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February 24, 1986

86-23

**Mission Administrators Meet
Despite Philippine Unrest**

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—The five-man committee that directs Southern Baptist mission work in the Philippines began a three-day meeting on schedule the morning of Feb. 24, as unrest continued in one area of Manila, the nation's capital.

The mission administrative committee met at a location about 20 to 30 minutes' driving time from two military camps taken over by a faction of rebels and surrounded by a human barricade of civilians sympathetic to the revolt, said Southern Baptist missionary Grover Tyner, reached at his home in Baguio, about a four-hour drive north of Manila.

Southern Baptist missionary Mary Slack, who lives in northeast Manila about 15 minutes from the besieged camps, said she and co-workers in the area are taking the advice of the U.S. Embassy to stay home. The Baptist building in Manila was closed so Filipino workers, who live throughout the city, would not need to travel, she said.

Churches opened as usual Sunday morning. Many of the services turned into prayer meetings for the country. People were praying for the crisis to be resolved without bloodshed, Slack said.

Tyner, administrator of Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, said revolutionary activities were confined to the one area in Manila, as far as he could tell from television reports in the country. "We don't feel apprehension or that there's going to be any problem with any of our people," he said.

Southern Baptists have 163 missionaries and short-term missionary personnel assigned to the Philippines, which has become one of the most responsive mission fields to the gospel in recent years. The country predominantly is Roman Catholic.

Tyner and some of his students met for an hour and a half the night of Feb. 24 to pray, he said. One of them has family about three miles from the camps. "I sensed as we prayed that most people were very confident of the Lord's power in this thing," Tyner said. "We are aware in many of the churches that there are prayer meetings, and we see prayer and the outreach that this is going to cause as significant.

"One of the Filipino professors called on to give the opening prayer began it with a prayer of thanks that this was giving an opportunity for us to experience a new relationship with God. I think in all of this there is a deep spiritual undertone where people sense a degree of helplessness, yet they are getting a great deal of strength out of their spiritual power."

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(Map and list of missionaries by home state mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.)

Agency Trustees Responsible
For SBC Investment Policies

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
2/24/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Trustees of Southern Baptist Convention agencies hold full responsibility for the moral soundness of their agencies' investments, the SBC Executive Committee declared Feb. 19.

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

"The Executive Committee reaffirms the responsibility of the trustees of each of the agencies to assure that the investment policies of the agencies are in keeping with the moral and spiritual principles of the Southern Baptist Convention," committee members agreed in approving without dissent a recommendation from their business and finance subcommittee.

The recommendation further stated the Executive Committee encourages "each of the agencies of the convention to continue careful evaluation of their investments in companies having business dealings in South Africa."

The Executive Committee's action was precipitated by a motion made during the 1985 SBC annual meeting that asked the Executive Committee to appoint a committee to study SBC agency and institutional holdings "for the purpose of initiating a systematic and careful divestiture of any investment securities which have been issued by corporations which conduct business with South Africa."

Last fall the Executive Committee's business and financial plan workgroup asked the Executive Committee staff to contact each SBC agency to gather information on agency policies in regard to divestiture of South Africa investments.

This study revealed the Southern Baptist Foundation, Sunday School Board and Annuity Board all handle investments within the terms of the "Sullivan Principles," internationally-recognized guidelines developed in 1977 by Leon Sullivan, a Baptist minister and former member of the General Motors board of directors.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board's administrative committee, following consultation with related missionaries and investment managers, noted the difficulty of monitoring companies which do business in South Africa and voted to "reaffirm our present investment policy which prohibits investments related to alcohol, tobacco, gambling or companies headquartered outside the United States."

The Executive Committee staff report noted, "The other agencies have either not adopted investment policies specifically regarding South Africa or have their funds managed by the Southern Baptist Foundation."

In other business, Executive Committee members received the final report of the SBC Legal Affairs Committee on legal problems related to ascending and descending liability relative to the SBC and its agencies and local churches, district associations and state conventions, as well as "legal problems peculiar to Baptists."

The 12-page report included a review of relevant Baptist documents, conclusions based on that review, legal suggestions for general Baptist bodies and recommendations to the Executive Committee, including five bylaw additions or revisions.

"The law of ascending liability is in its early stages and bears close scrutiny," said Legal Affairs Committee Chairman Welton Gaddy of Macon, Ga. "It is not now possible to predict the course of the law or to know all the measures which can be taken to safeguard Southern Baptist bodies. However, awareness of the problem by Southern Baptist officers, trustees and their attorneys is the beginning of half the battle--a battle which Southern Baptists must begin to fight quickly before the war is over."

The Executive Committee also received a nine-page report from the SBC Inter-Agency Council on the utilization of trained ministers within the convention. The basic recommendation of the report said, "attention should be given to the following six developmental stages of vocational ministry--understanding 'the call' to ministry; preparation for vocational ministry education; entrance into vocational ministry studies; vocational ministry education; entrance and relocation into a vocational ministry position; and in-service, personal and professional support for ministers experiencing crisis."

Committee members additionally approved without dissent revised statements of description for seven Foreign Mission Board programs. The revised program statements will be presented to messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention next summer in Atlanta.

The committee further voted to continue use of the current formula for funding the six SBC seminaries for the 1986-87 budget period. It authorized the committee's president-treasurer to employ a consultant to work with the Executive Committee staff and seminary presidents to review the present funding formula and recommend a revised formula for the 1987-90 budget years.

On a devotional note, SBC President Charles Stanley urged Executive Committee members to "meditate upon God's Word day and night, turning neither to the left nor to the right."

Such meditation on Scripture is the key to success, be it in business or in ministry, advised Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta. "You and I become what we focus upon most," he said, adding the great need for Southern Baptists is "to soak and absorb the Word of God for our own selves."

Stanley lamented the 1984-85 decline among Southern Baptists in baptisms and enrollment in church training and Woman's Missionary Union, pointing out, "We don't have any bragging rights if these statistics are true.... It doesn't matter how much money we give if we fail in evangelism, missions and leadership training."

Declaring, "Our priorities are not in order," he cited a report which shows "one out of 10 (Southern Baptist) churches aren't giving" to the convention.

"Let's go to these folks and find out why they are not giving. Ask them, 'What is the issue concerning why you are not giving?'" he said. "Lack of giving is a spiritual problem; it never is a financial problem."

Stanley testified as to how God had blessed him and First Baptist Church of Atlanta when they gave their money freely to God. "Money is never the problem with God and God's people," he insisted. "When people understand the principle of giving, you can't stop them from giving. When we get our minds on winning people to Christ,...you won't have to major on money."

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New Representation
Method Approved

Baptist Press
2/24/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A new method under which churches in new areas can qualify for representation on Southern Baptist Convention boards was approved during the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee

The plan--which creates a new bylaw and revises another--will be recommended to the annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta, June 10-12, 1986.

Under the recommendation, participation in convention affairs is broadened, and a three-tiered set of requirements for representation is proposed.

Currently, Southern Baptists from conventions and fellowships with less than 25,000 members are ineligible to serve on any convention committees or on any of the boards of agencies, institutions or commissions.

The proposal creates a new Bylaw 31, which says: "To allow participation in the affairs of the convention, any member of a church who is eligible to be a messenger to the convention may be appointed teller, a member of the Credentials Committee, a member of the Committee on Resolutions and a member of the convention's special committees."

The current Bylaw 31, which deals with "Representation from New States and Territories," would become Bylaw 32 and be designated, "Representation from Qualified States and Territories."

The new Bylaw 32 sets up a process through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches in a state or territory may make application for representation, specifying the application is to be presented to the Executive Committee at its February meeting containing information about membership. The committee will study the application, and, if it is approved, will be presented to officers of the SBC for action at the following convention.

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Under the plan, when cooperating churches in an area reach a membership of 15,000, they become eligible for representation on the SBC Executive Committee, the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

At 20,000 members, the churches are entitled to representation on the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board and Sunday School Board.

At 25,000 members, the churches can gain representation on the Annuity Board and on the commissions, institutions and standing committees, unless the individual agency's charter provides otherwise.

John Sullivan of Shreveport, La., chairman of the Bylaws Workgroup, presented the revisions to the Executive Committee, noting the changes had come about following a meeting of a special study committee and two sessions of the Bylaws Workgroup.

Although the matter of representation of new state conventions has been studied six times since 1974, the new study began following two motions made at the 1985 annual meeting, requesting revision of Bylaw 31 to broaden participation in convention affairs.

Previous studies have resulted in the Executive Committee declining to recommend revisions in the bylaws. Currently, representatives from new states are invited to attend meetings of the Executive Committee, Home, Foreign and Sunday School Boards at convention expense.

Sullivan said the special study committee met Jan. 17 in Dallas to study the question of participation and representation. Members of the Executive Committee on the committee are Sullivan and Darrell W. Robinson of Mobile, Ala., chairman of the Executive Committee's Administration and Convention Arrangements Subcommittee. Also serving is Executive Committee President Harold C. Bennett.

State convention executives on the committee are James H. Currin of the Baptist Convention of New England, Ernest B. Myers of the Nevada Baptist Convention, Rheubin L. South of the Missouri Baptist Convention and Dan C. Stringer of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Also participating in the meeting were William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board, and Lloyd Elder, president of the Sunday School Board. Both boards contribute to the work of the new areas and have guidelines setting minimum requirements under which new state conventions qualify for financial assistance.

Following the adoption of the recommendation to change the bylaws, the Executive Committee asked the special study committee to continue to work, studying other matters in the convention bylaws concerning representation.

Currently, there are 37 state conventions related to the Southern Baptist Convention, 27 of which have more than 25,000 members to qualify for representation. There are three fellowships --Iowa, affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention, and the Dakotas and Montana, affiliated with the Northern Plains Baptist Convention.

According to the compilation of data from Uniform Church Letters provided by churches in October 1985, of the 10 non-qualifying states, only one would receive seats on the Executive Committee, Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees, as well as the Home, Foreign and Sunday School Boards if the plan is approved. The 168 congregations of the Baptist Convention of New York list 23,005 members.

Five other areas would receive seats on the Executive Committee, Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards--Pennsylvania-South Jersey, 110 congregations with 18,767 members; Nevada, 68 congregations with 18,638 members; Alaska, 42 congregations with 17,573 members; Utah-Idaho, 87 congregations with 17,169 members, and Northern Plains (North and South Dakota and Montana, 123 congregations with 15,839 members.

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The churches of the other four conventions are below minimum requirements for representation--New England (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts) 71 congregations and 13,866 members; Hawaii, 42 congregations and 13,483 members; Wyoming, 62 congregations and 12,187 members; and Minnesota-Wisconsin, 79 congregations and 12,049 members.

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Tractor Accident Becomes
Miracle Story For Doctor

Baptist Press
2/24/86

EKU, Nigeria (BP)—Tim McCall knew he was going to be crushed to death.

McCall, a Southern Baptist missionary doctor, recalled working in hospital emergency rooms in the United States and seeing other victims who had been fatally injured when tractors they were working on "stood straight up in the air on (their) back wheels."

As he was thrown to the ground and the tractor fell backward, he thought, "I sure hate to leave my wife and three children, but God, I'm ready to die if it is your will."

The physician, who is from Memphis, Tenn., had been rebuilding a landing at the Ethiopie River, which runs behind the Eku Baptist Hospital in Nigeria. He was trying to pull up a palm tree stump when the tractor went out of control.

But when the tractor smashed to the ground on top of him, he felt intense pain only in his left leg.

His relief was only momentary, though, as fuel and oil began spilling out. "I feared I would burn to death, a much worse death, in my opinion, than being crushed."

McCall tried to turn the engine off but couldn't.

"Then it happened...an unbelievable peace...that God was going to spare my life, because people all over the world had been holding me up in prayer, some calling my name specifically and others just saying, 'Bless the missionaries.'"

Within minutes, hospital personnel were at the site. As they struggled to move the heavy tractor, McCall began thinking that his leg would have to be amputated, "but I began thanking God for at least sparing my life. In the next instant, the tremendously heavy tractor went straight up in the air, and I was pulled free."

In the X-ray room came news of a miracle. The muscles and some blood vessels in his leg had been crushed, but no bones had been broken. Nor were there any lacerations needing sutures.

With an inward peace that "nothing happens to a Christian that is not 'Father-filtered,'" McCall began to ask God "to show me how he was going to use this accident to glorify his name among Nigerians."

News of more miracles came. Among his many visitors in the hospital was a Nigerian who said a number of his friends began to believe in "our God" after hearing how McCall had been spared.

"Pray that these doors God has opened will lead many to a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ," urged the physician.

McCall was released from the hospital after four days, and he anticipates a full recovery after physical therapy.

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