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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 27, 1987

N-60  
(Hist. Comm.)

87-63

Historical Commission OKs  
Budgets, Bylaw, Pamphlets

By Shellyn Poole and Karen Benson

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission have approved several budget recommendations, authorized the development of a plan for a pamphlet series and created a bylaw revision on open board meetings.

The action came April 20 during a business meeting prior to the April 21-22 joint annual meeting of the commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society. The conference, held at the national headquarters of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., drew more than 350 participants.

Trustees approved a scaled-down budget for the 1987-88 year. It includes a \$453,000 Cooperative Program allocation, which is \$48,220 less than the amount requested last year. It also includes \$83,750 in product sales and investment income. The proposed budget is \$14,950 less than the current budget of \$551,700.

This year's budget is more than the 1987-88 budget due to the use of program reserves to help fund 1986 production expenses relating to the pamphlet series, "Shapers of Southern Baptist Heritage," May said.

Trustees authorized commission Executive Director Lynn E. May to seek \$519,750 in Southern Baptist Cooperative Program funding to help meet the 1988-89 budget of \$ 604,240.

The approved pamphlet series will explore Southern Baptist convictions from a historical perspective. Possible topics include the lordship of Christ, the priesthood of believers and the autonomy of the local church.

The bylaw revision adopted by the commission allows "any interested Southern Baptist" access to "all meetings of the Historical Commission and its committees." The bylaw allows an executive session to be called only when "sensitive personnel matters" need to be discussed.

Trustees adopted the revision after considering a request from the Southern Baptist Press Association that urged convention agency trustees to review their bylaws to "make certain that executive sessions and closed business discussions are absolutely unacceptable except when sensitive personnel matters are concerned."

Members of the commission and society elected officers for 1987-88 during the joint meeting.

Historical Society officials are Lee N. Allen, dean of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences at Samford University, in Birmingham, Ala., president; William L. Lumpkin, retired pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., vice president; and May, secretary-treasurer. In 1988, the society will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

New officers of the Historical Commission are Ronald F. Deering, librarian at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., chairman; Waldo P. Harris III, retired director of missions for the Georgia Baptist Association in Georgia, vice chairman; Marlene Hunt Rikard, professor of history at Samford University, recording secretary; and May, treasurer.

Two annual awards also were presented. The 1987 Distinguished Service Award went to Lumpkin, who served on the faculty at Southern seminary from 1954 to 1959 and at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1971 to 1973. The award recognized outstanding contributions to the cause of Baptist history.

The 1987 Norman J. Cox Award was presented to Ronald Poythress, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Waldorf, Md. The award was given for the best article published in 1986 by the commission.

Throughout the conference, speakers addressed various issues relating to the theme, "Women in Southern Baptist History."

In tracing patterns of ministry among Baptist women, Carolyn Blevins expressed concern about the declining number of women in leadership positions in Southern Baptist agencies and institutions. Blevins is assistant professor of religion at Carson-Newman College and was 1986-87 president of the Historical Society.

"In 1952, 14 percent of the leadership positions were filled by women. Thirty-two years later, in 1984, after a decade of emphasis on women's issues, women held 1 percent fewer leadership positions than they had in 1952," she said.

Of those women who work in denominational positions, their careers are "merely 9-to-5 jobs," Blevins said. "They are crucial forms of ministry."

A survey of women convention employees in 1978 revealed that 38 percent felt God led them to their particular jobs, she said. And 68 percent felt called of God to do the work they were doing.

Yet that same survey uncovered "substantial dissatisfaction with the ability of women to make a career advance in their agencies," she noted.

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Increased Food Supply  
Slows Spread Of Hunger

By Tim Fields

N-10  
(110)

Baptist Press  
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WASHINGTON (BP)—The worldwide food supply has increased for the second consecutive year due to favorable weather, expanded planting, price incentives, availability of fertilizer and use of high-yielded plants, according to a new United Nations report.

The latest issue of "Food Outlook," a publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, reported "the 1986 cereal output is a record" and "cereal stocks will rise sharply in 1986-87 for the third consecutive year."

Contributing to the increased production of cereals is a 2 percent rise in the aggregate output in developing countries, where poverty and hunger are the greatest. Much of the increased productivity is in Asia and Africa.

"The increased production for the second successive year in Africa represents a sharp turn away from the famine conditions of 1984-85," said Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Nine of the Sahelian countries which suffered profoundly from the hunger crisis are expected to have a 4 percent increase over last year's record harvest," Parham noted.

According to the report, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali are among the countries forecast to reach new peaks in production. Ethiopia's crop yields are projected to be 40 percent better than in 1984 and 1985 but still below pre-drought levels. Cereal output in Sudan is anticipated to exceed the 1986 record, while Malawi and Zimbabwe are producing enough crops for export.

In Asia, the picture also is good. Rice production in both China and Bangladesh is expected to increase, while India's rice crop is anticipated to fall about 5 percent from the record level in 1985. Turkey and Pakistan have experienced higher output in coarse grains.

Amidst the good news, the FAO offered a cautious word that food harvests are threatened in Africa and parts of Asia by infestations of locusts and grasshoppers. Swarms of locusts have been reported in Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt and western Saudi Arabia. If the anticipated heavy breeding in the spring is not controlled, the FAO warned, the swarms of locusts could spread into the Arabia peninsula, south of the Horn of Africa and West Africa.

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Other threats to food production include civil strife in Angola and Mozambique and insufficient rains in Botswana and Lesotho. An estimated 3.5 million people in Mozambique, one-fourth of the population, now need food relief.

"Despite the increased food supply," Parham said, "an estimated 730 million people around the world remain hungry each day. Increased productivity does not necessarily mean increased availability. People are malnourished in large measure because they are poor. And one of the best ways to alleviate hunger is to help poor people become self-reliant."

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Edwin Orr Dies During  
HMB Awakening Conference

N-HMB

Baptist Press  
4/27/87

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—J. Edwin Orr, an authority on spiritual awakening, died at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center where he was speaking at a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board evangelism conference.

The 73-year-old president of the Los Angeles-based Oxford Association for Research in Revival, delivered his last public message at the seventh annual Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Conference.

Darrel King, associate director of the board's prayer for spiritual awakening office, called Orr the world's leading authority on revival and spiritual awakening.

Orr was scheduled to give four addresses at the national conference but was able to speak only once.

During his message, Orr told 250 participants that he had chest pains a year ago and again a week earlier but was unable to reach his doctor before coming to Ridgecrest.

He awoke with chest pains the next morning and suffered a heart attack on arrival at an Asheville, N.C., hospital. He died that afternoon.

An Irish Baptist, Orr was an author and professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Ivy Carol, and three children. Funeral services and burial were held in Los Angeles.

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Time To 'Loose' Baptist Women  
Arrives, SBC Historian Claims

By Karen Benson

N-LO  
(Hist. Comm.)

Baptist Press  
4/27/87

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—When it comes to Southern Baptist women, Southern Baptist men have depended upon them, feared them, followed them, puzzled over them, even ignored them, Southern Baptist historian Leon McBeth claimed.

But the day has arrived when Southern Baptist men need to "loose" Southern Baptist women to determine their own roles in Baptist life, he said.

McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, Texas, spoke to the joint annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society April 21. The meeting, which focused on "Women in Southern Baptist History," was held at the national headquarters of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala.

From the angle of service, Southern Baptist men depend upon Southern Baptist women, McBeth said. "You have nurtured, sustained, encouraged and preserved our churches," he said to women. "Without your loyal and effective service through the generations, our churches and our denomination would not be what it is today, if it would be at all."

The women have invested money, time, energy, talents — even their very lives — in Baptist service, yet "in these latter days we reward you by explaining that God made you second-class Christians and telling you what areas in the church are off limits to you," he said.

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From the angle of ministry, Baptist men fear Baptist women, McBeth said: "We are afraid for you to speak out too much in church. We are afraid for you to assume too much leadership. We are afraid for you to teach or speak in a mixed assembly. And we are especially afraid for you to stand in the pulpit, unless you are singing, in which case it is all right."

In fact, Southern Baptist men have had an "almost irrational fear of women in a pulpit, whether preaching or not," McBeth noted. "We seem to fear that if you approach too closely, you will somehow contaminate or desecrate the holy places and holy things of our faith."

From the angle of missions, Southern Baptist men follow Baptist women, he said. "No fact in Baptist history is clearer than the fact that women have set the pace for our Baptist involvement in missions," he insisted.

In recent years, Southern Baptists have conducted, through their Foreign Mission Board, "one of the most extensive foreign missions work in the history of Christianity," McBeth said. But that foreign mission zeal only happened when the "missionary vision of Baptist women" was adopted by the entire denomination, he noted: "In foreign missions, you have set the pace. You saw the biblical message of missions before we did. You saw the potential of missions to energize our churches before we did."

From the angle of Scripture, Baptist men puzzle over Baptist women, McBeth claimed: "Not all words from the Bible are equally clear to us. We read that women are to keep silent in the church, but we are not sure whether it means in that social setting or for all time to come.

"We have competent and dedicated Bible scholars who genuinely believe that the New Testament forbids women to exercise a teaching or ministerial role in the church," McBeth said. "We have other equally competent and equally dedicated Bible scholars who believe that the New Testament, properly interpreted, does not disqualify women for being called of God and of fulfilling that call in ministry in the church."

The person today who assumes Bible teachings on the role of women in the church are clear and unequivocal "is either incredibly naive or else is not taking the text of the Bible seriously," he asserted.

From the angle of history, Baptist men have ignored Baptist women, McBeth added. In fact, "if any of you men ever want to get away from women, just get into the pages of Baptist history," he said. "Women will not bother you there. You will find there mostly an all-male world."

While the history books ignore Baptist women, the primary sources relating to Baptist history -- the letters, diaries, confessions of faith, church minutes, convention and associational records and such -- attest to the prominent role women have played in Baptist history, McBeth said.

But that role is not found in the official histories, he noted: "They did not say anything bad about you. They just did not say anything at all about you."

From the angle of the future, Southern Baptist men must "loose" Southern Baptist women, McBeth said: "For generations, men have interpreted the scripture passages about you. Men have passed the laws which determine your rights in society. Men have interpreted your place in history. Men have decided what you could do, say, wear and own.

"Men have pronounced the verdict on whether God can call you, and if so, to what. Men have decided if you could serve as deacons, teachers or ministers. We have Jell-o-molded you into what we think you ought to be."

But the time now has come for a "moratorium" of men making authoritative pronouncements about women, McBeth asserted: "You must do your own speaking. You must define your own roles. You must become biblical scholars and interpret for yourselves, and for us, what it means to be a woman.

"You must research Baptist history and recover your part of the heritage. You must discern how God is dealing with you. You must determine if God is calling you, and if so, to what. "And you, and only you, can determine what is your proper response to God's call."

Second ACTS Awards  
Nominees Announced

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP)—Churches and church-related American Christian Television System local affiliates have been nominated for special honors at the second annual ACTS Awards.

Nominees were selected from 261 ACTS network affiliates for outstanding achievements in local programming, promotion and management. Awards will be presented during a program at 8 p.m., May 8 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Receiving nominations for best promotional spot are "ACTS: The 18 Way to Family Entertainment," ACTS of Montgomery, Ala.; "NewsWatch," ACTS affiliate W11 BD TV-11 of Lebanon, Tenn.; and "Super Tuesdays," ACTS of Jackson, Miss.

Nominees for best Christian message spot are "The Car," ACTS of Jonesboro, Ark.; "Forgiveness," Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; and "The Difference," ACTS of Little Rock, Ark.

Best spot series nominees are "Christmas Greetings," ACTS of Montgomery; "The Morning View," produced by Morningview Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., for ACTS of Montgomery; and "Profiles," ACTS of Alcoa, Tenn.

Nominees for best spot of the year honors are "Case Closed," ACTS of Little Rock; "Wee Care," ACTS of Alcoa; and "Friends of Cable 6," ACTS of Hattiesburg, Miss.

In the program category, best seasonal special nominees are "Christmas Carol," produced by Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, for ACTS of Fort Worth; "Times of the Season," produced by Sagamore Hill Baptist Church, Fort Worth, for ACTS of Fort Worth; and "Carols by Candlelight," produced by First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., for ACTS of Jackson.

Best musical program nominees are: "Carolyn and Company," ACTS of Little Rock; "One Heart, One Spirit, One Song," produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention and ACTS Cable 10 for the Delta ACTS Board of Cleveland, Miss.; and "Solid Rock," ACTS of Little Rock.

Nominees for best community event program are "Ole Miss Football," ACTS of Jackson; "Celebrate Minnesota," ACTS affiliate Alexandria Christian TV, UHF/30 and Cable 5, Alexandria, Minn.; and "Run for World Hunger," ACTS of Hattiesburg.

Best human interest program nominees are "Cleveland Centennial Highlights," Delta ACTS Board; "Katy's Kitchen," ACTS of Katy, Texas; and "Athletes Alive," ACTS of Jackson.

Nominees for best missions/evangelism/worship program are "The Witness of Oakwood," Oakwood Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas; "Accused, Convicted But Loved," ACTS affiliate KJAN-Channel 40, Lubbock, Texas; and "Just Kids," ACTS of Little Rock.

Best program of the year nominees are "First Love," First Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C.; "Pediatric Kids," ACTS of Hattiesburg; and "Ordinary People," produced by Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, for ACTS of Fort Worth.

Promotion award nominees are ACTS of Springdale, Ark.; ACTS of Hattiesburg; and ACTS of Jackson.

Nominees for community service by a broadcast affiliates are Channel 50 in Honolulu, Hawaii; Channel 40 in Lubbock; and Channel 11 in Lebanon. Award nominees in community service by a cable affiliate are Delta ACTS Board; ACTS of Fort Smith, Ark.; ACTS of Gatesville, Texas; and ACTS of Seminole, Texas.

Broadcast affiliate of the year nominees are Channel 40, Lubbock; Channel 11, Lebanon; and Alexandria Christian TV. Cable affiliate of the year nominees are ACTS of Jackson; ACTS of Hattiesburg; ACTS of Little Rock; and ACTS of Katy.

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Program personalities for the awards ceremony include Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission; Jess Moody, pastor of First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, Calif., master of ceremonies; and Pearl Burns, executive director for ACTS Prayer Awakening Ministry, awards hostess.

Others include "The Company," a drama group from Southwestern seminary; Regina Elliott, Christian vocalist from Kannapolis, N.C.; Mike Meece of "The Sunshine Factory," an ACTS program for children; and Mike Frazier and Karen Hayter of "Cope," a live call-in counselling program on ACTS. Music will be provided by the orchestra of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

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CORRECTION: Two items were omitted from the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting program carried by Baptist Press April 21, 1987. Please replace the section scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday, June 15, with the following:

2:00--Celebrate: Give

- Opening Meditation: Celebrate — The Life Fragrant with Self-denial, Kathleen Mallory — Laurita Miller
  - Hymn: "Come, All Christians, Be Committed"
  - Prayer
  - Bible Study: Celebrate — Through Giving — Dorothy Sample; "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8 NIV)
  - Special Music — Malvie Giles
  - Our Session in Focus: Stimulate the Grace of Giving — Marjorie McCullough
  - Hymn: "Because I Have Been Given Much"
  - Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report — Part IV; New Hope Products — Carolyn Weatherford
  - Hymn: "Something For Thee"
  - Missions Talk Time: Celebrate — Grow in Giving; "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15 NIV)  
Interviewer--Suzanne Moss McMahon; Participants — Virgie Brown, home missionary, Milwaukee; Dan Stringer, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville; Jerry Moser, home missionary, Theriot, La.; Jane Courtney, foreign missionary, Guatemala
  - Hymn: "We Give Thee But Thine Own"
  - Special Music — Missouri Music Women
  - Message: Celebrate — Through Giving — John Mills, director for West Africa, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond
  - Benediction
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