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April 18, 1989

89-51

Jackson explains
giving 'options'

By Elizabeth Young

N-CO
(Ariz.)

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--Despite talk of possibly becoming independent and withdrawing support from the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget, Richard Jackson has pledged continued support to Arizona Southern Baptist causes.

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, said he is considering several options, but "none of this would have anything to do with Arizona Baptists. North Phoenix is committed to the work in Arizona. ...

"We would continue to support the work in Arizona and the local association, ... designating that none of our money goes outside the state to Southern Baptist causes."

Jackson outlined several options that are under consideration because "we just feel like we cannot support the declining emphasis on world missions and the increasing emphasis on political power ... in the denomination and in the country."

Totally withdrawing SBC Cooperative Program budget support at the SBC level is a "worst-case scenario," he said. The Cooperative Program supports the convention's evangelistic, missionary, educational and church-starting endeavors worldwide.

If North Phoenix decides not to give through the Cooperative Program, he said, "we would most likely continue some giving directly to Southern Baptist causes," such as the Foreign Mission Board and seminary education.

However, he explained, while some churches do not give through the Cooperative Program but still voice their opinions in SBC matters, "we wouldn't feel right about that. If we cannot fully support the Southern Baptist Convention program, then we would not send messengers to the convention nor reports (such as the annual church statistical survey) to the convention."

Another option, he said, would be to continue minimal undesignated support to the Cooperative Program but designate most of the funds for Arizona causes, including the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, Grand Canyon College, Arizona Baptist Children's Services and Central Association of Southern Baptists.

"And we'd still be a very faithful Southern Baptist church as far as Southern Baptist work in Arizona is concerned," he said.

Or, he said, North Phoenix might reduce its overall giving. "That is so distasteful to me," he said, but "we're having to not only do without other programs to give the level we're giving, we're really not making ends meet this way."

However, the church does not want to make adjustments in its level of giving, he said. "One of the leading churches ought to be one of the leading giving churches," he explained.

Finally, he said, "we might decide to join the conservative movement and give conservatively like they do."

Jackson said he will not make the decision about continued Cooperative Program giving for the church, although he will have to make a decision on a personal level.

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"If I were to choose that I had to do this (withdraw from the Cooperative Program), I would not pirate this church out of the convention," he said. "That would be unethical and lacking in integrity.

"I would not even try to lead this church to do that. If this church decided to do that, in this worst-case scenario, it would be the church's decision."

However, Jackson admitted, many of the members of North Phoenix are Southern Baptist because he is. "A very small percentage of our people know anything about being a Southern Baptist other than that I've told them and taught them that it's the world's greatest missions enterprise and we should support it and we all do it together," he said.

Asked by the Baptist Beacon, Arizona Baptists' newsjournal, what changes would be needed to make him comfortable in continued giving through the Cooperative Program, he said, "When I see the appointments to the Committee on Committees and then their appointments to the Committee on Boards and see that it's broad-based, representative of Southern Baptists, then North Phoenix will feel good about it."

In the past few years, he said, the people appointed to SBC boards and committees have represented "one train of thought, and that train of thought is basically given to them in the information they receive from one source. ... When I see some appointments being made -- significant appointments -- that represent something other than the hard-fast control group's ... that will be the first step in the right direction."

In addition, he said, he hopes this spring that "we'll see the decreased involvement of the people that have tried to architect control, that we will see the withdrawal of this proposed Religious Liberty Commission. ... Those would be signs that people are thinking and praying and trying to do what represents all Southern Baptists."

The Cooperative Program giving of North Phoenix has been taken out of context, Jackson said. "I'm being accused of giving and trying to get position" in the SBC, he said.

When the Bold Mission Thrust world evangelization campaign was in the planning stages in 1976, Jackson said, he pledged to lead North Phoenix to give \$1 million a year through the Cooperative Program by the mid-1980s. "It was a commitment that was kept, not in order to buy position or power, but because of a love and a concern for missions," he said.

Jackson said he originally pledged his participation at a meeting sponsored by the SB Stewardship Commission in Nashville: "They talked about Bold Mission Thrust and about putting every energy of every agency (toward the effort). And (they said) the No. 1 emphasis of Southern Baptists was going to be to present the gospel to every person on the planet earth by the year 2000 and to join other Christian groups in doing it. And that's where I live."

But now, he said, he does not think "the Bold Mission Thrust of which we made that commitment is any longer a viable program of Southern Baptists. ... The Southern Baptist Convention is not on the same track it was on when we made this commitment to give at this level."

The track Southern Baptists now are traveling leads, he said, to "establishing another commission that will have a full board, meetings, expenses and all kinds of desires for budget while we're cutting the foreign mission budget. And that will not sit well with the people sitting in the pews of North Phoenix Baptist Church, because the reason they give to the Southern Baptist Convention is not to lobby Washington. That may be a good byproduct, but that's not their reason for giving."

Jackson said he is not making threats but is simply considering his options.

"If I were threatening, it would be like I thought the convention was going to go down the tubes without me," he said. "A threat is where you threaten to hurt somebody.

"I don't think the Southern Baptist Convention is going to go down the tubes without me or the work of North Phoenix Baptist Church. So we're not threatening anybody. We're considering our options."

Building child's confidence
involves more than praise

By Terri Lackey

N-SSB

NASHVILLE (BP)--Building a child's confidence involves more than lavishing him with praise, a professor of early childhood education said.

"Praising has its virtues but also its limitations," said JoAnne Hendrick, associate professor of early childhood education and director of the Institute of Child Development at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. "Children are not fooled by empty praise and condescending encouragement."

Hendrick spoke to about 300 preschool and childhood education professionals from 19 states registered for the National ChildLife Conference held at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in mid-April. The conference was sponsored by the preschool/children's section of the board's church training department.

Offering children creative methods of expressing themselves, avoiding over-protection, allowing them choices, permitting failure and helping them learn skills are some long-term methods of building self-confidence, she said.

Immediate or short-term methods of building confidence include rewarding desirable behavior, modeling good behavior, keeping children's interest and challenge levels up, avoiding too many rules and "telling children the right thing to do instead of what not to do," she said.

Parents must relinquish some control of their children if they are going to grow up to be self-confident and self-reliant, she said: "We sometimes have trouble letting a child do things for himself. When we do that, we are saying to the child, 'I don't trust you.'"

Although children are immature, freedom to "do what they think is right in certain situations," is important, she noted.

Grace Ketterman, medical director of Crittenton Center in Kansas City, Mo., said children who will grow up self-confident must have unconditional acceptance from parents and teachers.

"If we are going to build a confident child, we have to offer unconditional acceptance of that child, although we don't have to accept some of his or her behavior," she said.

Parents who want a self-confident child should have "clearly defined and consistently enforced" measures of discipline," she added.

Producing a self-confident child means parents themselves should have high self-esteem, Ketterman said, noting, "A child's self-esteem is dependent greatly on the parents' self-esteem."

Hendrick said parents and preschool workers have a responsibility to "teach each child that they are precious and valued by respecting their ideas and paying attention to each child, noting each is an individual."

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Officials suspect arson
in Grand Canyon blaze

By Karen Merrick

N-60
(A(12))

Baptist Press
4/18/89

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--An arson-caused fire resulted in \$125,000 damage to a Grand Canyon College men's dormitory and forced the evacuation of 29 students April 13.

One student was hospitalized for smoke inhalation and released later that morning, while the other Kachina Dormitory residents escaped unharmed from the early-morning blaze at the Phoenix, Ariz., Baptist school.

The fire, which was reported shortly after 3 a.m., was the dorm's third this semester. Fires in the building's storage room Feb. 7 and 8 resulted in only minor damage, according to reports from the college. Arson also is suspected in the Feb. 8 fire, said Phoenix Fire Department Investigator Joe Perkins.

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The April 13 fire was started in the lobby of the one-story dormitory, Perkins said. "Most of our fire damage was confined to that room," he noted, although the blaze extended into hallways and caused extensive smoke and heat damage throughout the building.

The fire caused \$90,000 damage to the facility, which was insured, and another \$35,000 to building contents, Perkins said.

He declined to give any information about a suspect. However, Gordon Williford, director of security for the college, said the doors of the dorm were locked on the night of the fire, and no signs of forced entry were found.

A security guard who was on duty in the Kachina lobby on the night of the incident was called to a disturbance at another dorm shortly before the fire began, he said.

The guard had been hired as an all-night "dorm guard" based in Kachina after the dorm's second fire, Williford said.

In addition to the dorm guard, the campus now will have a night guard in Mariposa Dormitory, where Kachina residents have been relocated. Mariposa had been vacant since the end of the fall semester. "We're going to have a dorm-sitter, at least until school's out," Williford said.

John Montgomery, resident director for Kachina, said students were "somewhat prepared" for the fire, although "we were not really expecting it to happen again."

Montgomery, from Casa Grande, Ariz., and Resident Assistant Mike Carney, from Anchorage, Alaska, had conducted fire drills by knocking on doors and leading residents out hallway exits. In the actual fire, however, Carney had to escape through his window, and residents received warnings through smoke alarms and shouts of "fire in the hall."

Travis McKinney II, a first-semester freshman from Cheyenne, Wyo., suffered smoke inhalation as he slept through the initial alarms. His roommate, thinking McKinney already had escaped, left the room without him.

McKinney escaped through his window and was treated at Phoenix Baptist Hospital and Medical Center.

The college is collecting money to replace students' belongings destroyed in the fire.

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Estrada lives life
seeking God's will

By Orville Scott

F - Texas

Baptist Press
4/18/89

DALLAS (BP)--When Texas Baptist leaders visited New York in 1973 to interview Leobardo Estrada about becoming their ethnic missions coordinator, he recently had undergone surgery for pancreatic cancer.

Doctors had told him he should have died 10 years before. Estrada's wife, Isabel, could not understand the job offer except to reason, "The Lord is letting us go back to Texas so Leo can die near the children."

But God wasn't finished with the Estradas' ministry. They came to Texas, where he was director of language missions until he retired in 1981 at age 66.

Retirement was just another beginning for the Estradas, who have thrived on adversity and pioneering in missions and ministry. Eight years later, he hasn't slowed down as interim director of Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio, Texas.

Estrada was born in Culiacan, Mexico, and was reared by his grandmother. They were invited to a Baptist church where he heard the gospel and accepted Christ as his savior when he was 7.

His father took him to Texas, where he felt God's call to the gospel ministry in 1936 in Corpus Christi. He prayed a prayer that consistently has been the hallmark of his ministry, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

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"I didn't know enough English to go to an English speaking seminary," Estrada laughed, "so, the Lord moved the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary from Mexico to San Antonio."

While attending seminary, Estrada preached at the Good Will Center in San Antonio. In 1938, he was called to Spanish Baptist Church of Alpine, where he ministered while completing his studies at Mexican Baptist Seminary, which had been moved to El Paso.

In seminary he met Isabel Avila from Torreon, Mexico, who credits Orvil Reid, pioneer Southern Baptist missionary to Mexico, with arranging for her to become Estrada's wife and missions partner. She said Reid sent her a ticket and told her, "Go to seminary."

The Estradas were married in 1943 while he was teaching at the seminary and studying for his bachelor's degree in night school at the College of Mines in El Paso, now the University of Texas at El Paso.

His ministry pilgrimage included pastorates in El Paso, Dallas and Los Angeles. He earned degrees from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Hispanic Baptists honored him twice by electing him president of the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas.

Later he was asked to become the first language missions director for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.

Starting ethnic work in New York City where no Southern Baptist ethnic churches existed, was awesome, Estrada recalls, but the couple prayed about it, asking again, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

He began the work in New York City in 1962, knocking on thousands of doors and talking to people on subways and inviting them to church. Mrs. Estrada helped in visitation and served as his secretary with little financial compensation. He was named language missions director for the Baptist Convention of New York in 1970.

In their 10 years in New York, the Estradas led in establishing 16 Hispanic congregations and 21 others, including Haitian, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Italian, Polish and Romanian.

Meanwhile Estrada was the Spanish-language preacher for "The Baptist Hour" and "The Hour of Proclamation," both produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. He was heard on 183 radio stations in 15 Latin American and South American countries.

Southern Baptists recognized his ministry by electing him second vice president of their convention in 1965-66. He was the first Hispanic to be elected an officer of the convention.

Returning to the scenes of earlier ministries in Texas in 1973 was rewarding to the Estradas, and they were glad to be near their children. Estrada's health improved, and he was director of language missions for Texas Baptists for eight years.

As coordinator of work involving more than 700 Texas Baptist ethnic churches and missions, Estrada had to depend on God for health, strength and everything else. He also was editor of *El Bautista Mexicano*, the monthly news magazine for Hispanic Baptists, and was the voice of a weekly radio broadcast, "Moments of Meditation." Mrs. Estrada helped produce the magazine and assisted him in other ways.

On retirement from the Texas convention in 1981, Estrada had the joy of teaching again in Mexican Baptist Seminary, which had been moved to Mexico City. Two years later, he was asked to become pastor again at First Mexican Baptist Church of El Paso, where he served until trustees of Hispanic Seminary asked him to become interim director last August.

Estrada arrived on campus in San Antonio at a crucial time, because Hispanic Seminary was being returned to the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission after a six-year affiliation with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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The transfer was initiated to help meet needs for expanding numbers of ethnic churches that have been started in Texas. The State Missions Commission will strengthen the missions emphasis through certificate/diploma level programs, while Southwestern continues to offer associate and masters degree level programs at Hispanic Seminary.

Estrada would like to help provide training at the seminary for more leaders for growing numbers of ethnic churches. He would like to see the school's financial base increased and a development department added.

Estrada feels he may retire again when Hispanic Seminary finds a president, but his prayer continues to be, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

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