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'Catch-up' Month Keeps CP  
Beyond U.S. Inflation Rate

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptists played "catch-up ball" in May with their Cooperative Program unified budget, passing along more than \$11.5 million in undesignated receipts.

May's Cooperative Program total of \$11,501,228 was up \$1,249,750 over the same period last year, for an increase of 12.19 percent.

After the first eight months of the current fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts total \$84,236,504, an increase of 7.8 percent over receipts of \$78,144,259 through May of 1985.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified giving plan that supports 19 agencies and institutions which conduct mission, education and ministry activities worldwide. The Cooperative Program fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

The May receipts are a "great sign" for the strength of the Cooperative Program this year, said Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. "We've been playing catch-up ball," he noted.

Indeed, May was the second-best Cooperative Program month in history, trailing January of this year, when receipts almost reached \$12.8 million.

"I was delighted with the large Cooperative Program receipts for May," Bennett said. "We had heard this might be possible because many state Baptist conventions indicated their April receipts (partially passed along to the national level in May) were high."

Despite the good month, Southern Baptists still are not expected to reach their \$130 million annual Cooperative Program goal. "We expect about \$126 million or \$127 million," he said.

That figure will carry the Cooperative Program through the first phase of its basic operating budget and provide about \$2.5 million for capital needs, explained Tim Hedquist, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance.

"Obviously, we're very grateful, but we can't rest on our laurels," Hedquist said. "We still have needs which remain. The mission boards especially need for us to reach the challenge portion of our budget, and even the full budget won't reach all our needs.

"But on the other hand," he added, "we have to be pleased when our annual increase is at 7.8 percent while the inflation rate is in the low-3's."

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1st-Time Messenger Recommends  
Meeting To All Southern Baptists

By Ray Furr

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ATLANTA (BP)--"Every Southern Baptist ought to go to the Southern Baptist Convention at least once," said a layman attending his first SBC annual meeting in Atlanta this June.

Alan Lyons, a 26-year-old messenger from First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ala., said he came expecting "...a knock-down fight, but after being around so many enthusiastic Christians, I came away with my Christian faith renewed."

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"I was amused though, by the nomination speeches. They sounded like announcements at a boxing match. I expected any minute for someone to come to the platform and announce, 'Here's Rocky Balboa,'" he smiled.

Lyons admits his mind wasn't changed by the speeches: "I read alot about both candidates before the convention and made up my mind to vote for Winfred Moore. But Adrian Rogers is a good man, too. He said he would be fair, and after hearing him preach I believe he is a man of integrity."

Lyons said he "pulled into Atlanta" prepared to endure long lines and be bombarded with political campaign propaganda. But neither materialized.

He and two friends arrived June 9 expecting to spend six hours in registration, which to his amazement took 10 minutes.

The Alabama layman and his friends decided to capitalize on the time saved at registration by mapping their route through the Georgia World Congress Center to their seats.

"We found the seats we wanted and figured out the fastest way to get to them, he said.

But again the crowd wasn't as bad as he anticipated. "We arrived at 7:15 on Tuesday morning (June 10), expecting the crowd to be massive. And it was. But everything was so well organized that we were in our seats by 8:30."

Lyons said he was most impressed with the cordiality of the people. "People I had never seen were introducing themselves to me. We were talking to one another like we had been friends for years," he said.

Lyons admitted he didn't know much about the denomination before the convention, and that he still doesn't know as much as he should. But he feels the convention was very informative.

"I had no idea we were doing so much ministry as a denomination," he said. "I had never heard of the Christian Life Commission or the Executive Committee. I figure I knew about 20 percent of what the denomination is doing. I think I increased that about 10 percent listening to all the reports."

But some of the business sessions were confusing, he admitted.

"There were resolutions and motions that I never did understand. Maybe I will have a better understanding after I return home and read the 'Alabama Baptist,'" he said.

He noted his favorite parts of the program were the music and the mission reports: "My church is a strong supporter of missions. It is exciting to see how our mission offerings are spent for the glory of God."

Lyons revealed he was raised a Southern Baptist but it wasn't until this year that he decided to become involved in the convention. And it took some real desire on his part to leave his wife and two-week-old son for four days.

"It was worth coming to the convention. I'm going home determined to learn more about the Southern Baptist Convention and I'm coming back as a veteran messenger," he insisted.

"No matter what they heard, every Southern Baptist, especially laypeople, ought to come to the Southern Baptist Convention at least once."

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Church Musicians Celebrate  
30 Years, Honor McKinney

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press  
6/18/86

ATLANTA (BP)—Members of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference celebrated their 30th anniversary, took special note of the 100th anniversary of Baptist songwriter B.B. McKinney and heard a series of challenges regarding personal development and enrichment of church musicians.

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Almost 700 church musicians registered for the three-day conference in Atlanta June 7-9.

W. Hines Sims, retired secretary of the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, called McKinney, who died in 1952 as a result of an automobile accident, "the greatest Christian I have ever known."

Sims said McKinney "had a burning desire to give the churches he loved a song of love, hope and peace" which "constituted a legacy that will live in the lives of thousands."

John Hewitt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C., challenged the church musicians to "be equally concerned with the words and the tune" of their music.

Expressing surprise at biblical inerrantists he said, "I want to know why people who get fire in their eyes over biblical inerrancy will sing with gusto 'He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels' when the Scripture says 12,000—and never miss a beat—and how can they sing 'Hark, the Herald Angels Sing' when the Scripture never mentions the angels singing a note—and never notice the discrepancy."

Hewitt's address on "The Mind" also called for the church musicians "to get their minds right for the ministry" through serious study, peer review and a renewed commitment to writing.

Harry L. Cowan, outgoing president of the Church Music Conference and minister of music at First Baptist Church, New Orleans, expressed several concerns which affect church musicians, including the "time and energy the SBC is spending on the election of a president" rather than proclaiming Christ.

The 1987 officers include Hugh T. McElrath, professor of church music, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., president; Nancy Blair, assistant to the minister of music and organist, Briarlake Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., vice president, local church division; Don McCall, associate, church music department, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, vice president, denominational division; A. Joseph King, professor of music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, vice president, educational division; Mary June Tabor, assistant, department of church music, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, secretary-treasurer, and Paul Hammond, School of Music, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., editor of publications.

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Education Voucher Proposal  
'On Hold' For Time Being

By Kathy Palen

Baptist Press  
6/18/86

WASHINGTON (BP)—When U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett introduced a proposed educational voucher plan last fall, he predicted it would be in place by July 1. As the summer slips by, however, it appears the proposed legislation is, as a House aide stated it, "on hold and most likely nothing will happen" during this congressional session.

Although an Education Department spokesman said the legislation, known as The Equity and Choice Act of 1985 (TEACH), remains a high priority for his agency, press aides for the Senate and House committees to which the voucher proposal was referred said the department has stopped efforts to push through the legislation.

Ken Terrell of the department's Office of Private Education said his agency will continue to work with the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and House Education and Labor Committee on the TEACH bill. He conceded, however, the proposal probably will stand a better chance of passage during the next session of Congress at which time the legislative branch will face reauthorization of the entire Chapter 1 program.

Currently under Chapter 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, federal funds go to public schools that provide compensatory education services for children who are economically and educationally disadvantaged. The proposed voucher program would allow parents of those children to obtain vouchers that in turn could be "spent" at the school—public or private—of the parents' choosing.

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Bennett repeatedly has vowed to find a way around a year-old Supreme Court decision that held unconstitutional a New York City program that sent public school employees into private schools to provide specialized services under Chapter I. He called the TEACH bill a ticket for parents to find the best possible schools—including private, church-related elementary and secondary schools—for their children.

Jay Butler, press secretary for the House Education and Labor Committee, agreed with Terrell that the voucher proposal would have a better chance of approval during the Chapter 1 reauthorization process. He added, however, the proposal probably will have to be modified if it is to pass even then.

Butler pointed to concern by a majority of the House committee members—Republicans as well as Democrats—over the proposed legislation's provision for Chapter 1 funds to be used for general tuition rather than only for compensatory services.

Under the TEACH bill, a parent could opt to use a voucher for compensatory services, general tuition, or a combination of compensatory services and tuition.

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Women Ministers Challenged  
To Speak The Words Of God

By Linda Lawson and Jim Newton

Baptist Press  
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ATLANTA (BP)—Effective Christian ministry begins only when a person realizes he or she has nothing to say but must be an empty vessel to speak the words of God. Baptist chaplain Janet Fuller Carruthers told 500 persons attending the June 8 morning worship service sponsored by Southern Baptist Women in Ministry in Atlanta.

"We dare not preach ourselves," said Carruthers, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointee serving as chaplain at Yale University and director of campus ministries, New Haven, Conn. "We have nothing of our own to say, but we will gladly sing the song God has given us."

The realization of emptiness is a painful lesson ministers must relearn periodically throughout their lives, she said, adding that unfortunately awareness that one has nothing to say does not always cause that person to be silent.

"When we think we understand what the life of faith and service is all about, we are again proved ignorant," said Carruthers. On the other hand, "when we admit to emptiness, to being tongue-tied, we get out of the way for Christ to speak the truth."

"We are empty vessels, earthen and common. We have no corner on the truth. Christ does not belong to us. God is not a man or a woman. God is not even a Southern Baptist."

In an earlier session, an unemployed woman minister encouraged other Baptist women in ministry not to lose heart and quit, but to preach Christ despite opposition and criticism.

Clista Whitehurst Adkins of Augusta, Ga., compared women Baptist ministers to the Apostle Paul. Many Southern Baptist women in ministry are discouraged because, like the Apostle Paul, they are criticized, maligned and rejected, she said.

Adkins urged Baptist women to allow God to change their pain, suffering and discouragement into a positive, redeeming purpose and quietly to continue serving and preaching.

During another major address, a former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., commended the group for their quiet, persistent efforts to be women ministers.

"You have not been raucous, crude or rude, but you've made gains by saying 'This is God's will for my life,'" said Gregory, currently a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and a former president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

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During a business session, Southern Baptist Women in Ministry adopted its first constitution as an organization and heard a report that the organization has incorporated and sought recognition as a tax-exempt, not-for-profit charitable organization.

Officers of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry are Ashli Cartwright Peak of Columbia, Mo., president; Libby Bellinger, chaplain for Inner-City Ministries in Waco, Texas, vice president; Nancy Ellett-Allison, associate pastor of Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, recorder; Dianne Eubanks Hill of Elizabeth City, N.C., interim treasurer; and Karen Conn Mitcham, public school teacher in Americus, Ga., program coordinator.

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Duvall Named Chair Of  
Pastoral Care Group

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ATLANTA (BP)—Robert W. Duvall, director of hospital chaplaincy at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been named chairperson of the Council on Ministry in Specialized Settings.

The interdenominational council consists of 12 pastoral care professional organizations, 23 religious endorsing bodies and three consumer groups. Its purpose is to encourage and facilitate the practice of quality ministry in specialized settings.

Duvall's task for the next two years will be to oversee the planning of Dialogue 88—a national meeting to look at the future of pastoral care in the United States. He also will help in the formation of a joint commission on accreditation of pastoral services. "There is no common organization specifying quality service in pastoral care departments," he explained.

Duvall, who joined the Home Mission Board staff in 1980, previously was chaplain to the hospitals affiliated with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. While in Minnesota, he served under missionary appointment by the Home Mission Board's chaplaincy division.

Duvall will be chairperson for two years.

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