, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The FAO reported those nations need to import approximately 10.2 million tons of grain, the main staple in their diet, between July 1, 1984 and June 30, 1985. Since only half that amount can be imported through regular purchases, the rest must come in the form of aid from developed countries if millions of people are to avoid starvation.

While global grain production has increased significantly over the last three years, grain production in Africa during that time has declined by more than 10 million tons as a result of widespread drought. In Kenya, for example, the main 1984 harvest was 40 percent below that of the previous year. In hardest-hit Ethiopia, some seven million people—about one-fifth of the population—are affected by current food shortages.

The FAO estimated the 21 most severely affected countries need approximately 1.8 million tons more in food aid than the 3.4 million tons they received last year.

Prospects for 1985 grain production are not optimistic. While rains in some portions have given hope of breaking the cycle of drought that has plagued the continent, availability of water remains uncertain. In some places, promising conditions of even a few months ago have already deteriorated, resulting in downward projections of food production.

—30—

Yemen Accepted Doctor's Offer;
Active Jibla Hospital Resulted

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
2/21/85

WEST MONROE, La. (BP)—James Young volunteered. The Yemen Arab Republic accepted.

That agreement in 1964 allowed the unassuming Southern Baptist surgeon to open only the second Christian work since Islam's early days 1,300 years ago in Yemen, the land of biblical Sheba. The other work entailed three years of medical missions related to the Church of Scotland in the late 1930s.

Young still is unassuming two decades later. "I'm not much of a philosopher," he says. But what philosophy he does have is to the point: "The worst thing you can do is try to argue with someone about religion." In an Islamic country like Yemen, "What we try to do is live our religion...show the love of Christ."

Young operated a clinic in Ta'izz, Yemen's former capital, until 1968 when he supervised the opening of the Jibla Baptist Hospital in an isolated mountain town of 12,000 people. It's 100 miles from the Red Sea and 125 miles south of Sanaa, the current capital.

The hospital at Jibla now has 80 beds, 14 Southern Baptists on its staff and a reputation throughout the country for its surgical and obstetrical care.

Another of Young's straightforward outlooks relates to missions: "I think more people ought to go, and I think those who can't go ought to pray more and give more." They "don't realize just how great the needs are."

Yemen, for example, is "a place with some of the greatest needs in the world, both physical and spiritual. It's our job as Christians to meet both kinds of needs as best we can," says the Louisiana native, on 1 ave of absence in West Monroe, La. He and his wife, June, plan to return to Yemen this summer.

For physicians in particular, he sees a scriptural basis for entering missions in Luke 9:2: "...and (Jesus) sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

—more—

Parallels to Luke 9:2 are reflected in Young's reasons for his initial visit to Yemen in 1963. "I had heard it was a place that had very little in the way of medical care."

A United Nations report at the time confirmed the need: Yemen had the fewest number of doctors per capita in the world—one for every 150,000 people. The U.S. ratio was one for 790.

No Yemeni doctors practiced in the country in the early 1960s. Today there are 400, all of whom studied outside Yemen. "There's been a great increase in the number of medical facilities in Yemen," Young says, "but (in Jibla) the number of patients has not decreased."

Although the hospital stays full, primarily with surgery and obstetrics patients, problems from poor hygiene and poor public health measures often confront Young and the other doctors.

Common among adults are tuberculosis and a parasitic disease, schistosomiasis, which causes cirrhosis of the liver. Among young children, major killers are diarrhea and vomiting from poor hygiene and measles.

Childbirth complications, often stemming from poor prenatal care, have become a major part of the hospital's work in the past 10 years. The hospital delivered 75 babies in 1975; in 1984 the number reached 100 a month. Giving birth at home, however, remains the Yemeni custom.

Worship activities at the hospital are limited to non-Yemenis, because government regulations prohibit Yemenis from attending Christian services. "But we can speak to individuals," Young says. "Before I do surgery, I always pray for the patient," who usually conveys gratitude for the concern.

A man injured in an auto accident several years ago transferred himself to Jibla from another hospital where doctors from China were working. When one of the Chinese doctors asked how he was doing, the patient said, "I'm fine, thank God," and the doctor replied, "Don't thank God, thank me. I'm your doctor."

The man said he came to the Baptist hospital "because you pray and believe in God."

—30—

Southern Baptist Tract
Given To 1,500 Mourners

Baptist Press
2/21/85

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)—When Thelma George, long-time president of a Liberian soccer association, died in late 1984, a tract produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., was used as a witness of Mrs. George's Christian faith.

According to Southern Baptist missionary Pat Bellinger, "Mrs. George had accepted Christ as her Savior during the last weeks of her illness. Her daughters, through whose witness Mrs. George had become a Christian, wanted her funeral to be a time of praise of Jesus Christ rather than a time of praise of their mother."

On the request of the daughters, Baptist pastor Lawrence Kennedy purchased a large quantity of the tract "Without Excuse" at the Baptist Book Store.

The tract, which deals with five often-used excuses for postponing a decision to accept Christ, is an evangelistic publication produced by the Sunday School Board's church media library department.

At the Centennial Pavilion, a large government auditorium, high government officials, soccer players and other sports personalities joined family and friends at Mrs. George's funeral. Many, including a large number of Muslims, never had attended a Christian service.

One daughter read her mother's life story, emphasizing her new life in Christ and her victory in death. The other daughter urged persons in the congregation to accept Christ. Together they sang a song of praise to God, and the sermon that followed presented the plan of salvation. Then 1,500 persons carried away copies of the funeral program with the tract "Without Excuse" stapled inside the cover.



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37234

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION