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86-118

Tuition And Fees Increase
At Southern Baptist Colleges

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Parents sending their children to Southern Baptist colleges and universities this fall will have to dig deeper into their wallets for tuition and fees, but their situation could be worse.

This fall tuition and fees at private institutions will average \$5,793 for four-year schools and \$3,910 at two-year colleges, an 8 percent increase, according to figures released by the College Board to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Yet the average cost for Baptist-related institutions will be \$4,019. In fact, only five of 51 Baptist colleges and universities exceed the national average. The average percentage increase, however, at Baptist colleges is almost 10 percent.

The costs are based on tuition and fees only. Room and board are not included.

Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark., has the lowest costs of any four-year Baptist school at \$2,378, followed by Louisiana College in Pineville, where tuition and fees for 1986-87 will be \$2,745.

Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Ga., has the lowest costs of any Baptist junior college at \$2,415.

Tuition and fees at the University of Richmond in Virginia increased only 5.9 percent, yet the \$7,575 total is the highest of any Southern Baptist college.

Baptist College at Charleston in South Carolina is the only Baptist school which did not raise its 1985-86 tuition and fees of \$4,894.

Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, had the largest percentage increase, as tuition and fees rose from \$2,310 to \$3,188, 38 percent.

Mike Newsome, admissions coordinator at Wayland, said the increase is misleading. He noted the 1985-86 figures did not include a building and usage fee which was incorporated into this year's tuition. Newsome said the actual increase is about 14 percent.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, said the low average cost for Baptist colleges compared to private schools reflects the historic commitment Baptist educational institutions have made to keep costs affordable.

Following is the 1986-87 tuition and fees and percentage increase at all 51 Baptist colleges and universities.

Alabama—Judson College, \$3,255, 2.5; Mobile College, \$3,284, 11.7; Samford University, \$4,320, 9.8;

Arizona—Grand Canyon College, \$3,085, 9.8;

Arkansas—Ouachita Baptist University, \$3,450, 9.5; Southern Baptist College, \$2,378, 4.9;

California—California Baptist College, \$5,120, 21.2;

Florida—Palm Beach Atlantic College, \$4,350, 8.8; Stetson University, \$6,350, 11.4;

Georgia--Brewton-Parker College, \$2,415, 13.4; Mercer University (Macon), \$5,966, 11.2; Shorter College, \$4,030, 8.9; Truett-McConnell College, \$3,060, 18.6;

Kentucky--Campbellsville College, \$3,500, 4.2; Cumberland College, \$3,280, 13.9; Georgetown College, \$4,262, 5.8;

Louisiana--Louisiana College, \$2,745, 17.5;

Mississippi--Blue Mountain College, \$2,834, 13.4; Mississippi College, \$3,594, 7.3; William Carey College, \$3,070, 10.8;

Missouri--Hannibal-LaGrange College, \$3,572, 11.9; Missouri Baptist College, \$3,800, 11.8; Southwest Baptist University, \$4,070, 7.1; William Jewell College, \$4,940, 11.0;

North Carolina--Campbell University, \$5,202, 13.1; Chowan College, \$3,400, 5.6; Gardner-Webb College, \$4,530, 8.9; Mars Hill College, \$4,490, 9.5; Meredith College, \$4,200, 6.9; Wake Forest University, \$6,600, 10.0; Wingate College, \$3,670, 10.5;

Oklahoma--Oklahoma Baptist University, \$3,170, 6.9;

South Carolina--Anderson College, \$3,880, 13.8; Baptist College at Charleston, \$4,894, 0; Furman University, \$6,656, 10.7; North Greenville College, \$3,500, 9.4;

Tennessee--Belmont College, \$3,350, 8.1; Carson-Newman College, \$4,320, 8.0; Union University, \$3,050, 5.5;

Texas--Baylor University, \$3,970, 8.1; Dallas Baptist University, \$4,300, 10.3; East Texas Baptist University, \$3,300, 16.6; Hardin-Simmons University, \$3,828, 11.7; Houston Baptist University, \$4,014, 4.3; Howard Payne University, \$3,140, 13.8; University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, \$3,555, 15.8; Wayland Baptist University, \$3,188, 38.0; and

Virginia--Averett College, \$4,650, 10.1; Bluefield College, \$3,460, 23.6; University of Richmond, \$7,575, 5.9; Virginia Intermont College, \$4,375, 4.2.

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Home Missions Week
Emphasizes Evangelism

By Joe Westbury

N-HMB

Baptist Press
8/19/86

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Speakers wove a tapestry illustrating the need for Christian transformation of a non-Christian world during Home Missions Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Lavonn Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church of Norman, Okla., and Bible teacher for the week, warned conference participants against becoming "moral chameleons" who change colors depending on society's demands.

Brown asked participants if they were attempting to change their environment or allowing it to change them. "Christ never promised his followers an easy time. What we need is not an environment conducive to Christian growth and commitment but an infusing of transforming power."

Robert Hamblin, vice president of the evangelism section for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, urged conference participants to depend on Bible study, prayer and witnessing to give them the power to change society, saying, "The children of God who are going to serve the Lord need to have a constant mindset which can be achieved through Bible study, prayer and witnessing. If you don't witness as a constant way of life, you're not going to be able to keep your mind on things above," he said.

Although these appear difficult times in which to share the gospel, they do not demand nearly the sacrifice encountered by the early Christians, Hamblin stressed.

John N. Simms, director for the department of pastoral care and counseling at Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala., offered suggestions to help Christians become more effective in their witness.

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Addressing a conference for chaplains, Simms said both scientists and Christians agree that the ultimate mission of humans is to actualize their potential. For Christians, that means reaching their potential as children of God, he explained.

He encouraged his audience to adopt a more holistic approach to enjoying life and solving its problems: "The relation between body and mind is now well-documented in some areas and, increasingly, scientists are recognizing the integration of at least five aspects of human existence--intellectual, physical, emotional, social and spiritual. It's a network, like a mobile. A movement in one area affects all the rest."

A basic premise toward good mental and spiritual health is to refrain from a judgmental attitude toward other individuals, he stressed.

Simms reminded his audience problems affect Christians like they affect the rest of the world, but Christians have a better defense mechanism.

"The problem is not to get life to quit throwing us curve balls, but to learn to hit curve balls," he concluded.

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Southern Baptists Aid
Farmers Across America

By Sherri Anthony Brown

Baptist Press
8/19/86

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is the second of a three-part series on Southern Baptists and the American farm crisis. It is adapted from the July-August issue of MissionsUSA, published by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

ATLANTA (BP)—More than most denominations, Southern Baptists have reasons to be concerned about the depth and breadth of the current American farm crisis—not only because they are food consumers, but also because they are food producers. More than two-thirds of the 14.4-million-member denomination live in rural areas or towns with under 10,000 population.

Many of these Southern Baptists will go through the "deep agony" of bankruptcy, loss of a career, change of lifestyle and home. "Churches are being challenged to ministry," says Gary Farley, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's rural-urban department.

But farmers are "staunchly independent and will not accept assistance," points out John Hopkins, director of Christian social ministries for Southern Baptists in Kansas and Nebraska. "We're trying to sensitize local churches to go to farmers. Farmers won't come to them."

In the five hardest-hit farm states, nearly three-quarters of a million Southern Baptists live in rural areas; in Missouri, the state suffering worst from farm foreclosures, Farmers Home Administration has acquired 325 farms since 1980.

Authorities predict whole communities will dry up. Businesses, schools and churches will suffer. Some feel the crunch already.

In West Texas bivocational pastors have replaced full-time pastors because loss of farm families moving in the economically depressed area has hurt churches, says Director of Missions Herman Lancaster. In one case, Lancaster convinced two churches to merge, using the same pastor.

Concerned about the fate of 1,065 rural churches in Missouri, state Rural-Urban Missions Director Don Evans, has begun developing programs to aid struggling farm families. With \$50,000 from Home Mission Board hunger funds, Evans began distributing food, food vouchers and money for garden seed to families in need.

Evans also has produced six educational videotapes on the farm crisis and its repercussions. "These tapes have gone all over the country," he reports. "It is one way we can get information out quickly and efficiently." Evans now is working to get legal aid for farmers in transition—whether that transition is voluntary or involuntary.

Yet his actions run counter to skeptics who proclaim, "If a farmer's in trouble, it's his own fault. He got greedy."

For some that's true, but why kick someone when he's down?" Farley asks. "Besides, I don't see their dream as any different from the rest of America. If you criticize them, you criticize the whole capitalistic society."

Concludes Farley, "The attitude, 'They made a mistake. Let'em go down,' isn't Christian."

Farley does not suggest churches bail farmers out. "It would take all the money all the churches collect all year long to begin to pay off the farm debt," he notes.

In fact, total SBC receipts represent about one-sixtieth of the \$213 billion farm debt. But paying for the debt may not be as important as proving "Southern Baptists care for the farmers like they care for anybody that's hurting," Farley says.

He points to models like Evans and to the ministry of congregations like First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, which sponsored a Farm Jubilee Weekend. Seminars on finances, relocation and other options—plus counseling opportunities—helped farmers from across the nation have a better outlook.

First Baptist Church of Lamesa, Texas, conducted a similar non-denominational weekend event called West Texas Farm Family Weekend. "We knew the church couldn't do much about the financial side of the crisis, but we could help our people handle the stress," says Pastor C.H. Murphy Jr. The church also held four follow-up meetings for the 600 people who attended.

In Georgia, now a national disaster area, drought coupled with mounting farm debts caused the state convention to sponsor a day of prayer for farmers. Reidsville pastor Sterling Bargeron, who encouraged the state to hold the day of prayer, says, "I hope it's helped. But I haven't seen much rain lately."

Allen and Dolores Baugh, co-directors of missions in Severns Valley Baptist Association in Elizabethtown, Ky., have begun holding rallies for farmers. With the help of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the association sponsored its first rally in February. Five hundred farmers attended. The Baughs, who make their living as farmers, have felt the need for helping the farmers. They are planning at least two more rallies this summer, offering aids on farm money management and stress management.

In Mississippi, Director of Missions M.C. Johnson also has provided stress conferences for hard-hit farmers in his North Delta Baptist Association. "They need to talk about their needs and problems," he says.

His association has provided food and clothing for farm hands and their families. "The farmers can't help them out in the winter anymore—and they sure can't afford to lose these workers," explains Johnson.

Stress—monetary, emotional, physical—can be crippling, farmers say. And it hides not only on farms, but in churches as well. "Imagine the tensions that can surface in a church," says Farley, "when its members include the banker who is foreclosing, the sheriff who's serving the papers and the family who's losing its farm.

"How does a church handle that?" he asks.

Often overlooked in the farm crisis is the banker, almost as victimized by the shifts in land values and mounting debt as the farmer. Southern Baptist Charles Brazeale, president of The Paris National Bank in Paris, Mo., points out the locally owned institution suffers with the downfall of each family farm.

"It doesn't always seem that we're looking at all sides of this problem. But people need to realize when farmers go under we suffer a considerable financial loss, too," he insists.

Beyond the professional loss is the personal pain Brazeale must handle. "I'm very much aware of the farmers feelings," he says, noting that he's had farmers break down in his office. "I see all this crying; they offer all these promises that they'll do this or that. I try to help, but there's very little I can do...."

Brazeale has found farmers "get down on themselves when they lose their farm. I tell them they're still important. They still matter.

"I try to be Christian," he concludes. "I have to convince them they can't save their farm. And then I serve communion with them on Sunday. It's hard."

Farley agrees. But he adds, "loving your neighbor as yourself is what Christianity is about. God forgives. The farmer should be able to forgive himself, and we should be able to forgive and help each other. Ours is a gospel of grace."

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

CORRECTION: In BP story mailed 8/8/86, "Home Mission Board Grants Loan To Colorado Baptists," please change graf 18 to read: Kenneth Carter, director of the board's associational evangelism department, was elevated to director of the evangelism development division.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Missionaries In Indonesia
Turn Obstacle Into Advantage

By William N. McElrath

F-FMB
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8/19/86

MALANG, Indonesia (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries in Indonesia are turning an obstacle into an advantage as they help Indonesian Baptists start 500 new churches in five years.

The obstacle Baptists are turning around is resettlement. Often the government helps families move from the island of Java, one of the most densely populated areas in the world, to another, less-populated Indonesian island.

A few years ago Southern Baptist missionary Jerry Rankin of Clinton, Miss., was putting together a church in Jember, Indonesia, when 10 church families signed up for a government-sponsored project. Soon they all had moved to new homesteads near Jambi in the southern part of Sumatra island. Similar incidents have left other churches in disarray.

In the past, resettled church members have strayed from their Christian lives or have not been able to find other Baptists or start a fellowship in their new home. But this summer, missionaries launched a project to locate, list and maintain contact with resettled Indonesian Baptists. Now those who have moved will form the core for new churches in their new hometowns.

Southern Baptist missionary Von Worten, a church starter from Pawhuska, Okla., will oversee the project, cataloging names and addresses of resettled members and channeling the information to Baptists in remote resettlement areas.

Every two or three months, teams of three to five missionaries will work five to 10 days in resettlement areas. They will visit, preach, teach and encourage local Baptists in outreach. In some areas, missionaries with expertise in medicine, agriculture or theological education also will visit.

Resettlement areas have shown an openness to the gospel but are difficult places to locate missionaries, Worten says. This plan may make advantage of the situation while working around the problems.

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(McElrath is a missionary in Indonesia.)