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87-19

Decline In Hunger Gifts
Doesn't Discourage Experts

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)---Southern Baptists in 1986 contributed more than \$9 million to their denomination's program of world hunger relief, according to figures released in February by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

Although total hunger receipts last year were 23 percent less than the record \$11.8 million given in 1985, hunger experts at the two mission boards and the SBC Christian Life Commission were upbeat about the ongoing responsiveness of Southern Baptists to critical hunger needs.

The 1986 total of \$9,089,279 is still the second largest amount ever given and represents nearly a \$2 million increase over the amount given in 1984. Figures do not reflect receipts for "general relief" at the Foreign Mission Board or monies given for hunger that were utilized in local churches, associations and state conventions.

"I think the overall picture for Southern Baptist hunger relief is encouraging," said Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Christian Life Commission which coordinates education and action on hunger issues among Southern Baptists. "The broadening base of support for hunger relief during the last decade is a sign of growing confidence in the hunger programs of our mission boards."

For 1986, the Foreign Mission Board reported receipts of \$7,790,128 for overseas hunger relief, compared with \$10,625,897 in 1985. More than a third of the receipts came during the last two months of the year after the denomination's observance of World Hunger Day in October. Receipts for November topped \$1.1 million -- a record for that month.

While FMB receipts declined in 1986, gifts to domestic hunger relief through the Home Mission Board climbed slightly. Total receipts in 1986 were \$1,299,151, compared with \$1,204,249 in 1985.

Paul Adkins, director of the Home Mission Board's missions ministries division, credited the increase to ongoing emphases on domestic hunger needs by the Home Mission Board, Christian Life Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission. Also, he said, the farm crisis and the plight of the homeless have been highly publicized by the media in the past year, in contrast to decreasing media coverage of overseas hunger.

"All of this has communicated to Southern Baptists that there are great needs here in the United States," Adkins said. "We are grateful for the nearly \$1.3 million in contributions, but we could have used that much last year in any one of our major cities."

At the Foreign Mission Board, John Cheyne, senior consultant for human needs ministries, said he was not surprised by the drop in giving after last year's record response. The "positive side," said, is that the 1986 figures represent "a healthy increase" over 1984 despite economic hardship in many Southern states and waning interest in overseas hunger by U.S. news media.

Cheyne also underscored the need for continued support of hunger relief, reiterating his view that a "hunger holocaust" remains a "frightening possibility." He said this is especially true for beleaguered Africa, due to factors such as misuse of land, increasing population, drought, war and international debt.

Another worldwide trend, Cheyne said, is the increasing flight of poor and displaced persons to crowded urban centers. He pointed out that Latin America alone already has more than 40 million street children, "and I know of no single program that has an effective strategy to address this overwhelming need."

Projects In 41 Nations
Funded In Christ's Name

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists last year continued to feed starving Ethiopians and helped remote Peruvians irrigate parched fields.

World hunger offerings of nearly \$8 million, given through the denomination's Foreign Mission Board, subsidized other projects, too. In all, 176 immediate and long-term relief projects helped people in 41 nations. During the year, the board spent about \$8.8 million to help meet human needs overseas.

And unlike those who administer such programs through secular agencies, Southern Baptist missionaries offered relief as they taught nationals that physical substance is only one part of the abundant life Jesus Christ offers.

Giving last year showed a 28 percent drop from a record in 1985, when TV news interrupted America's dinner hour with pictures of starving Ethiopian children.

But it continued a healthy uphill climb over the years before. The year-end total surpassed the \$7.5 million forecast midyear, when relief agencies worldwide began to feel the pinch of "donor fatigue" as interest in Ethiopia waned.

The relief figure reflects a record month for November offerings of about \$1.1 million, as well as \$400,000 channeled from the Baptist World Alliance.

The alliance's money came earmarked to underwrite relief efforts in Ethiopia, where Southern Baptists operate five feeding stations and clinics. The number of Ethiopians participating in the program stands at about 110,000 as compared with 150,000 at the peak of the crisis.

Since 1983 Southern Baptists have spent about \$5.3 million in Ethiopia. Missionaries' most recent action has been to design and present to the Ethiopian government a five-year development plan to help solve underlying causes of famine.

In Peru, Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers supported by world hunger gifts designed aqueducts to funnel water from mountain springs to lowland farms. Peruvians who benefited helped throughout the projects.

Since missionaries personally administer aid to the people for whom it is intended, the approach of Southern Baptists' program appeals to people who care about the whole person, says John Cheyne, the board's senior consultant in human needs.

Relief is not a means to preach the gospel but actually a part of the gospel, because involvement in people's lives requires attending to their physical as well as spiritual needs, he explains: "I think you simply cannot divorce evangelism from human needs. If evangelism is to be authentic and effective, it must be people-centered. And if it is people-centered, then it must be concerned about the whole person -- spirit and body."

Because of this, Cheyne believes a part of the future in evangelizing the world will be tied to meeting human needs. For instance, Southern Baptists last year spent about \$250,000 in Indochina, where Southern Baptist missionaries are not permitted to live.

"There are countries we will never be allowed to go into as evangelists, with that nomenclature. But these countries might get excited about welcoming us in if they can see our concern is for people and that we have the qualifications to help them," he says. "The only way to get into these countries might be because as Christians we just happen to be compassionate people. And as Christ's compassion drives us, he will become real to these people."

Southern Names Clapp
Executive Vice President

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--University of Kentucky administrator Donald B. Clapp has been named executive vice president at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Clapp, a 50-year-old Southern Baptist layman, has worked for the University of Kentucky for 24 years. Since 1985 he has been executive vice chancellor for administration at the university's medical center in Lexington, managing the administrative and financial operations of a health sciences center with five colleges and a teaching hospital. He also has served the university as vice president for administration, executive assistant to the president and budget director.

At Southern Seminary, Clapp will be the institution's chief administrative officer, with direct responsibility for academic services, business affairs, student services, seminary relations and development. He will begin his new responsibilities in May.

Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt praised Clapp as "an outstanding academic administrator with splendid qualifications." Clapp, he said, "has already impressed the seminary community with his administrative gifts, his Christian commitment and his special sense of calling as a layman to this place of ministry."

Clapp, a native of Lexington, earned the B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Kentucky. He and his wife, Betty, are members of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

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Home Missions Teleconference

Challenges Viewers To Win America

By D'Lesa Carroll

Baptist Press

2/11/87

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--About 32,000 Southern Baptists from across the nation participated in the 1987 Home Missions Teleconference, Feb. 9 — nearly 10,000 more than the 1986 Home Missions Teleconference audience.

Viewers gathered at about 450 sites for the teleconference, which was broadcast live from Birmingham, Ala. For the first time callers had the opportunity to speak personally by phone with Southern Baptist missionaries and missions agency leaders. More than 200 telephone calls were received during the 90 minute telecast.

The program concentrated on the week of prayer for home missions' theme, "Who Will Win America." Agency heads and missionaries shared specific needs and concerns on the home mission field and offered ways Southern Baptists could become involved in the effort.

"The most important thing Baptist Women can do during this week is to use the WMU materials and meet every day so that each day they can pray for our home missionaries," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director for the national Woman's Missionary Union.

Men can also be a part of the action, said James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president. "It is important that the Brotherhood Commission keep challenging men and boys to become involved in missions," he said.

Missionaries also encouraged all Southern Baptists to support home missions — perhaps even as volunteers. Volunteers have played a major role in helping missionaries to spread the word of Christ, they reported.

Lynn Davis, who served in Ocean City, Md., says a lot of her work depends on the students who volunteer their time in the summer. "My number one prayer request is that God will send volunteers so that more people can be won to Christ," she said.

Being able to reach more people is an answer to prayer for Art and Charlene Bingham, who are thankful that God has provided building space for worship at the Stowe Memorial Baptist Center in Columbus, Ohio. "I am excited about our new facility and thank God for having more of an opportunity to witness," said Bingham.

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Witnessing to people of different backgrounds in a varied cultures can sometimes be a road block for a missionary. Jimmy Anderson, who works with Indians in Shawnee, Okla., believes it is important to meet physical needs first, then the spiritual. "It is wonderful to see Indians come to love the Lord and at times I've seen whole families walk the aisle and accept Christ," he said.

"We must begin by sharing God with our family, then we can win the world," added Gwen Williams, missionary in New Orleans.

"There is an urgency for winning America for Christ," said Bob Banks, executive vice president and interim president of the Home Mission Board. If the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering of \$37.5 million is not met, new work areas will be the first programs to go, he said.

"A world of people are lost and dying without Christ. We must get involved as all of us have the responsibility to be a witness," he added.

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Holiday Inn Boycott
Okayed In California

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FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The executive board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California has approved a boycott of the Holiday Inn chain, following the lead of the National Federation for Decency, an anti-pornography organization.

The boycott was approved at the February meeting of the state executive board after the group's denominational relations committee recommended boycotting the chain "until such time as Holiday Corporation (the chain's parent company) discontinues its policy of promoting pornography by offering pornographic movies."

Drew Allen, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Santa Clara, Calif., who brought the action to the floor of the board meeting, said the action was prompted by a call for a nationwide boycott from the NFD, a Mississippi-based organization which says it is devoted to "the biblical ethic of decency in American society with primary emphasis on TV and other media."

The action presumably prohibits any SBGCC-sponsored or convention-related activity from using Holiday Inn as a lodging or meeting place.

According to Herb Hollinger, editor of the California Southern Baptists, newsjournal of the convention, several board members expressed concern about the possible "inflammatory" nature of using the word "boycott."

During discussion, Allen was asked if the motion encourages California Southern Baptist churches to boycott the chain. "That is implicit in the motion," Allen said.

It is believed the California action is the first time a Southern Baptist Convention-related organization has joined the NFD-sponsored boycott of the chain, which is the nation's largest motel chain, with 1,400 inns.

Mark Wyatt, director of public relations for the SBGCC said Holiday Inns and the Holiday Corp. will be notified of the action through letters from Dan Coker, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Seaside, Calif., chairman of the executive board, and C.B. Hogue, executive director of the convention.

John Onoda, director of external communications for the Holiday Corp. in Memphis, Tenn., said: "We do not show pornography. We have never shown X-rated films."

He added Holiday Inns operate Hi-Net Communications network in joint partnership with COMSAT Corp., which provides satellite television as well as "pay-per-view" movies.

"We show only G, PG, PG-13 and R rated movies. At one time, we were showing foreign movies, which had been edited to conform to R-rated standard. R has always been our ceiling," he said, adding the service is available to guests "who must make a conscious decision to turn it on."

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Onoda said he was not yet aware of the California action, but added: "We pay careful attention to any complaint about our service or products. We do not dismiss anything; everything is considered. We respect these people's opinions."

Donald Widemon, executive director of the Tupelo, Miss.-based NFD, told Baptist Press that although other motel chains show similar movies, Holiday Inn was selected for the boycott "because they are the largest. They do more of it than anyone else. You can't do battle with 15 companies at one time. But if you get the largest, you send a message to all the others."

He claimed the films shown are "actually X-rated movies which have been edited to make them what is called a 'hard-R' movie. It is still a pornographic movie; the substance is nothing but sex."

Widemon said several religious groups have joined the boycott, naming Missionary Baptists, Free Will Baptists, Nazarenes and Assembly of God groups among them.

"We appreciate the Southern Baptist people in California," he added.

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Hargrave Academy
Elects New President

Baptist Press
2/11/87

CHATHAM, Va. (BP)—Michael B. Colegrove has been elected president of Hargrave Military Academy, the school's board of trustees announced Feb. 9.

Colegrove, dean of educational services and registrar at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky., will assume duties as president on July 1. He succeeds Vernon T. Lankford, who is retiring following 17 years as president of the academy, which is affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

A native of West Virginia, Colegrove, 37, is a graduate of Cumberland College, Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Ky., and George Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn.

He has held his present position at Cumberland since 1984. Earlier, he was a professor of education and held several posts in the admissions office.

The 78-year-old Hargrave Military Academy has an enrollment of 360 students in grades 6 through 12. Although Hargrave is a boarding school for boys, girls recently have been accepted as day students.

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