



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas, 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5100
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 Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

December 5, 1990

90-166

Texas Baptist board rejects
release of funds to Baylor

By Orville Scott

N-JK00

DALLAS (BP)--The 193-member Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board narrowly voted down a motion to ask the BGCT Christian education coordinating board to release from escrow all convention scholarship funds allocated to Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

The motion by board member Clyde Herring, pastor of First Baptist Church, The Woodlands, Texas, drew considerable debate at the quarterly Dec. 4 board meeting in Dallas and was defeated by a margin that observers said was as close as a similar vote at the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Houston, Nov. 13-14.

The Christian education coordinating board placed convention funds for Baylor in escrow after Baylor trustees Sept. 21 unilaterally changed the university charter to shift "sole governance" of the school from the 48 trustees elected by the BGCT to a 24-member board of regents.

Baylor President Herbert H. Reynolds said the action was taken to protect religious freedom and to avert a takeover by "fundamentalists" such as has occurred in the past 12 years to institutions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

At the BGCT annual session in Houston, messengers denied by a 29-vote margin -- 1,995 to 1,966 -- a motion to free about \$7.5 million in Baylor funds being held in escrow for 1991 and the remainder of this year.

The vote came on the heels of another minutes earlier that passed by a 2,164 to 1,991 count. The second vote was taken after Christian education coordinating board director Jerry F. Dawson noted that a mistake had been made in the printing of the Convention budget. He said \$91,160 for ministerial scholarships, as well as faculty fellowship grants had not been placed in escrow.

At the Dec. 4 BGCT executive board meeting, Herring asked that the board request the Christian education coordinating board to also release to Baylor nearly \$800,000 in "unfunded scholarships."

Dawson said these funds, given to the school for any scholarship need, were placed in escrow because they do not represent contracts with students as in the case of ministry scholarships.

After board member J.K. Minton of Houston said, "I think we should trust the process," the board narrowly voted down Herring's motion.

Robert E. Naylor, chairman of the 26-member Committee on BGCT/Baylor Relationship, released the names of a six-member sub-committee to meet with a six-member committee of Baylor trustees yet to be announced.

Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said the committee is "together in its commitment to Baylor and the convention.

"Baylor administration and trustees are cooperative," he said, "but resolution of the matter will require God's intervention."

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Write Saddam Hussein, Baptist leader urges," dated Dec. 4, please add the following paragraphs at the end of the story:

Churches or individuals desiring a copy of the suggested letter to Saddam Hussein can call the Foreign Mission Board at 804-353-6655, ext. 395, and leave a recorded message.

Those wishing to write their own letters to the Iraqi leader should address them to:
 His Excellency, Saddam Hussein
 President of the Republic of Iraq
 Presidential Palace
 Karradat, Mariam
 Baghdad, IRAQ

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Thanks,
 Baptist Press

'Evil conspiracy' theory
 not true, Dunn contends

By Pat Cole

N-CO
 (SBTS)

Baptist Press
 12/5/90

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Some people wrongly assume that an "evil conspiracy" is attempting to keep Christian voices from being heard in the political arena, emphasized the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"No one that I know of, not the most dedicated separationists, not even the organized advocates of neutrality are denying full and free expression of the Christian message in the marketplace," said James M. Dunn in a Nov. 29 address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "In fact, some of the most purely secularist people are among the first to defend the full freedom of religious expression."

Dunn addressed "Students for the Southern Baptist Alliance," a campus organization at the Louisville, Ky., seminary. His observations stood in contrast to a chapel address at the seminary earlier in November by Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard Land. Land charged that many Christians use church/state separation as an excuse for not participating in the political process. In particular, he contended that some Christians "hide behind the First Amendment" to avoid involvement in the pro-life movement.

Although he did not refer directly to Land or his address, Dunn's perspective on why Christians fail to participate more fully in the political process differed sharply from Land's.

"Laziness-maybe, cowardice-surely, ignorance-often, contribute to the evasion of good citizenship," said Dunn. "Most of us know in our innards that we have no excuse for avoiding political engagement. We surely cannot use church/state separation to dodge our duty. It is a straw man set up to be knocked down to argue that Baptists use 'separation' as an excuse from non-involvement."

Both Land and Dunn head agencies funded by Southern Baptists that deal with religious liberty issues. In June, the Southern Baptist Convention trimmed its annual BJC allocation from \$391,796 to \$50,000. Meanwhile, the convention added religious liberty to the CLC's moral concerns assignment and gave the agency a \$365,328 budget increase to help finance its new responsibilities.

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Dunn, whose agency is supported by nine Baptist denominations, said Baptists have a history of involvement in the nation's political process. Baptists traditionally have understood that church/state separation "did not mean separation of God and government or separation of Christians from their citizenship or separation of religion and politics," he said.

There are inherent tensions in the "American experiment" of church/state separation, said Dunn: "The delicate balance of 'no establishment' of religion with the 'free exercise' of self-sustaining sects is a formula for chaos. Yet, the experiment is worth continuing."

Dunn, however, claimed some people may be attempting to revise the traditional understanding of church/state separation in an attempt to obtain governmental funding for religious causes.

"Could it be that the current re-evaluation of separation of church and state is fueled by an institutional greed for governmental goodies?" he asked. "Could it be that some see that they must re-interpret historic insistence upon disestablishment before they can fund religious programs with public monies?"

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Balanced program aims
at student evangelism

By Frank Wm. White

F-SSB

Baptist Press
12/5/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--While evangelism has been a hallmark of Southern Baptist student ministry, a new plan to balance elements of student evangelism training could improve the focus and increase the numbers of student professions of faith.

Evangelism is not a separate program for student ministry but "runs through the fabric of all we do," said Brad Gray, consultant for evangelism in the Sunday School Board's student ministry department, told state directors of student ministry meeting in Nashville in annual planning sessions.

Uniform Church Letter reports for 1989 indicate a total of more than 9,900 college student baptisms. In a separate reporting system, campus student ministry directors reported 6,600 student conversions through Baptist Student Union in 1989-90.

"Teaching students how to share their faith is the most effective and important thing we do in student ministry," Gray said.

A balanced program that involves on-going weekly evangelism efforts and lifestyle evangelism as well as special events for mass evangelism and semester training efforts helps maintain a continued focus on evangelism, Gray pointed out.

"A balanced program is the only way to reach a large number of students because it involves a variety of approaches," he said.

Two new products will be available in April 1991 to support student ministry evangelism efforts.

A revised SHARE Seminar Workbook written by Milt Hughes, student ministry department editor, will have an added section on building relationships.

Dealing With Life's Questions written by Jerry Hayner, pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., will be a collegiate version of Outreach Bible Study materials. Outreach Bible Study is an eight-week Bible study for non-Christians. Previously student groups have used the adult and youth Outreach Bible Study editions.

As many as 5,000 students will be trained to use the Collegiate Outreach Bible Study materials during Ridgecrest, N.C., and Glorieta, N.M., student conferences in August 1991. Conference Bible study sessions led by Hayner will feature the content of Collegiate Outreach Bible Study. Small group sessions following the daily Bible study will deal with leading Collegiate Outreach Bible Study groups.

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Outreach Bible Study specifically designed for college students will help further the results already seen from Outreach Bible Study groups, said Bob Lee, director of student ministry for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

"Hundreds of students are being reached weekly through Outreach Bible Study on campuses across our state," Lee told fellow state directors.

Training for students in evangelism, such as the Collegiate Outreach Bible Study training at conference centers in 1991 and on-going witness training on campuses are effective in increasing professions of faith, said Dale Robinson, state director for the California Southern Baptist Convention.

"In goal planning, we have discovered that the more people we train in evangelism, the more professions of faith we have. We've decided to focus on evangelism training," Robinson said.

During the meeting, state student ministry directors decided to plan a national student missions conference in 1994 at a time and location to be determined later.

The 1994 conference was recommended by the student ministry long-range planning committee based on a petition from students and requests from Southern Baptist mission agencies following MISSION 90, the national student conference held in Fort Worth, Texas, in December 1989.

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Dog mushing develops
campus friendships

By Frank Wm. White

F-SSB

Baptist Press
12/5/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Sampling the local culture is one sure way to introduce international students to Southern Baptist campus ministries.

For Guy Zody, director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, the obvious idea was a day of dog mushing.

Zody had planned for about 50 international students to show up for a day of dog mushing in late November. He was overwhelmed when more than 100 arrived.

"Dog mushing is the Alaska sport," Zody said. It is a spectator sport with numerous races throughout the winter season.

"Everybody who comes to Alaska is intrigued by the sport. It has real appeal to international students because it is part of the 'Alaska experience,'" he said while attending the annual planning meeting for student ministry directors in Nashville.

Before the dog mushing day, about 15 students had been attending the BSU's international student Bible study, Zody said. He estimates that about 250 international students are among the more than 8,500 students on campus.

Zody said the event can lay a foundation to continue to open up relationships with a greater number of international students on campus.

Ten dog mush teams worked throughout the day relaying international students on a one-mile run. Some of the mushers were from local churches, but others "just wanted to come out and have a good time and help out," Zody said.

International students rode in baskets attached to the mushers' sleds. Occasionally, some mushers would allow students to drive the sleds as well.

While students were riding sleds, more than 35 children of international students participated in activities planned by the BSU including VBS-type activities.

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"If you plan anything for international students, you have to plan for children," Zody said. Many international students are married and have children, he pointed out.

More than 30 of the almost 40 students who regularly attend the Fairbanks BSU were involved in planning and conducting the dog mushing day for international students.

Special events such as the dog mushing day are suggested by the Sunday School Board's student ministry department for churches and BSUs to involve international students.

Other ongoing programs such as host family ministries and English usage groups also can be helpful to involve international students in the church or BSU program, according to student ministry suggestions.

Zody said the involvement with BSU students gives international students access to a new group of friends as well as different experiences.

The relationships give BSU students an opportunity to minister and witness to other students, he said.