



**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 75246-1788, Telephone (214) 828-5232  
**NASHVILLE** Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
**RICHMOND** Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

October 10, 1991

91-153

ROUNDUP

**FMB trustees defund seminary, expand Soviet area ministry, affirm Parks** By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted 35-28 in their October meeting to defund the board's contribution to the 1992 budget of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The action, based on the trustees' disagreement over the seminary's theological stance, deleted \$365,000 allocated to the seminary. The action also asked trustees receive a legal interpretation at their December meeting of documents from 1978 and 1988 in which the board agreed to fund the seminary through 1992.

The trustees voted in 1978 to contribute to the financially strapped seminary's operating budget through 1992 and begin decreasing support in 1993. They reaffirmed that action in 1988. The board still maintains missionaries at the seminary.

In other action, two trustee committees voted to affirm and help refine and implement a 10-point vision for global evangelization offered by President R. Keith Parks at their August meeting. The trustee chairman's council, in affirming Parks' plan, discarded a motion that would have implemented a long-range transition plan to new presidential leadership.

Trustees also appointed 29 missionaries (bringing the total to 3,898 in 121 countries), reviewed plans to launch a full-scale "Green Alert" expansion of ministries in the former Soviet Union and heard Parks pay tribute to Louis Cobbs, who soon will retire after 27 years' service.

In his report to trustees, Parks said during the 20 years Cobbs headed missionary personnel selection, the board appointed 3,320 career missionaries -- 44 percent of the missionaries sent out in the board's history. "No other individual has done as much to shape this excellent personnel program as Louis Cobbs," Parks said.

Unless trustees change their minds in their December meeting, 1992 will be the first year since the board founded the Ruschlikon seminary in 1948 that it will receive no Southern Baptist operating funds. The \$365,000 was transferred to theological education needs in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Trustees voted to defund the seminary even though Parks told them the board's integrity was at stake if they didn't fulfill their 1992 commitment. The seminary plays a key part in Baptist expansion in Europe, he said, and defunding would cripple it and damage the board's credibility in Europe and around the world. He said that after the 1992 agreement is complete they could take any action they wished.

But trustees, who have disagreed about the seminary's theological stance for years, felt the seminary showed it was continuing in a "liberal" direction by allowing Glenn Hinson, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., to teach there for four months on sabbatic leave, according to trustee Ron Wilson of California.

--more--

Wilson said trustees perceive Hinson, a church history professor, as having liberal views of Scripture.

"The board doesn't like to disagree with Dr. Parks, but on a difference of opinion we have to vote our conscience," Wilson said.

In 1988 trustees asked European Baptist and seminary leaders to respond to 10 recommendations prior to the board's May 1989 transfer of ownership of the Ruschlikon seminary to the European Baptist Federation. The points included a request that they put a statement of European Baptist beliefs in writing.

European Baptists responded to each of the 10 points, but many trustees have continued to be displeased with a statement of beliefs that was a part of this document. Hinson's teaching assignment does not indicate good faith, Wilson said.

Before the full trustee meeting, Parks and trustee leaders "cleared the air" in a late-night session. The meeting began with a discussion of transition to new presidential leadership and ended with a unanimous vote to affirm a 10-point vision for global evangelization Parks presented to the trustees in August.

In a news conference Oct. 8 Parks and trustee chairman Bill Hancock of Kentucky confirmed rumors the 15-member chairman's council, made up of trustee officers and committee chairmen, had considered a three-and-a-half year transition plan to select Parks' successor by 1995.

During the session Parks reportedly told trustees he could not work effectively in such a long transition. He said he would step aside if he did not have their support and he could not operate until he retires without full authority as president.

The two men said the council discarded a motion for a transition plan, unanimously passed a substitute motion the council affirm Parks' vision, and referred its action to the trustee strategy committee for implementation. The strategy committee unanimously endorsed the council's action.

"We had a good, healthy, open discussion about relations that will be necessary to accomplish" Parks' 10-point vision, Hancock said.

Added Parks: "We had the sort of session that families sometimes have and cleared the air and expressed some feelings and attitudes. No voices were raised, no anger was expressed and no tables were pounded. As we came to the end of the meeting, I had the feeling of a unanimous action and a warm affirmation."

Since the August meeting, speculation had centered on how trustees would respond not only to Parks' 10-point vision but also his desire to lead in implementing it through its proposed 1995 launch date. Parks turns 65 in October 1992. His predecessor, Baker James Cauthen, served until age 70.

Pressed by reporters at the news conference to clarify Parks' status, Hancock said the actions of the chairman's council and strategy committee "have unofficially assented to Dr. Parks giving leadership at this point in time. If transition or replacement or retirement was a priority, I'm sure someone would have addressed it."

Parks said he did not object to the concept of a transition plan, only its timing. "We should get on with the vision and not stretch out the transition time in a way that would distract us and prevent leadership from functioning," he said.

FMB holds '92 budget steady;  
cuts out Ruschlikon funding

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board agreed Oct. 9 to a 1992 budget increase of only 0.5 percent and voted to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

But they still made plans to finance expansion into rapidly opening areas of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Faced with leveling revenues, the trustees agreed Oct. 9 on a projected \$183.66 million budget. Omitted from the budget was funding for the Ruschlikon seminary, slated to receive \$365,000 from Southern Baptists in 1992. Trustees have disagreed over the seminary's theological stance for years.

To move quickly into the territories of the Soviet Union, the board may have to rely on non-budget cash funds under its special "Green Alert" procedures, said Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks. The procedures allow the agency to respond quickly and decisively when areas of the world open unexpectedly.

But, he added, continued expansion of Baptist work in Europe could be affected by a decision to defund Ruschlikon, which trains Baptist leaders from throughout the region. "I see Ruschlikon as very pivotal in meeting these needs," he said.

Trustees voted to reallocate the \$365,000 to theological education needs in Eastern Europe. But Parks told them the board's integrity was at stake if they didn't fulfill their 1992 commitment.

"Since the budget does not go into effect until after our December meeting, it is my hope the board will restore the funds," Parks said after the meeting. "And it is my hope and prayer that our relationships with Baptists all across Europe will not be hampered and we can continue together at this crucial time."

Unless trustees change their minds in December, 1992 will be the first year since the Foreign Mission Board founded the seminary in 1948 that the school will receive no Southern Baptist operating funds. The board still maintains missionary personnel at the seminary. The trustees had agreed in 1978 and again in 1988 to give to the seminary's operating budget through 1992 and begin decreasing support in 1993.

Trustee Steve Hardy, chairman of the regional trustee committee that oversees work in Switzerland, said he hopes the defunding will free money to be used in national seminaries where leaders are taught in their own language. The limitation of becoming proficient in English to attend the Ruschlikon seminary decreases the number who can be trained, he added.

Hardy also hopes the increasing numbers of Southern Baptist mission personnel being assigned to the region will concentrate on training leaders at the local church level, he said. And he hopes Baptist convention leaders in Europe will use the opportunity to identify ways they would like Southern Baptist money earmarked for theological education.

In fact, "If the European Baptist Federation feels strongly the money needs to go to Ruschlikon, and if the leaders of national conventions feel it strongly, then my hope is they would communicate that strongly to the board before the December meeting," he added.

About two-thirds of the \$161 million earmarked in the 1992 budget for use overseas will support 3,898 missionaries working in 121 countries and reaching out to a number of others.

"This reflects our philosophy that we think missionaries are our most valuable commodity," said Parks. "We will continue to send all who are qualified and ready to go."

--more--

The budget's projected \$7.2 million increase in operating costs and \$6.3 million cut in capital expenses reflect a trend toward letting overseas Baptists run their own denominational structures, schools and hospitals. This frees more missionaries to work with new believers.

Slowdown in growth in the world's largest evangelical foreign missions enterprise results from an eight-year decline in the expansion of key revenue sources. This year marks the second time in its history the mission board received less money in the same year from both its biggest source of funds, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (down 1.05 percent), and from the Cooperative Program (down 0.36 percent). The other time was 1932. The Lottie Moon offering fell below the previous year's receipts for the first time since 1937.

The Lottie Moon offering is received yearly in Southern Baptist churches, generally in December. The Cooperative Program is a unified giving plan allowing Southern Baptist churches to stay autonomous but still contribute to missions, Christian education and other causes.

The board based its 1992 budget on the belief Southern Baptists will dig \$4.6 million deeper into their pockets at Lottie Moon time -- and on projections of a 1 percent increase in Cooperative Program receipts to total \$70.4 million. Southern Baptists' goal for 1991 Lottie Moon giving, which will go into the 1992 budget, is \$84 million. They have not met the goal since 1981.

Recognizing openness in the former Soviet Union could trigger Southern Baptists to give more than ever before, trustees voted that if Lottie Moon receipts exceed the goal, the extra money will fund stepped-up mission work anticipated in the board's "Green Alert" plan for that area of the world.

Several times during the past three decades of growth the board budget has increased more than 15 percent in one year. Only one other time in that period -- 1989 -- has it increased less than 1 percent. Then, surprisingly high Cooperative Program giving averted a 12-percent across-the-board budget cut expected after Lottie Moon giving fell short of the goal by \$5 million.

The 1992 budget includes for the first time projections of revenue from alternate channels -- the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and directly from the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Some Southern Baptists in both groups have quit funding the Cooperative Program because of denominational battling but want to give to foreign missions. The board expects about \$150,000 per month, or 1 percent of its revenue, to come this way.

The board projects \$7 million, or 3.8 percent of its budget, will come from gifts for hunger and relief ministries. It expects \$13.5 million, or 7.4 percent, to come from investments, and \$7 million to come from sources such as individual contributions and income from state Baptist foundations.

Gifts for human needs are used entirely for hunger and relief projects. Domestic administrative expenses related to relief efforts come from general board funds.

The budget projects keeping domestic costs for salaries, administration and promotion to about \$22.4 million, or some 12.2 percent. "This should point out to Baptists we're working hard to get all the money overseas we can," Parks said.

Trustees, Parks 'clear air,'  
discard transition plan

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--President R. Keith Parks and trustee leaders of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board "cleared the air" in a late-night session during the trustees' October meeting.

The meeting began with a discussion of transition to new presidential leadership and ended with a unanimous vote to affirm a 10-point vision for global evangelization Parks presented to the trustees in August.

In a news conference Oct. 8 Parks and trustee chairman Bill Hancock of Kentucky confirmed rumors the 15-member chairman's council, made up of trustee officers and committee chairmen, had considered a three-and-a-half year transition plan to select Parks' successor by 1995.

During the session Parks reportedly told trustees he could not work effectively in such a long transition. He said he would step aside if he did not have their support, but could not operate until he retires without full authority as president.

The two men said the council discarded a motion for a transition plan, unanimously passed a substitute motion that the chairman's council affirm Parks' vision, and referred its action to the trustee strategy committee for implementation.

In a subsequent session the 22-member strategy committee unanimously endorsed the council's action. Committee chairman Bill Hall of Kentucky appointed a subcommittee to work with Parks and board staff to refine and implement Parks' vision for powerful new foreign missions initiatives to help Southern Baptists reach their Bold Mission Thrust goals.

Since the August meeting, speculation had centered on how trustees would respond not only to Parks' 10-point vision but also his desire to lead in implementing it through its proposed 1995 launch date.

Parks, who turns 65 in October 1992, told trustees in August he would be willing to lead preparations for his "Missions 21" vision. He said the Foreign Mission Board's current administrative leadership should remain in place until 1995 to maintain the momentum and direction it will take to accomplish the preparations.

"After that, a transition could be made (in administrative leadership) without hindering what we have prayed and worked so long to accomplish," the 37-year missions veteran told trustees.

Pressed by reporters at the news conference to clarify Parks' status, Hancock said the actions of the chairman's council and strategy committee "have unofficially assented to Dr. Parks giving leadership at this point in time. If transition or replacement or retirement was a priority, I'm sure someone would have addressed it.

"We're looking at the future progressively rather than transitionally at this point," Hancock said. "By progressive, I mean we're looking to the accomplishment and fulfillment of those 10 points of the vision to take advantage of the opportunities open to us in the world today. We feel that they have a greater priority than transition at this point."

Hancock and Parks admitted Parks and the trustees exchanged candid views and differences of opinion during the council session. The council met from 10 p.m. until 12:30 a.m., after time had run out during a one-hour meeting earlier in the day.

"We had a good, healthy, open discussion about relations that will be necessary to accomplish" Parks' 10-point vision, Hancock said.

--more--

Added Parks: "We had the sort of session that families sometimes have and cleared the air and expressed some feelings and attitudes. No voices were raised, no anger was expressed and no tables were pounded. As we came to the end of the meeting, I had the feeling of a unanimous action and a warm affirmation."

Hancock said trustees on the council withdrew or defeated several motions in the course of discussion before settling on the substitute offered by trustee Paige Patterson of Texas and passing it on to the strategy committee.

Patterson's motion replaced one by trustee Phyllis Randall of Virginia. Randall's motion would have set up a three-and-a-half year plan to guide the board in transition to a new leader as it implemented Parks' 10-point plan.

Randall told reporters she intended her motion as something to "bounce ideas off of" and get dialogue going -- not "as a finished thing that would be acted on and go into effect today or tomorrow."

Parks said he told Randall he did not object to the concept of a transition plan, only its timing.

"We should get on with the vision and not stretch out the transition time in a way that would distract us and prevent leadership from functioning," Parks said.

In his August report, Parks said his vision for a revitalized Bold Mission Thrust calls for an international mobilization of people of all ages and backgrounds -- from students to retirees.

It must include all "foreign missions-committed Southern Baptists," he stressed, and can only be accomplished with spiritual power.

"I pray that it will be so obviously Spirit-led that Southern Baptists will be drawn above our differences and reunite again around our common cause of reaching this world with the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

Southern Baptists could be "on the verge of the greatest moment ever" in foreign missions, Parks said, "if God can mold us together as missionaries, trustees and staff into a spiritual unity" -- and Southern Baptists can overcome such barriers as a weak economy, negative cultural forces and lifestyles, and denominational strife."

--30--

NOTE TO EDITORS: The following can be used with the story above as a sidebar or box.

#### Keith Parks' 10-point plan

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustee committees endorsed the 10-point vision for global evangelization that FMB President R. Keith Parks presented to the trustees in August.

The plan would:

1. Challenge missionaries and overseas Baptists to convene regional meetings in 1992 to find better ways to evangelize all nations and unreached peoples.
2. Call a worldwide consultation for 1995 to coordinate plans for "extensive worldwide evangelistic efforts" in 1999-2000.

--more--

3. Challenge at least 10,000 seminary and college students to begin cultural and language studies no later than 1995 and spend 1999 "overseas in world evangelization or (in) becoming tentmakers" to work and witness in nations closed to missions.

4. Challenge 5,000 lay people and church staff members planning to retire between 1995 and 2000 to volunteer to spend 1999 in world evangelization or in starting a second career overseas.

5. Assist Baptist seminaries, universities and state conventions to help this new kind of volunteer gain cross-cultural communications skills.

6. Unite Southern Baptist and international Baptist bodies to provide massive evangelistic training in 1997-98 to prepare for 1999-2000 "as the greatest year of harvest in our history."

7. Challenge every association of Baptist churches "to pray forth at least two additional career missionaries, plus enough additional funding for support and operational expenses by the year 1995."

8. Determine how many countries beyond those where missionaries are now assigned should have a foreign mission witness and initiate action by the year 2000.

9. Work with other evangelistic Christians to target every major people group with evangelical witness by 2000.

10. Challenge every Southern Baptist church to develop regular prayer for missionaries and world evangelization -- and at least 12,000 churches to pray specifically for an unreached people group.

--30--

Prayer to launch Soviet 'Alert;' plan may send 116 missionaries

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press  
10/10/91

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees have designated New Year's Eve 1991 as an international day of prayer for the former Soviet Union to kick off a multifaceted "Green Alert" plan to expand mission work in the region.

The Green Alert project could involve hundreds of Southern Baptist workers, including the assigning of 116 missionaries in 1992 alone to work throughout the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union -- the largest Southern Baptist missionary force ever deployed to a single regional effort in one single year. That total is roughly one-third to one-half the average number of missionaries the board appoints annually for its worldwide program.

Trustees also voted Oct. 9 to earmark for the project any revenues received above this year's \$84 million goal for Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon foreign missions offering.

The plan represents the agency's first Green Alert action, designed to respond quickly to changing world events by cutting through normal processes to free money and personnel. The procedures were adopted during the trustees' June meeting.

The prayer day will usher in a year of prayer for the region. In the emphasis, trustees hope to enlist the Baptist World Alliance and evangelist Billy Graham, who has scheduled a crusade in the Soviet region next spring.

While many missionaries would need to be newly appointed, some experienced missionaries should be reassigned from other fields, said Isam Ballenger, FMB vice president for Europe, Middle East and North Africa and chairman of the Green Alert task force.

--more--

The plan also could involve finding more than 200 shorter-term personnel, roughly two-thirds of the number assigned during 1990 for all fields. Many of these would be English teachers, while others would provide assistance in student evangelism, theological education and business development.

"We can consider all this possible only if the international call to prayer results in Baptists throughout the world turning their attention and prayers to this part of the world, causing an outpouring of compassion toward the peoples of these lands," Ballenger said.

"It will be necessary for God to move through our people with the result that many will be called and others will determine to support this monumental attempt to share the gospel in lands so long closed to Christian missions."

In addition to any Lottie Moon surplus, the project will require funding outside the \$183.66 million mission board budget trustees approved for 1992, said FMB President R. Keith Parks. The board has access to some funds for unanticipated needs not included in the budget. Ballenger told trustees the task force will come to the trustees' next meeting in December with specific cost estimates related to money and personnel.

The task force, composed of mission workers and administrators, centered its proposal on strengthening Soviet Baptist efforts, providing Christian witness and training in unevangelized areas and offering opportunities for Southern Baptist personnel to work in the region.

"In many of these republics, there are dynamic Baptist unions interested in reaching out to people of their lands, and who have been open to us for assistance and counsel," Ballenger said. "We're proposing we answer these repeated entreaties."

Reports say thousands are coming to know Jesus as Savior in the Soviet region. But Soviet Baptists are asking what happens when the foreign evangelists leave, Ballenger said. The task force is proposing mission workers center much of their effort on helping equip local Baptists to reach their own people.

"They say they have tremendous human resources, but for so many years we have not been able to train these people," he said. The task force proposes helping as many republics as possible to develop their own mission agencies to direct home and foreign mission efforts.

Other proposed plans include:

- Providing desktop publishing equipment for publishing evangelistic and training materials;
- Translating the Survival Kit discipleship program into every major language of the region;
- Increasing efforts to develop a Sunday school curriculum and Bible training materials;
- Strengthening support of Bible schools and seminaries.
- Helping establish a media center in the Kazakhstan republic, if a current feasibility study proves its worth;
- Establishing a Central Asian Study Center and staffing it with missionaries to train people in the region;
- Working with others in the evangelical community to get the Bible translated, published and distributed in every Soviet language;
- Using the evangelistic film "Jesus" throughout the region.

--more--

-- Organizing volunteers in teams for evangelism, follow-up, student missions, construction and cultural exchange, and in Woman's Missionary Union tours;

-- Involving Southern Baptist laity who live in the region in strategies for evangelism and church growth; and

-- Enlisting Southern Baptists at home as hosts in exchange programs with visiting business people from the region.

--30--

Retiring missionaries honored  
for 3,010 combined years of work

By Donald D. Martin

Baptist Press  
10/10/91

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Tom Small's ambition could never match God's, he admitted during a service honoring retiring missionaries Oct. 7.

When Small, of Houston, helped launch the Bible Way Correspondence Course in Zambia in 1963, he prayed God would use his work and perhaps lead 3,000 people to enroll in the course. He had no idea how modest his hopes for the course were.

Upon retirement this year, Small learned the total enrollment in Zambia alone had reached 158,000 and more than 31,000 people had made professions of faith in Christ. "We were stunned," he said.

"Bible Way now is used in 30 other countries and has reached 5 million people worldwide," he added. "This is just one of the many things that made our 36 years of work in Africa a joy."

Small was among 103 retiring foreign missionaries honored at First Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. The group accounts for 3,010 combined years of mission work in 50 countries.

The larger size of this year's group is a sign of things to come. In recent years retiring groups of Southern Baptist missionaries have ranged from about 65 to 73 people. But the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board expects to see a swell in retirements as the wave resulting from the post-World War II missionary boom crests in the 1990s.

However, Tom and Kathy High have done their part to continue the missionary boom. Just 24 hours after the Highs received their certificates and service pins for 35 years of mission work in Nigeria, their son, Thomas, and his wife, Danette, were to receive their own certificates as newly appointed missionaries to Bolivia. The elder Highs are from Spartanburg, S.C., and Greensboro, N.C., respectively. The younger couple consider Fort Worth, Texas, and Duncan, Okla., their hometowns.

As this latest group of retiring missionaries returns to the United States, Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks noted their remarkable talents. But he saluted them not so much for their abilities as for their availability.

Answering God's call to be available does not always come easily, reflected James Williams from Fort Worth. Williams and his wife, Faye, from Tushka, Okla., spent 35 years working in Mexico and later in Spain.

"Language was what held me back from surrendering to the mission field," he said. "After six years of resisting (God's) call, I could stand it no more. We went to Mexico."

But if going to the mission field was Williams' first big step, learning to work effectively in a new language was his first hurdle. After a few months in Mexico Williams understood some Spanish but was unable to converse.

--more--

At the close of a service in a small mission church in Pachuca, Mexico, another missionary asked Williams to say a few words to the congregation.

"I was shocked that he had asked me, but I had promised God I would never refuse a chance to testify about Jesus," Williams recalled. "I stepped to the front of the congregation. As I looked out over the crowd, I saw two men at the back that I knew were not saved.

"I began to testify to them about the love of God and how they needed to accept Jesus in their hearts and lives. I had great freedom in speaking, but suddenly I became aware I was not speaking English but in Spanish -- fluently. I was amazed and for a moment unable to speak. But I surrendered again to the power of the Holy Spirit. I have been able to preach fluently in Spanish from that very hour."

Enjoying a ministry that resulted in a large number baptisms each year was never part of Bill Trimble's ministry. Trimble and his wife, Vivian, devoted 30 years to mission work in Lebanon and later Greece.

"We can't say we were ever tired from baptizing too many people," admitted Trimble of Rodessa, La., as he compared his efforts in a difficult area to more responsive mission fields. "But we have been able to preach the word of God throughout the Middle East." God has honored that commitment, he said.

"I will always remember what a Lebanese layman said to us during the war: 'We know that our missionaries love us because they have stayed with us.' Sometimes I think just staying is the testimony that God uses."

Joan Norman of Chico, Texas, said she wanted to stress to all Southern Baptists foreign missions is not an option, but an imperative. Norman and her husband, Tommy, of Trenton, Texas, worked for 29 years in Bolivia and Colombia.

"If one has not been called to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth, then one's responsibility becomes learning the needs and praying and giving so that those who have been called can effectively carry out the Great Commission," she declared.

--30--

NOTE TO EDITORS: Biographical material and photos of retiring missionaries are being mailed to state Baptist newspapers in the missionaries' home states.

CORRECTION: The dollar amount in paragraph seven of the story released electronically Oct. 9 headlined "New Sunday school curriculum launched in Middle East" should be \$250,000, NOT \$25,000. The story running today is correct.

New Sunday school curriculum  
launched in Middle East

By Phillip Palmer

Baptist Press  
10/10/91

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP)--A new Sunday school curriculum indigenous to the Middle East is being hailed as a major breakthrough by Christian leaders in the region.

The Faith and Life Curriculum, just released by Baptist Publications in Beirut, Lebanon, was produced with Southern Baptist support. It is thought to be the first such curriculum written and produced completely in Arabic by Arabic-speaking Christians for Arabic-speaking Christians. Its illustrations and writing style are uniquely Middle Eastern. Most church literature in the area is translated from the work of Western authors.

--more--

The publication house expects Sunday school leaders in churches of many denominations throughout the region will use Faith and Life. About 225 people attended meetings in Alexandria, Cairo and Asyut, Egypt, where the new curriculum was introduced.

Faroukh Fadel, who has more than 40 years experience in Sunday school work, praised the literature's ease of use. "This curriculum will be a blessing to us (teachers) before it is a blessing to our students," he said.

Cairo Christian educator Mufid Gameel added, "This is the realization of a dream I've had for 35 years -- a complete curriculum, based on the Bible and built on sound educational principles." Gameel directs the Cairo Evangelical Seminary's Christian education department.

"We can be proud of what we have accomplished," said Charles Costa, chief curriculum editor for Baptist Publications. "This marks the beginning of a new phase in Christian work in the Middle East. It signifies that we can do something for ourselves, that we, as Arabs, can stand on our own two feet."

But Costa also noted the importance of Southern Baptist support for the project. "Without the financial help of churches in the United States, no church in the Middle East could afford this curriculum," he said, pointing out Southern Baptists provided about \$250,000 through their Foreign Mission Board to offset production costs. This support lowered the cost of one year of materials for three age groups from about \$180 to about \$42.

The Faith and Life Curriculum began as a dream of Frances Fuller, a Southern Baptist worker who directs Baptist Publications. She started the project in 1982 when a group of Christian leaders and others met in Cairo to lay the groundwork for it. Since then Baptist Publications staff members have trained writers and guided them through writing the lessons before the final editing, production of artwork and materials and printing.

"This is a monumental task which is possible only with the help of the Lord and the sacrificial giving of Southern Baptists. Please pray for this project as it continues," said Fuller.

--30--

Palmer is a Southern Baptist worker in Cyprus assigned to work with Baptist Publications.

Home Mission Board elects new  
vice president, adopts budget

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press  
10/10/91

ATLANTA (BP)--Election of a new vice president, adoption of the 1992 budget and acceptance of Baptist mission work on three Pacific Ocean islands topped the agenda of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board trustees' fall meeting.

Trustees unanimously elected Gary Jones, director of the HMB human resources division, as vice president for services. The Missouri native will succeed Margrette Stevenson who is retiring in November after a 16-year career with the Home Mission Board.

As vice president of the services section, Jones, 40, will oversee the business, communication and human resources divisions.

Before moving to the Home Mission Board, Jones was pastor of four Missouri churches, and he served on the faculty of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He has been on the HMB staff since 1984 when he became director of counseling services.

Jones is a graduate of Crowder College in Neosho, Mo., and Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo. He received his master's and doctorate of divinity degrees from Midwestern Seminary and a master's of science in administration degree from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

--more--

Trustees also adopted a 1992 budget of \$84,752,501, up 5.2 percent from this year's budget of \$80,575,074.

In addition, trustees voted to accept the work in Guam, other Mariana Islands and Micronesia effective Jan. 1, 1992. The churches, which currently relate to the Foreign Mission Board, will become part of the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

Wesley and Guinevieve Brizendine, foreign missionaries and student workers in Guam, will continue their work until they retire in 1996 or until they are reassigned by the Foreign Mission Board.

Foreign missionaries Bin and Pattie Fleming will continue to work with the church until they retire. He is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Guam.

In a related matter, trustees voted to transfer property the HMB owns in Panama to the Panama Baptist Convention. Baptist work in Panama originally related to the Home Mission Board, but has been under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Board since 1975. However, government restrictions did not make it possible to transfer the property until last year.

In other business, trustees approved a reorganization plan for the church loans division staff and a lower interest rate of 9.25 percent. Trustees also approved a new objective statement to make the church loan division the preferred lending institution for Southern Baptist churches rather than lender of last resort.

HMB President Larry L. Lewis announced plans to expand the board's toll-free PrayerLine. He noted people who participate in the Watchman on the Wall National Prayer Alert suggested by Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman can use the toll-free number, 1-800-554-PRAY, to gather daily prayer requests about home missions.

Lewis also urged trustees to follow Chapman's direction in leading their churches to double their Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts next year. Chapman issued the challenge to help finance 1,000 new congregations to begin on Easter. All gifts over the \$41 million Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal in 1992 will be used to fund new churches.

In other personnel matters, trustees approved resolutions in recognition of three retiring HMB staff members. In addition to Stevenson, they include Van Nichols, controller since 1976, and James F. Eaves, director of the evangelism church growth department since 1990.

Trustees also elected Ron Barker associate director of the associational evangelism department. The Tennessee native has served the HMB since 1986 as associate director of the personal evangelism department.

--30--

Home Mission Board  
commissions 70 missionaries

Baptist Press  
10/10/91

ATLANTA (BP)--In a celebration of missions partnership, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board commissioned 70 missionaries to serve in 23 states and Canada.

Local churches are the fountainhead of missions, said Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., and host church for the commissioning service. Church members, he said, must give both financial and prayer support to empower missionaries.

Associations of churches "in fellowship and on mission for the cause of Christ" are the next link in the partnership chain, said Bob Franklin, director of missions for Noonday Baptist Association in suburban Atlanta.

--more--

Franklin cited a new church in his association which had 280 people in its first service as an examples of churches working together on mission. He promised the new missionaries churches in his association would support their work financially and through teams of volunteers.

Partnership among Baptists is possible because of the person of Jesus Christ as well as a common purpose and autonomous polity, said Bill Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

James Griffith, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, urged sacrificial support of missions.

"If we're going to feed the world's people who hunger for the gospel, we who make up the local church will have to give a larger portion of ourselves," Griffith said. "Partnership begins with a great concern, is expressed in a great commitment and takes places in cooperation."

Larry Lewis, HMB president, noted "everything we do in home missions, we do in some state convention and in some association. We do our best when we work in cooperation."

He then reminded the missionaries "your dependency is not on a human agency but on a God who said 'I will supply all your needs.'" Lewis urged the new missionaries to give God the first place in their lives by giving him the first minutes of their day, the first day of every week and the first fruits of their substance.

--30--

Churches to receive  
ministry awards

Baptist Pres  
10/10/91

ATLANTA (BP)--Two churches will receive the Jewel Beall award this fall for being outstanding examples of Christian ministry.

The award recipients are New Covenant Chapel in Rock Cave, W.Va., and Central Baptist Church in Inglewood, Calif.

"New Covenant Chapel is in a rural, economically depressed and somewhat isolated area," said Maxine Bumgarner, Woman's Missionary Union director for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists. "It is made up of 110 members who are no-income, low-income and low middle income. Yet they have big hearts and are willing to share with those who have less."

Clyde McCants is pastor of the church which conducts food and clothing distribution and children and youth programs as on-going ministries. The church has recently begun literacy missions, and every summer it leads neighborhood Backyard Bible Clubs in addition to its own Vacation Bible School.

Central Baptist Church in the Los Angeles metropolitan area offers literacy missions, programs for youth and parents and on-going food and shelter ministries. Church members are also involved in the county's Community Youth Gang Services.

Luther Keith, pastor, is a member of the city's crime task force, school partnership program and police chaplaincy.

Two churches, one west and one east of the Mississippi River, are selected to receive the award each year by the church and community ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The award is named after Jewel Beall, former staff member of the HMB church and community ministries department.

--30--

BJC OKs largest budget,  
seeks alternate funding

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, hopeful of expanding and strengthening alternative methods of financial support in the wake of total defunding by the Southern Baptist Convention, approved the largest budget in its history at its annual meeting Oct. 7-8.

The BJC trustees also received a confidential memo from its general counsel reporting on the status of more than \$380,000 on deposit with the Southern Baptist Foundation. Control of the account recently was contested by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees, who asked the Southern Baptist Executive Committee for the money plus interest.

The BJC okayed a budget of \$799,566, nearly \$66,000 more than the expenditures budgeted for 1990-91. Its action followed a year in which the BJC was "virtually living off income," Executive Director James M. Dunn said, and had to dip into its financial reserve.

The religious liberty organization is "floundering as far as ... financial base" but is making good progress in restructuring, Dunn told the committee members.

While much of the discussion at the meeting involved finances and the BJC's plans to raise additional support, Dunn's main request of the committee, he said, was for ideas on how "to wake people up, to shake people up" to the urgent status of religious liberty in the United States.

"I suspect that the answer lies in a new bonding of BJC board and staff, megaphoning our shared message, turning up the volume ... it is a new day for the Joint Committee," Dunn said in his executive director's report. "Active involvement of everyone who believes in our reason for existence is essential to survival."

Dunn cited recent positions taken by the Supreme Court and the Bush administration as examples of the threat to religious liberty. He also made an apparent reference to the Southern Baptist Convention and its public policy and religious liberty agency, the Christian Life Commission, which has filed a brief asking the Supreme Court to devise a new test for government establishment of religion.

"When the largest Baptist body in the nation, historic champion of religious freedom, officially and blatantly turns to accommodation rather than separation and civil religion rather than prophetic witness, it is alarming," Dunn said.

Although the SBC did not have official representatives at the meeting apparently for the first time since the BJC was formed in 1936, Southern Baptist participation or lack of participation continued to have an impact. It was the SBC's 1990 decision to transfer more than \$341,000 from the BJC to the CLC that brought about the committee's need to restructure its financial base.

The BJC conducted five direct-mail campaigns during the first nine months of 1991, said John Womble, new director of denominational relations and development.

The first four efforts -- directed at previous donors, subscribers to the BJC's monthly magazine and members of the multi-denominational Religious Liberty Council -- resulted in more than \$48,000 in gifts, Womble said.

The last campaign, which was sent in August to the more than 38,000 pastors in the SBC, produced 18 gifts totaling \$3,455, he said. The other 270 respondents asked for information in order to make a decision about supporting the BJC, Womble said.

Individuals contributing to the BJC increased from 465 to 715 during 1990-91, while churches giving increased from 135 to 304, according to the development report.

--more--

State conventions, however, gave about \$117,460, only 56 percent of the income expected from such sources, according to the budget report.

Womble said among ways the BJC plans to raise support is through a Religious Liberty Council-approved volunteer advocate network in at least seven states, a capital needs campaign, a foundation solicitation program and an endowment campaign.

A committee member expressed concern the BJC's disbursements had surpassed its budgeted expenditures by \$55,000. Dunn said such a difference was the result of the hiring of new staff, including Womble, and the failure of giving projections to be fulfilled. The \$55,000 was covered by the BJC's reserve funds and the healthiness of its bank account at the start of the year, Dunn said.

The BJC has an operating reserve of more than \$106,000, Dunn said.

The memo on the contested Southern Baptist Foundation account was more of a report than a request for action, said Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel of the BJC. The report was for BJC members, not for the press and others, Thomas told the committee, in order to protect the attorney-client relationship.

The account was approved at the 1964 SBC meeting as part of a capital needs item in the budget. The BJC contends the money was invested on its behalf and should be controlled by it. The CLC says the funds belong to the Public Affairs Committee, which was merged into the Commission in June. PAC members were the SBC representatives to the BJC in recent years.

The matter has been referred for study to a subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee.

"Obviously they're concerned," Thomas said in an interview about the BJC executive committee, which received the report from him in a closed session. "They were a bit surprised that this had happened."

Thomas told the full committee, "We will not initiate any kind of legal proceedings ... without your approval or the approval of your executive committee."

The BJC will continue to receive interest on the account until the matter is settled, Thomas said.

The decision not to send an official SBC delegation to the BJC meeting was made by the CLC trustees in September. Their decision followed a vote by the BJC executive committee in July not to pay travel expenses for any group that does not make "some reasonable pledge to the BJC's next fiscal budget." The SBC voted in its June meeting to eliminate the final \$50,000 budgeted to the BJC.

Two staff members from the CLC's Washington office, James A. Smith and Michael Whitehead, attended as observers.

The SBC Executive Committee voted in September to recommend at the 1992 annual meeting the termination of the convention's relationship with the BJC.

The BJC adopted two position statements, one opposing vouchers and tuition tax credits as well as their inclusion in President Bush's America 2000 education initiative and another supporting legislation restoring the charitable deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize.

The BJC elected Tyrone Pitts, general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Washington, as its new chairman. Other officers selected were: Sarah Frances Anders, Pineville, La., Religious Liberty Council, first vice chairman; Robert Ricker, Arlington Heights, Ill., Baptist General Conference, second vice chairman, and Robert Tiller, Washington, American Baptist Churches in USA, secretary.

--more--

The BJC also voted to change its fiscal year from October-September to January-December and to begin next year giving the J.M. Dawson Religious Liberty Award biannually. The award was given solely in 1986.

Workgroups conducted by the legal services office of the BJC were held in closed sessions. Only trustees were allowed in the discussion of such issues as the status of the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses so they could "feel open and uninhibited," Thomas said.

Greg Warner, executive editor of Associated Baptist Press, made a presentation on the year-old news service to the committee. He asked members to consider subscribing to ABP, which he said desires to expand beyond Southern Baptists.

--30--

EDITORS' NOTE: Following is the first in a four-part series from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on the expectations Southern Baptists have of pastors.

Southern Baptists hold  
high expectations of pastors

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
10/10/91

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptists hold high expectations of their pastors and want them to be proficient in every area of pastoral ministry, a survey of Southern Baptist laity and clergy found.

The study's findings shed light on pastoral leadership issues, forced termination of pastors, congregational conflict, ministerial calling and the 12-year denominational controversy among Southern Baptists, researchers said.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, aided by a \$350,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. in Indianapolis, surveyed Southern Baptists in eight southeastern states on their perceptions of quality pastoral ministry. Southern Baptists in Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee were polled. Pastors, lay leaders, denominational staff members and Baptist college professors participated in the survey. The Louisville, Ky., school received responses from about 3,200 of the 7,000 people who were mailed questionnaires.

"We asked people 108 questions about what they considered important as defining quality for pastoral ministry and they basically said all 108 are important," said researcher Larry McSwain, provost at Southern Seminary. "So there is nothing unimportant, which is in a way quite unrealistic. Such high expectations for pastors helps us understand why stresses are so high for pastors."

The answers of those who responded were summarized into 14 characteristics of quality pastoral ministry which were ranked on a scale from 1 (unimportant or detrimental) to 5 (highly important or essential). The mean score of the lowest of the 14 was just over 3 (somewhat important). The mean score of the highest was 4.65. While pastors are expected to have diverse gifts, the findings indicated that matters of personal character, spiritual piety and relational competency are non-negotiable.

"Southern Baptists expect their pastors to have a vibrancy of faith, commitment to Christ and an unwavering kind of example," said McSwain. "That includes high moral views and an emphasis on talking about one's faith. Piety is very important."

Researcher John Dever, professor of church and community at Southern Seminary, added that Southern Baptists want "authentic persons" as pastors. "They don't want people who say one thing and do another," he said, noting there was "incredible agreement" among various segments of Southern Baptists on matters of personal character and piety.

--more--

Many pastors depend heavily on their relational abilities to succeed in the ministry, the research showed. "We discovered that the style of pastor who is most likely to succeed is the one who has 'political skills,' in the best sense of that word, and the ability to balance multiple expectations," said McSwain. "Southern Baptists don't appear to have the ability to prioritize things. Consequently, those pastors who relate well to their congregations seem to do best."

Dever speculated that an already high level of forced terminations among pastors would be even higher if pastors didn't possess good relational skills. An average of 116 Southern Baptist pastors experience forced termination every month, according to a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board study.

"The denomination needs to find ways to do more to help congregations and search committees be more realistic in their expectations of pastors," Dever said. He added that seminary training that emphasizes relationship building and spirituality may also help pastors cope with multiple expectations of their congregations.

The results of the Lilly study could potentially revise the training pastors receive at Southern Seminary, said McSwain. The faculty is evaluating the seminary's M.Div. program in light of the Lilly study's findings.

"We hope to provide a warm, encouraging atmosphere and a curriculum that prepares pastors for functioning in the real world," said McSwain.

Southern Seminary was one of 10 religious organizations nationwide selected by Lilly to participate in a large-scale plan to strengthen the quality of candidates for the ministry. Grant recipients included four other theological schools and the offices of five major American denominations.

--30--

EDITORS' NOTE: Following is part two of a four-part series from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on expectations Southern Baptists have of pastors.

Pastors, laity have  
differing expectations

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
10/10/91

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Conflicts between Southern Baptist congregations and pastors may be attributed to differing perceptions about the nature of ministry, a survey of Southern Baptists in eight southeastern states revealed.

Researchers found substantive differences between laity and clergy in 11 of 14 categories measured. The survey, funded by a \$350,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. in Indianapolis, was conducted by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. About 3,200 Southern Baptist laity and clergy responded to the poll.

"Laity want a more directive leadership style and a more aggressive evangelistic style," said researcher Larry McSwain, Southern Seminary provost. "They tend to be a little higher in their expectations of commitment to conservative causes. They are also less likely to be concerned about social and community ministries."

Such differences help explain the tensions that arise between pastors and their congregations, he observed: "Laity are more interested in an aggressive, program-oriented, direct leadership style, whereas professional ministers are more interested in shared, caring relational styles."

--more--

Part of the difference in leadership style may be attributed to the training ministers have received, he said, noting ministers are taught to incorporate multiple individuals in the congregation's decision making process and ministry. Shared ministry leadership has also been an emphasis of Southern Baptist Sunday School Board programs, he added.

While the CEO leadership style is popular among some "super church" pastors, McSwain noted in general laity place a much higher value on that leadership style than clergy. "Part of the success of the CEO model leaders is that they are getting a response from laity," he said.

--30--

Religious liberty taken for  
granted by Baptists, expert says

By Scott Collins

Baptist Press  
10/10/91

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Religious liberty is being given "little place or at best, taken for granted by Baptists in America today," a former executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs said during a student forum Oct. 9 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Speaking at the seminary's first Theological Fellowship meeting of the fall semester, James Wood, director of the J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies at Baylor University, told students the "principle of religious liberty has become far less Baptist in recent times.

"Modern-day Baptists in America need a reawakening to an understanding of religious liberty as vital to authentic faith and practice, integral to the mission of the church and an ally of true religion," Wood said.

Just as the constitutional idea of religious liberty is becoming less Baptist, Wood said religious liberty has been "denied as a right within the Baptist fellowship, and within many denominational structures, all in the name of a claimed orthodoxy that has no historical or Baptist confessional validation."

The threats to religious liberty in the United States and among Baptists come from "those who would obscure an authentic separation of church and state ... by the merging of their religious faith with American nationalism and America's national interest."

According to Wood, when faith is mixed with state policies and programs, "the role of biblical faith is perverted, no matter how well-intentioned the advocates of such a viewpoint may be.

"The Church cannot be made to serve political ends, whether they be secular or ecclesiastical, without degrading itself and thereby denying its Lord," Wood said.

The use of religion and the name of God for "blatantly political and profane purposes" may be "the most serious problem facing Baptists, and indeed, the Church at large, in American public life today," he said.

Wood's address at Southwestern comes during the bicentennial year of the U.S. Bill of Rights, which became law Dec. 15, 1791, two years after the Constitution was approved by the states.

The bicentennial celebration of the Bill of Rights is a time for Baptists and all Americans to remember the past, Wood said, "but to find in that remembrance meaning and significance for the present."

--more--

The bicentennial is a time for modern-day Baptists to remember the struggle of Baptists in Colonial America, Wood said. Recounting the struggles of early Baptists in America, he described them as "among the most persecuted of all the religious sectarians" of the time.

The bicentennial is also a time to remember Baptists were the leaders in the effort of secure both civil and religious freedom, he said. Most historians today recognize Baptists as "the most active of the Colonial religious bodies in their increasing struggle for religious freedom and separation of church and state," Wood added.

That role should not be forgotten today, Wood said, because the Bill of Rights championed by Baptists made religious liberty possible for the first time "in all of human history."

"In observing the bicentennial of the Bill of Rights, one must not fail to acknowledge the contribution of Baptists to the adoption of the constitutional guarantees that are embodied" in the First Amendment, Wood said.

"The bicentennial of the American Bill of Rights is not only a time for remembrance, it is a time for Baptists and all Americans to rededicate themselves to the civil and religious liberty that for 200 years has been the hallmark of America's nationhood," Wood said.

--30--

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary