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September 19, 1990

90-124

EDITORS' NOTE: The SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville Sept. 18, 1990, adopted a resolution expressing support for the Cooperative Program. At the instruction of the Executive Committee, the resolution is being printed in its entirety and without editing.

NCO

RESOLUTION ON THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Whereas, the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention has been blessed of God as a time-proven, effective and appropriate way for Southern Baptists to support our ministries; and

Whereas, the Cooperative Program was established to avoid the costly time consuming and often confusing and competitive process of a societal approach to missions; and

Whereas, the Cooperative Program has allowed Southern Baptists effectively to support missions, education and evangelism so that multitudes have come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and to live more effectively for Him as their Lord; and

Whereas, the present opportunities for world evangelism are great; and

Whereas, it is important that the Cooperative Program be supported so that the Southern Baptist Convention can carry on its service for our Lord Jesus Christ;

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Executive Committee, individually and as a body, affirm our past, present and future support of the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention; and

That we urge all Southern Baptists to stand together on support of the Cooperative Program so that many more individuals might come to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior; and

That we express our deep appreciation to those churches which have recently increased their giving to the Cooperative Program and request that they notify the staff of the Executive Committee of such actions; and

That we urge every church and individual to consider prayerfully following their excellent example.

EDITORS' NOTE: At the instruction of the Executive Committee, Convention President Morris Chapman's president's address is being printed in its entirety and without editing.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 17, 1990

N-CO

In Ephesians chapter 4 and verse 15, we read these words "But speaking the truth in love." John MacArthur says that "Speaking the truth in love seems deceptively easy, but it is extremely difficult. It is possible only for the believer who is thoroughly equipped in sound doctrine and in spiritual maturity. For the immature believer, right doctrine can be no more than cold orthodoxy and love can be no more than sentimentality. Only the mature man, the man who is growing up to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ is consistent in having sufficient wisdom to understand God's truth and effectively present it to others; and only he has the continual humility and grace to present it in love and in power. The combination of truth and love counteracts the two great threats to powerful ministry -- lack of truth and lack of compassion."

To all who are present and to all Southern Baptists I call for a passion for truth and a compassion both for those fellow believers in the Body of Christ and for those unbelievers who desperately seek a Savior. I ask all Southern Baptists, denominational employees, pastors and their people, to restudy the Peace Committee Report which was overwhelmingly adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1987. In order that this might be done expeditiously I am requesting that the Executive Committee mail denominational leaders and pastors a copy of this report as soon as possible. In turn I encourage every denominational leader and pastor to distribute copies to all staff and church members. It is apparent to me that many Southern Baptists have either forgotten or ignored the call to peace and the conditions of peace which emerged from hours of prayer and days of deliberation by the members of the Peace Committee. A thorough reading should be given not only to the full report but also to the names of those persons who served on the committee. The report has been adopted by Southern Baptists. Now it stands waiting and ready for acceptance and implementation.

In the spirit of the Peace Committee Report and in the words of Isaiah 54:2, I have promised to "enlarge the tent" of leadership. As I have often explained, the enlarged tent of leadership will encompass those persons (1) who are cooperating Southern Baptists, (2) who are committed to the perpetuation of allegiance to God's perfect Word through the institutional life of Southern Baptists and (3) who are in agreement with the Peace Committee's "Statement on Scripture." While I will unapologetically stay within these theological guidelines in my appointments, I will, as I have pledged, reach beyond perceived political parameters.

Because attempts have been made to sidetrack and even obscure the real issue among Southern Baptists in our generation, I wish to restate the issue.

The Bible is God's perfect Word which means that it is not errant in any area of reality. When the Bible speaks it speaks truth and nothing but the truth historically, scientifically, philosophically and spiritually.

This conviction is foundational in Southern Baptist life and can only remain so if we teach it in the classrooms of our educational institutions, preach it in the pulpits of our churches and print it in the published pages of our literature. If in your heart you agree, the time has come to say so. If now the larger Southern Baptist family will stand side by side, shoulder to shoulder, and heart to heart on this single issue, our beloved convention will make a quantum leap beyond excessive politics, real or perceived, of any persuasion. Agreement will not always be reached on matters of biblical interpretation, but agreement must be reached on biblical authority. My heart's desire is to promote peace and harmony founded upon truth. I call upon every denominational employee, every pastor, and every person in the pew, to join this endeavor of everlasting consequences.

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While I recognize the right of every congregation to do what it feels it must do under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, I urge every church which is inclined to abandon or drastically reduce contributions through the Cooperative Program to make no decision in haste. Participation in such a funding vehicle is a giant step away from the spirit of cooperation which is dear to this convention. The organization of a funding program designed to go around the Cooperative Program is unacceptable to mainstream Southern Baptists and may well lead to a permanent break from the convention. The two great traditions of Southern Baptists are conservative theology and cooperative methodology. We must remain true to both traditions.

In 2 Timothy 1:7, the Bible says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear: but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Proverbs chapter 16 and verse 32 says, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty: and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." I pray that all trustee meetings of Southern Baptist agencies and seminaries will be characterized by these verses. Never should men and women shrink from expressing the convictions of their hearts. But we are to be reminded that passion and compassion are not mutually exclusive. We best serve our Southern Baptist family when we approach our responsibilities ever conscious of the need to exemplify Christ. Trustees should work together as a deliberative body. Southern Baptists have placed great trust in the trustee system. That bond of trust is best kept through teamwork. The same is true for the employed leadership of our institutions.

During the coming months I encourage every Southern Baptist, denominational employees, pastors, staff, deacons, Sunday school teachers, and other church members to read three books. First, I recommend the book entitled Control in Conflict by John Wallace. If this book is out of print I suggest that Broadman Press consider re-releasing it as soon as possible. Furthermore, I recommend the books entitled Doctrines Baptists Believe by Roy Edgemon (Convention Press) and the new doctrinal study for 1991 by Robert Hamblin and William Stephens entitled The Doctrine of Lordship (Convention Press). These books are easily read and understood.

During this past summer I had the privilege of participating in an evangelistic harvest in Kenya which staggers the imagination. In four weeks over 56,000 came to Christ and I was thrilled by the opportunity to baptize some of these converts in the Indian Ocean. Then I attended the Baptist World Alliance in Seoul, Korea. At the end of the week I joined the Korean Baptist pastors and pastors from around the world in baptizing almost 10,000 Koreans in the Han River. These two experiences left me exhilarated and hopeful for America. Twenty-five years ago revival began to come to Korea and the spirit of revival continues today. Now God's Spirit is bringing spiritual awakening to Kenya and to other countries where there is a great hunger to know Jesus. I saw people coming to Christ in simple faith. I saw believers living by simple faith. And I prayed, "Dear Lord, forgive me when I walk by sight, not by faith." I saw people whose joy in the Lord sparkled in their eyes and radiated through their smiles. And I prayed, "Dear Lord, restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." I saw people who found no inconvenience in praying in the dark hours of the early morning. And I prayed, "Dear Lord, help me to be still and know that you are God." I pray for God's Spirit to meet every need within our Southern Baptist family. If we will let Him, He will melt every heart, ease every burden and heal every hurt.

America needs spiritual awakening. America needs the prayers of Southern Baptists. Southern Baptists need the prayers of Southern Baptists. Inevitably the question becomes "What shall we do?" My suggestions are not all inclusive but perhaps they shall serve as a beginning.

As we look to the future, I have enlisted Jim Henry, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida, to head a task force for the purpose of further encouraging Southern Baptists to engage in solemn assemblies. Also, I have sought the consultation of the prayer leaders of our convention agencies. In the near future I will name others to the task force and subsequently make a decision about incorporating "A Call to Prayer for Spiritual Awakening" into the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention. In the meanwhile I ask for all churches and every assembled body of Southern Baptists to pray for God to bring spiritual awakening to and through Southern Baptists.

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Recently the students, staff and faculty of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary read aloud through the Bible in 4 nights and 3 days. This is practically the time frame of the Southern Baptist Convention and I have asked Landrum Leavell, president of the seminary, to enlist people from all spectrums of our convention to participate in a similar project in Atlanta. The Executive Committee staff will assign a room for this purpose in the convention center. Hopefully, this symbolic gesture will inspire us all the more to read the Bible to which we pledge our allegiance.

Since BTN will not be in existence next year, I have asked Jack Johnson, president of the Radio and Television Commission, to telecast the convention on the ACTS network. He is very hopeful that this can be done, but the commission is not adequately funded for this purpose. I hope that other agencies will financially support this project. For the first time the Southern Baptist Convention in annual session could be seen in every home in America which has the ACTS cable network.

My experience in Kenya led me to inquire about the possibilities of nationally-enlisted volunteers participating in partnership missions during future summers. Both Keith Parks and Larry Lewis have responded favorably in helping me think through the alternatives. Consequently, the Home Mission Board will make every effort to sponsor a "Crossover America" project for the next several years. In Atlanta (1991) and again in Indianapolis (1992), Darrell Robinson and the Evangelism Division have offered to extend their one-day pre-convention evangelistic thrust to the entire week prior to the convention. I will announce the names of co-chairmen for "Crossover Atlanta" in the near future. My first response was, "But Atlanta is a city filled with churches." I learned that 60% of the people of the Atlanta area are unchurched. The field is white unto harvest. Following a consultation with the designated state convention the Home Mission Board has agreed to consider the possibilities of enlisting volunteers for a "Crossover America" project in a city like New York in 1993.

The Foreign Mission Board has likewise agreed in principle to sponsor "Cross Overseas" volunteer projects for the summer of 1991 and perhaps beyond. The Board is presently studying potential countries where volunteer efforts in evangelism and discipleship would be most effective. Co-chairmen will be announced once the countries have been identified. Through "Crossover America" and "Cross Overseas" hundreds of volunteers can be mobilized as witnesses for Christ.

We are poised to march into the 90's with new hope and renewed energies. Now is the time for reduced rhetoric, for Christ-like attitudes and for gracious communication. Now is the time to focus on spreading the Gospel. Now is the time to boost our world-wide mission outreach. Now is the time to encourage cooperative participation. Historically, Southern Baptists always have been steadfast in doctrine, stouthearted in spirit, courageous in conviction and faithful in fellowship. By God's grace, we will stay the course.

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Executive Committee
alters personnel bylaw

By Linda Lawson, Mark Wingfield & Scott Collins

N-5B
CO

Baptist Press
9/19/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--A bylaw change to allow the six officers of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to fill staff vacancies on an interim basis between meetings of the full committee was approved by the 77-member committee during its Sept. 17-19 meeting.

With a two-thirds vote at one meeting, the change allows the Executive Committee to authorize its three elected officers and three committee chairmen to act on its behalf to consider personnel recommendations.

Under normal procedure, personnel selections are based upon the recommendation of the president/treasurer to the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee, with final approval by the whole Executive Committee. That procedure will be followed, except when the committee deems it necessary to fill a vacancy between meetings by authorizing its officers to act under provisions of the bylaw amendment.

The Executive Committee voted to invoke the newly approved amendment and authorize officers to act before February 1991 on recommendations to fill any of four current vacancies.

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The position of vice president for business and finance was vacated in January 1990 when Tim Hedquist left to join the staff of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn. Marv Knox, feature editor of Baptist Press, became editor in June of the Western Recorder, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

On July 17, Al Shackelford, vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press, and Dan Martin, news editor of Baptist Press, were fired by the Executive Committee.

"In making such selections, the recommendations of the president/treasurer, any member of the Executive Committee, and of any other Southern Baptist, may be considered and acted upon," the amendment states in part.

"Furthermore, Executive Committee members will be informed in writing by the president of the Executive Committee of the proposed appointment, giving Executive Committee members sufficient time to respond to any proposed employment before such interim employment is made. Any persons so selected and employed will serve in an interim capacity until the next regular Executive Committee meeting at which time such person will be voted upon by the entire Executive Committee, if such person is willing to continue his service," the amendment concludes.

Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Executive Committee, said he hopes to recommend persons to fill one or more of the vacancies before the next full meeting of the Executive Committee in February.

Bennett and Charles Sullivan, chairman of the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee and a Tennessee pastor, agreed the most urgent vacancy is vice president for business and finance, which also handles arrangements for the annual convention meetings.

"We desperately need somebody who can represent us in finalizing arrangements for the 1991 Atlanta convention meeting," said Sullivan. The 1991 convention will meet June 4-6.

Bennett said he plans to recommend separating public relations and Baptist Press functions and likely will propose employment of a vice president for public relations and a vice president for Baptist Press.

Bennett said he hopes to recommend personnel and would utilize the officers for approval for any recommendations finalized in the next few weeks. However, any recommendations ready as late as January likely would be held for consideration of the full Executive Committee in February.

Eldridge Miller, chairman of the bylaws workgroup and a pastor from Oklahoma, told Baptist Press the bylaw change is "not an effort by Executive Committee officers to take over the work of Dr. Bennett or the Executive Committee. This plan could not be used without a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.

"We are not abandoning our responsibility nor are our officers trying to encroach on the role of the committee," said Miller.

In other business, the Executive Committee approved a plan for reducing Southern Baptist representation on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from 18 to 11 members if the BJCPA votes at its annual meeting Oct. 1 to implement a reduction.

The BJCPA is a religious liberty organization based in Washington representing nine Baptist bodies, including Southern Baptists. Presently, the 18 Southern Baptist members include 12 at-large representatives and six who serve by virtue of office -- presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, Executive Committee, Annuity Board, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board and Sunday School Board.

Miller said the Executive Committee had been advised the BJCPA plans to propose the reduction in Southern Baptist representation.

The Executive Committee response requests that the BJCPA "not proceed with its proposed bylaw change reducing Southern Baptist participation."

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Howe, if the reduction is voted, the remaining Southern Baptist representatives would be 11 of the 12 at-large members. One at-large member, Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, would not continue to serve nor would any of the six who serve by virtue of office.

The relationship between the Southern Baptist Convention and the BJCPA has been a point of controversy in recent years. At the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention, messengers adopted a 1990-91 budget that reduced SBC funding of the Joint Committee from almost \$400,000 to \$50,000.

Members of the Executive Committee participated in a three-hour solemn assembly that included prayer and repentance and heard Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman call on all Southern Baptists to "speak kindly of one another."

The Executive Committee declined to act on 10 motions referred from the Southern Baptist Convention meeting. Three others will be subjects of study and reports in February.

A decision not to act on a motion calling for changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention added that a study of the name would be conducted as part of a planned "comprehensive study of a program of public relations."

A resolution of support for the Executive Committee staff was adopted unanimously, expressing "our love for, cooperation with, and support of our staff, and express our commitment to a continuation of the positive relationships which we have with our staff."

Also adopted was a motion calling for another solemn assembly to be held including for the Executive Committee as well as leaders of SBC agencies and state conventions.

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SBC Executive Committee
responds to Virginia memorial

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

Baptist Press
9/19/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--No changes in funding national causes or in the appointment of trustees to national agencies will result from a "memorial" sent to the Southern Baptist Convention from Virginia Baptists.

The "Memorial from the Messengers of the 1988 Baptist General Association of Virginia to the Messengers of the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention" was referred to the SBC Executive Committee by messengers to the 1989 convention in Las Vegas, Nev. The Executive Committee finalized its response to the memorial Sept. 18.

A memorial is a seldom-used method of formal communication between two bodies. Virginia Baptists described their memorial as "an overture to another based on a summary or presentation of facts."

At the heart of the Virginia memorial is the question of how state bodies should relate to the national Southern Baptist body on points of disagreement.

In the memorial, Virginia Baptists asked the Southern Baptist Convention to respond to five specific issues regarding cooperation between state and national Baptist bodies. The document also included "A Conservative Response" as a minority report.

An SBC Liaison Committee appointed to deal with the memorial drafted a formal response to the memorial which was presented to the Executive Committee as information. Upon recommendation of the Liaison Committee, the Executive Committee issued five appeals as a result of the memorial.

The appeals call for "mutual partnership" among Baptists at all levels, seeking reconciliation amidst the denomination's diversity, the exercise of "brotherly love and fairness" in relationships, "openness and unity" among all Baptists, and an affirmation that decision making on the national level should be controlled by messengers to national conventions.

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In the memorial, Virginia Baptists requested the SBC president draw Virginia's representatives on national boards from individuals suggested by a vote of the state association. Appointments by SBC presidents have been a source of contention among differing factions within the denomination since 1979.

The Liaison Committee responded: "To establish the precedent of accepting nominees elected by state conventions for appointment by the Southern Baptist Convention president would be clearly a violation of Southern Baptist autonomy and convention polity."

Such an arrangement would "create a connectionalism that could seriously threaten the unique Southern Baptist autonomy," the Liaison Committee said. "Voluntary cooperation has to remain at its own initiative or it is not voluntary. When cooperation becomes systematized, it becomes legalized."

Negative designation of funds, another issue of polity raised in the memorial, was referred to the business and finance subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee by the Liaison Committee. The budget and finance subcommittee has not taken any action on the referral.

Virginia Baptists had requested that the SBC "develop a plan that permits a church, on conscience grounds, to choose to omit from its Cooperative Program gifts selected SBC budget items through a carefully developed plan." Such a plan would allow churches to keep their gifts to the denomination's unified missions budget from supporting certain national agencies they do not favor.

Such disagreements, which have characterized the past 12 years of internal convention conflict, have actually strengthened the Cooperative Program rather than hurt it, the committee's response says: "The Liaison Committee elects to believe that the upheaval in Southern Baptist life, though painful and hurtful in many ways, has nonetheless helped to rescue the denomination and the Cooperative Program from a much more critical decline ... by substantially strengthening the participation of Southern Baptist people in the life of the convention."

Rather than suggesting a means to accomplish the Virginia request, the Liaison Committee called for greater support of the Cooperative Program in its current form.

Other issues raised in the Virginia memorial were funding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the nature of theological education in the SBC, and a request for "a new style of relating" based on a partnership principle.

Concerns about the BJCPA, a Washington-based agency dealing with church-state issues, was settled at the denomination's annual meeting in New Orleans in June, the committee response says. In New Orleans messengers voted to reduce BJCPA funding from \$391,596 to \$50,000 and give a similar program assignment to the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Likewise, concerns about theological education were addressed by the 1987 Peace Committee report and need no further attention, the Liaison Committee said.

The Liaison Committee offered no immediate suggestions for developing the "new style of relating" called for in the memorial. However, the committee's response notes, "There are always some who cannot stand with good conscience in the support of certain actions and positions of the majority."

The only solution to such "inevitable" impasses is "majority rule tempered with Christian grace on both sides of an issue," the response says.

Julian Motley of North Carolina chaired the Liaison Committee. Other members were Fred Wolfe of Alabama, Ira Craft of South Carolina, Edward Drake of Texas, Ronnie Floyd of Arkansas, James Jones of Kentucky and Don Whitt of Tennessee. Executive Committee chairman Sam Pace served as an ex officio member by virtue of his office.

Executive Committee
rallies around CP

By Mark Wingfield & Linda Lawson

N-20

NASHVILLE (BP)--Support for the Cooperative Program became the rallying point for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee during their fall meeting where agency heads presented requests for 1992 funding.

The strong emphasis on Cooperative Program giving came less than one month after a group of about 3,000 Southern Baptist moderates meeting in Atlanta approved an alternative missions-funding mechanism that would bypass the Cooperative Program and the SBC Executive Committee.

A resolution urging "all Southern Baptists to stand together in support of the Cooperative Program so that many more individuals might come to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior" was adopted unanimously by the 77-member committee. The Executive Committee was the fourth trustee body to adopt a statement of support for the Cooperative Program. Trustees of the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board and the Sunday School Board approved similar resolutions in August. Executive directors of the 37 Baptist state conventions also adopted a statement of support Sept. 17.

Agency leaders, including Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, spoke of the urgent need for continued support of the denomination's unified funding mechanism.

"It's going to take more than resolutions (of support for the Cooperative Program)," said Parks. "Leaders in this convention, all of us, are going to have to restore a matter of trust among us.

"You don't force or demand cooperation. You earn it," Parks continued. "If we would, we stand on the verge of the greatest reaping of souls this world has ever known."

In his report, Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, said his agency "stands firmly, strongly in support of the Cooperative Program as the preferred source of support for missions. Let's stand strongly behind our Cooperative Program."

How to provide information about Executive Committee action on its resolution became an issue of debate during the closing minutes of the two-day meeting.

Bill Horton, a layman from North Carolina, made a motion to instruct Baptist Press to carry an article dealing only with Executive Committee action on the Cooperative Program resolution.

Ernest Mosley, executive vice president of the Executive Committee who is currently directing Baptist Press operations, told members a story was in process on numerous actions and statements of support for the Cooperative Program.

However, Horton maintained a separate story would give higher visibility to the Executive Committee's resolution. He cited approval of a motion earlier in the meeting to instruct Baptist Press to carry the complete text of SBC President Morris Chapman's address the night before to the Executive Committee.

In a show-of-hands vote, about a dozen members voted against Horton's motion.

Meanwhile, the Executive committee resolution notes the Cooperative Program "has been blessed of God as a time-proven, effective and appropriate way for Southern Baptists to support our ministries."

It also notes the Cooperative Program "was established to avoid the costly, time-consuming and often confusing and competitive process of a societal approach to missions."

The resolution expresses "deep appreciation to those churches which have recently increased their giving to the Cooperative Program" and urges "every church and individual to consider prayerfully following their excellent example."

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The state convention executive directors' action adopted during Sept. 17 meeting in Nashville takes note of "the difficult days in which we minister," the autonomy of local churches and "the corresponding right of local churches and state conventions to direct mission monies."

"Knowing the support of our God-called missionaries and all other related ministries is crucial, we, the state executive directors, affirm our support of the Cooperative Program," the statement concludes.

James Griffith, executive director of the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia, reported earlier action by the Georgia state executive board affirming continued support of the Cooperative Program. Georgia is the only state convention dividing Cooperative Program monies on a 50-50 basis between state and SBC causes.

"In our zeal to do something (about current problems in the SBC), let us make sure we do not stand on the oxygen tube of the Cooperative Program," said Griffith. "It could be our demise."

The fall meeting of the SBC Executive Committee is traditionally the time for heads of all denominational agencies, institutions, commissions and boards receiving Cooperative Program funds to present tentative budget requests for the next year. Those requests were presented to the program and budget subcommittee and received as information by the Executive Committee.

The program and budget subcommittee will meet in January to consider the budget requests and submit proposals for consideration at the full Executive Committee meeting in February.

The 21 entities requesting funds for 1991-92 asked for a total of \$147,944,395. The 1990-91 Cooperative Program basic operating budget for the Southern Baptist Convention approved by messengers to the SBC in New Orleans is \$137,332,523 and goes into effect Oct. 1.

Among the requests for greatest percentage increases were the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Public Affairs Committee, the Christian Life Commission, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and the Stewardship Commission.

The BJCPA, a Washington-based religious liberty organization made up of nine Baptist bodies, requested an 800 percent increase for a total of \$400,000. In the 1990-91 SBC operating budget, the BJCPA is receiving \$50,000 after messenger approval of the budget in June in New Orleans. In 1989-90, Cooperative Program funding of the BJCPA totaled \$391,796.

The request of the Public Affairs Committee of \$96,600 represents a 386 percent increase over 1990-91. The Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary request of \$3.6 million represents a 28 percent increase. The Christian Life Commission turned in a request of \$1.5 million, a 23 percent increase. The Stewardship Commission requested \$889,479 for an increase of \$400,000 or 82 percent.

A.R. Fagan, president of the Stewardship Commission, said the additional funds would be used for an expanded plan of Cooperative Program promotion.

"I firmly believe we do not need to develop a siege mentality or a maintain-the-fort attitude. We need a holy offensive," said Fagan.

Executive Committee member Ronnie Floyd, chairman of the business and finance subcommittee and a pastor from Arkansas, reported a 4.45 percent increase in Cooperative Program income for August 1990 over the same period last year.

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SBC prayer leaders issue call to prayer
for successful Bold Mission Thrust goals

N-10

Baptist Press
9/19/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention prayer leaders called all Christians to pray for the success of Bold Mission Thrust during a live teleconference Sunday, Sept. 16.

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Bold Mission Thrust is a denominational goal to reach all the world with the news of Jesus by the year 2000.

"We recognize that only through the Spirit of God and prayer will we be able to do the kinds of things we want to do," Doug Beggs, director of Baptist men for the Brotherhood Commission, said during a Bold Mission PRAYER Thrust Teleconference broadcast over the Baptist Telecommunication Network.

The teleconference kicked off a 1990-95 prayer emphasis in support of Bold Mission Thrust. Bold Mission PRAYER Thrust is sponsored by the foreign and home mission boards, the Sunday School Board, the Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission.

The five-year plan is designed to be used with existing prayer plans of the missions boards and church program organizations.

A 1990-91 Bold Mission PRAYER Thrust coordinator plan guide being offered through Baptist state convention headquarters suggests churches elect a coordinator who would work closely with the pastor, the program prayer leaders and the church council in developing and leading the prayer thrust.

The Bold Mission PRAYER Thrust guide is designed to help a church identify the priorities of its own mission as well as the denomination's mission. The 1990-91 theme of Prayer for Extending Christ's Mission, is expected to help churches grow in membership, reach lost people for the gospel and establish a commitment to missions by renewing support of missions through giving and ministering to people in need, said teleconference host Avery Willis, manager of the adult section in the Sunday School Board's discipleship training department.

Home Mission Board missionary Dottie Williamson, a church planter in Mississippi, agreed during the teleconference that Christians must pray to reach BMT goals, but she said they also must get out and reach non-Christians.

"Some people say, 'I'll pray and give,' but they won't witness," Williamson said. "We need to try to reach people who will actually do something."

Willis appealed to all Christians, not just Southern Baptists, to pray for the goals of reaching all people in the world with the gospel by the year 2000.

"If you're a Christian, you're included," he said. "Southern Baptists can't get to all the people."

In the first hour of the two-hour teleconference, Willis talked with other SBC prayer leaders about what "God is doing through prayer both in America and around the world." The second hour was devoted to motivating churches in starting a prayer ministry for BMT.

Prayer leaders on the teleconference included T.W. Hunt, LIFE consultant for prayer in the SSB's discipleship training department; Henry Blackaby, HMB director of prayer and spiritual awakening; Minette Drumwright, FMB director of the international prayer strategy; Beggs; and Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director.

Blackaby said during the first hour of the teleconference that he believes prayer has broken out all over the world.

"God is breaking loose all over our nation and all over our world," Blackaby said. "There is a widespread, diverse moving of God."

He gave as examples the new-found freedom in Eastern Europe and the recent experience of solemn assembly and prayer in Florida. The Aug. 30 meeting of 604 Florida Baptists in Orlando marked the Florida Baptist Convention as the ninth state convention which has held a solemn assembly since last September, Blackaby said.

Other examples given during the teleconference of those who have experienced solemn assemblies included a meeting of Pennsylvania/South Jersey Southern Baptists, Woman's Missionary Union, and members of Second Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, Ky. Drumwright said two solemn assemblies have been held at the Foreign Mission Board in the past year.

"I have never seen such brokenness and very, very deep repentance coming from all segments of the nation," Blackaby said.

Hunt said the fact that prayer and solemn assemblies are breaking out all over the nation "is definitely an indication of God. I think we all can agree this is not a human work."

Beggs said to reach the Bold Mission Thrust goals, Christians must pray for specific items.

"It's not just enough to say, 'Lord, bless the missionaries.' We've got to be specific when praying for missions," he said. "We must recognize that it is only through the spirit of God that we can do the kinds of things we want to do (through BMT)."

A church must teach its members to pray, and prayer warriors must be mobilized to pray for BMT, he said. "Every church must have ownership of Bold Mission Thrust goals."