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November 20, 1987

87-177

Southern Baptists Not Linked
To Subversion, Kenyans Told

N-FMB
By Marty Croll

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--Southern Baptists in Kenya expected to publish a statement in two large English-language newspapers Nov. 22 responding to widespread panic over allegations that American missionaries could be involved in an overthrow plot in the east African nation.

Since Nov. 13 Kenya has expelled 16 missionaries from various mission groups for allegedly being linked to a plot by a white supremacy group related to the Ku Klux Klan. The Baptist statement calls published reports of the story "detrimental to missions and missionaries."

None of those expelled from Kenya have been Southern Baptists, but government officials have approached two Southern Baptist missionaries in different parts of the country to see if they had any information concerning the matter.

Seven deportations Nov. 13 were triggered by a memo the Kenyan government claims to have recovered and used to avert an overthrow, according to published news reports in the United States. A story about the memo was published in three of Kenya's main newspapers Nov. 14.

The memo was addressed to American KKK members, and printed on the stationery of Foscoe Christian Church in Boone, N.C. It appears to have been signed by the church's pastor, Kenneth A. Caswell, who denies any previous knowledge of it, according to reports published in the United States. The memo outlines a plot to topple several African presidents by using undercover operatives masked as American missionaries and financed by an \$80 million war chest.

According to published reports, the U.S. Embassy called the story of the plot "baseless" and the memo "a forgery." One State Department official in Washington called the whole affair "patently absurd."

But many politicians and newspapers in the east African nation of 22 million people apparently accepted the letter's authenticity without question. Some influential Kenyans have urged fellow countrymen to seek out missionary collaborators other than the seven named in the letter and to be wary of "evil foreigners" who pretend to do the Lord's work.

Apparently to distance its missionaries from any effort related to racism, the Southern Baptist statement speaks out against attempts to control power through racial balance. "As Scripture so clearly teaches that all men are created equal in the sight of God, we wish to register our opposition to any system of rule which subjugates one tribe or race over another," it says. "No Bible-believing Christian can support the apartheid system, wherever it is found."

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has a policy prohibiting its missionaries from becoming involved politically in any of the countries where they work.

An estimated 7,000 American missionaries -- including about 100 under Southern Baptist appointment -- work in Kenya.

John Faulkner, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area director for Eastern and Southern Africa, and James Hampton, assistant in the area office, paid for space in the newspaper, The Daily Nation, to publish the Southern Baptist statement. At another newspaper, the Sunday Standard, officials assured them the statement would be printed without payment. Both were to print it Sunday, Nov. 22.

Hampton and Faulkner, based in Nairobi, Kenya, have been in touch daily with the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, Hampton said.

The Southern Baptist statement describes the work the denomination's missionaries do with some 60,000 national Baptists in 1,200 churches and more than 800 national pastors. "Our cooperative efforts are a matter of public record," the statement says. "It has and will continue to be our purpose to work alongside national Baptists in the Baptist Convention of Kenya."

It tells of Southern Baptist involvement in water development projects, secondary education, medical clinics, community centers and social ministries, theological institutions, radio programs, evangelism and church development and other ministries "designed to encourage and uplift Kenyans."

Through the statement the missionaries expressed appreciation "for the honorable Daniel arap Moi and his government," which has "been a friend and supporter not only of Baptists in Kenya but of all Christians and religious groups in the country."

To many, the memo that triggered the affair was suspicious from the start. Addressed to "Klu (sic) Klux Klan members," it detailed a "strategy to begin with Kenya because this is where our interests are mostly at stake," according to published reports. It asked KKK supporters in America to contribute \$20 million to supplement \$80 million already collected to topple the governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia, whose leaders were said to be considered by American racists to be a threat to South Africa.

But the common misspelling of the KKK's name -- "Klu Klux" instead of "Ku Klux," the high amounts of money mentioned, and certain phrasing different from that commonly used by Americans caused the authenticity of the letter to be in question. The letter also transposed the first and last names of one of the seven missionaries it mentioned. And it referred to "covered action," apparently meaning "covert action."

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Southeastern Search Group
Slates Meetings On Campus

N-CO
By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
11/20/87

ROCKVILLE, Md. (BP)--The search committee seeking a new president for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has scheduled two meetings on the school's Wake Forest, N.C., campus and is seeking nominations, its chairman says.

Robert D. Crowley, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville, Md., told Baptist Press the 12-member search committee or subcommittees of the group will meet with the seminary's Advisory Task Force Dec. 8, and with other groups including administration, faculty, students and alumnae in meetings scheduled Jan. 21.

"We want to talk to these groups to see what they think they want in a presidential candidate," Crowley said. "But, we are up front about our intentions. This person (the new president) undoubtedly will be from the mainstream of Baptist life and will subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message (statement of 1963.)"

Crowley was asked if the requirement would be that the person subscribe to the BFM as interpreted by the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee, which included a statement calling on trustees to "build future staffs and faculties" from among persons reflecting the "dominant convictions and beliefs" of Southern Baptists.

Among those "dominant beliefs" were belief in direct creation of man, including that Adam and Eve were real persons; that the named authors did indeed write the books of the Bible attributed to them; that the miracles recorded in the Bible did indeed occur as supernatural events, and that the historical narratives of the Bible are accurate and reliable.

Crowley said the new president would subscribe to the interpretation, and added: "We are going to operate under the parameters of the Peace Plan (report). We are mandated to do so by the convention because of the overwhelming vote which was 95 or 96 percent in favor. That is the kind of president and subsequent faculty members we will seek."

Crowley said the executive committee met Nov. 17, following a special called meeting of trustees during which President W. Randall Lolley, Dean Morris Ashcraft and three administrative staff members -- Jerry Niswonger, Robert W. Spinks and Rodney V. Byard -- resigned.

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"We are going to follow the bylaws meticulously," Crowley said. "They say that whatever executive committee is in office at the time the president resigns becomes the official search committee. One of the 13 members declined to serve on the search committee, so we will have a 12-member search committee."

He added the meetings with the seminary advisory task force also is required in the bylaws. According to a seminary spokesperson, the seminary handbook requires a search committee to meet with the task force every six weeks as it seeks a candidate for president.

The task force is made up of three students, Beverly Hardgrove, student body president, Timothy Goins and Art Elmore; three faculty members, Donald E. Cook, professor of New Testament, John W. Eddins, Jr., professor of theology, and Ashcraft; two members of the administration, Betty Weathers, assistant to the director of admissions, and Ed Sansbury, audio visual services director; and two alumni, Ronald Higdon, of Louisville, Ky., president of the national SEBTS alumni association, and a alumnus to be named by Higdon.

Crowley said the search committee has asked G. Paul Fletcher, director of business affairs, to meet with the group each time it meets. Fletcher was assigned by trustees Nov. 17 to assist Lolley during the transition and will become interim president if a successor is not named before Lolley leaves July 31, 1988.

Members of the search committee include trustee officers: Crowley, chairman; James DeLoach of Houston, vice chairman; Ralph Holt of Wilmington, N.C., secretary, and Arlie McDaniel of Moscow, Idaho, treasurer.

Committee chairmen who are members are James Bryant of Fort Smith, Ark., instruction; William D. Delahoyde of Raleigh, N.C., student development; Ollie Key of Augusta, Ga., campus planning; Jack May of Memphis, Tenn., communications; and Eddie Sellers of Morganton, N.C., audit.

At large members are Roger Elsworth of Fairfield, Ill.; Don Wheat of Clovis, N.M., and Jesse Chapman of Asheville, N.C.

Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., and chairman of the gifts and endowments committee, declined to serve on the search committee, Crowley said.

Crowley said the entire search committee will meet with the various groups Jan. 21, but that only the chairman and the local members will meet with the advisory task force Dec. 8. Those local members are Delahoyde, Holt, Sellers and Chapman.

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Texas Baptist Laypersons Meet
To End 'Pressler-Patterson' Rule

By Tim Tune

N- (CO
(Texas)

Baptist Press
11/20/87

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A group of about 400 Texas Baptist laymen met prior to the first session of the 102nd annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Fort Worth to mark what they termed "the beginning of the end of an era of 'Pressler-Patterson' rule over our denomination."

The Nov. 10 breakfast meeting was organized by John Baugh, president of Houston's Sysco Food Systems, Inc., and a founder of "Laity for ... the Baptist Faith and Message," an organization of self-described "mainstream conservative Southern Baptists," formed about a year ago.

The group's stated objective is to end the string of officers elections won by conservatives in the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979.

"We will win," said Baugh, "with truth, prayer and balance. We are here to discuss openly how to remove the spirit of 'Pressler-Patterson-ism' from Southern Baptist life."

This spirit, Baugh said, is marked primarily by "secrecy," "unethical" political practices and "wrong-doing."

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The "Pressler-Patterson coalition" refers to Paul Pressler, a state appeals court judge from Houston and Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies of Dallas.

Though Baugh's group was founded in Texas and primarily by Texans, he said that lay groups are being formed in other states "important" to the movement and that editions of the group's publication, "Baptist Laity Journal," will be published for those states.

"We are dedicated to your right, your need to know the truth," Baugh said. "It's not terribly important which side you're on. The question is 'Will we remain on God's side?'"

Ultimately at stake, Baugh said, is the \$10 billion in assets now owned by the Southern Baptist Convention and the 37 state conventions of the 14.6-million-member denomination.

The investment of "thousands of dollars (to fund this organization) is worth it to preserve \$10 billion of assets" owned by the denomination, said Ralph Atkinson, who spoke to the group about the organization's finances and fund-raising efforts.

About half of the organization's \$15,000 monthly budget, provided by donations, goes to produce the journal. The rest pays for other expenses and the salaries of Executive Director Editor J. Neal Rodgers and a secretary.

Atkinson, a Dallas layman, said that the organization's financial records will be audited by an "outside" accountant and the records will be available "to any Baptist."

"We aren't going to have any 'Jim and Tammy' incidents," said Atkinson, referring to the recent sex and money scandal involving the cable network televangelists.

The group also was told of efforts to expand the organization's speakers bureau, which consists of about 50 speakers, according to W. Dewey Presley of Dallas, another layman who is a co-founder of the organization.

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French Baptists Witness
With Dose Of Common Sense

By Art Toalston

F-FMB

Baptist Press
11/20/87

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Baptists in France may be few in number, but they have something to say that makes sense.

Andre Souchon, general secretary of the French Baptist Federation, says an effective starting point for introducing the gospel in France is to assert, "You are not born a Christian; you must become one."

Nominal Roman Catholics often respond, "That makes sense." Of France's 50 million people, 80 percent are officially Catholic, but only 8 percent practice their faith, Souchon says. Thus, most Catholics "use God three times in their lives -- baptism, wedding and burial -- which means only once consciously."

Souchon was in Richmond, Va., to visit the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He represents 4,000 Baptists in 83 French churches.

A generation ago, Souchon explains, many people stopped sending their children to Catholic catechism classes. So today, people age 18 to 30 are more receptive, he said, in the sense that their doctrinal beliefs don't have to be changed before bringing them the gospel. Their basic concepts of God are those drawn from their philosophy classes in high school and college.

A brief witness is not sufficient to prompt French people to come to church, however, Souchon notes. Much time must be invested in building relationships before they accept.

Souchon says it takes time to help people overcome errant notions such as, "I was baptized when I was 4 days old and now I've got a ticket to paradise."

But, he reiterates, "It appeals to them, this idea of coming to Jesus instead of just being born Catholic."

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Tennesseeans OK
Budget, Building

N-CO
(Tenn.)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Tennessee Baptists approved a \$23.85 million budget and construction of new facilities during their 113th annual meeting in Nashville.

Almost 1,770 messengers elected Kenneth P. Story, pastor of Germantown Baptist Church in Memphis, as convention president by acclamation. Other officers are Herbert Higdon, director of associational missions in the Jackson area, first vice president; and William D. Fox, pastor of First Baptist Church of South Pittsburg, second vice president.

The new building is to house four Tennessee Baptist Convention agencies: the Baptist Foundation; the Baptist and Reflector, the convention's weekly newsjournal; Baptist Children's Homes offices; and Baptist Adult Homes offices. It also will accommodate offices for the state Woman's Missionary Union.

The facility is to be adjacent to the convention's current office building in Brentwood, which also is to be renovated. Construction costs are not to exceed \$4 million, and groundbreaking is to be in December or January.

The new budget goal reflects a 6 percent increase over the previous budget. Of the \$23.85 million goal, 37.25 percent -- or almost \$8.9 million -- is to support worldwide mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget. That allocation is up 0.25 percent from the previous budget.

Convention messengers approved a motion to ask the SBC Public Affairs Committee to refrain from endorsement of nominees or candidates for public office. The motion followed an endorsement of former U.S. Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork, made by the Public Affairs Committee in August.

The messengers also turned down a resolution made from the floor that expressed support for Shelby Baptist Association, which this fall disfellowshipped Prescott Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis after the church called a woman, Nancy Hastings Sehested, as pastor.

The resolution originally was presented to the convention's resolutions committee. Committee Chairman Ray Newcomb said the committee declined to present the resolution because it sought to promote harmony. The maker of the resolution, Ben Mitchell of Hixson, appealed to the full convention and was turned down.

Following the convention, TBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Tom Madden announced his retirement to the convention's executive board. "I want to serve you and Tennessee Baptists in this capacity until April 1989," he said. "Announcing my retirement now will allow you more than a year to seek a successor. At that time, I will reach mandatory retirement age, 70."

The 1989 TBC annual meeting will be held Nov. 15-17 in Jackson.

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Texas Baptists Aid
Tornado Victims

N-Texas

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
11/20/87

PALESTINE, Texas (BP)--When tornadoes slashed an arc through central and eastern Texas Nov. 15 -- leaving 10 dead, more than 150 injured and hundreds homeless -- Texas Baptists responded within hours to help put together the pieces of shattered lives.

Two members of First Baptist Church of Whitehouse, Elizabeth Schultz and Linda Smith, were among the tornado fatalities, said Pastor Curtis French. Other members sustained serious damage to their homes, and at least one member's house was almost completely destroyed.

First Baptist of Whitehouse was established as Red Cross emergency headquarters for disaster relief in the southern Smith County area.

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In Palestine, one of the hardest-hit communities, an emergency shelter was established at Southside Baptist Church almost immediately after the storm struck. The Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Mobile Unit arrived before dawn Nov. 16 and was set up on an abandoned discount store parking lot near the most devastated residential area in town.

The disaster relief unit is an 18-wheel tractor-trailer rig equipped with a first aid station and a mobile field kitchen for emergency feeding of disaster victims and rescue workers.

About 2,100 meals were served the first two days after the storm, said John LaNoue, on-site coordinator for the Texas Baptist Disaster Relief team.

The unit was expected to continue to serve in the area about one week, said Bob Dixon, executive director of Texas Baptist Men.

Hot meals cooked on the unit also were delivered to the mostly elderly storm victims at Mount Haven, a rural black community of about 80 people west of Jacksonville.

Members of Southside Baptist in Palestine worked around the clock for three days after the tornadoes, operating an overnight shelter, a food pantry and a hot-meal service. The church also started collections for an emergency clothes closet that was later moved to the Palestine Multi-cultural Center, a United Way agency.

Volunteers from Southside and other area churches also assisted disaster relief team members in serving people at the mobile unit and alternated with the team members in cooking meals.

The Texas Baptist Temporary Emergency Child Care Unit was moved into Palestine Nov. 19. The unit has been approved by the Texas Department of Human Resources as a licensed childcare center in disasters. Care is provided during daylight hours, allowing children to get a hot balanced meal at noon and providing parents time to clean up homes and businesses.

No Southern Baptist churches in central or eastern Texas reported serious damage, but three churches of other denominations in Palestine and Jacksonville were damaged.

In Harmony-Pittsburg Baptist Association, the Woman's Missionary Union worked at assessing damage to the homes of families in Ore City and Diana. Bobby Blaylock, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ore City, was among those whose homes were damaged. First Baptist Church of Diana responded to needs in its immediate area by serving hot meals to the homeless.

In Independence Baptist Association, First Baptist Church of Caldwell set up its family life center as emergency headquarters for a hot-meal service, food pantry and clothes closet. Volunteers from area congregations manned the emergency center in four-hour shifts and worked on clean-up crews in storm-damaged neighborhoods.

The Texas Baptist Family Ministry Task Force, led by Richard Faling, church ministries coordinator for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will respond to needs of Baptist families after surveys are completed in associations hit by the storms.

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Utah-Idaho Baptists
Try To Balance Budget

N-CO
(Ut.-ID)

Baptist Press
11/20/87

BOISE, Idaho (BP)--Messengers to the 23rd annual meeting of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention aligned their 1988 budget with an income that presently is 18 percent behind 1987 budget needs.

All officers were elected by acclamation by the 197 messengers. John Embery, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Boise, Idaho, the host church, was elected president. He was on the convention's first constitution committee and was president in 1967 and 1968.

Other officers are George Slaughter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mountain Home, Idaho, first vice president; Herb Stoneman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Vernal, Utah, second vice president; and Mike Gray, pastor of Southeast Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, recording secretary.

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The proposed budget of \$1,412,064 is \$77,604 less than the 1987 budget and calls for \$345,356 coming from Utah-Idaho churches through the Cooperative Program unified budget. The 1987 budget calls for Cooperative Program receipts of \$379,186; as of Oct. 1, the convention was \$5,782 behind anticipated receipts.

The 1988 Cooperative Program budget includes \$72,525 going to world mission causes from Utah-Idaho churches. That amount is 21 percent of the undesignated receipts from the churches.

Several measures were taken to help the convention out of its financial slump. Filling a vacant staff position was delayed one year. Funds from investment income were channeled to mortgage payments on the state convention office building, and the format of the state paper was changed from 10 12-page issues to 10 4-page issues, effective Jan. 1.

The 1988 annual meeting will be at Southeast Baptist Church in Salt Lake City Nov. 15-16.

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Samford's \$28 Million Campaign
Tops \$42 Million In 18 Months

N-CO
(Ala.)

Baptist Press
11/20/87

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Samford University's \$28 million fund-raising campaign has been called to a halt after only 18 months, because gifts and pledges have hit \$42.7 million, with \$30 million in cash already received.

"Samford Commitment," the school's most successful development effort, enabled the Alabama Baptist university to underwrite:

-- The Leo Bashinsky Fieldhouse, a \$2.2 million intramural athletic facility, to supplement the existing gymnasium.

-- Beeson Woods, a 450-student residential village.

-- The Healing Arts Center, a \$3.6 million home for the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing.

-- Six new endowed chairs of instruction, the first in the university's 146-year history.

-- Launching of a comprehensive \$5 million plan to make Samford a "computer-intensive" campus, with five student computer labs and a new 10,000-square-foot central computer center now completed, an personal computers already supplied to all faculty members.

-- A \$1.7 million improvement program for the School of Pharmacy, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

The campaign helped raise the university's endowment to more than \$30 million, up from \$7 just four years ago.

"This achievement brings us to a new level of possibilities and energizes the entire university," said President Thomas E. Cortis. "It is the platform for an exciting period of educational enrichment as we prepare to celebrate our sesquicentennial in 1991."

Wesley M. Pattillo, vice president for university relations, said the campaign, which was launched in April 1986, is by far the largest fund-raising effort ever attempted by the school in Birmingham. But, "it is certainly not the last. Enrollment is growing and our opportunities are expanding. We are already preparing a \$4.5 million drive for Cumberland School of Law, and other phases of our capital and endowment program will follow."

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Maryland/Delaware Baptists
Debate Resolutions

By Bob Allen

N-CO
(Md.)

Baptist Press
11/20/87

NEWARK, Del. (BP)--Maryland/Delaware Baptists overwhelmingly approved resolutions affirming the priesthood of believers and the current administration and faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary during their 152nd annual session Nov. 9-11 in Newark, Del.

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Messengers voted 501-111 to substitute a resolution affirming the right of private interpretation of the Bible and the Baptist Faith and Message statement for a proposed resolution coming from the convention's Resolutions Committee. The proposed resolution, presented by majority vote of the five-member committee, asked messengers and convention staff voluntarily to affirm adherence to the doctrinal statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963.

That resolution invoked the spirit of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee request that SBC agencies reaffirm their commitment to the Baptist Faith and Message. The resolution asked "that we as messengers of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware reaffirm our belief in and adherence to the Baptist Faith and Message" and "that we recommend that the leadership of our state convention reaffirm their belief in the Baptist Faith and Message."

The substitute resolution, which messengers approved by secret ballot, offered by Homer Carter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Rockville, Md. read: "Be it resolved that we affirm the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers and recognize the right of each believer to interpret the Baptist Faith and Message and the Bible for himself or herself under the lordship of Christ and by illumination of the Holy Spirit."

Later in the convention the resolutions committee, again by majority vote, presented to messengers the resolution affirming Southeastern and asking the seminary community and trustees of the Wake Forest, N.C., school to "reach reconciliation and maintain the rich Baptist heritage and tradition that has been a part of Southeastern's heritage and tradition." Following debate, messengers adopted the resolution by show of hands.

Debate over resolutions sparked the only controversy in an otherwise placid meeting. A registration of 793 messengers, large by Maryland/Delaware standards, was attributed to speculation that an organization of conservative Baptists in the two-state convention might challenge the incumbent president for a traditional second term.

However, David Flumbaum, a layman from Middle River Baptist Church in Baltimore, was re-elected by acclamation. Other officers are Gleaton Rickenbaker, pastor of First Baptist Church of St. Charles, Md., and current chairman of the convention executive committee, first vice president; Mary Strauss, member of Paramount Baptist Church in Hagerstown, Md., second vice president; Rene Olivier, pastor of Memorial Heights Baptist Church in Cumberland, Md., recording secretary; and Calvin Hudson, pastor of Second and Fourth Baptist Church in Baltimore, assistant recording secretary.

According to Dana W. Collett, president of the Conservative Evangelical Fellowship of Maryland/Delaware, a decision was reached not to run a conservative candidate for office as an overture for peace. "We wanted to show we did not want to be divisive," Collett said.

Collett's organization, which has about 100 members, formed last spring reportedly out of concern over declining baptisms and a perceived lack of financial support for mission churches. The group, however, has stated it is in sympathy with conservative agenda at the Southern Baptist Convention level.

Convention messengers also adopted a \$3.97 million budget for 1988, of which anticipated receipts from Maryland-Delaware churches of \$2,582,861 will be divided 40.25 percent for SBC and 59.75 percent for state convention mission causes. The percentage forwarded on to the SBC reflects a one-quarter percent increase over 1987's 40-60 division and a goal of achieving a 50-50 division by the year 2000.

Also adopted at the convention was a constitutional amendment changing the name of the convention's 59-member governing body between annual meetings from the executive board to the general mission board. The 13-member executive committee, comprised of board members and which also functions as personnel committee for convention staff, was renamed the administrative committee.

Messengers also approved a first reading of a constitutional amendment which, if ratified again at next year's annual meeting, would reduce the maximum number of messengers allowed any church at the annual convention from 30 to 10.

Next year's convention will be Nov. 14-16 at First Baptist Church in Frederick, Md.

Baptists Risk Lives
In Mozambique Relief

By Marty Croll

F-FMB

MAPUTO, Mozambique (BP)--Baptists in Mozambique are risking death to deliver farm seed in war zones where people seek safety by hiding at night in the tops of trees.

Members of the small Mozambique Baptist Convention are dodging ambushes to monitor seed and hoe distribution funded by Southern Baptists. They hope villagers will be able to plant and harvest crops before raiders destroy the land.

"There's a war on, and there aren't any rules," said Jim Brock, a first-term missionary from Warrior, Ala., coordinating a relief effort to which Southern Baptists already have released \$585,000. Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials say the total could go much higher.

Brock knows only a portion of the 26-pound seed ration that families receive will see harvest. In many places anyone who stays behind to nurture crops will die with them. Several villages Baptists marked to receive seed don't even exist anymore.

"The tactic at the moment is to move in and scorch earth -- and that means people, houses, trees, crops and everything," said Brock. "Some areas are being hit as we distribute to them. Some people live in trees at night -- and never the same tree twice. They come down in the daytime and try to live."

Statistics from Mozambique show more than 2 million people have been uprooted from their homes, many of them starving, because of a six-year famine intensified by fighting between rebels and government troops.

A plan Brock and the Baptist convention developed with government officials calls for distributing five kinds of seed and one hoe to each of 30,000 families in three rural farm areas. Areas selected were thought to be safe enough to produce a crop.

In Maputo province around the capital city, about 8,000 families have received Baptist relief. Now war activity seems to be increasing there. In the province of Sofala around the seaport of Beira, about midway up the Indian Ocean coastline, relief arrived late and distribution is just beginning.

Relief efforts in the Gaza province have been severely hampered by warfare. An inability to safely transport seed on roads from Maputo to Gaza has forced Baptists to give much smaller amounts than planned to a broader group of about 20,000 people. Brock suspects a lot of seed in Gaza will be eaten and not planted. "They are literally starving to death up there," he said.

Baptists are evaluating whether to abandon their efforts in Xai-Xai, a Gaza seaport. Although they have no church in the area, they felt people there needed help badly. But airlift is becoming the only safe way to supply seed there.

"A major portion of the population is in transit, fleeing from the war -- first from one area, then the war comes there and they flee to another," Brock said. "Some go around and around in circles. Many of them live in areas that are safe in the daytime, but at night you take your chances. And some of them live in the midst of the war. It's not a nice, clear situation where you can make a decision about a place two months ahead of time."

Mozambican government officials have handled most relief transport by armed convoy. In recent attacks, however, trucks have been burned and workers killed. No Baptists died in the attacks, but Brock is trying to determine whether 13 tons of seed were lost.

In May rebels ambushed a convoy of which Brock was a part. That was the last time he went into the rural area. "I talked about it with the president of the convention and decided if I got hit and knocked out, it could stop our work. The risk is too high," Brock said.

"So I send young men in, and I pray. You don't ask them to go. You say, 'We need someone to go,' and you let someone come forth. You can't really say, 'You go there,' because it's just too much weight to carry. You've got to let them decide on their own if they feel God wants them to go there, because they might not come back."

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One village where Baptists distributed seed was hit before the next dawn. A city where Baptists met to discuss a project was hit the next day. "We've got distribution tomorrow to three different places, and every one of them is hot," Brock said.

It is difficult to determine just what is safe: "These people have been torn by war for so long, that if you ask if a road is safe and the people say, 'Yes,' what it means is there's only five, six, seven people killed along it a week. There aren't that many safe places left."

Brock has been touched by the way Mozambican Baptists have rallied to help relieve suffering. "I'm really proud of them," he said. "They're knocking themselves out. They prayed for years to have some ability to do something for their people."

"A Sunday has not passed by that I have not heard the membership at First Baptist Church in Maputo thank God for Southern Baptists for sending people to help them. They do not cease to pray. I would ask Southern Baptists to not cease in their prayer for the people here."

When the Baptist World Alliance set aside a day of peace recently for Christians to pray for troubled spots in the world, women at the Maputo church organized an effort to pray for other countries. They are people of faith, Brock said: "They don't have much else. That God gives them another day to live in his service is a very real thing they thank him for."

Mozambicans inside the country are not the only ones suffering. Starvation is a problem also among displaced Mozambicans spilling into Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland. Southern Baptist volunteer Richard Cockrum of Afton, Tenn., will begin coordinating relief for them Jan. 1 with missionaries in those countries.

For Brock and his wife, Brenda, who arrived early this year with their 5-year-old daughter, Paige, the most difficult thing about living in Mozambique has been seeing the desperation around them and being powerless to change it.

"It is a stress to see people suffer without hope," Brock said. "We hurt, and we cry, and we pray, and we know this is where we are supposed to be, so we stay. If we didn't know that, then this would not be the place to be."

"The thing that I'm thankful for is that I know when Southern Baptists send their people, they pray for them. Because that is the key to survival in a place like this."

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Walker Receives
Mullins Award

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Baptist Press
11/20/87

NASHVILLE (BP)--Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, has received the E.Y. Mullins Human Relations Award from American Baptist Theological Seminary.

ABTS, a black Bible college in Nashville, is jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc.

Walker, who also heads the Southern Baptist Commission on ABTS, is the only SBC leader responsible for the work of two agencies. Under his leadership more than \$2 million of Cooperative Program receipts has been channeled to the school since he joined the commission in 1978.

During this period the seminary also constructed its only new building in more than 30 years.

The award honors Mullins, former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., who was instrumental in the founding of ABTS in 1924.

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