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**World Baptist leaders meet
with Fidel Castro in Cuba**

By Trennis Henderson

HAVANA (ABP) -- World Baptist leaders met with Cuban President Fidel Castro. The two-hour private meeting was held one day after Baptist World Alliance General Council members adopted a resolution encouraging "initiatives to ease sanctions on food and medicine affecting the people of Cuba."

The meeting with Castro came on the final day of the BWA's July 3-8 General Council meeting in Havana. Meeting with the Cuban leader were BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz, new BWA President Billy Kim of Korea and immediate past BWA President Nilson Fanini of Brazil as well as leaders of Cuba's four Baptist conventions.

The BWA, founded in 1905, is a global umbrella organization of Baptists. It represents more than 43 million baptized believers in 110 nations. July's annual council meeting and related events attracted more than 400 international participants from 60 countries.

The BWA event was the first-ever international Baptist gathering held in the socialist nation of Cuba. The meeting featured simultaneous evangelistic services in 40 Cuban Baptist churches. A public evangelism rally attended by more than 3,000 people reportedly was the first such Baptist event since Castro came to power in 1959.

Lotz said the July 8 meeting with Castro signals the Cuban government's growing recognition of Baptists' influence as the largest evangelical group in Cuba.

Castro "understands religion can play a significant role in the life of people, in Cuban society and even in helping international relations," Lotz added.

Emphasizing that BWA participants "were not here to affirm any ideology or government, but to affirm the people of Cuba," Lotz said the resolution opposing economic boycotts recognizes that "the Cuban people are the ones suffering from the boycott." Withholding food and medicine from people in need "should not be used as a form of government policy," he insisted.

Lotz described conversations with government leaders as a form of "pre-evangelism." Noting that Baptist leaders were able to tell Castro that "Baptists believe in the separation of church and state and are concerned about the spiritual conversion of people," the BWA leader added, "It's much better to talk than to snipe at one another."

Lotz said the BWA meeting in Havana and the dialogue with Castro "give credibility and visibility to Cuban Baptists which is very significant for a minority movement." Cuban Baptists have more than 400 congregations and 900 mission sites, with a total of 38,000 baptized believers in a nation of 10.8 million people.

BWA President Kim said the BWA General Council meeting, which is held in a different nation each year, helped Cuban Baptists "strengthen their profile among their people because they have been under less freedom for the past 40 years."

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Cuban Baptists hold first public evangelistic rallies in 40 years

By Trennis Henderson

HAVANA (ABP) -- Celebrating their first public evangelistic rallies in more than 40 years, Cuban Baptists packed into two evening services held in conjunction with the July 3-8 Baptist World Alliance General Council meeting in Havana.

"This is an historic event for the Cuban people," declared Victor Gonzales, general secretary of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. "This is the first time that all the Cuban pastors, seminaries and missionaries are together in one meeting. It is the first time we have celebrated open meetings since revolution times in the past 41 years."

Baptists in Cuba are organized into four conventions with a total of 418 churches and 901 mission sites. With approximately 38,000 baptized believers, Baptists are the largest evangelical group in Cuba.

The two rallies, held at "Kid Chocolate" Sports Arena in Havana, attracted up to 3,000 people each evening. The events featured a variety of Cuban musical groups, pageantry and sermons by BWA President Billy Kim of Korea and immediate past BWA President Nilson Fanini of Brazil. General Council members also spoke in 40 evangelistic services held in area churches.

"It's an impact in all of Cuba, especially the people of Havana, to know that all Cuban Baptists are working to win Cuba for Christ," Gonzales noted. "I praise the Lord that this has been a great, great dream come true."

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz said the organization's meeting in Cuba has helped strengthen "bonds of friendship, partnership and fellowship."

"We have come to listen to our brothers and sisters in Cuba," he added. "We've come to give solidarity to our brothers and sisters here and we have come to worship with them."

Kim said the gathering of 400 international participants from 60 countries will "help Cuban Baptists strengthen their profile among their people because they have been under less freedom for the past 40 years."

Theo Angelov, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation in Sofia, Bulgaria, compared Cuba's political and economic conditions to life in Bulgaria before the fall of communism a decade ago.

"Coming from such a country which was 50 years under communism, I am aware of the significance of such a gathering for the people of Cuba," Angelov noted. He said last week's meeting was "a symbol of change, unity and of hope for the future."

Citing gradual changes in Cuba since the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991, Angelov added, "Cuba cannot survive alone, so changes are inevitable. The problem will be what will happen."

"From our experience in Europe, freedom does not always bring better times but changes for which we are not prepared. I'm concerned for the future in Cuba as well as countries in Eastern Europe and many others."

Alexander Kozyenko, president of Moscow Theological Seminary, said the BWA events provided "another step in recognition for Cuban Baptists."

"It is a good witness for society here that Baptists around the world are behind Cuban Baptists and are supporting them," Kozyenko said. "We are one family."

"For Cuban Baptists, this meeting has been a tremendous blessing," Gonzales declared. "It is the Lord opening the doors in Cuba. The only answer for Cuba is Jesus Christ."

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Kim urges Baptist unity; Chapman affirms BWA role

By Trennis Henderson

HAVANA (ABP) -- Baptist World Alliance President Billy Kim of Korea called for Baptists around the world to strengthen their commitment to unity.

"I'd love to see unity," he declared, citing urgent needs in the areas of evangelism, church planting and battling persecution, racism and ethnic conflicts.

"We must be unified if we're going to do a great work for God," Kim emphasized. "The only way we can unify is through faith."

Outgoing BWA President Nilson Fanini of Brazil echoed Kim's call for unity. Reflecting on his five years as president, Fanini said missions and evangelism are keys to global Baptist cooperation.

"Theology sometimes divides us," he acknowledged, "but evangelism and missions bring us all together."

Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, agreed that missions and evangelism are essential priorities in international Baptist life -- even among Baptist groups that differ on such issues as female pastors.

Although "there always will be some differences of opinion when you have as many Baptists bodies in the world as we do," Chapman said, "Some theological differences should not prevent us from ministering to a lost world."

While Southern Baptist leaders "want to be fairly represented in theological discussions at BWA meetings," he added, "I think Southern Baptists will benefit by remaining very active participants in the Baptist World Alliance."

Chapman said BWA involvement gives the SBC "an opportunity to listen to Baptists from around the world. We can grow from what we learn. It also gives us an opportunity to encourage our fellow Baptists."

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz said the international organization seeks to help Baptists "gain a perspective of what it means to be a Christian around the world."

"We learn from one another and become more intelligent Christians," he affirmed.

Theo Angelov, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation in Bulgaria, said affiliation with the BWA was especially significant to Bulgarian Baptists during decades under communist rule.

"The BWA helped us enormously by realizing we were part of a big Baptist constituency worldwide. That helped us survive.

"I like the idea of Billy Kim to strengthen unity," Angelov added. "I hope we have good results in achieving that and working together."

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NEWS ANALYSIS:

Baptist leaders comment on holding meeting in Cuba

By Trennis Henderson

HAVANA (ABP) -- Why host an international Baptist conference in socialist Cuba? That question was asked repeatedly by observers prior to the Baptist World Alliance General Council meeting in Havana.

Baptist leaders around the world offered clear answers as they led worship services in 40 Cuban Baptist churches, helped coordinate Cuban Baptists' first public evangelistic rally in more than 40 years and even shared the BWA's worldwide mission and vision in a personal visit with Fidel Castro.

Korean pastor Billy Kim, new BWA president, said the July 3-8 gathering was designed to "help Cuban Baptists strengthen their profile among their people because they have been under less freedom for the past 40 years. It will give them a great uplift that the BWA General Council met here."

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz echoed that view, emphasizing that the event "gives us an opportunity to show solidarity with the people of Cuba -- that we belong together because we belong to Jesus Christ. We're here to affirm our brothers in Christ."

Leaders in Cuba voiced a similar perspective. "I praise the Lord that this has been a great, great dream come true," said Victor Gonzales, a physician who serves as general secretary of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. "It has been an unforgettable week for Cuban Baptists.

"It is the Lord opening the doors in Cuba," Gonzales added. "The only answer for Cuba is Jesus Christ."

Even Caridad Diego, Castro's director of religious affairs, affirmed the BWA meeting's impact during an opening reception held in the rotunda of Cuba's National Capitol. She noted that the council meeting "is going to contribute to the Baptists of Cuba but also to our country."

The timing of the meeting was significant amid intense international media scrutiny of U.S.-Cuban interaction in the wake of the Elian Gonzales drama. After months of legal and political wrangling, Elian returned to Cuba less than a week before the BWA meeting convened. Posters and T-shirts proclaiming "Free Elian" were still conspicuous throughout Havana.

Of course, the BWA event was being planned long before young Elian became an international household name. Alliance leaders approved the Havana site four years ago and worked diligently to ensure the event makes a lasting impact on Cuban Baptist life.

Cuban leaders ranked the BWA meeting alongside the pope's visit to Cuba in 1998 as being among the most significant events in the modern history of Cuban Christianity. Such high-profile visits, coupled with

economic woes heightened by the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991, are prompting the Cuban government gradually to reexamine the importance of religious freedom.

BWA participants didn't stop with evangelistic efforts and increased exposure for Cuban Baptist ministry efforts, however. General Council members adopted a resolution encouraging "initiatives to ease sanctions on food and medicine affecting the people of Cuba." Addressing the practice of economic sanctions in general, the resolution describes access to food and medicine as "a basic human right," adding, "The denial of such access should not be used by nations as a tool of geopolitics."

Despite the United States government's 40-year trade embargo of Cuba following Castro's ascent to power, BWA leaders insist the resolution rises above international political concerns. "We're concerned not with the government, but with the people of Cuba," Lotz explained. "We are concerned with those who are suffering."

Even amid global debate over socialism, economic sanctions and religious freedom, world Baptists continue to find unity through an unwavering commitment to evangelism and missions -- including sharing a clear gospel witness with the people of Cuba.

That focus on Christian unity is highlighted in the BWA motto found in Ephesians 4:5, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

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Commission seeks stronger U.S. response to Muslim-Christian violence in Indonesia

By Geoffrey Hoffmann

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- With the worsening violence between Christians and Muslims in Indonesia's Maluku Islands, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has asked Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to seek a more "energetic" U.S. response.

According to its July 5 letter to Albright, the 10-member panel says at least 3,000 Muslims and Christians have been killed since the outbreak of violence in 1999. Hundreds are believed to have died in the last two weeks, and "the situation worsens as the killing continues and supplies of food and medicine reportedly dwindle in the region," the letter states.

The bipartisan commission, which formed under a 1998 law, also raised concern regarding the neutrality of security forces in the region. Commissioners suspect that the military has taken sides and even "participated in the fighting while others may have supplied weapons to combatants."

The panel said the Indonesian government is tolerating "systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of religious freedom, such as murder, forced mass resettlement, and torture."

The letter added, "There appears to be little question but that the targets and victims of such violence are selected on the basis of their religion."

The commission made several recommendations to Albright. It pressed for the use of "all diplomatic means" to push the Indonesian government into action and prosecute those responsible.

It also asked the U.S. government to monitor the implementation of the state of civil emergency that was declared by Indonesian President Wahid June 25. If the Indonesian government is unable to control the violence, the commission recommends that the United States press for the deployment of an international peacekeeping force.

In a separate matter the U.S. commission released a July 6 statement urging Congress and the administration to refrain from lifting sanctions on Sudan before the Khartoum government takes verifiable

steps to end ongoing religious persecution that has accompanied the country's 17-year-old civil war.

The panel said despite Congress' expected vote to lift an embargo on food and medicine sales to Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea and Sudan, the "Islamist extremist regime" in Khartoum has failed to end severe violations of religious freedom or to engage in serious negotiations to end the civil war.

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--Geoffrey Hoffmann is an intern with the Baptist Joint Committee.

IRS issues election-year warning: Charities barred from campaign activities

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- Churches and other tax-exempt organizations should keep voter-education efforts within Internal Revenue Service guidelines and must refrain from participating on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

That was the message delivered July 5 in an IRS advisory to charities.

The IRS stated that 501(c)(3) organizations, including churches, cannot endorse or oppose any candidates for public office. They also may not "engage in fund raising, distribute statements, or become involved in any other activities that may be beneficial or detrimental to any candidate."

But, the IRS noted that the impropriety of such activity depends on the facts and circumstances in each case. "For example, organizations may sponsor debates or forums to educate voters. If the debate or forum shows a preference for or against a certain candidate, however, it becomes a prohibited activity," the IRS advisory stated.

If found in violation of improper political activity, a church or other charitable organization could lose its tax-exempt status or it could be subjected to an excise tax on the amount of money spent on the activity.

In cases of flagrant violation of the law, the IRS warned that it has authority to make an "immediate determination and assessment of tax."

In addition, contributions to organizations that lose their tax-exempt status because of political activities are not deductible by donors for federal income tax purposes.

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-- By Kenny Byrd

Southern Baptist volunteers focus 'SearchLight' on Chicago

By Michael Leathers, Tom Price and Michelle Brummitt

CHICAGO (ABP) -- The set-up team arrived at Grant Park along Lake Michigan to assemble the stage that a truck driver was scheduled to deliver at 3 that morning. They had only four hours and then the performances for the all-day celebration for SearchLight would kick in. There was only one problem. The stage was nowhere in sight.

For whatever reason, the driver did not deliver the stage. It seemed that SearchLight, planned as a massive evangelistic sweep designed to communicate the gospel to the more than 8 million people who live in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs, was off to a bad start. Rather than being a harbinger for disaster, however, the stage fiasco turned into a testimony of what God's people can do when they work together, said Phil Miglioratti, the coordinator of the Strategic Focus Cities effort in Chicago this summer, of which SearchLight is the centerpiece.

Early-morning volunteers dispatched a truck to an around-the-clock hardware store to pick up two-by-fours, plywood sheets, saws, hammers, drills and everything else needed to build a stage on the spot. "They probably cleaned out Home Depot," Miglioratti said. Several members of a Southern Baptist disaster-relief unit, on hand to pass out water and be prepared to handle any emergencies, were handed their first assignment. Several were carpenters and knew how to build the stage. Another volunteer had skills as a foreman and organized the makeshift construction team. Shortly after 11 a.m., the first performers stepped on stage only a few moments behind schedule.

That spirit of cooperation, often among Christians who had just met each other that day, was reflected time and again in hundreds of activities held on July 8 by thousands of volunteers sharing the gospel in the Chicago metro region. As the first city to be designated by the Southern Baptist Convention as one of its Strategic Focus Cities, Chicago has been the focus of hundreds of grass-roots evangelistic initiatives this summer with SearchLight planned as a focal point. With local Baptist leaders beating the drum for months now, Christians from across the country converged on the Windy City with the goal of each person sharing the gospel with at least 10 people.

Estimates for the day ranged between 3,500 and 5,000 volunteers serving in the four Baptist associations in northeast Illinois: Chicago Metro, Fox Valley, Lake County and Three Rivers. While the total was far short of the 100,000 Christians that organizers had hoped would respond, one organizer described them as a modern-day Gideon's Army ready to tell people about God's love.

Teams shared the gospel through dozens of evangelistic block parties held throughout the region. At Evening Star Missionary Baptist in Chicago's West Englewood neighborhood, hundreds came to a block party, one in a series of summer outreach events by the 1,300-member congregation. Evening Star members were joined by nearly 150 members of Second Baptist in Springfield, Mo. The two congregations have participated in mutual exchanges with each other for more than two years.

Children played games, had their faces painted and watched puppet shows; adults flocked to hear the church's gospel choir. Down the street at a neighborhood ministry, Evening Star and Second Baptist members shared their faith with adults making crafts. Others went out in pairs to communicate the gospel from door to door, giving out copies of the Book of Hope, a booklet of selected Bible passages, and CDs featuring the Evening Star choir. Nearly 1,000 neighbors came into contact with the church through the various outreach efforts.

"I know how it feels to be left out and ignored. I don't want my church to ever lose that," said Evening Star Pastor Vesta Dixon, the oldest of seven children who remembers standing in soup kitchen lines with his family after his mother and stepfather separated. Outreach events, Dixon said, "keep us aware of the fact that we exist not just to have church, but to do evangelism."

Three people became Christians during conversations with Second Baptist's Phil Harris and an Evening Star member. "I'm in Hell already," one young man told Harris as he accepted Christ.

On the playground at Aurora's Hill Elementary School, hundreds of youngsters frolicked from one game to the next at a free carnival, where organizers are hoping to launch a new church. More than 30 people from the Rehoboth Baptist Association in southern Illinois traveled for more than four hours to help organizers with the festival. They began their morning by scouring the neighborhood for children to invite to the festivities.

The day before in nearby Channahon, Randy and Karen Blan organized a pig roast that attracted about 350 neighbors. A church youth group from Ames, Iowa, helped entertain the kids with games, including a highly popular dunking booth. "Every time I looked up, there was someone else I didn't know. It was incredible," Karen Blan said. The event helped generate names of about 15 people who said they would be interested in attending a new church planned for the area.

About two dozen people met at Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva (New Life Baptist Church) in Elgin to pass out copies of the Gospel of John in Spanish. Julio Cortez, who's been the pastor for 11 years at this downtown church near the Fox River, teamed up local church members with out-of-town volunteers to distribute the booklets door to door. Some hopped into their cars and headed to nearby Marengo, where Vida Nueva is trying to start a new congregation.

Henry Tarco, a member of Vida Nueva, stayed closer to the church. He started talking to several young men drinking beers in a driveway. He gave each of them a Spanish-language Gospel and invited them to church. He captured their attention when he mentioned how he would like to see a soccer team started at the church. "If we can get them into a league," he said later, "we can share Jesus with them after the games."

More door-to-door work was going on in Joliet, where more than two dozen people from four churches in the Nine Mile Baptist Association gave away more than 40 copies of the Jesus video, said Rob Pohek, pastor for First Baptist of Nashville. Their work generated 15 or so prospects for Curtis Avenue Baptist in Joliet.

In Lake County Baptist Association, which is in the northeastern section of the Chicago metro area, the emphasis was on establishing community relations. In Gurnee and Lake Villa, 17 volunteers including six people from churches in the East Central Baptist Association went from house to house, arms loaded down with door hangers. Each contained a copy of the Book of Hope and information about LakePointe Church.

LakePointe is a new regional church that will begin to meet on Sept. 10. The Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board and Jerry Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church of Lynchburg, Va., are giving the new congregation a combined half-million dollars over the next two years to give it a jumpstart.

"The volunteers were a tremendous help in getting the word out about our new church," said Kevin Garber, pastor of LakePointe. "It was an exhilarating experience to be in personal contact with many, many families, the majority of which had no church affiliation."

While neighborhood activities focused on door-to-door witnessing and block parties, Chicago's urban concentration provided an opportunity for witnessing in public spaces like the Lincoln Park Zoo, which draws more visitors than any other zoo in the world. At the zoo entrance, 11 members of the Illinois Woman's Missionary Union, including Jane Raphael of Third Baptist of Granite City -- also known as Blue Bell the Clown -- gave away flying discs, you-are-special stickers and balloon figures to children.

They also gave adults the Book of Hope, featuring a map to the nearest Southern Baptist congregation.

On the beach, a youth group from Thomasville Baptist in Alabama sculpted a cross in the sand as a conversation starter for passersby. Youth Pastor Buff McNickle had been looking for a mission experience for the church's youth group when he received SearchLight materials in the mail. "I had been praying about it," he said. "I looked at (the materials) and said, 'That's it.'"

While they prepared to tabulate and analyze statistics, local leaders said the ultimate impact of what Miglioratti summed up as a "gloriously exhausting" event can't be calculated. "We'll never know all that God did here today," Miglioratti said.

Texas likely to change relationship to SBC but not formally split, editor predicts

By Mark Wingfield

DALLAS (ABP) -- The Baptist General Convention of Texas will not "split" from the Southern Baptist Convention, because the two autonomous Baptist conventions never have been joined, according to the editor of the Texas Baptist Standard.

However, a significant change in relationships between the BGCT and SBC seems likely, Marv Knox wrote in a July 10 editorial titled "Will the BGCT Split from the SBC?"

The future relationship between the Texas convention and the SBC has been the topic of nationwide speculation since messengers to the SBC annual meeting adopted a new faith statement June 14. Several Texas Baptists, including BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade, were rebuffed in attempts to amend the faith statement to make it more closely resemble the 1963 "Baptist Faith and Message."

Texas Baptists last November affirmed the 1963 faith statement and explicitly rejected a controversial new article on the family added by the SBC in 1998.

Tensions between the BGCT and SBC have been growing for years, as Texas Baptists have declined to go along with the SBC's increasingly conservative stance on political and theological issues.

Talk of a schism between Texas Baptists and the SBC reached a high point in the weeks immediately after the SBC annual meeting. The issue was given further steam by a front-page article in the Dallas Morning News June 24 carrying the headline "Southern Baptist May Face Schism: Texas Moderates May Leave National Group."

That article, which noted Texas Baptists gave more than \$45 million to SBC causes in 1999, was picked up by national news services and reprinted in papers from coast to coast.

Writing partly in response to questions raised by the Dallas Morning News article, Knox asserted, "An absolute and cataclysmic split is not imminent."

"Texans who want to continue to support the SBC will have an opportunity to do so," he predicted. "And, given the recent initiatives taken by the SBC, a sobering and significant change in the relationship between the conventions seems ultimately probable."

But even in the most dramatic scenario, the result could not properly be called a "split," Knox said. "According to Baptist polity -- the way we conduct our business and relate to each other -- neither group owns or controls the other. Baptist conventions voluntarily affiliate with one another to accomplish agreed-upon purposes. But neither is over or under the other in denominational hierarchy."

Knox acknowledged several BGCT study committees currently are examining certain aspects of how Texas Baptists relate to other Baptist mission boards and theological schools. While these committees could produce recommendations about changes in funding for SBC causes, he said, such recommendations are not likely to be ready in time to present to the BGCT annual session in Corpus Christi, Texas, Oct. 30-31.

Some Texas Baptists don't want to wait another year to make budget changes, he added, predicting that motions could be presented from the floor of the annual meeting.

"Either way, a change in BGCT funding for SBC causes could reflect a substantial alteration of the relationship between the two conventions," Knox wrote. But even then, "you can be sure individual Texans and local congregations will have an opportunity to support SBC causes if they desire."

The BGCT currently offers churches five pre-packaged options for Cooperative Program giving. Among these are options to give funds only to the BGCT or to give according to the traditional method that divides offerings between the BGCT and SBC.

Although no specific proposals have been advanced publicly, discussion about potential budget changes has focused on eliminating the traditional BGCT/SBC split option and moving toward a simpler "Texas-only" budget. Under such a scenario, Texas churches still could give to any national Baptist body through the BGCT but would have to specifically designate those funds.

Another variation discussed among some Texas Baptists would create a basic BGCT budget that included funding for only a few SBC agencies, perhaps the International Mission Board and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

To date, however, no such proposals have come through BGCT committees. And no one has outlined any specific budget-change motion to be offered to messengers to the BGCT annual session in the fall.

In an earlier statement, Wade made similar points to Knox's, asserting that what is likely to happen will be a realignment of relationships, not a complete cut in relationships.

"The BGCT will work with those who share our vision, our values and our commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Bible," Wade said. "We will cooperate with Southern Baptists where we can, and we will do missions and theological education together where we can. We will also cooperate with other Baptist bodies and other Christian bodies where we can to get the gospel to everyone we can."

"Texas Baptist churches will continue to be able to give through the BGCT to support Southern Baptist programs," Wade predicted. "Likewise, churches still will be free to exclude Southern Baptist causes and channel all their missions dollars through the BGCT."

SBC leaders, meanwhile, have downplayed the threat of any reduced funding from Texas Baptists.

Richard Land, a native Texan and former professor at Criswell College in Dallas, predicted that Texas Baptists wouldn't abandon the SBC. Land is president of the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, a Nashville, Tenn.,-based agency that is not widely supported by BGCT leadership.

While BGCT leaders "believe that most rank-and-file Texas Baptists think of themselves as Texans first, they don't," Land insisted in the Dallas Morning News article. "They just don't."

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