



(BP)

- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Marv Knox, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

December 6, 1988

88-193

Labor dispute settled
at Korea Baptist hospital

By Marty Croll

PUSAN, South Korea (BP)--Union and management negotiators have settled a labor dispute that threatened the future of a well-known Baptist hospital in South Korea, but financial problems loom as a major hurdle to overcome, missionaries said.

Dan Jones, a Southern Baptist missionary physician from Laurel, Miss., stepped in as interim administrator at Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan last summer after labor union elements forced out the hospital's two top administrators.

The hospital named a new administrator in September. He is Kim Sung Chin, a specialist in lung disease who left his job as medical director during the height of the labor dispute, at the same time hospital administrator Lee Koung Soo resigned.

Kim's attempts to listen to the concerns of employees and work with union members have led to a closer relationship between management and the union, Jones said. Other factors that helped calm the situation included the union's alarm at watching a nearby Catholic hospital close in a similar dispute and public pressure on union officials to quell disturbances leading up to the Olympic Games in Seoul.

"The hospital is back to normal, day-to-day operations," Jones said. "For all the people who prayed, I want to express deep appreciation. The acute crisis is much better."

Jones added, however, that Wallace Hospital still must overcome newly identified financial problems.

Management is trying to deal with the rising salaries characteristic of South Korea's burgeoning economy. Higher labor costs, plus the labor strife that caused the hospital's patient count to drop drastically, have hurt.

"The strike brought financial problems to a head," Jones said. "What we need is a long period of stability."

Founded by Southern Baptist missionaries, the hospital is one of the best-known medical facilities in the southern part of the country. It treats more than 200,000 patients each year and employs a staff of nearly 600. It is named for Bill Wallace, a Southern Baptist missionary to China who died in 1951 in a communist prison.

--30--

Council calls for strategy
on bivocational ministry

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press
12/6/88

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Council for Bivocational Ministries has called for a national strategy of utilizing bivocational ministers in the Southern Baptist Convention.

About 50 council members also voted during their sixth annual meeting to continue to use the term "bivocational minister" to describe people who hold dual jobs in secular employment and as Baptist ministers.

Glen Ailshie, a bivocational minister from Mullins, S.C., who also is executive vice president of a national food processing company, was re-elected president of the council, which is composed of about 90 Baptists involved in a support system for bivocational ministry.

--more--

John Saunders, director of the Florida Baptist cooperative ministries department, proposed that the council develop a national strategy. Such a strategy should include ways for SBC agencies, state conventions, associations and local churches to utilize bivocational ministers more effectively, he said.

Dale Holloway, national consultant on bivocational ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, suggested the council appoint a 10-member committee to develop a proposed national strategy for presentation at next year's meeting.

The strategy committee will be chaired by Ailshie, pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church in Mullins, as president of the national council. Other members will include Vice President Ken Cook of Jackson, Miss., three members of the council's board of directors and the chairmen of five committees appointed earlier. Holloway will provide staff support for the strategy development committee.

D.G. McCoury, consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, urged the council to promote intentional bivocational ministry among students in high schools, vocational training schools, colleges and universities, and theological seminaries.

McCoury and several other council members advised college ministerial students to get undergraduate degrees in fields other than Bible or religion and to develop marketable skills in secular vocations in addition to getting theological training at Baptist seminaries.

Leon Boyd, director of the Home Mission Board's rural-urban missions department, said economics may force Southern Baptists to accept the importance of bivocational ministry, especially in the role of starting new churches. More church starters are needed than could possibly be funded in full-time positions by the board, he said.

Currently, 9,162 bivocational pastors serve Southern Baptist churches, according to a report presented to the council by Ray Dalton, associate director of the Home Mission Board's program research department.

Research indicates bivocational pastors are concentrated in the southeastern part of the United States, with the largest numbers in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Texas, North Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas and Oklahoma, in that order, he said.

Council members also discussed whether or not to change the terminology used in SBC promotion of bivocational ministries.

David Byrd, dean of the Boyce Bible School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., urged the council to consider using the term "biprofessional" in its promotion, to help create an image that pastors who work in secular jobs are professionals, as are doctors and attorneys.

James Y. Greene, director of youth and campus ministries for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, suggested promotion of the term "dual-role ministers." Greene said he saw advantages and disadvantages to each but urged the group to make a decision and stick with it.

Holloway pointed out that other denominations call such ministers "worker-priests" or "tentmakers," but said he felt the term "bivocational" had reached the level of acceptance and recognition among Southern Baptists that changing the terminology would be difficult.

In addition to re-electing Ailshie and Cook as officers, the council elected three members to the board of directors. They are Vernon Cole of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown; Don Beall of Eastern South Dakota Baptist Association, Hurrion; and Carl Barrington of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Tennessee woman loses appeal
on damages in textbook dispute

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Tennessee woman who challenged the content of reading textbooks in public schools has lost a final legal appeal for money damages resulting from what a trial court earlier ruled was her false arrest and imprisonment.

Vicki Frost, who gained national attention in a five-year battle with Hawkins County public school officials, had been awarded \$70,000 in compensatory damages by a trial jury two years ago. But the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the verdict last July.

In a one-line order issued Dec. 5, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand the appellate panel's ruling.

Frost, who along with other fundamentalist Christian parents sought but were denied permission to teach their children's reading classes outside school, took the local school board to court in a separate case, also decided against her earlier this year. In that dispute, the Supreme Court likewise declined to review a decision against the parents by the 6th Circuit panel.

In her second legal suit against school officials, Frost claimed she was arrested unlawfully and jailed for protesting required reading texts used in her daughter's second-grade class. Her arrest followed repeated appearances at Church Hill Elementary School, during which she tried to remove her daughter from class and give her alternative reading lessons in the family car.

Frost objected to what she claimed were themes of occultism, secular humanism, evolution, parental disobedience, feminism and pacifism in a second-grade series by Holt, Rinehart and Winston textbook publishers. (88-604, Frost v. Hawkins County Board of Education)

--30--

Retired RTVC
official dies

Baptist Press
12/6/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Clarence E. Duncan, retired senior vice president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, died Dec. 3 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Duncan, 66, was one of three employees who moved with the commission from Nashville to Fort Worth in 1955. He was senior vice president for personnel at the time of his retirement in 1985.

A native of Savannah, Ga., Duncan was a long-term resident of the Nashville area. He attended Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. He was a general assignment reporter for the Nashville Banner and public relations director for Belmont College before joining the Radio and Television Commission staff. He was a communications technician in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II.

At the time of his death, Duncan was teacher of a men's Bible class at University Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where he was a deacon and former church training director. He had been treasurer of Tarrant Baptist Association for 30 years.

He was a charter member and former president of the Baptist Public Relations Association. He is survived by his wife, Renita of Fort Worth; one son, David R. Duncan of Alexandria, Va.; a daughter, Debbie Duncan Birdwell of Crowley, Texas; and four grandchildren.

--30--

Illinois Sunday school
Director Jack Baker dies

Baptist Press
12/6/88

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--R.D. "Jack" Baker, state Sunday school services director in Illinois, died Dec. 3.

Baker, 52, was driving his pickup truck in Taylorville, Ill., when he slumped to the side, a witness said. His truck then went through a red light at an intersection and collided with a tractor-trailer rig.

--more--

Autopsy reports were not available early Dec. 6, but authorities believe Baker died of medical causes, not from injuries received in the accident. He died the day of the accident at St. Vincent Memorial Hospital in Taylorville.

Baker joined the Illinois Baptist State Association staff April 1, 1987. He was senior pastor of Larkin Avenue Baptist Church in Elgin, Ill., from 1982 to 1987. He also had been pastor of five Kentucky churches and had been president of the Kentucky Baptist pastors' conference and first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Survivors include Baker's wife, Mary; a daughter, Karen Holland of Atlanta; two sons, Michael of Lexington, Ky., and Kevin of Elgin; four grandsons; his mother, Margaret Hackney of Princeton, Ill.; and one sister, Cathy Pasco of Murray, Ky.

--30--

Baptist Men's teleconference
to focus on evangelism

By Bill Bangham

Baptist Press
12/6/88

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has announced plans for the 1989 Baptist Men's Teleconference. The Saturday morning, Jan. 7, event will focus on "Missions Involvement Through Evangelism," said commission President James H. Smith.

"If you want to know something of the excitement of missions involvement, ask the man who's doing it," said Smith. "We believe there's no better way than to hear it live from laymen who are involved in evangelism."

The telecast will be broadcast live simultaneously over the Baptist Telecommunication Network and the American Christian Television System. It will air at noon, Eastern Standard Time.

Richard T. McCartney, vice president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, will host the teleconference. Joining him will be Smith and several Baptist laymen from across the Southern Baptist Convention who are active in evangelism.

They include Greg Finch of Prairie Village, Kan., active in overseas partnership missions through the Wellspring Volunteer Missions Foundation; Paul Schlett, a ceramic engineer from New York City who is the Baptist Convention of New York's first Baptist Men's president; James McCollough, a layman using innovative approaches to present the gospel while serving as a Mission Service Corps volunteer and Royal Ambassador director for California's Long Beach Harbor Baptist Association; and Nelson Sosa, a Cuban refugee who has been with the Miami Baptist Association as Hispanic Baptist Men director for 10 years.

Viewers will be able to join panel discussions through toll-free telephone linkups.

Also scheduled are videotaped presentations of a lay-led revival in New York City, sports evangelism in Louisville, Ky., and volunteer church-building in South Carolina, showing how building new churches leads to professions of faith in Christ.

About 150 BTN sites will host the live 90-minute broadcast. At least 50 more will tape it for distribution and later viewing. And public access cable channels in several metropolitan areas will carry it live.

Access will be over Spacenet 1, channel 21, and Galaxy 3, channel 7. BTN will broadcast an unscrambled signal.

--30--

CORRECTION: Please change the fourth paragraph of the 12/5/88 BP story titled "Vines seeks recommendations for key SBC appointments" to read:

The Committee on Committees nominates the Committee on Nominations for election by messengers to the convention; the Resolutions Committee deals with all resolutions introduced during the annual meeting; the Credentials Committee oversees registration; and the Tellers Committee tabulates all votes taken at the convention.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Soviet Union grants
permit for more Bibles

By Jim Burton

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The Soviet Union has granted a permit to the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists to import an additional 100,000 Bibles, according to Alexei Bichkov, the council's general secretary.

The permit follows a campaign last year by the United Bible Societies and the Baptist World Alliance, which sent 100,000 Russian-language Bibles prior to the celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in the Soviet Union. The project was endorsed and promoted by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission of Memphis, Tenn.

Soviet Baptists initiated the permit request and received it without much trouble, said BWA General Secretary-Treasurer Denton Lotz.

"For years, Baptists in the Soviet Union have been trying to get Bibles," said Lotz, who credits this opportunity to Mikhail Gorbachev's program of glasnost and perestroika. "The aim of Soviet Baptists is for every Baptist to have a Bible."

"We don't have to smuggle these Bibles into the Soviet Union," said Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith. "We went in the front door. This has been done legally and above the table."

In 1987, Smith issued a challenge at a BWA meeting in Amman, Jordan, to Baptist men of the world to raise \$250,000, or half of the money needed to purchase the Bibles, which cost \$5 each. More than \$100,000 came from Southern Baptists. No Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget funds were used in the effort.

Lotz and other BWA leaders credit the Brotherhood Commission's involvement with the first campaign's success.

"We have praised the Brotherhood Commission every place we have gone in the Soviet Union," said Lotz.

The first BWA Bibles-for-Russia campaign primarily was a project for Baptist men of the world, although most of the support came from Southern Baptists and the convention's Baptist Men organization.

"This second opportunity to send another 100,000 Bibles into the Soviet Union is predicated by the success of the first one," said Smith. "Southern Baptists are more numerous than other Baptist denominations. As long as the Lord opens the doors, we need to make every effort to go through them."

"The opportunity to send more Bibles to the Soviet Union meets one of the five basic Brotherhood tasks -- giving to missions. Once again, Baptist men are faced with a challenge to lead their churches to meet a great need."

Because the Soviet Union is ethnically diverse, the next shipment will include Bibles in German, Estonian and other languages. Soviet Baptist leaders estimate that each Bible will be read by eight to 10 people.