



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 8, 1990

90-3

Record \$32.9 million given in  
1989 Annie Armstrong Offering

N - HMB

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists gave a record \$32,960,700 to home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in 1989, according to figures released by the denomination's Home Mission Board.

This unaudited total was an increase of 6.8 percent, or \$2.1 million, from gifts received the previous year.

The amount also was \$2 million more than the board had budgeted in 1989 as anticipated income, but fell \$6 million short of the \$39 million offering goal.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis announced the final tabulations during a meeting of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive board in Birmingham, Ala.

The \$2.1 million increase is more than three times the increase of \$611,192, or 2.02 percent, which was received in the 1988 offering. Southern Baptists gave \$30.8 million to home missions that year.

Lewis said the \$2 million more than budgeted will help overcome a financial setback at the board earlier this year and will be budgeted as income in future years to support mission work on the field. HMB policy stipulates that all Annie Armstrong funds must be used in state conventions, not at the board's offices in Atlanta.

The increase in Annie Armstrong contributions was "an answer to prayer," Lewis said. He commended both the Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission for their role in promoting the offering, adding that Southern Baptists responded when the needs were communicated clearly.

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, expressed thanks upon hearing the report. "The nearly 7 percent increase will mean the difference in lives that will be touched and changed by the love of Jesus Christ," she said.

"We have all been concerned in recent years that we have not met our projected goals. Perhaps this is the beginning of a renewed interest in missions, and we will see a trend toward increased giving as Southern Baptists enter the last decade of Bold Mission Thrust."

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Cooperative Program  
stays ahead of '88-89

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Baptist Press  
1/8/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's unified national budget ended the first quarter of its fiscal year almost \$1 million ahead of the previous year's pace, despite a lag in December.

December receipts pushed the Cooperative Program to \$33,141,691 for the first three months of the 1989-90 fiscal year, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

That total is \$983,504 more than receipts for the first quarter of 1988-89, a gain of 3.06 percent, he said. The current U.S. inflation rate is 4.7 percent.

December's total was \$10,486,592, a decrease of \$1,664,409 -- or 13.7 percent -- from December 1988. However, the comparison does not indicate a trend, since receipts for December '88 were abnormally high -- almost \$2 million more than the next-best December in the budget's 64-year history, Bennett said. December '89 was the budget's second-best December, he added.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the January Cooperative Program gifts will be even better," Bennett said.

The Cooperative Program is funded by contributions from individual Southern Baptists. Their gifts are processed through budgets of local churches and state Baptist conventions before reaching the Executive Committee for distribution to receiving organizations that conduct evangelistic, missionary and educational ministries worldwide.

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FMB continues  
reorganization

N-FMB

Baptist Press  
1/8/90

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--After four months of home-office reorganization, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has redefined several staff and department functions and cut 14 staff positions.

Last fall board President R. Keith Parks said the reorganization would help the mission agency "focus more sharply on crucial needs in world missions and achieve more effective use of funds and people in high-priority areas."

Parks predicted the change likely would result in reduction of 21 staff positions -- about 5 percent of the board's home office staff -- by the end of 1990. "We will utilize vacancies, attrition and transfers within staff to achieve most of the reductions," he said.

Fourteen staff positions had been eliminated by Jan. 5, reported Bob Shoemake, executive assistant to Parks. Most reductions so far have been carried out by cutting vacant positions or by transferring staff members displaced by reorganization to other assignments. But the next round of cuts "will be hard," Shoemake said, and likely will affect some staff members who cannot be reassigned.

The reorganization grew out of a study conducted by a staff committee, which followed a similar study Parks asked overseas missionaries to do in relation to their work. The plan called for streamlining functions, shifting funds and functions between offices, and a stronger role for regional vice presidents in management of overseas affairs.

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Don Kammerdiener was elected in October to the expanded role of executive vice president proposed by Parks. Kammerdiener has assumed direction of day-to-day operations of the board, freeing Parks to concentrate on strategic planning and other key needs. Top administrators now report to Kammerdiener but have access to Parks. Kammerdiener succeeded Bill O'Brien, who asked to be relieved of the post when his wife, Dellanna O'Brien, was named executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. Bill O'Brien now relates directly to Parks as executive director of public affairs.

Initial changes included shifting coordination of missionary budgets and policies from the former office of mission management and personnel to the new regional office group, headed by regional vice presidents. That group also includes area directors located overseas who oversee foreign mission work in nine geographic areas.

Other shifts resulting from the reorganization and personnel changes include:

-- Mission personnel: The former office of mission management and personnel has become the office of mission personnel, with two associate vice presidents continuing to work with the vice president. One is Tim Brendle, who will supervise the departments of missionary enlistment, personnel selection and international service. The other is Thurmon Bryant, who has responsibility for the departments of missionary learning, health, family ministry and volunteers in missions. Assistant Vice President Charles Beckett assumed direction of the mission fellowship section.

Formerly known as the international lay missions department, the international service department will enlist long-term volunteers, "tentmakers" and other non-missionary personnel. Under the reorganization, it also takes in the student section, led by Associate Director Helen Wood, which works to develop the interest and involvement of students in missions. The student section formerly was part of the nurture department, which has been dissolved.

-- Human needs: John Cheyne became associate director of the office of research and planning, which has incorporated the work of the human needs department he formerly directed. Cheyne will continue coordinating the board's human needs ministries and will assume the role of FMB crisis coordinator, involving missionaries and how they relate to unstable conditions in the world. He also will work in the planning side of the office and supervise the work of several consultants as well as the board's research library. Earl Goatcher, formerly a consultant in the human needs department, now is a consultant in overseas community development in the research office.

Board officials emphasized that the changes do not mean the board is diminishing in any way its commitment to meeting human needs worldwide. Both Cheyne and Goatcher will continue to function as human needs consultants to the area directors as they have in the past.

-- Missionary health: Van Williams, formerly associate director for health care in the human needs department, was named director of the missionary health department, succeeding William Gaventa, who retired.

Under the reorganization, the department will include a family ministries section, led by Senior Consultant Truman Smith. Smith was director of the former missionary services department. Among other duties, the health department will oversee processing enlistment of short-term medical volunteers.

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-- Development: David Coleman was named director of the development office, which provides financial avenues for donors to support missions over and above Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering giving. Coleman, a former missionary to Zimbabwe, was named interim director of the development office in July. Before that, he worked as an associate director of the office.

-- Communications: The former office of communications and public relations became the office of communications. Denomination-related public relations functions moved to the newly created area of public affairs in the president's office.

Irma Duke, formerly assistant vice president for operations in the office of communications and public relations, was named associate vice president for communications support. Besides assisting the vice president for communications, Duke now supervises the directors of the print, media services, audiovisual and The Commission magazine departments.

Bob Ethridge, formerly director of the audiovisual department, was named assistant vice president for communications strategy. Van Payne, senior producer in the audiovisual department, succeeded Ethridge as director of that department. Mark Snowden, formerly media network coordinator, was named media network consultant.

Bobby Box, formerly a project editor in the print department, became director of the new media services department. The department encompasses photographic services, marketing and promotion services, other media resources and distribution.

The news and information office, formerly the news and information services department, relates directly to the communications vice president. Assisting the director as managing editor will be Robert O'Brien, formerly overseas correspondent manager. O'Brien will continue to supervise the overseas correspondent system.

-- Public affairs: The new public affairs unit will handle the public affairs functions of the president's office, including denominational relations, mission conferences and the board's new Global Desk, through which the board will relate to other "Great Commission" Christian mission groups and provide for an interchange of information related to global evangelization.

Assisting the executive director, Bill O'Brien, will be Sam Pittman, formerly associate executive vice president. Pittman will be associate executive director of public affairs.

O'Brien also will direct the Global Desk. Jim Maroney, senior consultant for evangelism and church growth ministries in the research and planning office, is assistant director. Research consultant is David Barrett, who also is a consultant in the board's World Evangelization Research Center. Barrett is considered one of world's foremost missiologists.

Several board staffers have moved to the denominational relations section of public affairs. Louis Cobbs, former special assistant to the executive vice president and longtime director of personnel selection, will direct missions education administration. Bob Desbien, former assistant vice president for public relations, will direct special projects, assisted by Pat Smith, former conference coordinator. Mel Torstrick, former associate director of the missionary services department, will direct missions ministries administration, assisted by Beverly Pierce, former associate director of deputation and world missions conferences.

Johnson named  
Boyce School dean

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(SBTS)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Bob I. Johnson, associate professor of religious education and church administration at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., has been named dean of Boyce Bible School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Johnson, 55, succeeds David Q. Byrd Jr. who retired Dec. 31 after 11 years as dean of the Louisville, Ky., school. Boyce, a division of Southern Seminary, was established in 1974 to provide ministry training for people without college degrees. The school has more than 500 graduates.

Johnson, who will begin his duties June 1, is a native Texan and a graduate of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall. He earned three degrees, including the doctor of education degree, from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Before joining the Midwestern Seminary faculty in 1979, he was supervisor of the extension center section and associate director of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department in Nashville. Earlier he served 17 years as a pastor, associate pastor for Christian education and director of missions in Texas and Arizona.

He and his wife, Wanda, are the parents of an adult son, Jeffry.

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5 receive national  
CPE supervisor status

N-AMB

Baptist Press  
1/8/90

ATLANTA (BP)--Five Southern Baptist chaplains were granted national certification as Clinical Pastoral Education supervisors during the annual meeting of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.

With the newest additions, more than 120 Southern Baptists hold certification as national Clinical Pastoral Education supervisors, the largest representation of any denomination, said Paul Stephenson, director of hospital chaplaincy for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The newly certified supervisors are Keith Ethridge, Veterans Affairs Center, Dallas; Robert Gibbs, Baptist Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas; Larry Gray, Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington, Ky.; Mary Harrison, Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington, Ky.; and Susan Nance, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C.

Clinical Pastoral Education is a method of learning pastoral care in a clinical setting under supervision. It involves active ministry, often in crisis situations, with opportunities for supervision, theological study and reflection.

Stephenson explained that achieving Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor status is comparable to earning a doctor of philosophy degree. "These persons are to be commended in achieving this level of pastoral care education excellence," he noted. "They continue the rich tradition begun by Southern Baptists such as Wayne Oates, Myron Madden and Richard Young."

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