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IN THIS ISSUE:

- \* National commission releases report on AIDS in America
- \* Second decade of AIDS shows little change, Baptist says
- \* Ruschlikon president warns of damage from defunding
- \* Fellowship to use Ruschlikon trip to generate support for seminary
- \* Duke McCall says seminaries headed into dark ages
- \* Threat of veto prompts Congress to scuttle abortion measure
- \* Pastors air opposing views on 'Good Morning America'
- \* Ray McDaniel, Louisiana layman and former ABP director, dies

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Stories on the Dec. 5-6 meeting between leaders of the FMB and the Ruschlikon seminary and the Dec. 6 accreditation decision affecting Southeastern Seminary will be made available as soon as possible -- perhaps as early as Friday night but at least by Monday morning.

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National commission releases  
report on AIDS in America

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- American society must transform anger, fear and indifference into informed action if the AIDS epidemic is to be stopped, according to a report released by the National Commission on AIDS.

Congress created the commission as an independent body to make recommendations to Congress and the president for "a consistent national policy concerning AIDS." The 15-member commission, which included two Southern Baptists, began working in August 1989. The commission listened to more than 1,000 witnesses at hearings across the country and recently filed a report based on its findings.

The report emphasizes that Americans stand at a crossroads: They can either begin to take the disease seriously or face a relentless, escalating tragedy.

At least 1 million Americans are silently infected with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), which causes AIDS. Every 15 minutes an American dies of AIDS, and the rate is increasing, the report says.

AIDS has taken more American lives in its first 10 years than did the Korean and Vietnam wars combined, according to the report, and the cumulative deaths of the first decade (120,000) will more than double to 350,000 in the next two years.

As AIDS enters its second decade, Americans must overcome the indifference they have displayed, the report says. "It is as if the HIV crisis were a televised portrayal of someone else's troubles."

"The nation must be awakened to the enormity of the HIV crisis and to the potential for individual and collective action," the report states. "There is no lack of options or remedies. We are not without hope.

"The nation's response must be commensurate with the threat posed by the epidemic."

The report offered 30 recommendations for such action. The recommendations fell in five general categories: prevention and education, providing care for people with HIV, health-care financing, clinical trials and treatment-related research and government responsibilities.

Education and prevention are the only means of reversing the epidemic until a cure is found, the commission says. In this area, the commission recommends the federal government establish a comprehensive national HIV prevention initiative. Other recommendations include policies for future distribution of AIDS vaccines and the government expansion of drug-abuse treatment.

In the area of providing care, the report says many thousands will need mental-health and social services, as well as medical care.

"It will require trained providers at locations across the country where people come for care. And it will require the commitment of the nation to make care accessible and affordable."

The commission recommends the government assure access to health care for all people infected with HIV.

In terms of financing that care, the commission urges "the president and Congress to address the health-care problems of all people living in the United States by supporting universal health-care coverage. This coverage should be comprehensive and include prescription drugs.

"No person living in the United States should be denied health care because of an inability to pay, nor should people be forced into poverty or left without dignity because they are unfortunate enough to have a major health problem.

"Gaps in the United States health-care financing system have been made increasingly evident by the HIV epidemic."

The commission also stresses that access to clinical trials and experimental drugs should be allowed for those with HIV.

The nation's feeble response to the epidemic stems largely from the government's lack of leadership, the report says.

"The lack of a national plan seriously impairs efforts to end discrimination, to finance health care, to organize and deliver health and social services, to recruit and train health-care workers, to provide housing for the sick, to provide effective AIDS education and prevention programs, and to provide substance-abuse treatment," the report says.

"The single most important role for government at all levels in the HIV epidemic is leadership: the ability to inspire citizens, to mobilize resources to provide for those in need, and to do so with foresight, compassion and competence."

Next year, the commission plans to explore the implications of AIDS testing, according to Scott Allen, a Texas Baptist who is on the commission.

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-- By Pam Parry

Second decade of AIDS crisis shows  
little has changed, Baptist says

By Pam Parry

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- The AIDS crisis entered its second decade virtually unchanged, according to a Southern Baptist minister.

Scott Allen of Dallas serves on the National Commission on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, created as an independent body to make recommendations to the president and Congress regarding national AIDS policy and the HIV epidemic.

The commission began working in 1989 and has listened to nearly 1,000 witnesses at hearings across the country. After two years of study, the commission recently released its report with 30 recommendations based on its findings.

One of the most interesting findings is that little has changed in regard to AIDS, said Allen, who was appointed to the commission by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Allen is a former California pastor now working with a non-profit organization providing transitional care for AIDS patients. He is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and a son of Jimmy Allen, former president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

The lack of progress against AIDS is largely due to strong sociological denial systems, lack of leadership and inadequate response, Scott Allen said.

The country has actually digressed, Allen said, and is now recycling the same old questions and hostilities about the disease. Americans are stuck in the "us vs. them" mentality of the mid-1980s because of inadequate education, he added.

Allen said it is frightening that Americans -- particularly in religious circles -- have fooled themselves into thinking they are a caring people when their actions reflect otherwise.

Some denominations, churches and individuals are meeting the challenge. For example, Episcopalians and Methodists are responding well to the AIDS crisis while Baptists have been sporadic in their response, he said.

Allen said some Baptist churches fail to create the open environment that they advertise on their bumper stickers. One reason, he said, is because church members view their church like a business, and it is "bad business" to have someone with AIDS there.

"The business of the church diminishes the power of the church, and that is unfortunate," he said.

However, other Baptist congregations have rallied around persons with AIDS and helped them find acceptance and direction, Allen said. When churches reach out to persons with AIDS, they are helping those individuals during one of the most spiritually intense experiences of their lives, he said.

The different responses to AIDS from within churches -- and within the nation -- is leadership, he said. Allen said there is a direct correlation between caring churches and caring pastors.

Another Southern Baptist, Belinda Mason, served on the AIDS commission until she died of the disease. Mason, a former member of East Hartford (Ky.) Baptist Church, was diagnosed with HIV in 1987. She founded the first organization in Kentucky and Indiana for people with HIV.

A 1989 statement by Mason is in the commission's report.

"We must learn to practice the justice, freedoms and compassions that we take so much pride in talking about in civics classes and teaching our children about when we tell them what it is to be an American," she said.

"But compassion is not going to happen because of a report that we make or an edict that somebody in Washington delivers," she continued. "It will begin in the small towns in the quiet country throughout America when people understand that people living with AIDS and HIV are just like us, because they are us."

Ruschlikon president warns  
of damage from defunding

By R.G. Puckett

RALEIGH, N.C. (ABP) -- "Defunding will destroy the seminary," said an emotional John David Hopper, president of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to a North Carolina audience recently.

Hopper outlined the damage he anticipates will befall the Swiss seminary if trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board go through with their plan to cut \$365,000 -- or about 40 percent -- from the school's budget in 1992.

The trustees' Oct. 9 defunding decision sent "shock waves" through the school's staff, faculty and students, Hopper told an audience at Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh. "Children of the students depend on this money for their milk and food," he said.

Hopper also spoke of the seminary's needs in Asheville and Winston-Salem, N.C. and Fort Worth, Texas, in early December, prior to attending a meeting to discuss the funding dispute with FMB trustees, who say the seminary is not conservative enough.

Hopper is an FMB missionary assigned to head the seminary as part of a partnership between the Foreign Mission Board and European Baptists, who recently took over ownership of the Swiss-based school from the FMB.

Critics say the Foreign Mission Board's decision to defund the seminary violated an agreement reached in 1988 to continue full funding through 1992 and gradually reduce SBC funds through the remainder of the century.

"The question was repeatedly asked, 'What kind of partners are these that would cut off the funding on such short notice after making the agreement?'" Hopper told the Raleigh audience.

The greatest damage, Hopper said, has been done to relationships with European Baptists, some of whom have threatened not to receive any more FMB missionaries.

"We have spent over 40 years building these relationships," Hopper explained. "Now Humpty Dumpty has taken a great fall and it will take time to repair the damage, if we can ever put things back together again."

Hopper said the crisis has raised questions about the Swiss government permitting foreign students to attend the school and has threatened the availability of visas for missionaries and faculty members.

Hopper said the seminary was poised to take advantage of the new openness in Eastern Europe. "We had a window of opportunity in that part of the world as never before, but the cause of Baptist missions is now in jeopardy," he insisted.

The seminary, with its 50 full-time and 150 part-time students, has been a setting for developing Christian relationships between persons from many different countries, Hopper said.

"In the past 42 years, the seminary has attracted the best and the brightest students, who have gone out to give leadership to Baptist churches, unions and institutions," he said.

"The most effective work for Baptist missions in the future will be accomplished by this kind of students, not in the global strategy room at the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond," he asserted.

Currently there are students at the seminary from 23 different countries in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Although the seminary has come under repeated criticism from FMB trustees in recent years for what they consider to be liberal leanings, Hopper said the school's approach is consistent with European style of theological education.

Contradicting a claim made by FMB trustees, Hopper emphatically denied

he ever promised "to move the seminary to a more conservative stance."

Hopper, whose salary is paid from funds given to the Foreign Mission Board, did not ask churches or individuals to give directly to the Ruschlikon seminary during his trip to the States.

He insisted that churches give generously through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which provides about half of the FMB's \$183 million budget.

If churches and individuals want to give to Ruschlikon, "do it above your gifts to Lottie Moon," he counseled. He pointed out that Lottie Moon offerings may not be designated, and if a gift for Ruschlikon is sent in a Lottie Moon envelope, it will not make it to the seminary.

Hopper said that there are other channels available for gifts to the seminary if individuals wish, including the Ruschlikon General Endowment at the FMB, the Friends of Ruschlikon Foundation in San Antonio, Texas, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Atlanta.

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Fellowship to use Ruschlikon trip  
to generate support for seminary

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (ABP) -- The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which has urged Southern Baptists to provide direct funding for an embattled Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, will lead a group of Americans on a visit to the school in February.

At the invitation of Ruschlikon President John David Hopper, Fellowship moderator John Hewett will take a group of about 40 interested pastors and laypeople to the Swiss school, Hewett announced Dec. 2.

Hopper issued the invitation Dec. 1 on a visit to Asheville, N.C., where he spoke to the annual world missions celebration at First Baptist Church, which Hewett serves as pastor. Hopper has spoken recently at other churches in North Carolina and Texas.

The Feb. 16-21 trip is expected to generate financial and other help for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon. The school lost \$365,000 in funding from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in October after the FMB's fundamental-conservative trustees objected to the theological direction of the school.

"Ruschlikon is at a critical point in its history," Hewett said in a statement. "They are beset by pressing capital needs as well as the imminent budget crunch leveled upon them by trustees of the Foreign Mission Board. They need mission crews who can do basic repairs to their structure. They need money to stay in business. They need the prayers of free and faithful Baptists."

Hewett said he hopes the visit will prompt churches to send work teams to Ruschlikon next summer and to raise money for the school, European Baptists' only international seminary.

"The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is committed to Ruschlikon," he continued. "We are not going to abandon them. We're going to see to it that the seminary comes through this crisis period stronger than ever."

Those making the February trip also will visit other mission points in Europe and meet with leaders of the European Baptist Federation, Hewett said. The Fellowship funds several mission ventures in Europe and is expected to put the Ruschlikon seminary in its budget in the wake of the FMB cut.

Hewett said some churches are routing contributions for Ruschlikon -- including annual world-missions offerings -- through the Fellowship, which is forwarding the money directly to the seminary to avoid "any more bureaucratic

wrangling on the part of fundamentalist trustees."

However, Hopper has been criticized for soliciting such support from American churches.

William Hancock, chairman of the FMB, told Baptist Press the seminary's fund-raising efforts in the United States, which predate the FMB's defunding of the school, contradict the trustees' understanding that the seminary would raise money only in Europe.

Hancock added the presence of Hopper, an FMB missionary, in churches identified with the Fellowship is not helping to resolve the funding dispute, which is expected to be debated again during the Dec. 9-11 meeting of FMB trustees.

Although the seminary has launched a fund-raising campaign in the States, Hopper reportedly did not ask for direct contributions from the churches he visited recently. He encouraged the churches to support Southern Baptist missions through the normal FMB channels before making any desired over-and-above contributions to Ruschlikon.

Hopper, who came to the United States to attend his father's funeral and discuss the funding dispute with FMB leaders Dec. 5-6, said he spoke in the churches that invited him.

The criticism of Hopper is "ironic, not to mention un-Baptistic," Hewett said. "Now our missionaries are suspect even for telling their story in the only churches that will invite them," Hewett said. "What are the trustees thinking when they behave like this?"

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-- By Greg Warner

McCall says seminaries  
headed into dark ages

By Ed Briggs

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) -- Duke McCall, the retired president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said theological studies at Southern Baptist seminaries are moving into their dark ages.

In an interview during a recent trip to Richmond, Va., the 77-year-old theologian predicted that the next 15 years "will be a time of struggle, a time when professors use code words to say what they don't want to be quoted as saying."

McCall retired as Southern Seminary president in 1982, three years after fundamental-conservatives began their successful campaign to gain control of the Southern Baptist Convention and particularly its seminaries.

McCall said his hope is that the young fundamentalist professors who are replacing the current theologically moderate scholars will discover the same theological insights as their predecessors.

The former president, who now lives in Jupiter, Fla., said he fears that some attempts to form new seminaries, such as the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, will fail because of the lack of the many millions of dollars needed to open a school. He predicted some will succeed, but only with huge influxes of cash.

McCall also predicted there will not be a major split in the denomination because not all moderate-conservatives want to give up the denomination of their youth. However, he added, "there will be a major group of (moderate-conservatives) pushed out."

In areas of the country where fundamentalism is strong, McCall said, moderate-conservatives eventually will go along with the ruling faction to

get along.

McCall said the current struggle among Southern Baptists is a replay of the major theological debates in mainstream Protestantism during the early part of the 20th century. "In essence, the Southern Baptist Convention has gone back to the 1920s," he said.

Those earlier debates led to fundamentalism taking a decades-long back seat to moderate and liberal theological attitudes in American Christianity. This time, however, fundamentalism will prevail, pushing SBC moderate-conservatives to the sidelines and in some extreme cases out of the denomination, McCall said.

McCall described the 1920s as a time of sectarianism -- feisty congregationalism -- among Southern Baptists, which grew into a concept of denomination by the 1960s. By then Southern Baptists became ecumenical without writing it into any church proclamation. Now, he said, "you can see us drifting back to that sectarian mindset."

He said that Southern Baptists are now "at a time when a flat recital of the truth is not acceptable at face value. Instead, it has to get sucked into an emotional vortex in which the truth becomes a victim." Also, he added, neither faction will listen to the other any more.

McCall said that regardless of what happens in the convention, he does not plan to leave it or abandon its current agencies. He explained he often thinks back to the late 1960s, when college campuses were cauldrons of revolt against the Vietnam War and "young people wanted to burn the buildings down."

"I remember having to scrimp and save to build those buildings. And I didn't want them burned down then and I don't want them burned down now."

-- Reprinted with permission from the Richmond Times-Dispatch

#### Threat of veto prompts Congress to scuttle abortion measure

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- Under threat of another presidential veto, Congress scuttled a measure Nov. 27 that would have lifted certain abortion restrictions overseas.

Both chambers approved a "dire emergency" spending bill (H.J. Res. 157) after dropping an amendment that would have allowed military women and dependents to have abortions on bases overseas.

The bill appropriates \$6.8 billion to help farmers and communities hurt by natural disasters and to provide cleanup funds for Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

On Nov. 22, the Senate adopted the amendment, which President George Bush threatened to veto. It was designed to counter a 1988 U.S. Department of Defense policy forbidding abortions at military treatment facilities overseas.

According to a 1988 Defense Department memorandum outlining the policy, the practice of performing abortions on military bases -- although paid for by the patient -- could "suggest insensitivity to the spirit of the Congressional-enacted policy of withholding government involvement in the provision of abortions."

Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., a chief sponsor of the amendment, said the amendment would provide "service women and military dependents the same rights that every other citizen of this country has."

"We do not, when we recruit people, say to them: Remember that when you leave these shores, you also leave your rights behind," he continued.

Congress has pushed about a half dozen bills that have attempted to

nullify or amend various abortion restrictions at home and abroad, and Bush has promised to veto any measure that does so. Bush has not had one of his 24 vetoes overridden.

The amendment was dropped by a conference committee ironing out differences between the House and Senate bills. The conference report was approved 303-114 in the House and by a voice vote in the Senate.

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-- By Pam Parry

Pastors air opposing views  
on 'Good Morning America'

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (ABP) -- Viewers of ABC's "Good Morning America" Nov. 13 heard two different perspectives on national Baptist issues from two North Carolina pastors.

Interviewed were John Hewett, moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and Billy Cline, who a day earlier lost his bid for the presidency of North Carolina Baptists despite the backing of the state's fundamental-conservatives.

The 10-minute interview was part of a live two-hour telecast from the Biltmore Estate in Asheville. The program's stop in Asheville -- part of a tour of Southeastern cities -- coincided with the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, which met in Asheville Nov. 11-13.

Although the two men often find themselves on opposite sides of denominational issues, they serve churches located less than one mile apart in Asheville. Hewett is pastor of First Baptist Church and Cline is pastor of Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church.

Each man claimed friendship with the other while acknowledging that their differences come in interpretation of Scripture, not the authority and inspiration of the Bible itself.

Hewett noted that he supports women in ministry, whereas Cline responded that he does not believe in ordaining women. Hewett labeled the crisis in the SBC as a political power struggle for control, while Cline insisted it was theological, particularly at the point of seminary education.

"I think the seminaries are being turned into trade schools," Hewett contended. "They are no longer graduate schools for the study of the faith. They are locations of indoctrination."

Cline denied that the denomination sought to control the local churches but that the seminaries should teach within certain parameters that are acceptable to the congregations.

Hewett, when asked if the Fellowship will break away from the Southern Baptist Convention, responded: "No, that is not our intent. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is a coalition of churches and individuals who are tired of fighting fundamentalism. They want to get on with the business of being the church and presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Cline said that many "responsible conservatives" came to him after his defeat for president and suggested they form an organization like the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, perhaps calling it the "Conservative Baptist Fellowship."

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-- By R. G. Puckett

Ray McDaniel, Louisiana layman  
and former ABP director, dies

SHREVEPORT, La. (ABP) -- Raymond Lamar McDaniel, active Baptist layman and a former director of Associated Baptist Press, died of a heart attack Nov. 23 while on a hunting trip in Goldthwaite, Texas.

McDaniel, 65, was retired editor of the Shreveport (La.) Times daily newspaper, where he worked in various positions for 36 years. He was one of the founding directors of Associated Baptist Press in 1990 and served until he resigned for personal reasons in September 1991.

A deacon at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, McDaniel served four terms as a trustee of the Louisiana Baptist Message, the state Baptist newsjournal. He was chairman twice.

McDaniel is survived by his wife, Eugenia Hastings McDaniel of Shreveport, and his son, Raymond L. McDaniel Jr. of Fort Worth, Texas.

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CORRECTION:

In the Nov. 26 ABP story "Politics, Ruschlikon and colleges...", under the subhead "Cooperative Program," please substitute the following for the 3rd and 4th grafs:

Only one convention decreased the percentage of the receipts it forwards through national CP channels -- the District of Columbia, by 1.73 percent.

Meanwhile, 22 states maintained their percentage allocations. And 13 states increased their percentage, ranging from 0.25 percent to 1 percent.

Thanks.

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