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88-175

October national CP receipts drop below previous level

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists' combined ministry budget started its fiscal year below its pace for the previous year.

October receipts for the conventionwide Cooperative Program totaled \$10,951,615, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee.

The October receipts were 0.48 percent, or \$53,315, below receipts for October 1987, Bennett said. The current fiscal year began Oct. 1.

The Cooperative Program is the denomination's unified budget, which finances missionary, evangelistic, educational and church-starting endeavors around the world. Its 1988-89 goal is \$145.6 million, up 4 percent from 1987-88.

Cooperative Program money begins as contributions individual Southern Baptists make to their local churches. An average of 8.4 percent of those gifts are forwarded to 39 Baptist state conventions and fellowships, which pass 38.69 percent of their receipts to the conventionwide budget.

The October receipts set the Cooperative Program about 4.5 percent behind the U.S. inflation rate, which hovers at about 4 percent.

Average monthly receipts of slightly more than \$12.1 million were needed to reach the annual Cooperative Program goal. Due to the October shortfall, average receipts for the remaining 11 months must be more than \$12.24 million. Only three monthly receipts -- the last three Januaries -- have met or exceeded that amount.

October receipts comprised the 15th-best monthly total in Cooperative Program history, but 20 of the 39 state conventions or fellowships received less than they did in October 1987.

Bennett expressed "keen disappointment" in the drop in Cooperative Program gifts. "Our world mission program could be hurt even more if such a trend were to continue," he said. "On some mission fields, the inflation rate is far greater than it is in the United States."

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Cuban Baptists transfer
SBC mission relationships

By Phyllis Thompson

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HAVANA (BP)--The Baptist Convention of Western Cuba has passed the mantle of Southern Baptist mission relationship from the U.S. convention's Home Mission Board to its Foreign Mission Board.

An Oct. 26-27 celebration included a reception at the seminary of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba, transition services at Calvary Baptist Church in Havana and a luncheon.

Officially, the Foreign Mission Board will begin overseeing the Cuban Baptist work in January 1989. Southern Baptists in the United States have maintained relationships with Cuban Baptists through the Home Mission Board since 1886.

Southern Baptist missionaries left Cuba in 1965, following a military revolution led by Fidel Castro, a member of the Communist Party.

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Participants arrived as much as two hours early for the transfer celebration services at Calvary Baptist Church, a century-old historical monument refurbished through efforts of the Home Mission Board and the Cuban military. Eventually more than 1,500 people filled the auditorium, its balconies, aisles and the yard outside.

Leoncio Veguilla, vice president of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba, told the audience of the historical significance surrounding the service. He explained that through the efforts of home missionaries such as Herbert and Marjorie Caudill, strong music and religious education programs remained a part of Cuban Baptist life.

Veguilla reflected on the dark times following the missionaries' departure: "Those were difficult days for us, but because of the efforts of the Home Mission Board, we were prepared to take up the leadership ourselves. We have remained strong and united."

Veguilla specifically credited Cuban Baptist strength to the leadership of Oscar Romo, Home Mission Board language missions division director and overseer of Cuban Baptist work for 25 years.

"He has been our friend and our leader," Veguilla said, "so much so that we constitute the last 25 years as 'The Romo Years,' for he is the father of Cuban Baptists.

"When it was said that Cuba was closed, he came to us. When we were without money, he came. When we needed glasses, he came. When we needed medicine, books, hymnals, Bibles, whenever we had a need, he came. We owe a great debt to Oscar Romo and the Home Mission Board."

Foreign Mission Board President Keith R. Parks assured Cuban Baptists his agency would follow the course set by the Home Mission Board 102 years ago.

"It is important that Cuban Baptists realize that the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board are really the same," he said. "We are the channels through which Southern Baptists seek to share the gospel with everyone in the world.

"The same Southern Baptists who prayed for you will continue to pray for you. The same Southern Baptists who supported your work will continue to support your work. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we come to work hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart with you."

Romo, who gave the evening's main address, urged Baptists to broaden their horizons, always looking for ways to witness and minister to people around them.

"The future depends on you," Romo explained. "It can be just as much or just as little as you make it. The next chapter for Cuban Baptists is in your heart."

The following day at a local restaurant Cuban leaders from Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Salvation Army and Seventh-day Adventist churches, leaders from the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board, and leaders from the Cuban Communist Party joined to give special thanks to two men who made significant contributions to Cuban religious affairs: Felipe Carneado, minister of religion and a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee; and Raoul Suarez, president of the Cuban Ecumenical Council and a Baptist pastor.

Gerald Palmer, Home Mission Board missions vice president, presented Carneado a large-print Spanish edition of the Bible that he called "the manifesto of the Christian faith."

Romo also presented plaques to Carneado and Suarez in appreciation for their contributions, which included enabling the Home Mission Board to ship 50,000 Bibles into Cuba.

In a thanksgiving speech, Carneado expressed his desire that the good relations established by Romo and the Home Mission Board will continue with the Foreign Mission Board. "I want to continue to be your friend," he said, "and I am more committed than ever to promoting positive change, both socially and morally, within the country we call Cuba."

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BP photo mailed to state Baptist papers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press

High court rejects challenge
to dial-a-porn restrictions

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court has turned aside a challenge to five-year-old congressional restrictions on obscene telephone messages known as dial-a-porn.

Carlin Communications, a provider of such services, had asked the high court to overturn Section 223(b) of the federal Communications Act -- a provision adopted by Congress and signed into law by President Reagan in 1983.

That section of the law banned dial-a-porn calls to people under age 18 or to anyone else who had not given consent to such messages. Each violation of the provision carried a fine of up to \$50,000 and/or a six-month prison sentence.

The challenged provision was upheld last January by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals.

Last April, Reagan signed into law an anti-obscenity law that includes an outright ban on dial-a-porn. That measure took effect July 1.

Attorneys for Carlin Communications, while asking the court to rule on the constitutionality of the 1983 restrictions, also criticized the new law, saying, "Congress has made it clear ... that its intent all along has been to prohibit and make criminal constitutionally protected expression."

But in a brief filed by U.S. Solicitor General Charles Fried, the government argued Congress passed the new law after concluding sheltering children from dial-a-porn services is not "technically possible."

The court should reject Carlin Communications' appeal, the government continued, because the group had not been prosecuted under the new law, thus making the appeal moot.

A U.S. district court in California upheld the new law July 19. That decision has been appealed to the Supreme Court, but justices have yet to act on the petition to review it. (88-37, Carlin Communications v. Federal Communications Commission)

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Foreign Mission Board
names new associate

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Glenn Prescott of Seattle has been named associate director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's new international lay missions department.

Prescott will recruit journeymen and long-term volunteers to work alongside career missionaries overseas. The international lay missions department was formed to develop new methods of ministry overseas involving Southern Baptists and others who are not missionaries by vocation.

Prescott, 33, most recently was director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Washington in Seattle. He supervised a staff of volunteers from Puget Sound Baptist Association and also recruited volunteers from outside the state.

Prescott was minister of education and youth at First Southern Baptist Church in Chula Vista, Calif., and was a teacher and coach at Bridgemont High School in San Francisco. For two years, he was a student worker with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, working in Portland, Ore.

Prescott is married to the former Janet Hastings. They have a son, Aaron, 4.

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Shame haunts families
with alcoholic parents

By Jim Lowry

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Shame carried by families of alcoholics may be a "secret" many churches and communities prefer to ignore, a counselor who works with adult children of alcoholics said.

"The pain that is hidden in Southern Baptist congregations would astound most pastors," claimed Sara Hines Martin. "People feel they have to hide their pain, which hurts the church because emotional stress forces people out of active participation. They face a double jeopardy."

Martin, who herself is the child of an alcoholic father, recently led a seminar for adult children of alcoholics at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. She also is the author of a book, "Healing for Adult Children of Alcoholics," published by the Broadman division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Shame is the key ingredient in the cycle of alcoholism that can dramatically affect more than 28 million adult children of alcoholics in the United States, Martin said.

"In families where one of the parents is alcoholic, the family system is shame-bound," she explained. "Characteristics include vague personal boundaries of proper roles, expectations bordering on perfectionism, alienation and the illusion that they have no shame."

"In these shame-bound families, there is heavy control of all family members and little individuality allowed. A co-dependency develops under stringent rules which interferes with the healthy growth of the family."

In a co-dependent relationship, all privilege and power must go to the dependent, or alcoholic, while the co-dependent, usually the spouse, gives up his or her own values and identity in an attempt to keep the peace, and the "secret," she said.

To deal with the burden of shame, which is the unhealthy equivalent of guilt, the shame must be "given back" so the healing process can begin, added Martin, who maintains a private counseling practice in Smyrna, Ga. She and her husband, who is a chaplain, were Southern Baptist missionaries in the Caribbean for 17 years before moving to Georgia.

"Shame is subtle in the family system, but it will be unintentionally passed along to children as long as it is carried," she continued. "As long as the pain stays inside the person, they can't heal, and the shame is perpetuated."

Because the adult children of alcoholics repress their feelings, often their children, the grandchildren of the alcoholics, get the message of emotional pain that never has been dealt with satisfactorily. These subtle but strong dynamics of emotional abandonment often result in alcoholism appearing in the grandchildren, even if their parents were not alcoholics.

The shame must be acknowledged and then given back to the source, Martin said. Many times when the adult children of alcoholics were able to acknowledge their need for help, the alcoholic parents then sought help for themselves, she added.

"To get the shame out, good listeners are needed," Martin said. "They must be persons who will listen non-judgmentally, with support."

"One of the rules in a shame-bound family system is that you don't talk about the secret. This denies your feelings and the happenings, so nothing is ever resolved."

As a result of the denial and shame, anger is present in most of these people, who act it out in different ways. Many Christians pretend they are not angry, she said, adding that anger is not a sin but can be released in healthy ways to deal with family shame.

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Some ways she suggested to deal with unresolved anger include role playing with a friend who will listen, talking to an empty chair, seeing a therapist or even yelling in the shower. A person may write a letter expressing pain and then destroy the letter if he or she cannot confront the parent.

In many ways, adult children of alcoholics are still children emotionally because of their strained family lives, she added.

One church that actively is ministering to alcoholics and their family members is Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas. Pastor Timothy Sledge began the new ministry by presenting 12 sermons on adult children of alcoholics, followed by four sermons on codependency.

Out of the sermons and publicity in the community, six therapy groups have been started, with a waiting list for more groups. Also, 286 first-time visitors attended the church to hear the sermons. In the sermons, Sledge talked about his own experiences as the child of an alcoholic.

Many Baptist churches pretend problems related to alcoholism do not exist, Martin said: "We need to change the image that anything with the word alcoholism in it is strange. Sometimes we joke about alcoholism but don't acknowledge it exists. We keep it at arms length rather than acknowledging it."

She encouraged pastors to preach sermons giving people permission to have feelings, instead of saying anger is a sin. They also can endorse counseling to reduce the stigma for Christians who are in need of it.

Martin compared alcoholism to any addiction that people face, such as drugs, smoking, any eating disorder or workaholism. An addiction controls the person and is the primary source of self-worth for the individual, she added.

Most experts believe alcoholism has not cure, but recovery is possible, she said. For adult children of alcoholics, the chain of shame must be broken through open communication after an admission that a problem exists, she added.

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Seminary student
shows signs of call

By Chip Alford

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Being deaf may close some doors to Sue Hays, but God is opening so many others she has a difficult time knowing which to enter.

But Hays, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, isn't waiting for graduation to walk through some of those doors. She has been involved in helping start a deaf mission in Harlingen.

Hays has done survey work in Europe for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and was a teacher to deaf students for seven years.

She worked with Deaf Opportunities Outreach as a Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteer.

Those experiences leave Hays with a variety of ministry options.

"I'm interested in training deaf laity and deaf ministers -- giving them specific, seminary-type training to improve their skills and help them in their local churches," Hays said. "It looks like there are just so many doors, I told God he is going to have to close some of them and leave just one open for me to go through."

A certified teacher of the deaf from Baton Rouge, La., Hays is a theology student with a concentration in missions and evangelism.

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That mission concentration brought her to Southwestern, along with the chance to work for Deaf Opportunities Outreach, which formerly was based in Fort Worth, Texas.

Hays was born deaf, as were her parents. She made her profession of faith in Christ when she was 10 but went through a period of struggling with her deafness.

"I had to resolve my feelings about being deaf," she said. "I asked, 'Why God, did you make me deaf?' But then I realized that God made me deaf for a reason. I am really able to meet other deaf people, and there is a bond there that can't exist between a deaf person and a hearing person."

Hays said organizations like Deaf Opportunities Outreach are helping deaf people find opportunities in ministry: "In the past, when a deaf person felt God's call to become a preacher or missionary, they were not encouraged because there were limited opportunities for them to serve. DOOR provided the outlet for deaf people to become involved in full-time Christian ministry."

Hays has taken advantage of opportunities through her local church as well. She works with Travis Avenue Baptist Deaf Mission, serving as Sunday school director. She is planning a trip to New Zealand in January to participate in a deaf outreach ministry during the World Games for the Deaf.

The outreach at the World Games is being sponsored by the Southern Baptist Conference for the Deaf. At a special meeting of that organization at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center in July, Hays was asked to give her testimony. Eight deaf people subsequently made decisions for missionary service, and seven others committed themselves to other types of Christian work.

As one of three deaf students at Southwestern, Hays said she is honored God created her deaf. And she is using seminary as preparation to "share the gospel in every way possible."

For now, Hays is remaining open to God's leadership for her future, but she is considering bivocational work as a deaf teacher and church planter.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary