

# Baptist and Reflector

April 26, 1995

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STATEWIDE EDITION

## SBC preview, report in this issue

A preview of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, set for June 20-22 in Atlanta, can be found on page 7, followed by an SBC schedule on page 8.

One of the major agenda items at the 1995 SBC meeting will be the report of the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee, chaired by Mark Brister of Louisiana. To enable Tennessee Baptists to be fully informed about the report, it is reprinted on pages 9-12.

Questions and opinions about the report can be directed to Brister, 4110 Youree Drive, Shreveport, La. 71105, or Tennessee members on the Executive Committee: David Atchison, P.O. Box 1548, Brentwood, 37024; Doug Dutton, P.O. Box 869, Knoxville, 37901; Hollie Miller, 3706 Sevier Heights Road, Knoxville, 37920; Bob Sorrell, P.O. Box 1210, Cordova, 38018; John Wallace, 5115 Old White Pine Road, Morristown, 37813; and Doug Westmoreland, 4930 Nolensville Road, Nashville, 37211. □

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## Schaller critiques Baptists with praise, raps

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Lyle Schaller, well-known church growth specialist, talked about Southern Baptists here last week.

When he finished a three-hour session April 18 with Tennessee Baptist Convention department directors and other leaders, he had given some praise and leveled some unbiased criticism.

The author of many well-received books on his speciality, the Methodist minister discussed events across the entire American religious scene.

However, he reserved most of his time for Southern Baptists, and the SBC came out well but not perfect on his scorecard.

Schaller pointed to the loss by attrition of major denominational leaders as a negative factor shaping Christian groups in today's America.

He said generations from denominations are "disappearing" due to children

not holding on to beliefs, especially in the Roman Catholic church. He added that denominational membership numbers are lower than figures claimed.

Schaller said many who come to Southern Baptist churches as adults "don't bring beliefs or loyalties." He added that younger Baptists don't either. Loyalties have to be constantly renewed, he said.

The day before, Schaller addressed the Executive Board of the Nashville Association as it met in session at the Baptist Center and about 100 participants at a seminar. Schaller, a parish consultant from Naperville, Ill., conducts workshops, seminars, research, and is a prolific writer. He was sponsored by the TBC Missions Department during the two-day stint in Brentwood.

On the national scene, Schaller said many churches are seeing a sharp erosion of "those who carry European forms of religious traditions."

He said an unanswered question nags

at the denomination. Who will resource the congregations? Will the denomination be sufficient?

Schaller said that society is increasingly hostile toward large congregations and bureaucracies, and "it is a worldwide phenomenon." He noted that "workers and their families" are the main persons who are really interested in denominational entities.

According to Schaller, who has studied and worked with Southern Baptists extensively, the Home Mission Board is American religion's "number one" success story (they said what they would do and then did it), closely followed by the Baptist Sunday School Board and the SBC's "persistent emphasis on missions and evangelism."

He remarked that the Woman's Missionary Union "constantly keeps missions as the top convention goal."

The SBC stands out as the number one — See Schaller critiques, page 2

## SBTS trustees affirm Mohler; change faculty hiring process

By Herb Hollinger  
For Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Following more than five hours behind closed doors, trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary voted overwhelmingly April 18 to affirm President R. Albert Mohler Jr. and to revise the faculty hiring process, eliminating a full faculty vote on candidates.

In the second day of their regular April 17-19 meeting, trustees also amended the by-laws to allow the election of chairman Richard D. White, pastor of First Church, Franklin, to an unprecedented third term and affirmed Mohler's actions regarding the recent firing of Diana R. Garland as dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work.

In an interview with news media following the April 18 marathon session, White used the term "overwhelmingly positive" when asked how the trustees viewed Mohler's leadership. White said trustees "deeply regretted" the controversy and "we are working through it, as is everyone connected with the seminary's life."

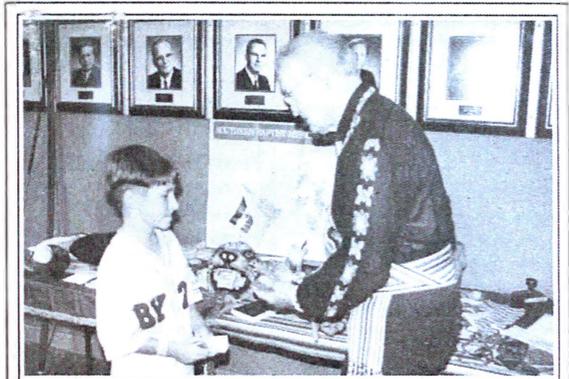
Apparently confirming their evaluation of Mohler, trustees

voted to affirm "both the process followed and actions taken by the president concerning (the Garland firing)." In so doing, trustees also affirmed Mohler's desire to consider only faculty candidates who are conservative and who can "relate constructively to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Garland had charged Mohler with using criteria outside written policies and guidelines to turn down the nomination of David Sherwood, to teach at the Carver school. Mohler said he wouldn't approve Sherwood's nomination because of Sherwood's stand regarding women as pastors.

Critics of Mohler's March 20 action alleged processes had been ignored and said it would bring problems from the seminary's accrediting agencies. However, Mohler told news media he had only one inquiry, an "initial" contact from one agency, the Council on Social Work Education.

Trustees put into writing that candidates will be evaluated regarding their views on the Abstract of Principles, the Covenant Renewal (enacted in 1990), and "current pressing issues of concern to Southern — See SBTS, page 2



### RAs, GAs learn about missions

Josh Dibbell, above, an RA from Fairview Church, Lebanon, learns about volunteer missions opportunities from Tennessean Bill Skinner of Nashville, a retired missionary to Paraguay, during the state's 41st annual RA Congress. Below, Acteens and leaders attending the Tennessee Acteens Summit from First Church, Old Hickory, are, from left, first row, Jennifer Pleiffer, Christy Gaiser, Kirstie Swanson; second row, Autumn Gaiser, Maria Thomas, Carolyn Yates and Vicky Thomas, counselors, and Shana Burlison. — See page 6 for additional information from both meetings.



# Schaller critiques Baptists with praise ...

— Continued from page 1  
multi-cultural organization among denominations. With the large state conventions, the convention stands alone also, he said.

Smaller groups have limited capabilities, Schaller added. If the TBC seceded from the SBC, he said, "you would be in the top 15 denominations. And you have clearly defined ministries with which to serve your congregations."

Of prime importance, he said, "is the help you can give in making believers into disciples. You are big enough to do things in substantial ways, and that is one of the best things you do."

Schaller pointed to congregational polity of Baptists as "the best way" of doing things, and he highly approves of the key

church program of the TBC. He stressed also the importance of the vitality brought to the TBC by lay involvement in ministry and missions.

He called it a plus that the convention doesn't back away from pioneering, high technology, and emphasizing lay missions.

He said the SBC wrestles with the temptation to be a regulatory body, and said most SBC congregations have a low threshold for new members. "You have more members than people," he said.

Schaller chided the SBC for starting many new churches with pastors before they are qualified. What will happen to the members? he asked. He said they probably adopt the attitude of avoiding Southern Baptist churches in the future if the church failed to minister.

He said the tendency often is "to keep dying institutions alive rather than spending those resources in giving birth to new ones."

In an analogy, he said parents usually have the choice of giving children wings or roots. Most of the time, he believes, wings are the best choice.

The SBC has a great propensity for developing internal quarrels, Schaller noted. People expect that institutions would respect them, but you trust people rather than institutions (churches).

Schaller observed that Baptist associations usually have the identity of the director of missions. He added when people ask why something is being done, a real answer should be given. "Because we are Baptists is not a good answer," he added.

About starting new congregations to reach a younger generation, Schaller said the beginning number should be a minimum of 300. The church should have a team of pastor, musician, and several capable volunteers. "It's cheaper in the long

run," he said.

Speaking to the question of generalists vs. specialists on the convention level, Schaller said it is not beneficial to sacrifice confidence for generalism.

"We need specialists with specialized skills," he added. "The church is where people's lives are transformed, and the greatest transformation is moving from believer to disciple. Specialists are needed, and a large convention like the TBC is capable of providing."

In another analogy, he said it is a barren and hostile world for a baby to come into — and a six-hour workshop can't teach all that is needed.

He was speaking to the importance of caring for and teaching children from birth to three years old.

The parents need a trained staff to help them in this, he said, and a brief workshop is not enough. "It is a high level skill, long overlooked, but more and more necessary."

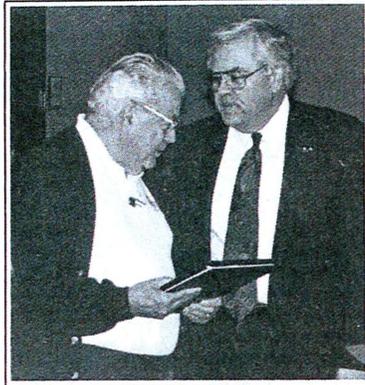
He noted that babies "have a great capacity to learn. He also emphasized that churches should give special attention to junior high youth, helping them to become knowledgeable and capable to lead as senior high youth and as church leaders.

Touching on mega-churches, Schaller observed that in a state convention they could possibly work together as a group, offering ideas to each other and being able to work with the state convention and smaller congregations.

He said the next generation may well ask for leaders to join the church team rather than seeking to follow one leader.

Schaller said Southern Baptists need "another Arthur Rutledge (deceased Home Mission Board president). He was a leader. There is great apathy toward who's in charge." □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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**TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Porch, right, presents church growth specialist Lyle Schaller with a TBC Executive Board notebook and a country ham. Schaller spoke during three meetings last week at the Baptist Center.**

## Coppenger nominated at Midwestern

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The nomination of Mark Coppenger as the next president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will be voted on at a special called trustee meeting June 1-2 here.

Coppenger, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee's vice president for convention relations, if elected, will succeed Milton Ferguson who has been president since 1973.

If approved, Coppenger, a Tennessee native, will assume the post Aug. 1.

Ferguson, 65, had planned to remain as president until his official retirement date of July 31, 1996, but made it clear, "I will respond positively and favorably to any change in the best interests of the seminary." Noting eight weeks for transition is "a very short time frame in educational leadership," Ferguson said, "we can do it and we will do it." □

## SBTS trustees affirm Mohler, change ...

— Continued from page 1  
Baptists and evangelicals." Listed as "pressing issues" were the exclusiveness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation; the sanctity of human life; the sinful nature of homosexuality; and the restriction of women from serving in the church office of pastor/overseer.

The document said those issues "are only indicative examples, and (are) not to be viewed as exhaustive."

Also approved was a statement on the "issue of women in the pastorate." It cited the "autonomous" churches of the SBC "which overwhelmingly reflect" the view that women should not serve as pastors and which have "expressed this collectively in annual conventions by adopted resolutions." The statement said the trustees have and will continue to expect the president to recommend to the faculty only those candidates who reflect "the biblical position and convictional consensus of the churches of the SBC."

Trustees also approved an amendment to the faculty-staff manual, adding a paragraph which includes "an obligation on the part of all faculty and

staff to support and relate constructively to the institution, its policies, and administration. Faculty members may not use class time (or any forum designated for instructional purposes) for the purpose of undermining or obstructing the policies of this institution. Faculty members and staff of this institution are not to act in ways that are injurious or detrimental to the seminary's relationship with the denomination, donors, or other constituencies within and without the seminary community."

White said the amendment was "in response to what has taken place in recent days at the seminary."

At a later news conference White and Mohler told media there would be no disciplinary action taken against faculty for the controversy surrounding the firing of Garland.

The trustee action that will garner immediate attention from the faculty was the revising of the faculty hiring process in place since 1958.

The major change is that the entire faculty will no longer vote on a prospective candidate, something that Mohler said accrediting agen-

cies do not require and most schools do not include in their hiring processes. Faculty will continue to have an evaluation process of prospective candidates in the new 10-step procedure.

The new process took effect immediately and was presented to the faculty following the trustee meeting. White said trustees could revise or even change the process in their October meeting, if needed.

In other actions, trustees approved a \$17.3 million budget for 1995-96.

Although the 1995-96 budget is a 2 percent decrease over fiscal 1994-95, considerable cuts in expenditures will be needed in order to meet the goal, as well as an increase in fees. Budget adjustments totaling \$918,497, which are yet to be identified, will be necessary, trustees were told.

Revenue for the budget is expected to drop by \$434,131 compared to the current year, some due to an expected drop in enrollment and its accompanying income. Adjustments include raising student matriculation fees to a benchmark fee of \$900, up from \$800; rent by 5 percent; and 3 percent in child development fees. □



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# Oklahoma City churches respond to deadly bomb blast

By Dave Parker  
For Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — 9:01 a.m., April 19, 1995.

Like the day John F. Kennedy was killed or the day the Challenger space shuttle exploded, that date will forever be etched in the minds of Americans.

It was the day America lost its sense of security, as terrorists proved they can hit anywhere, anytime.

When a car bomb exploded outside the federal building in Oklahoma City, shock waves were felt for miles. People as far away as Stillwater, 66 miles to the northeast, reported feeling the blast.

The Baptist Building, which houses the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, felt like it was hit by an earthquake, as it shook three or four times from the blast.

Convention employees quickly began checking all the windows for signs of the disaster, and they noticed white smoke pouring from a building downtown. The white smoke turned to black as cars in the federal building parking lot caught on fire.

As word spread about the bombing, people gathered around television sets in disbelief. Impromptu prayer meetings were held for the victims and families of the bombings.

Charles Graves, pastor of Quail Springs Church, Oklahoma City, and president of the BGCO, said he and

William Tanner, BGCO executive director, asked churches to take up a love offering April 23 and again on April 30 and send it to help those in need.

"This is so localized and people are not displaced from their homes, so supplies we normally provide are not needed," he said. "The people do, however, need money to help with hospital bills."

First Church, Oklahoma City, is located about seven blocks from the federal building. Pastor Gene Garrison said because of its location the church immediately became a shift change post for firefighters and other emergency personnel.

Church workers were already gearing up for the Wednesday night meal, so they decided to start making sandwiches for emergency crews.

"Around 12:30 or 1 p.m., our staff just spontaneously began making sandwiches and handing them out," Garrison said. "They made more than 1,000 sandwiches, and First Christian Church brought over 300. They started walking up the street, handing out sandwiches."

Later that evening, the BGCO brotherhood department's disaster relief unit began serving meals out of the church parking lot.

The church had only two members who worked at or near the bomb site, Garrison said. Neither was there when the bomb exploded, he added.

There were several known

casualties among friends and relatives of church members though. Among the casualties was the stepson of Marjorie McCullough, former Woman's Missionary Union national president and interim director of Tennessee WMU, Kenny McCollough, 36, whose dad was the late Glendon McCollough, former president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, was among the first 13 victims identified.

Also, Randy Norfleet, son of Southern Baptist missionaries in the Ukraine Mike and Kay Norfleet, was at work on the ninth floor of the building when it exploded and was severely injured.

Another person with Foreign Mission Board ties — Mickey Maroney — also was still missing as of April 21. Maroney's brother, Jimmy, is an FMB staffer in Richmond, Va.

Because of the severity of the blast and the amount of rubble, it may be days or weeks before the full death count is known, and before churches know how many members are affected.

"Our people are still in shock," Garrison said. "Last night (April 19) in our prayer service, we had a lot of people there. More than half were rescue workers. Instead of me speaking, I let them talk about their feelings and concerns."

In addition the church used its April 23 regular services as a prayer service and Scripture

## Henry, Williams issue call to prayer in wake of Oklahoma City bomb attack

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, called on all Southern Baptists to pray in the wake of the deadly bomb attack April 19 on the A.P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

"What happened in Oklahoma City yesterday is certainly beyond our ability to fully understand, but not beyond our ability to minister to through prayer," the April 20 statement reads. "Therefore, we are asking Southern Baptists across the United States to pray — immediately, fervently, and constantly — for those families and friends who have lost loved ones, for the families and friends of those still missing, for the recovery of those who were injured, and for the safety of those special servants — the police, firemen, rescue workers, counselors, and investigators — who have already given so much."

Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., and Williams were moved to issue their call after hearing reports on the devastation, particularly those from Southern Baptist relief and communications personnel already on the scene.

Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers are preparing and serving meals to family members of victims, rescue workers, and other support personnel, according to Laddie Adams, Brotherhood director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. □

sharing time.

Ministers from across the metropolitan area helped counsel victims and families at an Oklahoma City church. Even people not directly affected are trying to deal with the loss of security they once felt.

"This just proves we don't have any security in this world," Garrison said. "Apart from our personal faith in God, there is no security. Here we are in a good Midwestern

town, with good neighbors but you can be driving downtown at Fifth and Harvey and have it all end in an instant."

Ted Kersh, pastor of Village Church, Oklahoma City, agreed.

"This should cause us to be real aggressive for evangelism. Eternity was bombarded with souls Wednesday morning. We need to get people ready, so they will spend eternity with Jesus Christ." □

## SBTS faculty offered early retirement package

By Herb Hoffinger  
For Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — An "early retirement" package was announced to the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary April 19. Officials said there are 29 professors eligible for the package which has a July 31 effective date.

President R. Albert Mohler Jr. and board of trustees' chairman Richard White spoke to the faculty for about two hours following the end of the April 17-19 trustee meeting. Mohler and White discussed actions of the trustees affecting the faculty, especially a new faculty hiring process and an amendment to the faculty-staff manual on discipline.

Questions centered around the amendment to the faculty-staff manual on discipline. The meeting was

described by one observer as "clarifying" but not necessarily cordial.

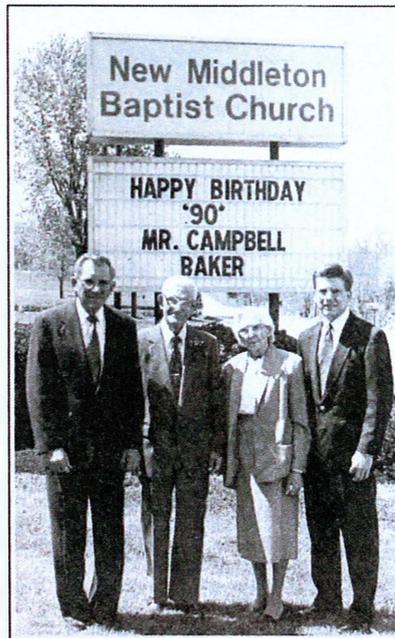
The early retirement package, requested by a faculty committee, was part of a strategy trustees approved during their meeting to reduce expenditures at the seminary which has faced a downward trend in enrollment and gifts.

Of the 70 full-time faculty, 29 are eligible for the retirement plan. Basically, a professor's years of full-time service plus his age must equal at least 65 to qualify.

The package consists of one year's salary plus \$500 for each year of service. Thus, a professor, 45 years or older, with 20 years of service could receive a year's salary and \$10,000 as the salary part of the package.

The retirement package also includes provisions for health and life insurance. □

## New Middleton deacon going strong at 90



THREE GENERATIONS of deacons celebrated Campbell Baker's 90th birthday earlier this month. With Baker and his wife, Frances, are son, Jerry, left, and grandson, Phillip.

NEW MIDDLETON — Campbell Baker, a deacon since 1932 at New Middleton Church, was honored April 9 in recognition of his 90th birthday.

Baker's father, William, was a deacon at the church for 50 years and his son, Jerry, has served for 30 years. A grandson, Phillip, is a deacon at Stevens Street Church, Cookeville.

Baker quickly discounted a well-wisher's teasing that the "Campbells run the church." "God runs the church," Baker affirmed strongly.

Baker credits God for his longevity as a deacon. "He is my strength from day to day."

New Middleton Pastor Mark Stinnett said Baker's "faithfulness, spirit, and willingness to give a witness to the Lord is an inspiration." □ — Lonnie Wilkey



JOINING CAMPBELL BAKER for a special recognition service was another 90-year-old member — Floy Litchford. Litchford was honored earlier by the church on her 90th birthday. With them was New Middleton Pastor Mark Stinnett.

## ■ about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number.
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published.
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the *Baptist and Reflector* and its staff. □

### Thanks church

I must comment on the April 12, article, *Baptist and Reflector*, "Elizabethton church delays church building to build home for man."

I can say with Jesus, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" Matthew 8:10.

As a Baptist, I know it is not often that we want to put building of buildings "on hold."

Thank God for their church and what it is doing for the paralyzed man. There comes a time to invest in people and a time to build buildings.

I praise God that Pastor McNabb and congregation, saw through the eyes of Jesus and knew the time.

*Thelma Sudberry*  
Shelbyville, 37160

### Wake up call

Two things were as inevitable as the sun rising in the east. First, as soon as inerrancy was firmly established as the theologically correct doctrine in the SBC, it would be applied to non-biblical authors. Now everyone learns what some knew all along. John Calvin is inerrant because the "apostle" Boyce was five-point-Calvinist.

Is it too much to ask that we

should have a president at Southern Seminary who prefers Christ to Calvin? Herschel Hobbs has spoken the truth. How many Baptists believe that some are predestined not to be saved? We were led to believe that the political struggle was justified because we could place men in authority who believe what Baptists believe.

The other thing was that as soon as all the power stations were occupied by those with correct views, the authorities would move to consolidate their power. We are moving closer and closer to the model of Roman Catholicism and Mormonism which is the consolidation of power in the hands of a few white men. Some courageous voices from the WMU are speaking the truth. Wake up Baptists!

*Larry Maples*  
Cookeville, 38501

### Rooms available

A limited number of hotel reservations for the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta are available through Union University's office of alumni affairs. Cost for the rooms is approximately \$96 per night. For information, call (901) 661-5208.

*Louise Lynch*  
Jackson, 38305

## Dyer church's recognition of Ella Mai Johnson for 66 years of WMU service a reminder of rich tradition of WMU

New Bethlehem Church, Dyer, recently honored Mrs. Ella Mai Johnson as the church "focused on WMU." Mrs. Johnson was elected in 1929 as first president of New Bethlehem's Woman's Missionary Union (or Woman's Missionary Society as it was called at that time).

The entire morning service was centered around WMU and their mission endeavors. A hand written list of the original 12 members, plus other items were reproduced for all. At the bottom of the list was a record of the eggs brought by the ladies so they might pool them from singles to dozens, sell them and use the money for missions. Johnson has been a member of New Bethlehem since 1919 and a member of the WMU since its inception in 1929.

The Woman's Missionary Union has a very rich history. In 1875, the Southern Baptist Convention for the first time took official cognizance of the "enlarged zeal and practical wisdom" of Southern Baptist women in the cause of foreign missions, and commended their unusual qualifications for this ministry. But the women did not need the urging of the convention to meet, pray, and give. They were rapidly forming missionary societies in all of the territory of the convention, fostering home as well as foreign missions.

In 1878 the convention's committee on women's work urged the organization of central committees of women in each state, and this marked a large step toward a convention wide structure for women. On May 11, 1888, in the basement of the Broad Street Methodist Church, Richmond, Virginia, 32 delegates from 12 states and other women from three more states met to discuss a general organization. The name originally adopted was changed two years later to Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, and this has remained unaltered since that time.

The organizational structure was enlarged during the remainder of this period. In 1896 WMU assumed responsibility. Programs were formed for girls and young women of all age groups — and for many years, WMU

diverted missions education for Royal Ambassador boys. Lottie Moon, missionary to China, suggested in 1887 that Southern Baptist Women institute a week of prayer and offering for foreign missions in connection with Christmas. This plan was adopted and shortly after the close of this period the offering was named the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The goal in 1888 was \$2,000 and over \$3,000 was raised; this overreaching of challenging goals has been the pattern year by year as the annual offerings have been counted in millions of dollars with this year's goal being set at \$100 million. In 1894 a Week of Self-Denial was structured to pray and give to home missions, and not long after the close of this period, that became the annual Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions. The 1995 goal for this offering is \$50 million.

From almost the very beginning of Woman's Missionary Union, the four fundamentals of its program have been promotion of mission study, stewardship, community missions, and prayer. Times have changed since Ella Mai and her band of ladies helped raise money for missions by selling eggs, but the four fundamentals of this organization known as WMU have been unaltered.

Why are Southern Baptists trying to alter something that has worked so well for the past 108 years? I refer to the responsibility of the promotion of our missions offerings. Why should it be taken out of the hands of the WMU? That body seems to have been quite successful so far. I personally think we are harming SBC missions. Regardless of what the Southern Baptist Convention decides, WMU will still be responsible for raising mission funds in our church for as long as they will accept the task.

As an autonomous body, we have that right and as a pastor, I plan to encourage our people to administer that right. It seems to me that the SBC is wanting to bite the hand that helps feed them. My grandad always said, "If it works, don't fix it"

*Randy Latch, pastor*  
Dyer, 38330

## Daily Partnership Prayer Requests

### April

- 27 — Pray for the Baptist Women's National Conference in Poland, April 29-May 2.
- 28 — Pray for the growth of North Bay Chapel in Linwood, Mich.
- 29 — Pray for the Tennessee team who will work with MKs at their Mission Meeting May 3-10 in Warsaw, Poland.
- 30 — Pray for the new church start in Carson City, Mich., this summer.

### May

- 1 — Pray for a pastor for the Alternative Youth Church in Warsaw.
- 2 — Pray for State WMU consultants as they continue to lead specialized training in associations and churches.
- 3 — Pray for mission ministries in prisons and among poor families in Poland.



## Third annual Children's Homes golf benefit set for June 5

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes' third annual "Celebrities Fore Kids" golf tournament will be held June 5 at Brentwood Country Club.

Last year, 228 golfers participated in the tournament which benefits TBCH's Franklin campus. Among the celebrities scheduled to participate this year is country music singer

Vince Gill.

Registration is currently underway and players may choose morning or afternoon tee-off times in a four-person scramble format. Hole-in-one and closet-to-the-pin prizes include a 1995 Buick, vacation packages, and a set of Maxfli VHL irons. For more information and registration, call 1 (800) 624-8591. □

## Parks, Marshall among speakers at Tennessee CBF Assembly

NASHVILLE — Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board from 1980-92, and Molly Marshall, associate professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1984-94, will be the featured speakers at the opening session of the 1995 Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Assembly,

May 5-6, at Immanuel Church, Nashville. It begins at 6 p.m. May 5 and ends at 12:25 p.m. May 6.

Marshall, who will join the faculty at Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Aug. 1, will lead Bible studies both days. Parks, now Global Missions Coordinator for CBF, will deliver Friday's keynote em-

phasis on global missions.

Other speakers include James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and Bill Bruster, a former Knoxville Baptist pastor who now serves as CBF regional coordinator for the West.

For more information, call (615) 661-0076. □

# Water: a major contributor to gift of life

■ one word more  
By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
editor

Water is a necessity for life. Water is vital for sustaining the elements that contribute to the survival of planet Earth.

Water is a major influence in why life exists on earth. Water, then, is worthy of major concerns of all nations, all world citizens. But more importantly, water is worthy of the very best conservation efforts of every United States citizen.

April 30 through May 7 has been designated as National Soil and Water Stewardship Week. All Christian groups can use the theme of "The Living Waters" for celebration and education.

Since 1955 the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) began nationwide promotion of this special observance. NACD represents 3,000 local soil and water conservation districts.

Each year promotion of the week is guided by a Soil and Water Stewardship Advisory Committee, which includes representatives of several denominations. Gary Farley of the Home Mission Board is part of that group.

Probably the idea of Christian concern for conservation of soil and water may have begun more than 1,500 years ago in the area of Vienne, France.

Bad weather, fires, and earthquakes had brought crop failures and widespread hunger. The local bishop called for prayer and penance for three days prior to Ascension Day. The people responded. Word spread throughout

France and into other countries.

The practice continued down through the years and in many places a special time was set aside to acknowledge to God dependence on his creation. Earlier in this century some Southern churches began to set aside a day of observance the fifth Sunday after Easter. Soon thereafter, the name was changed to Soil Stewardship Sunday.

Every person should understand and appreciate water, God's great gift of water, its critical, all important to life, and the need for all peoples to become faithful stewards of water.

More than half of the earth's surface is covered with water — and in many places it rains frequently, so why is there a need for stewardship?

Don't ask that question to the people of Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, and other arid places in Africa. They don't have enough pure water to cook with — not to mention bathing and drinking.

Don't ask farmers in America and other places where droughts often devastate crops before they are ready for harvest.

Don't ask major cities where water lines are rusting out and threaten health and safety.

Don't ask people of western states where water is piped hundreds of miles to supply a multitude of needs.

Don't ask mothers whose babies die from lack of water.

Don't ask if you don't want the clear

and straight answer.

Instead, ask those who pollute and mismanage lakes and streams, rivers and supply points.

Americans have the greatest potential probably for helping to save and nurture the national and global water supply. At the same time, the nation poses one of the greatest dangers.

Without the kind of stewardship practiced in full measure by Christians, water supplies everywhere are endangered.

The old stories of ranchers fighting each other for water rights makes a good plot for the "western" movie. But those stories are not that far in the past, and they could become the norm rather than the exception.

Churches and congregations should be stewards of "The Living Waters." We can do this by worshiping our Creator, developing a heightened awareness of being his children, appreciate the goodness of his creation, trying to understand natural resource stewardship as personal and global, trying to comprehend environmental care as part of our daily walk with Christ, deepening our understanding of water's importance, challenging and calling for change of failed policies.

Good disciples are good stewards. The theme for Soil and Water Stewardship Week comes from Jeremiah 2:13. Faulty cisterns still abound. God still asks us to be more responsible and accountable as stewards. It is time to halt the leaking faucets and evil erosion — and practice real stewardship. God cares; do we? □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

## No garage sale here

Garage and/or yard sales really should be called match-makers. The old adage of "One person's trash is another's treasure" is applicable.

If you peruse the sales listed in your weekend community newspaper with my kind of fervor, you can discover much treasure and quite a bit of trash. A marvel that contributes to the success of garage sales is that the buyer is often attracted to things they do not want or need.

It's not unusual for a husband, before he gets home with his treasure, to forget what the item is and why he bought it. It is especially difficult if the wife never buys gadgets or a rare book.

Ideally, I suppose, garage sales help buyer and seller. The seller gets rid of a mostly worthless accumulation. And the buyer has opportunity to spend a few bucks on something unique, cherished, or "just what I was looking for."

It is the same whether the sale is in the garage or the yard. It becomes an event that attracts the neighborhood.

We spotted what appeared to be a garage sale in our community recently. At least it looked like a garage or driveway sale.

Items of every description filled the drive all the way out to the street. A while later when we passed that way again, a sign had been added. They have put up their sale sign, we thought.

Not so. Our presumptions had gone berserk. The homeowners had merely been cleaning their garage — and perhaps their home — because the sign read, "No garage sale here."

Things are not always what they seem to be — and things are not always what we want them to be.

I don't want to compare life with a garage sale, but there are some similarities, some lessons to be learned.

Life can offer cheap bargains, junk, so-called treasures. What we choose, we have to live with or pass on. Garage sales leave little time for decision-making. We pay too high a price for junk. Often we try for the "steal," forgetting the price tags of life. □



ALLEN

It's not unusual for a husband, before he gets home with his treasure, to forget what the item is and why he bought it. It is especially difficult if the wife never buys gadgets or a rare book.

## ■ just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a Smile

Husband: "I thought we had a lovely anniversary reception. Why are you so annoyed with me?"

Wife: "Why didn't you tell folks we have been married for 25 years instead of saying a quarter of a century?"

### Take this Truth

So often the way we say things is more than important than what we say. People in the advertising business learn this and sell products that way.

Don't tell a lady her new dress is pretty. Tell her she looks pretty in her new dress!

### Memorize this Scripture

"Let your speech be ... with grace, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6)

### Pray this Prayer

Lord, help me watch the words I say, to make them nice and sweet.

May I realize I never know from day to day which ones I might have to eat. □

# Christian counseling is best

## ■ families matter

By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Last week we considered the comparison of the Christian with the non-Christian as counselor.

Now I would like to explain why I believe the Christian counselor is superior to the non-Christian counselor. I heard a Christian counselor address the sufficiency of Christ in counseling.

Let's look at four of her ideas to build a case for the Christian counselor.

Through Christ we have pardon for our past, protection of our person, preparation for our progress, and provision for our power.

Many problems dealt with by counselors arise from past events in the client's life. Paul said in Phil. 3:13, "... forgetting those things which lie behind ... I press toward the mark."

Joseph could say in Genesis 41:51 that God had made him forget all that had happened in his father's house.

Many times the Christian counselor can help the client understand how the presence of the Holy Spirit enables them to "forget" the past and therefore, "reframe" the future. In reality only Jesus can truly pardon our past.

As Jesus walked among us

he touched many needy lives in many different ways. Paul admonishes believers in Thessalonica to "warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak and be patient with everyone" (I Thessalonians 5:14).

Christian counselors are under mandate to treat people as unique individuals and not lump them into convenient diagnostic categories.

With the insight and wisdom supplied by the Holy Spirit.

I believe they can do a better job than some others in protecting the individual person.

With the emphasis on "Brief Therapy" today, many clinicians are being encouraged to use "quick fixes."

The advent of Managed Care Organizations which control the number of sessions that a therapist can see a person (usually less than eight), has forced many therapists to turn a "band aid" type of therapy.

The Christian therapist who utilizes the concept of Paul in Romans 12:2 for the "renewing of the mind" helps the client have a concept of life-long change necessary to effectively develop coping skills.

Some therapists and counselors have the idea that they have a corner on the market of helping people with particular problems.

Someone has suggested that some counselors need to learn that Ph.D. does not stand for People Helping Deity.

The advantage held by a truly Christian counselor is that they are always in touch with the real source of power.

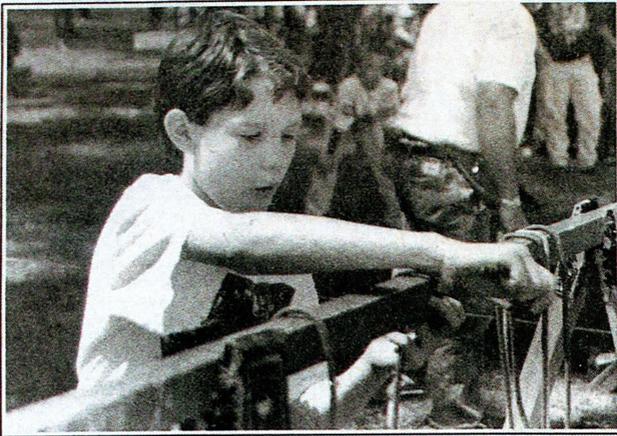
I have to remind myself time and time again in my practice that "it is not by might or power (or psychotherapy), but by my power says the Lord" (Zechariah, 4:6).

I freely admit my bias at this point. My Christian faith prejudices my thinking.

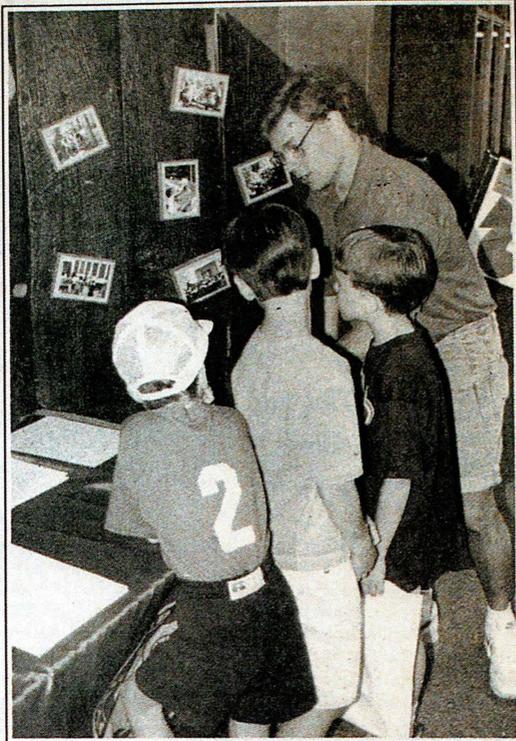
I simply believe that given the choice, there is no comparison between equally trained therapists when one is Christian and the other is not. □



BARKLEY



**RA WESLEY CALVERT** from Englewood Church, Jackson, participates in the knot-tying competition at the congress. — Photos by Keith Currey



**WATERFRONT INSTRUCTOR** at Camp Lindgerd, Ben Fitzgerald, far right, tells boys attending congress about Royal Ambassador camps.

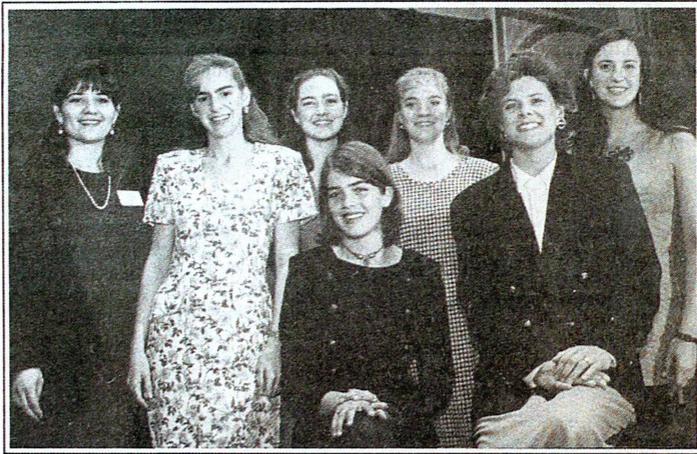
**JACKSON** — The 41st annual Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress drew 1,223 boys to Union University here to learn about missions opportunities both overseas and in their own backyards April 13-15. Bob Davison of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department reported seven boys made professions of faith. Boys and their leaders also raised \$3,843 for missions through a special offering and a five kilometer walk/run.

"The bulk of the conference was an accumulation of the local RA programs, which have a strong missions base," said Davison.

RAs attended 17 missions conferences and a missions fair with 22 exhibitors. Participation increased in most competitions, including Speak Out, a public speaking competition, Project Hall, where more than 300 missions and camp craft projects were showcased, and in various outdoor competitions. — Keith Currey

## Acteens in Nashville and RAs in Jackson

# Royal Ambassadors, Acteens meet for missions



**LEADERS OF THE FRIDAY EVENING SESSION** were, from left, seated, Amy Briggs, State Acteen Panelist from Memphis; and Cindy Sneed, speaker from Goodlettsville; standing, Amanda Day, WMU, TBC; and Panelists Heather Logan of Bolivar; Mary Bea Skinner, Hendersonville; Kim Conner, Henderson; and Kristin Robbins, Germantown. — Photos by Connie Davis

**NASHVILLE** — The 23rd Tennessee Acteens Summit drew 1,717 girls to the Opryland Hotel in Nashville April 13-15. The theme of the summit was "Treasures Beyond All Measure."

The leaders and girls heard Southern Baptist foreign or home missionaries, six of whom spoke in main sessions and/or conferences.

Members of Activator Teams also were recognized during the meeting. Thirty teams from Tennessee involving about 250 Activators will do missions work this year, reported Amanda Day of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Woman's Missionary Union. The teams will work in 13 states and two countries — the French West Indies and the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean.

Other events during the summit included the recognition of the Tennesseean named to the National Acteens Advisory Panel — Kelly Hamilton, Knoxville. □ — Connie Davis



**SUMMIT WORKERS**, from left, Jennifer Arnwine of Memphis and Traci Roberson, a conference leader from Sylacauga, Ala., help Jennifer Johnson and Summer Rose of Calvary Church, Lebanon.



**ACTEENS LEADERS**, from left, Kathy Hamilton, Betty Henry, Georgia Johnson, and Jean Manley, from Salem Church, Knoxville, relax in a garden of the hotel between sessions.

# Southern Baptist Convention

Georgia Dome, Atlanta † Tuesday, June 20 — Thursday, June 22

## SBC will celebrate, hear Graham, vote on structure

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Messengers to the 138th session of the Southern Baptist Convention will celebrate the denomination's 150th anniversary, hear evangelist Billy Graham, and take a first vote on whether to reduce the size of the SBC structure.

The annual meeting of the nation's largest evangelical body, June 20-22 in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, also will elect a president, conduct other business, and hear devotions on the theme from Matthew 28:19-20, "Empowered for The Unfinished Task."

Southern Baptists will return to Atlanta for the ninth time for a national convention meeting — the first time in the Georgia Dome — with as many as 25,000 messengers expected June 20-22, according to SBC registration secretary Lee Porter, formerly of Nashville.

The SBC met last in Atlanta in 1991 but the most memorable meeting was in 1986 when 40,987 messengers registered, the second-largest annual meeting in the SBC's history. The previous year, 1985 in Dallas, set the record of 45,519 messengers, while last year in Orlando, Fla., 20,370 messengers were registered. The figures do not include guests and visitors.

Porter said there are two primary reasons the messenger count may approach 25,000 in June: 1) the 150th anniversary celebration for which a personal invitation was extended to all 3,000 churches existing at the time of the SBC organization in 1845 and 2) interest and concern about the proposed new SBC structure in a recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee.

Porter, a retired Baptist Sunday School Board official living in Panama City, Fla., has had an impressive record in correctly predicting messenger registration numbers since 1978 when he was elected registration secretary.

And to conclude the historic meeting, the most well-known Southern Baptist, evangelist Billy Graham, will close the meeting June 22.

President Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., has announced he will allow his nomination for a traditional second one-year term, apparently without opposition.

As has become the tradition at these large once-a-year meetings, an evangelistic campaign, "Crossover Atlanta,"

will precede the convention meeting as will a host of smaller meetings such as the Pastor's Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

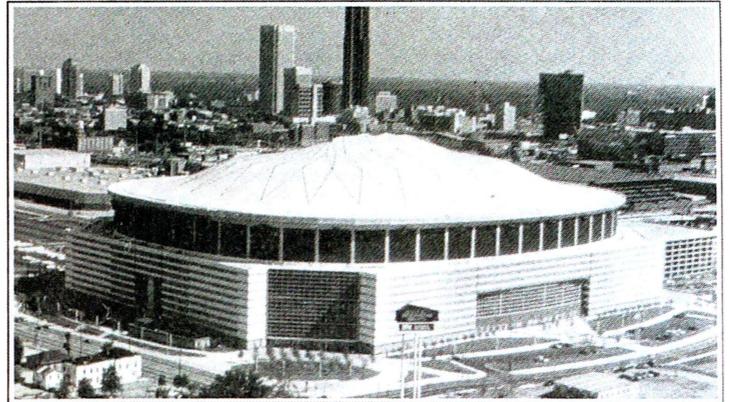
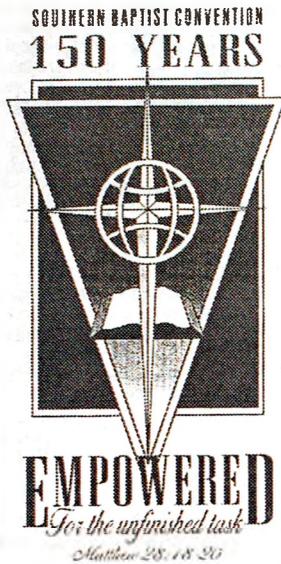
The proposal to reduce the size of the SBC's structure comes from a study commissioned by the Executive Committee in response to a referred motion at the 1993 SBC annual meeting. The committee approved it in February and recommended it to the annual meeting. Because it would dramatically change the convention's structure, it will take approval by messengers at two SBC annual meetings — at Atlanta and next year in New Orleans. That proposal will be submitted during the Executive Committee's report at 10 a.m. June 20.

Some of Southern Baptists' most visible personalities will bring theme devotions: Robert E. Naylor, former Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary president; W.A. Criswell, senior pastor emeritus of First Church, Dallas; Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Church, Oklahoma City; James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Sunday School Board; Roy J. Fish, professor of

evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Alma Hunt, former executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union; Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; layman Greg Horton, Simpsonville, S.C.; and Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Executive Committee.

The convention sermon Wednesday morning will be given by R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The president's address will be Tuesday morning.

The first election of officers is



ATLANTA'S NEW GEORGIA DOME will be the site of the 138th session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

slated for 2:40 p.m. Tuesday followed that evening by a Sesquicentennial Presentation," Part I, which will take a "look at the past through music and drama." Part II will be a joint presentation the next night by the Foreign and Home Mission boards, titled "A Challenge for the Future."

Atlanta's Georgia Dome, site of major athletic and entertainment events, will host the SBC meeting for the first time. The playing field will be split, with the front platform sitting about on the 50-yard line. With seating on the floor, organizers hope to accommodate about 30,000 in the Dome. Last year in Orlando, Fla., there were more than 20,000 messengers.

The SBC met last in Atlanta in 1991

but the Dome was under construction and the meetings were held in the adjacent Georgia World Congress Center. The exhibits, offices, and some smaller meetings will again be held at the GWCC.

Organizers said hotel rooms are still available in the Atlanta area, but to guarantee reservations the SBC housing form needs to be returned. Because of some possible construction work with Atlanta's 1996 Olympics, convention-goers also are encouraged to use Atlanta's Metropolitan Area Rapid Transit (MARTA) system which has a stop in front of the Dome. Food service is planned in the Dome and Congress Center for lunches and dinners at reasonable prices, a spokesman said. □

## Logistics different from last visit

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — It won't be the same Atlanta as 1991 when the SBC last convened here.

The 1995 annual sessions will be in the new Georgia Dome, not the adjacent Georgia World Congress Center.

Additionally, Atlanta will be spotted with construction projects for the Olympic Games slated for the summer of 1996.

Construction could tie up International Drive, a key traffic artery for the Dome and GWCC, where the SBC exhibits will be housed in Hall D, noted Jack Wilkerson, SBC convention manager and Executive Committee vice president for business and finance.

A key alternative for messengers from Atlanta hotels to the Dome and GWCC will be Atlanta's mass transit system, MARTA, Wilkerson advised.

Special four-, five-, or six-day MARTA passes for unlimited travel will be available at \$8, \$9, and \$10, respectively, he

said. Advance order blanks will be in the April issue of *SBC Life* journal or can be requested by writing to MARTA Marketing - SBC, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, GA 30324. All requests must be received by June 1. MARTA passes also will be sold in the vicinity of the SBC registration area in the Dome.

Otherwise, each MARTA trip costs \$1.25.

Messengers and others riding MARTA to SBC sessions should exit MARTA at the Omni/Dome/GWCC station — the first stop, W1, on MARTA's west line — and enter the Dome through Gates C and D. The SBC registration area will be at the lower level of the Dome at Gate C.

On other logistics for the '95 SBC meeting in Atlanta, Wilkerson said:

■ Parking will cost \$6 per day at the Dome/GWCC parking decks; \$4 per day at the "Green" lot on Northside Drive; and varying amounts at inde-

pendently owned lots in the vicinity.

■ Food will be sold at concession stands in the Dome; restaurants in the GWCC; and the food court of the nearby CNN Center/Omni hotel.

■ To visit the exhibit area from the Dome, exit Gate C for GWCC's Hall D.

■ A day camp for children who have completed grades one through six, available by pre-registration only, is operated by the Brotherhood Commission, at (901) 272-2461, with registration to be confirmed on site during the SBC.

■ Registration forms for on-site child care for preschool children of out-of-town messengers are available by writing to: SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o Briarlake Baptist Church, 3715 LaVista Road, Decatur, GA 30033. Child care registration will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

■ The telephone number for the SBC office at the convention will be (404) 865-7300. □

# Southern Baptist Convention

Georgia Dome, Atlanta  Tuesday, June 20 — Thursday, June 22

8:15 Music for Inspiration  
8:30 Call to Order, Congregational Singing, Prayer  
8:35 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention — Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, Panama City, Fla.

8:40 Committee on Order of Business (first report) — Fred Powell, chairman, president, Communicator Ministries, Inc., Richmond, Mo.

8:45 Welcome — Larry W. Wynn, pastor, Hebron Church, Dacula, Ga.

8:50 Response — Paul Box, retired foreign missionary, Oklahoma City

8:55 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers

9:00 Crossover Atlanta

9:05 Theme Devotion — Empowered in our Cooperation — Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer, Executive Committee, Nashville

9:15 Report — Denominational Press — Herb Hollinger, vice president for convention news, Executive Committee, Nashville

9:25 Report — Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary — Stephen P. Carleton, secretary/treasurer, Nashville

9:35 Introduction of Business and Resolutions

9:50 Theme Devotion — Empowered in the Churches — Robert E. Naylor, president emeritus, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

10:00 Report — Executive Committee (Part 1) — Morris Chapman

10:55 Report — Stewardship Commission — Ronald E. Chandler, president, Nashville

11:05 Congregational Singing, Special Music

11:20 President's Address — James B. "Jim" Henry, SBC president, pastor, First Church, Orlando

12:00 Benediction

1:00 Music for Inspiration

1:20 Congregational Singing, Prayer

1:25 Business — Committee on Order of Business (second report) — Fred Powell; Introduction of Business and Resolutions

1:35 Theme Devotion — Empowered in the Scriptures — W.A. Criswell, senior pastor emeritus, First Church, Dallas

1:45 Report — Southern Baptist Foundation — Hollis E. Johnson III, president, Nashville

1:55 Congregational Singing

2:00 Report — Radio and Television Commission — Jack B. Johnson, president, Fort Worth

2:10 Messenger Information Survey

2:20 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives

2:30 Committee on Nominations Report — Bob Hutchinson, chairman, pastor, First

Church, Austell, Ga.

2:40 Election of Officers (first)

2:55 Executive Committee Report (part 2) — Morris H. Chapman

3:55 Theme Devotion — Empowered in our Distinctives — Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Church, Oklahoma City

4:05 Special Music

4:10 Committee on Committees Report

4:20 Denominational Calendar Report — W. Wade Burleson, chairman, pastor, Emmanuel

Church, Enid, Okla.

4:25 Introduction of Business and Resolutions

4:40 Election of Officers (second)

4:55 Benediction

6:00 Music for Inspiration

6:25 Congregational Singing, Prayer

6:30 Report — Sunday School Board — James T. Draper Jr., president, Nashville

6:40 Sunday School Board Presentation

7:00 Theme Devotion — Empowered in Sunday School — James L. Sullivan, retired president, Sunday School Board

7:10 Committee on Order of Business (third report) — Fred Powell

7:15 Congregational Singing

7:20 Previously Scheduled Business and Introduction of New Business and Resolutions

7:35 Election of Officers (third)

7:45 Sesquicentennial Presentation — Empowered for the Unfinished Task (Part 1) — A look

at the past through music and drama

8:45 Benediction

8:30 Music for Inspiration

8:40 Congregational Singing, Prayer

8:45 Introduction of Local Arrangement Committee

8:50 Theme Devotion — Empowered in Evangelism — Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth

9:00 Report — Baptist World Alliance — Denton Lotz, general secretary, McLean, Va.

9:10 Congregational Singing

9:15 Bold Mission Thrust Report — Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president, Executive Committee, Nashville

9:25 Election of Officers (fourth)

9:30 Introduction of Past Presidents — Jim Henry

9:35 Seminary Presentation and Reports — William O. Crews, president, GGBTS; Milton Ferguson, president, MBTS; Kenneth S. Hemphill, SBTS; Landrum P. Leavell II, interim president, NOBTS; R. Albert Mohler Jr., president, SBTS; Paige Patterson, president, SEBTS.

10:35 Congregational Singing

10:40 Business — Committee on Order of Business (fourth report) — Fred Powell; Introduction of Business (last time)

10:50 Previously Scheduled Business

11:10 Committee on Resolutions (first report)

11:20 Election of Officers (fifth)

11:25 Special Music

11:35 Convention Sermon — R. Albert Mohler Jr.

12:15 Benediction

6:00 Music for Inspiration

6:25 Congregational Singing, Prayer

6:30 Business — Committee on Order of Business (fifth report) — Fred Powell; Election of Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate, and Music Director 1996

6:35 Congregational Singing

6:40 Theme Devotion — Empowered in Missions — Alma Hunt, former executive secretary,

WEDNESDAY  
Evening

Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.

6:50 Report — Woman's Missionary Union — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, Birmingham

7:00 Report — Brotherhood Commission — James D. Williams, president, Memphis

7:10 Report — Home Mission Board — Larry L. Lewis, president, Atlanta

7:20 Report — Foreign Mission Board — Jerry A. Rankin, president, Richmond, Va.

7:30 Foreign and Home Mission Board Presentation — Empowered for the Unfinished Task (Part 2) — A challenge for the future

8:30 Commitment Invitation — Jim Henry

8:40 Benediction

8:30 Music for Inspiration

8:50 Congregational Singing, prayer

8:55 Report — American Bible Society — Eugene B. Habecker, president and chief executive officer, New York

9:05 Memorial Service

9:10 Report — Education Commission — Stephen P. Carleton, executive director, Nashville

9:20 Report — Annuity Board — Paul W. Powell, president, Dallas

9:30 Theme Devotion — Empowered in the Laity — Greg Horton, layman, Temple Church, Simpsonville, S.C.

9:40 Report — Historical Commission — Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville

9:50 Report — Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group — Larry L. Lewis

10:00 Report — Christian Life Commission — Richard D. Land, executive director, Nashville

10:10 Theme Devotion — Empowered in Education — Paige Patterson

10:20 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers

10:25 Introduction of Newly Elected SBC Officers

10:30 Congregational Singing

10:35 Previously Scheduled Business

10:45 Committee on Resolutions (final report)

10:55 Tribute to Billy Graham — Morris Chapman

11:00 Special Music — George Beverly Shea, soloist, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Minneapolis

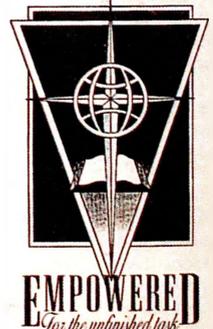
11:10 Introduction — Jim Henry

11:15 Message — Billy Graham, evangelist, Montreat, N.C.

12:00 Benediction

WEDNESDAY  
Morning

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
150 YEARS



©Nashville 2000 SBC 150

# SBC messengers to act on 'Covenant for a New Century'

**Editor's Note:** The following report of the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee was approved by a 64-3 vote of the SBC Executive Committee in February. To take effect, it must be approved by SBC messengers at two consecutive annual meetings. It will be presented to the SBC body in June in Atlanta.

## The Mission of the SBC

"Go Ye." The Southern Baptist Convention was established in 1845 by missionary Baptist churches who were committed to cooperation in the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the spirit and substance of its founding, the new convention of Baptist churches made clear its missionary commitment, evangelistic vision, and its Baptist convictions.

Thus, the convention stated clearly and forcefully its purpose as "eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the Baptist denomination of Christians, for the propagation of the Gospel."

That sacred purpose has stood unaltered for 150 years — a century and a half of faithful service and God-blessed cooperation.

We are convinced that this founding vision remains the passion and purpose of the Southern Baptist Convention and its churches. The vision has remained vivid and clear through times of trial, testing, and triumph. It has stood unchanged through 150 years of remarkable change and social transformation. That commitment has been maintained though the world itself has changed.

Even in this age of transformation, the mission of our convention remains the same — to cooperate in mission and ministry so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be preached throughout the world. Before turning to issues of structure, we must focus upon the spirit of the convention — its essential mission.

The convention is most fundamentally a fellowship of churches — not a bureaucratic organization. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded his church to go and make disciples. That commission, "Go Ye," is the Lord's instruction to the church for which he died. In obedience to that commission, and in keeping with Baptist polity, we believe that the mission of the Southern Baptist Convention is as expressed in this statement:

**The Southern Baptist Convention exists to facilitate, extend, and enlarge the Great Commission ministries of Southern Baptist churches, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, upon the authority of Holy Scripture, and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.**

This mission statement is consistent with the founding vision of the denomination. It is faithful to the congregational polity of our churches, and it expresses the evangelical faith of our fundamental theological affirmations. This mission statement is worthy of a covenant, a solemn agreement among Southern Baptists that resources of the Southern Baptist Convention will be invested effectively to assist churches in carrying out the Great Commission with unwavering submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the

authority of Holy Scripture, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. By this standard we must measure our denominational structures, institutions, and programs. In the spirit of this covenant we must create and maintain structure that serves the accomplishment of our shared mission to the greatest standard of faithfulness and our most careful stewardship.

Over the past one and one-half years, this committee has reviewed our programs and structures in light of this central mission. We have considered these issues in light of both the historical context and contemporary challenges. Our commitment has been to keep this sacred mission as our constant focus and guide. The following is our report.

## 150 Years of Mission

When first organized, the Southern Baptist Convention had established only two mission boards: a Foreign Mission Board and a Domestic Mission Board. Though many in the convention were ambitious to see the young denomination establish work in publications and theological education, the convention focused its energies and structures toward the task of home and foreign missions.

The world of 1845 is far distant from the world in 1995 as we now look into the 21st century. The nation was largely rural, and Southern Baptist churches were concentrated in just a few southern states. Not yet a century old, the young nation was divided by sectional strife. Travel was difficult, the economy was largely agricultural, and the population was dispersed in towns, villages, and farms.

The massive social transformations of the last 150 years can be seen in the changing work of the two mission boards. The domestic missions task of 1845 was focused upon the evangelization of Native Americans and spreading the Gospel on the expanding frontier. The Foreign Mission Board sent missionaries to distant lands, when travel was a dangerous journey by boat, and communication was rare and difficult.

Now, even as the nation has expanded, Southern Baptist churches are serving in all 50 states. The demographic shifts toward the West, into urban centers, and throughout the Sun Belt have been matched in impact by the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity which now marks the American people. The Gospel has not changed — but the mission field has changed radically.

The same is true for foreign missions. The technological revolutions of the modern age have opened avenues of mission advance and allowed both rapid deployment and immediate communication. We have shifted from a seafaring mission force located in a handful of nations to an airborne global mission force, with over 4,000 missionaries serving in more than 125 nations. Missiological technologies and strategies have been transformed, but the mission remains the same.

Our concern is that the convention keep its primary focus on its founding vision — and on our shared mission. Every question, no matter how difficult; every is-

sure, no matter how complex, must be measured by this standard: How can Southern Baptists accomplish our mission to the greatest level of faithfulness and the highest standard of stewardship?

## The Mission Expands

Over 150 years, the convention has expanded its work from the two mission boards to a system of specialized agencies. Theological education was an early concern, but it was not until 1859 that the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was established. By the 1960s, Southern Baptists were served by six seminaries, located in Kentucky, Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina, California, and Missouri.

The Sunday School Board, founded in 1891, is now the world's largest religious publisher and church service organization. Its publications and programs are designed for the churches of this convention and the strengthening of their ministries.

Other structures were added throughout the years as the convention expanded its work and responded to the challenges of the day. These include the American Baptist Seminary Commission (1913), the Christian Life Commission (1913), the Education Commission (1915), the Executive Committee (1917), the Brotherhood Commission (1918), the Annuity Board (1918), the Radio and Television Commission (1946), the Southern Baptist Foundation (1947), the Historical Commission (1951), and the Stewardship Commission (1960).

Some structures, such as the Baptist Hospital Commission, served for a period but were later discontinued — not because Southern Baptists retreated from the challenge, but because the structure no longer served the convention's central mission.

## Constant Mission/Changing Times

We are no longer a small, rural, Southern denomination of churches. The Southern Baptist Convention is now the nation's largest non-Roman Catholic denomination, with over 38,000 churches and over 15 million members. Our challenge as a convention is to review and measure our structures and programs by our first commitment — our constant mission.

Charged with this task, our committee has conducted a thorough process of study and review. We have interviewed the executives of our agencies and met with representatives of various constituencies and the executive directors of the state Baptist conventions. We have asked and received from our agencies their own reflections and projections concerning their work and mission.

We have asked hard questions and faced complex issues. We are convinced that Southern Baptists are ready to move into the Third Millennium with structures and programs that are forward-focused, mission-centered, and committed to excellence. As a people, we will maintain our covenant with each other to exercise the most careful stewardship of the resources Southern Baptist churches invest in mission through the Southern Baptist Convention, and we will seek in every way to be most faithful to the Gospel and our missionary mandate.

This is the time for Southern Baptists to act — to address these issues with the confidence that Christ has called us to an ever-expanding mission. In so doing we face one of the striking paradoxes of our age: In an era of expanding mission we are convinced that we need a streamlined structure.

## Ministry Assignments

We believe that our focus should no longer be on program assignments, but on ministry assignments. By such an assignment, the convention directs its agencies to serve the mission of its churches through focused ministry responsibilities. The goal is the fulfillment of ministry — not the accomplishment of mere programs.

Thus, the structures of the Southern Baptist Convention should minister to the churches and facilitate the mission and ministries of those churches. The structures should emerge out of the mission — never should the mission be conformed to the structures.

## The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

In light of the contemporary mission challenge, we recommend that the two mission boards be redefined in strategic purpose and focus. We recommend that the Foreign Mission Board be renamed "The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention" and that it maintain its historic focus upon mission advance outside the United States and Canada. The shift in missiological context from national definitions to the identification of "people groups" recognizes changes which have already taken place on mission fields. Furthermore, the older dichotomy between "foreign" and "home" missions has been transcended by more contemporary designations.

## The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

We recommend that the Home Mission Board, the Radio and Television Commission, and the Brotherhood Commission be consolidated into "The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention" to be located in Atlanta, Georgia. This new agency would be assigned primary responsibility for evangelistic witness and mission advance in the United States and Canada.

The assignment of this new agency is reaching the United States and Canada for Christ, using every appropriate means of evangelization and church planting. By bringing the assignment and resources of the current Radio and Television Commission into this structure, the new board will include as a strategic focus the use of communication technologies in the evangelization of North America.

The current Brotherhood Commission will bring to this new board the focus upon the mobilization of volunteers for mission, disaster ministries, and missions education.

The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention consist of three major divisions:

- A. North American Evangelization
- B. Mission Technologies and

Communications

C. Mission Volunteers and Education

The Board of Trustees of the North American Mission Board will elect a president who will serve as chief executive officer of the new board and will provide administrative leadership for the total board structure. Each of the three major divisions will be led by a vice president/chief operating officer.

The agency will be governed by a 75-member board of trustees composed of the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and 74 trustees elected by the convention. Beginning in June 1997, this board shall consist of the trustees of the current entities serving a second term. Thereafter, the board will assume a normal rotation pattern.

The Southern Baptist Convention should remain a national body with churches located in the United States of America. The convention should continue to relate to the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists as a separate and autonomous Baptist convention. We recommend that the North American Mission Board be assigned responsibility for representing the Southern Baptist Convention in its relations with the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists in the development of a mission strategy. The focus on North American missions will maximize the cultural, language, and geographic relationships between the American and Canadian peoples.

Cooperation between the North American Mission Board, the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, and Baptist state conventions will be essential to the development of a North American missions strategy for the 21st century. Cooperative agreements between these bodies will continue to frame the working relationships which will facilitate mission advance. Such agreements should be maintained and enhanced in terms of cooperation and stewardship.

In 1959 the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a denominational strategy which encouraged the state conventions to assume primary responsibility for developing and funding mission strategies within their state boundaries, thus avoiding duplication and confusion of strategy and resources. This principle, though never fully implemented, remains valid and should be reflected in the Cooperative Agreements adopted by the North American Mission Board and the state conventions.

We recommend that the North American Mission Board be charged to focus upon direct mission strategies with primary attention to direct evangelism and church planting. Thus, the four major gains accomplished by this new structure and focus are:

A. A clearer definition of the relationships between the state conventions and the North American Mission Board, and an affirmation of the responsibility of established state conventions for work in their own areas.

B. A comprehensive front-line communications strategy for evangelism and missions, made possible by the consolidation of the Home Mission Board and the

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Radio and Television Commission. C. The ministry responsibility for Church Growth in established churches is clearly assigned to the Baptist Sunday School Board — and the North American Missions Board is freed to focus on church planting and the growth of new congregations.

D. The total number of NAMB trustees is approximately one-half of the total serving the present agencies, thus saving expenses and streamlining governance.

## Coordination

We are convinced that greater coordination and cooperation between the two mission boards will be necessary in our rapidly changing global environment. Tremendous shifts on the world stage and developing national and international patterns indicate that such cooperation will be required, even as the pace of change makes such cooperation more difficult. Though some have suggested the consolidation of the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board, we are convinced that such a union would compromise two different missiological strategies and confuse our missions vision.

Nevertheless, redefinition, focus, and rethinking are in order as we approach the third millennium. The recommendation detailed above combines the strengths of our established pattern of two mission boards with the benefits of an updated and focused missions strategy.

We recommend the formation of a "Great Commission Council" which will serve the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board by meeting regularly for consideration of mission strategies and the deployment of mission resources. The goal will be maximum faithfulness in our Great Commission task. This 14-member council will consist of the two board presidents, three vice presidents from each of the boards, the chairpersons of the two Boards of Trustees, and two other trustees chosen by the chairpersons of each board.

The Great Commission Council will advise the convention and its Executive Committee concerning mission issues, needs, and advance.<sup>5</sup>

## Church Enrichment Ministries: Strengthening Congregations in Ministry and Mission

The primary focus of the Sunday School Board should be on assisting and enriching Southern Baptist churches as they minister in the name of Jesus Christ. The Board's six present ministries of Bible Teaching/Reaching, Discipleship Training, Church Music, Church Administration, Church Media Library, and Church Recreation should be understood within one comprehensive ministry assignment. The goal should be to provide a complete and balanced program of assistance for local churches as those congregations develop their own ministries.

The Baptist Sunday School Board will continue in its established ministry assignments, but it is also charged with new assignments, including ministries to men and women, stewardship education, and capital fund raising.

We identify the need for a comprehensive strategy of ministry to men and women as one of the priority issues for the denomination's

future. We recommend that the Sunday School Board be responsible for assisting churches in providing ministries that are specifically designed for contemporary men and women. The BSSB is already charged with responsibility for family ministry, and this ministry for men and women will also relate well to the board's work in discipleship development and publishing.

We also believe that Stewardship education is best assigned to the Sunday School Board as part of its church services responsibility. Stewardship is a vital concern for the local church, and curricular materials should fit within the Board's charge to provide a comprehensive ministry to the local church. We recommend that this assignment, currently assigned to the Stewardship Commission, be a ministry assignment of the Sunday School Board.

Capital fund programs should complement the church architecture assignment of the board, and would be best promoted and coordinated through the established structures of the Sunday School Board.

The Sunday School Board will assist churches in understanding our Baptist history and heritage and in using the understanding in decision-making and planning.

We also recommend that the Sunday School Board be assigned responsibility for church growth in keeping with the assignment to assist churches in the development of church ministries. Thus, church growth — focused on established congregations — is distinguished from church planting, which is assigned to the North American Mission Board.

## Theological Education:

### The Training of Ministers

We underscore that Southern Baptists are committed to quality theological education for the training and preparation of ministers for our churches. We affirm the essential role of the seminaries in ministerial education and preparation. Southern Baptists now conduct programs of theological education through six national seminaries, which are servants of our churches.

The Executive Committee will assist in the coordination of theological education in cooperation with the presidents of the seminaries. We recommend that the six seminary presidents comprise a "Council of Seminary Presidents" which will represent the cause of theological education and provide coordination of the total program of theological education.

The seminaries will continue to provide programs of theological education by extension, with the Council of Seminary Presidents providing governance and direction. The proposed theological education ministry assignments are consistent with current program assignments.

### American Baptist Theological Seminary

Established in 1924, American Baptist Theological Seminary is a Nashville institution supported by both Southern Baptists and the National Baptist Convention, Inc. The school, which offers baccalaureate and pre-baccalaureate studies, was founded "for the training of Negro ministers and religious workers." The SBC is represented in this work by the 16-member

Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, elected by the convention. Currently, 175 students are enrolled in regular programs of study and 570 students study by extension.

The American Baptist Theological Seminary is a legacy of an age of racial discrimination, when African-American students were not allowed to enroll in the convention-supported seminaries. At present, black students are enrolled in significant numbers in all six of our seminaries. We recommend that Southern Baptists move further toward racial inclusion by dissolving the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary and granting sole responsibility for the institution to the National Baptist Convention, Inc. We celebrate the contributions made by the American Baptist Theological Seminary over the past seven decades, but we are convinced that this is no longer the appropriate structure for Southern Baptist support of African-American Baptist leadership. Instead, the appropriate programs of such study and preparation are conducted by the six SBC seminaries and their program of Seminary Extension.

### Preserving the

### Denominational Heritage

We affirm the importance of preserving our denominational history and heritage. We must protect the legacy which we have inherited from our Baptist forebears and trace the lineage of faithfulness which has marked the Baptist experience.

Since 1951 the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has served the denomination by providing an historical emphasis. We are convinced that these important services can and should be provided by other convention agencies.

The proliferation of separate commissions was characteristic of an era of organizational expansion, when separate entities were considered necessary for each distinctive purpose. We believe that this impulse should not frame our current denominational strategy or structure. The standard of stewardship demands that we reconsider these issues in terms of the total denominational mission and structure.

Thus, we recommend that the six seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, already charged with responsibility for teaching Baptist history, be assigned to preserve the history of our denomination; that the Council of Seminary Presidents provide oversight and administration for the operation of the "Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives" to be located in the SBC Building in Nashville; and that the Sunday School Board be assigned responsibility for assisting churches in the study and promotion of Baptist history through its church curricula.

### Baptist Higher Education

We believe that the criteria of mission fulfillment and maximum stewardship also require that Southern Baptists reconsider the work of the Education Commission. This commission, established in 1915, is responsible for five programs, including Christian education leadership and coordination, college studies and services,

teacher-personnel placement, student recruitment, and convention relations. The Education Commission also serves in cooperation with the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, an autonomous body sponsored by the cooperating institutions.

Southern Baptists are no longer a denomination of small and struggling educational institutions. The state conventions sponsor more than 50 colleges and universities, and the need for the Education Commission is no longer what was seen by those who established the commission in 1915.

We recommend that the Education Commission be dissolved, and that its programs, except for the administration of funded scholarship programs, be discontinued or transferred to the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, should that body determine to exercise such leadership and assume these programs. The administration of funded scholarship programs will be assigned to the Southern Baptist Foundation that presently manages the investment of the funds.

Specifically, the Association may maintain the teacher-personnel placement registry, assume responsibility for representing their own interests in legal and governmental settings, and sponsor whatever training and promotional events as the Association may choose.

We affirm and appreciate the good work of the Cooperative Services International Educational Consortium, which has extended the work of Southern Baptists into many foreign nations through teacher and student exchanges. Nevertheless, we believe that the important work of the CSIEC is best conducted through the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools in coordination with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

### Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty

The central responsibility of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention is to apply Christian truth to the moral issues of the day and to promote religious liberty as a cherished Baptist distinctive. The Southern Baptist Convention has expanded the important work of the Christian Life Commission in recent years, including the explicit assignment of religious liberty promotion.

We recommend that the name of the Christian Life Commission be changed to "The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention," thus reflecting its expanded assignment and clarifying its ministry to the convention and on behalf of its churches. This name will more accurately and clearly identify the nature and purpose of the commission's assignment and will help the general public and government agencies to understand the commission's work.

### Facilitating Ministries:

### Supporting the Convention and the Churches

In our consideration of the programs and structures of the convention, it was clear that a fundamental distinction should be drawn between those entities which ministered directly to the churches or extended the missionary reach of those churches, and the entities which served to facilitate the work of the churches and the convention.

### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention

serves as the convention ad interim (between annual sessions) and manages the affairs of the convention not otherwise assigned. It is also specifically charged to provide a denominational news service and to represent the convention to the public.

We recommend that the Executive Committee be assigned the responsibilities previously assigned to the Southern Baptist Foundation. This recommendation is made in light of financial stewardship and increased effectiveness. The Executive Committee would thus be assigned responsibility for estate planning consultation and investment management.

This transfer of assignment and responsibility would produce significant savings by reducing personnel and the costs of maintaining a separate board structure. Provision will be made for coordination of related issues among the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention, especially as these relate to estate planning and institutional investments.

We also recommend that the Executive Committee be charged to fulfill the Cooperative Program Promotion assignment currently held by the Stewardship Commission. This facilitating ministry of cooperative giving advancement is consistent with the Executive Committee's responsibilities for interpreting the work of the SBC to Southern Baptists and for receiving and distributing Cooperative Program funds.

These actions will save thousands of dollars each year through decreased personnel and trustee costs, with no loss of service or effectiveness. The Executive Committee will consult with state convention leadership in developing strategies and programs for the promotion of the Cooperative Program.

### Annuity Board

We recommend that the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention be assigned its current programs of retirement annuities for churches and other denominational entities, insurance services, and ministers relief. We also recommend that the Annuity Board's programs be limited to (1) church employees qualified by state conventions, (2) employees of qualified Baptist associations, (3) employees of state conventions and their subsidiaries, and (4) employees of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention and their subsidiaries.

### Ministry Statements

#### International Mission Board of the

#### Southern Baptist Convention

1. Assist churches by appointing and supporting international missions personnel.

2. Assist churches by evangelizing persons and planting churches in other nations, except Canada.

3. Assist churches by meeting human needs and establishing need-based ministries in other nations, except Canada.

4. Assist churches by enlisting mission volunteers and coordinating the work of mission volunteers in other nations, except Canada.

#### North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

1. Assist churches by the appointment and support of missionaries in the United States and Canada.

2. Assist churches in the ministry of evangelism.

3. Assist churches in the establishment of new congregations.

4. Assist churches through

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Christian social ministries.

5. Assist churches through the involvement and coordination of their members in volunteer missions throughout the United States and Canada.

6. Assist churches by involving their members in missions and missions education.

7. Assist churches by communicating the Gospel throughout the United States and Canada through communications technologies.

8. Assist churches by strengthening associations and providing services to associations.

9. Assist churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster.

**Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention**

1. Assist churches in the development of church ministries.

2. Assist churches in ministries to college and university students.

3. Assist churches with Christian schools and home school ministries.

4. Assist churches in ministries to men and women.

5. Assist churches through the operation of conference centers and camps.

6. Assist churches through the publication of books and Bibles.

7. Assist churches through the operation of Baptist Book Stores.

8. Assist churches in stewardship education.

9. Assist churches through church architecture consultation and services.

10. Assist churches in capital fund raising.

**Seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention**

1. Assist churches by programs of pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

2. Assist churches by programs of masters level theological education for ministers.

3. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

4. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

5. Assist churches through the administration of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

**Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission**

1. Assist churches in applying the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life.

2. Assist churches through the communication and advocacy of moral and ethical concerns in the public arena.

3. Assist churches in their moral witness in local communities.

4. Assist churches and other Southern Baptist entities by promoting religious liberty.

**Executive Committee**

1. Assist churches through conducting and administering the work of the convention not otherwise assigned.

2. Assist churches by providing a convention news service.

3. Assist churches by providing a convention public relations service.

4. Assist churches, denominational agencies, and state conventions through estate planning consultation and investment management for funds designated in support of denominational causes.

5. Assist churches through co-

operative giving advancement.

**Annuity Board**

1. Assist churches and denominational entities by managing retirement annuities for Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employees.

2. Assist churches and denominational entities by managing insurance services.

3. Assist churches through relief to ministers.

**Ministry Statements to be included in the Organizational Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention**

Ministry statements assigned to each Southern Baptist Convention entity are rooted in and measured by our shared mission. The charge assigned to each entity is founded upon the conviction that the entities of the convention exist to serve the churches, their ministries, and mission. The statements have been developed in order that each entity will serve the convention's mission to the greatest standard of faithfulness and the maximum standard of stewardship.

These Ministry Statements will replace the present Program Statements as assigned to the entities of the convention. The Ministry Statements, a statement of cooperation, a listing of relationships for cooperation, and details of the process of cooperation will be published in the *Organizational Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention* as required by SBC Bylaw 20,(5),(m).<sup>\*</sup>

Each entity will be required to file an Annual Ministry Plan with the Southern Baptist Convention through the Executive Committee in its budget planning process. The institutions will include a review and evaluation of the fulfillment of the Ministry Plan in each year's report to the Southern Baptist Convention, as published in the *Book of Reports* released at the convention.<sup>\*</sup>

**International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention**

The International Mission Board exists to assist the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention to be on mission with God in penetrating the unevangelized world outside the United States and Canada with the Gospel and making Christ known among all people.

**MINISTRIES**

1. ASSIST CHURCHES BY APPOINTING AND SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS PERSONNEL.

Find, appoint, arrange support for, equip, and send God-called Southern Baptist missionaries and other missions personnel who give evidence of piety, zeal for their Master's kingdom, conviction of truth as held by Baptists, and talents for missionary service.

2. ASSIST CHURCHES BY EVANGELIZING PERSONS AND PLANTING CHURCHES IN OTHER NATIONS, EXCEPT CANADA.

Maintain a systematic and organized program for Gospel proclamation and the winning of persons to Christ; give needed assistance to the organizing and strengthening of churches; develop or assist national Baptist unions in developing schools and other programs to prepare Christian leaders for churches; produce and

distribute electronic and print media products that support evangelism and church development; facilitate translation and distribution of the Bible and Scripture portions in indigenous languages.

3. ASSIST CHURCHES BY MEETING HUMAN NEEDS AND ESTABLISHING NEED-BASED MINISTRIES IN OTHER NATIONS, EXCEPT CANADA.

Provide, or support appropriate local entities in providing, health care and other human need ministries such as hospitals, clinics, community health programs, development programs, hunger relief, and other special projects.

4. ASSIST CHURCHES BY ENLISTING MISSION VOLUNTEERS AND COORDINATING THE WORK OF MISSION VOLUNTEERS IN OTHER NATIONS, EXCEPT CANADA.

Inform Southern Baptists about the needs and opportunities for volunteers to assist in the ministries of the International Mission Board; provide a channel through which volunteers may become involved in projects of various durations; provide information and resources for volunteer training.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

The International Mission Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention agency relationship guidelines approved by the Inter-Agency Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

**North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention**

The North American Mission Board exists to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, start New Testament congregations, and minister to persons in the name of Christ and to assist churches in the United States and Canada in effectively performing these functions.

**MINISTRIES**

1. ASSIST CHURCHES BY THE APPOINTMENT AND SUPPORT OF MISSIONARIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

Appoint, approve, support, and equip career missions personnel; endorse chaplains; enlist and assist bivocational ministers in mission service.

2. ASSIST CHURCHES IN THE MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM.

Serve as a channel in motivating and helping churches, associations, and state conventions to develop and implement effective strategies of evangelism; implement direct evangelism projects in strategic areas.

3. ASSIST CHURCHES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CONGREGATIONS.

Work in partnership with churches, associations, and state conventions to start new congregations among all people groups; implement direct church starting projects in strategic areas.

4. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH CHRISTIAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES.

Work with churches, associations, and state conventions in ministering to people with distinctive needs, seeking to bring them to wholeness in Jesus Christ; implement direct ministry projects in strategic areas.

5. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH THE INVOLVEMENT AND COORDINATION OF THEIR MEMBERS IN VOLUNTEER MISSIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

Coordinate volunteer enlistment and training for volunteer mission and ministry projects in the United States and Canada; assist the International Mission Board in volunteer enlistment and training.

6. ASSIST CHURCHES BY INVOLVING AND EDUCATING THEIR MEMBERS IN MISSIONS AND MISSIONS EDUCATION.

Develop organizations, services, and materials for establishing, enlarging, and improving missions and ministry learning and involvement experiences in churches, associations, state conventions, and Canada.

7. ASSIST CHURCHES BY COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA THROUGH COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES.

Produce and present radio and television programming that extends the message of Southern Baptist churches; provide counseling services to persons who respond to radio and television programs; assist churches, associations, state conventions, and Southern Baptist Convention entities to effectively use radio and television in accomplishing their tasks.

8. ASSIST CHURCHES BY STRENGTHENING ASSOCIATIONS AND PROVIDING SERVICES TO ASSOCIATIONS.

Strengthen the work of associations by assisting them in developing, resourcing, and implementing effective strategies that undergird churches and their work.

9. ASSIST CHURCHES IN RELIEF MINISTRIES TO VICTIMS OF DISASTER.

Provide appropriate assistance to special disaster relief ministries such as the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions and Disaster Relief.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

The North American Mission Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention agency relationship guidelines approved by the Inter-Agency Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

**Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention**

The Sunday School Board exists to assist churches and believers to evangelize the world to Christ, develop believers, and grow churches by being the best provider of relevant, high quality, high value Christian products and services.

**MINISTRIES**

1. ASSIST CHURCHES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHURCH MINISTRIES.

Provide programs, products, and services that help churches grow in the areas of Bible study, discipleship, music, worship, administration, media/library, recreation, fellowship, and family ministry; consult with church leaders regarding total church growth concepts, strategies, and resources.

2. ASSIST CHURCHES IN MINISTRIES TO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing a pro-

gram, products, and services that may be used in establishing, administering, enlarging, and improving ministry with college students, faculty, and administration.

3. ASSIST CHURCHES WITH CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS AND HOME SCHOOL MINISTRIES.

Provide consultation, products, and services needed by churches with Christian schools and members educating through home schools.

4. ASSIST CHURCHES IN MINISTRIES TO MEN AND WOMEN.

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing a program, products, and services that may be used in establishing, administering, and improving ministries to men and women.

5. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH THE OPERATION OF CONFERENCE CENTERS AND CAMPS.

Develop, promote, and operate conference and resident camp facilities useful to Southern Baptist Convention entities, state conventions, associations, and churches in establishing, enlarging, and improving their ministries.

6. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH THE PUBLICATION OF BOOKS AND BIBLES.

Produce, publish, and distribute products, including books, of Christian content and purpose and Bibles that contribute to the effectiveness of churches and individuals.

7. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH THE OPERATION OF BAPTIST BOOK STORES.

Serve people and the churches, associations, state conventions, and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention by distributing appropriate products through Baptist Book Stores.

8. ASSIST CHURCHES IN STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION.

Produce, publish, and distribute products that help Southern Baptists to grow in commitment to Jesus Christ by applying biblical principles of stewardship.

9. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE CONSULTATION AND SERVICES.

Develop products and services needed by Southern Baptist churches, associations, state conventions, and denominational entities to assist them in planning, financing, furnishing, equipping, and utilizing property.

10. ASSIST CHURCHES IN CAPITAL FUND RAISING.

Provide leadership to churches in securing funds for capital needs.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

The Sunday School Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention agency relationship guidelines approved by the Inter-Agency Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

**Theological Seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention**

**MISSION**

Southern Baptist theological seminaries exist to prepare God-called men and women for vocational service in Baptist churches and in other Christian ministries throughout the world through programs of spiritual development, theological studies, and practical preparation in ministry.

**MINISTRIES**

1. ASSIST CHURCHES BY PROGRAMS OF PRE-BAC-

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## CALAUREATE AND BACCALAUREATE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS.

Provide for students who have at least the equivalent of high school education biblical, theological, historical, and practical studies designed to develop ministerial competencies; provide extension study opportunities for persons in church vocations who have not completed college or seminary training, persons not in church vocations who desire theological training which is academically oriented, and seminary-trained persons desiring opportunities for continuing education.

## 2. ASSIST CHURCHES BY PROGRAMS OF MASTER'S LEVEL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS.

Provide theological education leading to a master's degree for those whom the churches recommend as called by God for a lifetime of leadership in the various ministries of the churches and other areas of Christian service.

## 3. ASSIST CHURCHES BY PROGRAMS OF PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS.

Provide advanced theological education for persons who have earned a basic theological degree and have given evidence of capacity for effective performance in ministry to the churches.

## 4. ASSIST CHURCHES BY PROGRAMS OF RESEARCH DOCTORAL EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS AND THEOLOGICAL EDUCATORS.

Provide graduate theological education for persons who have completed their basic theological studies and have given evidence of academic ability and capacity for research, writing, and teaching.

## 5. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES.

Operate the official Southern Baptist Convention library and archives as a national center for the study of Baptists.

### RELATIONSHIPS

Southern Baptist seminaries will work within the Southern Baptist Convention agency relationship guidelines approved by the Inter-Agency Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

### Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

#### MISSION

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission exists to assist the churches by helping them understand the moral demands of the Gospel, apply Christian principles to moral and social problems and questions of public policy, and to promote religious liberty in cooperation with the churches and other Southern Baptist entities.

#### MINISTRIES

1. ASSIST CHURCHES IN APPLYING THE MORAL AND ETHICAL TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Provide research, information resources, consultation, and counsel to denominational entities, churches, and individuals with regard to the application of Christ-

ian principles in everyday living and in the nation's public life.

## 2. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH THE COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY OF MORAL AND ETHICAL CONCERNS IN THE PUBLIC ARENA.

Represent Southern Baptists in communicating the moral and ethical positions of the Southern Baptist Convention to the public and to public officials.

## 3. ASSIST CHURCHES IN THEIR MORAL WITNESS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Provide information resources that inform and equip churches for active moral witness in their communities.

## 4. ASSIST CHURCHES AND OTHER SOUTHERN BAPTIST ENTITIES BY PROMOTING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

Provide information and counsel to denominational entities, churches, and individuals regarding appropriate responses to religious liberty concerns; represent Southern Baptists in communicating the positions of the Southern Baptist Convention on religious liberty issues to the public and to public officials.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission will work within the Southern Baptist Convention agency relationship guidelines approved by the Inter-Agency Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

### Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention

#### MISSION

The Executive Committee exists to minister to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by acting for the convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for in a manner that encourages the cooperation and confidence of the churches, associations, and state conventions and facilitates maximum support for worldwide missions and ministries.

#### MINISTRIES

1. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH CONDUCTING AND ADMINISTERING THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION NOT OTHERWISE ASSIGNED.

Manage according to the Southern Baptist Convention Bylaws, Bylaw 20, The Executive Committee; manage the operation of the Southern Baptist Convention building according to guidelines adopted by building occupants.

## 2. ASSIST CHURCHES BY PROVIDING A CONVENTION NEWS SERVICE.

Provide regular news releases about Southern Baptists; serve as the convention's press representative; coordinate news operations for annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## 3. ASSIST CHURCHES BY PROVIDING A CONVENTION PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICE.

Interpret the Southern Baptist Convention to internal and external publics.

4. ASSIST CHURCHES, DENOMINATIONAL AGENCIES, AND STATE CONVENTIONS THROUGH ESTATE PLANNING CONSULTATION AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FOR FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR SUPPORT OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST CAUSES.

Consult with individuals, denominational agencies, and state conventions regarding wills, gifts, trusts, or deeds which benefit Baptist causes; provide investment management for a balanced portfolio of securities.

## 5. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH COOPERATIVE GIVING ADVANCEMENT.

Consult with state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention entities regarding cooperative giving advancement; interpret the Cooperative Program as the basic channel of support for the ministries of the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The Executive Committee will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Inter-Agency Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

### Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

#### MISSION

The Annuity Board exists to assist the churches and other denominational entities by managing retirement annuity services and providing programs of insurance for ministers and other full-time employees.

#### MINISTRIES

1. ASSIST CHURCHES AND DENOMINATIONAL ENTITIES BY MANAGING RETIREMENT ANNUITIES FOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST MINISTERS AND DENOMINATIONAL EMPLOYEES.

Make available and manage age-retirement annuity plans for all Southern Baptist ministers and other full-time denominational employees, supplementary widow's annuity plans for all members of any retirement annuity plan, supplementary disability plans for all members of any retirement annuity plan, supplementary retirement plans, and added family protection.

2. ASSIST CHURCHES AND DENOMINATIONAL ENTITIES BY MANAGING INSURANCE SERVICES.

Design, develop, and provide medical, hospital, life, and risk management insurance programs to respond to the needs of churches and denominational entities.

## 3. ASSIST CHURCHES THROUGH RELIEF TO MINISTERS.

Provide a channel through which Southern Baptists can extend systematic financial help to Southern Baptist ministers or widows of ministers who are in need; interpret the channel to Southern Baptists for the purpose of eliciting financial support.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The Annuity Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention agency relationship guidelines approved by the Inter-Agency Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

#### Implementation

Full implementation of the "Covenant for a New Century" report will require revisions of the governing documents of the Southern Baptist Convention and time adequate to accomplish the transition.

Upon approval of the Report by

the Southern Baptist Convention (June 1995), the Executive Committee will implement the changes required by the report on behalf of the convention. The Executive Committee will implement the necessary changes, including all legal and organizational revisions, according to a Transition Plan it will report to the convention in 1996. Barring legal complications, the new structure will be in place and functioning by the close of the SBC annual meeting in June 1997. Further implementation in 1997-2000 will include the development of ministries.

Trustees of entities to be dissolved will continue in office until the dissolution or reorganization of the entity is completed.

We recommend that the Southern Baptist Convention authorize its Executive Committee, with the assistance of the Program and Structure Study Committee, to oversee and implement these recommendations — including all necessary legal action — in coordination with the entities of the convention and report annually to the Southern Baptist Convention for five years, according to the following schedule:

#### Legal Process — Report to the SBC June 17-19, 1997

(1) September 1996 — Executive Committee adopts implementation plans for revising legal processes.

(2) February 1997 — Executive Committee reviews progress in legal processes necessary for full implementation of approved organizational structure.

(3) June 17, 1997 — Executive Committee reports to SBC on legal process development and recommends approval of required legal documents.

#### New Organizational Structure — Report to the SBC June 9-11, 1998

(1) September 1997 — Executive Committee reviews plans for completion of new organizational structure.

(2) February 1998 — Executive Committee reviews progress in development of new organizational structure.

(3) June 8, 1998 — Executive Committee reviews status of implementation of new organization structure for presentation to SBC.

(4) June 9, 1998 — Executive Committee reports to SBC implementation of new organizational structure.

#### New Ministries in Place — Report to the SBC June 15-17, 1999

(1) September 1998 — Executive Committee reviews progress and plans for having new ministries in place by June 14, 1999.

(2) February 1999 — Executive Committee reviews progress in implementing new ministries as assigned.

(3) June 14, 1999 — Executive Committee reviews status of implementation of new ministries for presentation to SBC.

(4) June 15, 1999 — Executive Committee reports implementation of new ministries to SBC.

#### Final Implementation — Report to the SBC June 13-15, 2000

(1) September 1999 — Executive Committee reviews plans for full implementation of approved program and structure by June 2000.

(2) February 2000 — Executive Committee reviews progress in full implementation of approved program and structure.

(3) June 13, 2000 — Executive Committee reports to the SBC final implementation of approved

program and structure for major advance in ministry in the third millennium.

This schedule provides that all processes will be completed and the Southern Baptist Convention will be fully prepared to fulfill this "Covenant for a New Century" with spirit and structure to match the needs of a rapidly changing world with the unchanging Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Program and Structure Study Committee

Mark A. Brister, chairman; Ronnie W. Floyd; William K. Hall; Greg Horton; R. Albert Mohler, Jr.; Robert L. Sorrell; and Rex M. Terry

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Charter of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1845.

<sup>2</sup>The three current agencies are served by a total of 148 trustees. The 75 members of the board of trustees for the new NAMB will include 44 members of the HMB, 15 commissioners of the Brotherhood Commission, and 15 commissioners of the Radio and Television Commission, plus the SBC president.

<sup>3</sup>In adopting this report the convention is interpreting Bylaw 16(9) to mean that a term on the NAMB will be considered "an authorized subsequent term of service" on the HMB, Radio and Television Commission, or the Brotherhood Commission. Thus, such persons will serve the remainder of their respective terms of service as previously elected by the convention.

<sup>4</sup>An analysis of mission funding patterns among state conventions indicates that those conventions with total church membership which includes 10 percent or more of their resident state populations have resources adequate to fund their evangelism and mission staff and programs. The NAMB, through the Cooperative Agreements, encourages these state conventions to fund their internal mission strategies while continuing to support the national and international ministries of the SBC through the Cooperative Program and the recognized mission offerings. We are convinced that a greater percentage of total North American mission funds must be directed to pioneer mission areas and the major metropolitan areas of the U.S. and Canada. Note: The state convention regions which currently show a Baptist population of less than 10 percent are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas-Nebraska, Maryland-Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Nevada, New England, New Mexico, New York, Northwest, Ohio, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, Utah-Idaho, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming, Dakotas, Iowa, and Montana.

<sup>5</sup>We recommend that the two mission boards assume primary responsibility for promoting their own mission offerings: the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

<sup>6</sup>*Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, Volume 1* (Nashville: Broadman Press), p. 42.

<sup>7</sup>Ministry statements are assigned only to SBC entities governed by the convention. Thus, Woman's Missionary Union, governed by directors elected by state WMU organizations, is not assigned a ministry statement.

<sup>8</sup>The reports will cover a three-year cycle. In a current year the entity will report to the convention concerning its evaluation and review of the fulfillment of the Ministry Plan for the previously completed year, and it will file with the Executive Committee a Ministry Plan for the next institutional year. The Executive Committee will receive the reports as information, but will not approve, reject, or amend the reports. □

# TenneScene ■ the people, their work

## ■ 'Here's Hope' revivals

■ **First Church, Oliver Springs**, will have its revival April 30 - May 3. Charles "Toonie" Cash will speak and Ron Spencer, minister of music, Second Church, Clinton, will lead the music. On May 1 at 6:45 p.m. the Bread of Life Quartet will sing prior to the service.

## ■ the churches

■ **First Church, Lafayette**, will hold revival May 14-17. Phil Glisson, evangelist from Memphis, will speak.

■ **Park Avenue Church, Nashville**, will celebrate debt retirement May 7 on its education building which cost about \$750,000.

■ **Hopewell Springs Church, Madisonville**, held a noteburning service on its \$100,000 building, which the members paid off in just three years.

■ **First Church, Poca-hontas**, is renovating its buildings.

■ Jim Harvey, interim pastor, Inglewood Church, Nashville, will lead an April 23-26 revival at **Lockeland Church, Nashville**.

■ During the March 12-17 revival of **First Church, Greeneville**, 69 people made spiritual decisions. Of those, 41 made professions of faith and one person committed to full-time ministry. As many as

140 students from Greeneville High School attended noonday services. Perry Neal was the evangelist and Bill Michael the musician.

■ **Immanuel Church, Lebanon**, had a revival which resulted in 37 people making professions of faith. Henry Linginfelter, evangelist from Alcoa, spoke.

■ **First Church, Sparta**, will hold revival May 14-17.

■ **Meridian Church, Knoxville**, will hold a May 7-10 revival with Ron Herrod, evangelist from Oak Ridge.

■ A May 14-17 revival will be held by **First Church, Sparta**.

■ A team from Union University, Jackson, led by Brad Witt from Birmingham, Ala., will lead an April 28-30 revival at **Cloverport Church, Cloverport**.

■ **New Song Church, Mount Pleasant**, will celebrate its second anniversary with a music program May 7 at the Rattle and Snap Show Barn beginning at 2 p.m. Groups singing will be Perfect Heart, CrosSing, and New Creation.

■ **Trinity Church, Bolivar**, will hold revival June 4-7. Each night a different person will speak.

■ **Riverview Church, Loudon**, had revival April 2-5 with Ronnie Owens of Clinton speaking. As a result several people recommitted their lives to God and three were baptized.

■ **Bethel Church, Henderson**, recently concluded a

revival led by Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld of Gleason. Six people made professions of faith.

■ **First Church, Church Hill**, held revival April 9-13. Frank Houston, pastor, Bethel Church, Morristown, and Julian Suggs, Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Music director, led the services. Five people made professions of faith, three joined the church, and over 100 people made other spiritual decisions

■ Marilyn Baker, a blind Christian musician from the United Kingdom will perform April 30 at **Grassland Heights Church, Franklin**, at 6 p.m.

■ **Kirk Church, Collierville**, will host The Finchers, recording artists, April 30 at 7 p.m.

■ Leon Kilbreth will speak about Sunday School during services May 28-31 at **Lakeview Church, Selmer**.

■ The Spring Revival of **Saturn Drive Church, Nashville**, will be April 30 - May 3. Bill Sherman, pastor, Woodmont Church, Nashville, will speak. Monday through Wednesday nights a fellowship will be held at 5:30 p.m.

■ A May 14-17 Harvest Tent Revival will be held by **First Church, Monterey**. Henry Linginfelter, evangelist from Alcoa, will speak and Dick Barret will lead the music.

TV sports broadcaster and interim pastor of Clintwood Church, Clintwood, Va., was ordained recently by First Church, Church Hill.

■ **Silverdale Church, Chattanooga**, has called **Tony Walliser** as associate pastor/minister of education.

■ **Chris Campbell**, pastor of First Church, Trimble, has been called as pastor of Washington Pike Church, Knoxville, effective May 7.

■ **Jerry Keesler**, pastor, Kinzel Springs Church, Townsend, has resigned.

■ **Caylor's Chapel, Townsend**, has called **Bill Dixon** as pastor.

■ **Armona Church, Alcoa**, has called **Bobby Bridges** of Springville, Ala., as pastor.

■ **James Vaness**, pastor, Calvary Hill Church, Dyersburg, has resigned effective April 9.

## ■ death

■ **Stanley C. Stanfield** died March 8 at Cartersville, Ga. He began his ministry serving Paperville Church, near Bristol. He also served churches near Rogersville, as well as in Texas and Georgia while serving as a public school teacher. The funeral was at First Church Waleska, Ga.

## ■ the associations

■ **Dyer Association** will hold a Vacation Bible School

Clinic May 9 at First Church, Halls. It will begin at 6:45 p.m. The association also is hosting a May 5-6 Marriage Enrichment Conference at the Dyersburg State Community College in Dyersburg.

■ **Bradley Association** will hold a Vacation Bible School Conference May 1 at North Cleveland Church, Cleveland, at 7 p.m.

■ **Nashville Association** is receiving resumes for a language missions director. The association also will hold The Missions Gathering, a meeting for Woman's Missionary Union members May 6 at Brentwood Church, Brentwood, from 9-11:30 a.m.

■ A VBS Clinic will be held by **Robertson County Association** May 1 at First Church, Greenbrier, beginning at 7 p.m.

■ **Chilhowee Association** will host a rally in preparation for the countywide crusade Aug. 6-11. The rally, led by crusade speaker, Jim Ponder, will be May 11 at First Church, Alcoa, at 7:30.

## ■ the work

■ **Don Williams**, pastor, McCullough's Chapel, Dyersburg, and Bob Hadley, music leader, are leading a revival at Syracuse Mission, Syracuse, Ind., April 27-30.

■ The youth choir of **Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville**, will work in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, June 8-18.

# Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

## Forgetting, pressing on

By Gary L. French, pastor  
South Knoxville Church, Knoxville

This may shock many of you, but as I sit here in my office pondering what to write in this week's column, my mind is blank. Now before any of you say, "I've known that all along," let me explain. Each week I try to communicate with you about the progress of our church and to be used by God to somehow motivate our church family to a deeper, truer commitment to Jesus Christ. But I realize I can't do all those things. The Holy Spirit can, however.

Just last Sunday a man commented to me about all the new people here at SKBC. He also commented about how huge this church used to be and that it was good to see new people coming here. He encouraged me to keep up the good work. I thanked him and told him that I was committed to doing everything I could to glorify God and to see this church grow. However, when I

asked him if he would be willing to commit as well he just looked at me and sadly turned away without saying a word. So many want so much but are not willing to give.

With the Easter season just passing, I once again have been reminded of the new life which comes through Christ Jesus. I am encouraged by the high level of enthusiasm which is evident in many of our people. For the growth to continue, personal issues need resolving. On a scale of 1 to 10, how willing are each of us to do all we can to be more like Christ?

The professional golfer Ray Floyd just won the 1995 PGA Seniors Championship in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Last year, he lost to Lee Trevino because he played so poorly on the last nine holes. When asked if he kept thinking this year about poor play last year he responded, "I put that behind me a year ago. If I had to dwell on bad shots, bad holes, bad tournaments, I don't think I'd be here."

What powerful words those are and

what a positive attitude! Floyd's words are reminiscent of the Apostle Paul's who wrote "Forgetting what is behind ... I press on toward the goal to win the prize," (Philippians 3:13-14).

Well, for someone who has a blank mind I've said a lot! When I begin thinking about Jesus, his love, the great things here at SKBC, I guess I just get excited. ☐

## A 'dream team'

By Michael S. Lester, pastor  
North Etowah Church, Etowah

The term "dream team" was applied to the U.S. Olympic basketball players as well as the defense attorneys in the now famous Simpson case. It could also be used to describe any group which includes the best or brightest in their particular field.

We who sit on the sidelines marvel at their abilities and achievements. And rightly so, for who would expect anything less than success from such

obviously gifted individuals? If we were responsible for putting together a "team" we would, of course, seek the superlatives.

Not so in the kingdom of God. The apostle Paul wrote, "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things ... so that no one may boast before him" (1 Corinthians 1:27-29).

And what he, by grace, does in and through them is nothing short of amazing. In Jesus Christ we become a dream team. ☐

Articles included in "Tennessee Sampler — views, insights" are written by Tennessee Baptist church and associational leaders. The articles are chosen for publication from newsletters of churches and associations. The *Baptist and Reflector* does not necessarily concur with the views expressed.

# Conferences to explore 'Reaching Baby Boomers and Baby Busters'

**BRENTWOOD** — Two "Reaching Baby Boomers and Baby Busters" conferences are planned in Tennessee in May.

The first conference is set for May 15 at First Church, Concord, Knoxville. The second will be May 22 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Both conferences, sponsored jointly by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood, Church Music, Discipleship Training, Evangelism, Missions, and Sunday School departments, are scheduled from 1:30-8 p.m., local time. They're designed for pastors, church staff, and anyone who works with ages 12-49.

Baby boomers are people born from 1946-1964 (ages 31-49) while baby busters are those born between 1965-1983 (ages 12-30).

The conferences will address the following topics: "Identifying Boomers and Busters," "Finding Boomers and Busters," "How Do We Prospect and Reach Boomers and Busters," "Using the Sunday School to Reach and Assimilate Boomers and Busters in the Church," "Preaching and Worship for Boomers and Busters," and "Challenge to Minister to Boomers and Busters."

Program leaders who will be at both conferences are Harold Bryson, professor, Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.; Dan Francis, pastor, First Church, Nashville; Jere Phillips, director, TBC Missions Department; Wayne Jones, associate executive pastor, First Church, Franklin; and Jimmy Knott,

associate pastor, First Church, Orlando, Fla.

Cost of the conference is \$20 per person and includes materials, break, dinner, and a complimentary copy of *Out of*

*Their Faces and Into Their Shoes* by John Kramp of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The first 50 churches registering for each conference before May 1 will receive a free

demographic profile of their church field.

For more information on the conferences, contact Greer Ruble, TBC Sunday School Department, at (615) 371-2055. □

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“... inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least . . . ye have done it unto me.”

**Mother's Day Offering Sunday May 14, 1995**

Statewide Goal for 1995: \$1,210,000



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**Employment Opportunities**

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board has several opportunities for ministry through support staff positions in the following departments:

Missions — Secretary; Evangelism — Administrative Secretary; Sunday School — Administrative Assistant; Student Ministries — Administrative Assistant.

Package includes salary, insurance, and retirement benefits. Applications are available from the Human Resources Office, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-0728.

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## Life and Work Series for April 30

**Focal Passages:**  
**Acts 15:1-2, 5, 7, 11-12,  
14, 19**

### Defending the Gospel of grace

By Chuck McElhannon

Many churches have members who are not personally involved in ministry, but who always seem to find the time to criticize those who are. They say, "You didn't do it in the way I would have done it." Such were the men who arrived at the church in Antioch from Judea. Paul and Barnabas were then placed in the position of defending the gospel of grace.

#### Oppose false teaching — vv. 1-2, 5

The men from Judea were "Judaizers." They believed that Gentile converts could not be saved only by faith in Jesus Christ. They would have to add circumcision and a strict adherence to Mosaic Law. The issue was one of grace versus works. Paul and Barnabas, of course, had personally witnessed the saving grace of God in the lives of many Gentiles, and could not accept any additional requirements for salvation. A heated argument ensued, but nothing was settled, so the church in Antioch decided to send the matter to the elders in the Jerusalem church.

When they arrived at the Jerusalem church, they were met with further opposition by a group of Pharisees who had accepted Christ as Messiah, but who had completely given up their old ways. Paul had been a Pharisee himself, and could well understand their point of view.

The battle lines were drawn. On one side were Paul and Barnabas, proponents of salvation by grace alone. On the other side were the legalists, Pharisees and Judaizers who believed in salvation by grace plus works. The church leaders were called in to help. Peter and James spoke boldly.

#### Stand for truth — vv. 7, 11-12

Peter was a natural choice to respond to the legalists. He could speak from his own experience. He reminded the Council that the issue had already been decided nearly 10 years earlier when God had used him to reach Gentiles at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10). Peter's clinching statement was that ultimately even the Jews were saved only through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as the Gentiles were. Peter's testimony provided an opportunity for Paul and Barnabas to relate their experiences to a more subdued and level-headed audience.

#### Keep it simple — vv. 14, 19

James seems to have been the leader of the Jerusalem church. His familial relationship to Jesus and his standing among Jewish believers would have made him a well-respected leader. The time had come to end the dispute with a ruling. James understood the importance of being true to the uncompromising grace of God, yet somehow maintaining a spirit of unity among the believers. This was not the time to allow the church to be divided. Therefore, James, with Godly wisdom befitting a true leader, proposed a suitable compromise. The Legalists would withdraw their demand for circumcision, and the Gentiles would respect their Jewish brothers' dietary practices. In the end, James was able to lead the church to see that the way of salvation is the same for Jews and Gentiles: the grace of God simply received by faith in Christ.

A valuable lesson to be learned here is that controversy in the church can be handled without damaging church fellowship, if it is dealt with quickly, openly and honestly. There can even be positive results. In this case, the church had a better understanding of the Gospel. There are very few situations in which one side is all right and the other side is all wrong. God's people must be willing to move toward one another. □ — Chuck McElhannon is pastor of Valley View Church, Nashville

## Caring for one another

By Brian Courtney

The "Health and Wealth Theology" is alive and well these days in Christianity. This line of thought suggests Christians who are in the will of God will not experience trouble. Proponents of this way of thinking believe that in Christ's death and resurrection provision was not only made for forgiveness of sin and the eradication of death's power, but for health and wealth.

How interesting! Maybe someone should tell Paul! The Corinthians did! They believed Paul's sufferings disqualified him from apostleship. They believed in freedom from suffering. Paul knew discouragement, pain, beatings, and imprisonment. Was he out of God's will? Hardly! But, more importantly, did he grumble about his problems? Did he complain or criticize? No, for he knew another alternative. He praised God. Why did he praise God?

#### Because of God's comfort — vv. 3-7

Paul describes God with three phases. First, God is described as the "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 3). Such a description reminds the readers who had acted on their behalf through his son. Second, Paul refers to God as "the Father of mercies." Paul's praise grew out of his awareness that God cared for people who had problems. Third, Paul recognizes God as "the God of all comfort." Comfort means coming alongside of another to help.

Paul does not say how God comforts. It is safe to say God's help varies with the person, situation, and need. His help could be miraculous or a still, small voice. The point is God has helped, is helping, and will help.

Why is comfort needed? Verse 4 says because of "our affliction." Affliction refers to anything that presses in. The word could be translated stress. People of every age have stress. No one is immune, not even Christians. In fact, being a Christian may cause an increase in stress

(see Matthew 5:10-12). But, knowing that God will comfort motivates Christians to keep going.

What is the purpose of God's comfort? Christians are to share the comfort they receive with others (vv. 4, 6). Experience, problems and their stress, and God's comfort all teach valuable lessons. These lessons are to be given away to someone else. Then they can praise God for his comfort. Paul's point is clear: praise God for his comfort.

#### Because of God's deliverance — vv. 8-10

How could Paul praise God for comfort? Was there an experience that convinced Paul of God's comfort? He describes an experience beginning in verse 8. The text does not identify the problem but gives clues to its severity. Three phrases sum up the ordeal. First, "... utterly, unbearably crushed" (v. 8) pictures an animal unable to move due to a heavy load. Second, the phrase "... despaired of life itself" (v. 8) suggests that the ordeal had no way out. Third, "... sentence of death..." (v. 9) describes a person who is facing execution. What a dismal picture!

But all this forces Paul "to rely ... on God who raises the dead;" (v. 9) who "delivered us ..." (v. 10). Paul's experience has taught him the adequacy of God's power which delivered him. He also knew God would "deliver again" (v. 10). Paul's point is clear: God's comfort is not a theory. God's comfort is based on experience. He (God) will deliver.

#### Invitation to join in prayer — v. 11

Paul concludes his praise to God by inviting the Corinthians to join him in thanking God for his suffering and deliverance. This is odd. Why? The Corinthians say Paul's suffering disqualified him as an apostle. He wants them to thank God for the very thing which they detest. Paul's point is clear: Give thanks for God's deliverance from suffering. □ — Brian Courtney is pastor of First Church, Sneedville.

## Convention Uniform Series for April 30 Focal Passage II Corinthians 1:3-14

## Growth of Jesus ministry

By Thomas Vinson

On August 20, 1940, Churchill, speaking to the House of Commons, commended the British Military forces during the height of WW II by saying: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." These words are applicable to the relationship of the Apostles to the early Christian movement.

#### The choosing of the twelve — ch. 3:13-19

Only a God of exceptional power could fashion a redemptive movement out of such fragile material. Think about it. The future of the Christian movement rested in the hands of a rag tag aggregation of twelve misfits. This helps us to understand what Paul meant in I Corinthians 1:26, 27 "For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong." We must conclude that the basis of Jesus' choice was not achievement, but potential. Jesus certainly did not surround Himself with a group of easily managed "yes" men. He preferred a team of wild horses to that of a bunch of worn out, passive plugs.

Jesus began by insisting that the most diverse people can learn to live together by his enabling power. His inclusion of both Matthew the Tax

## Bible Book Series for April 30 Focal Passage: Mark 3:14-19a, 32- 35; 4:14-20

Collector and Simon the Zealot shames the modern ideology of focusing our church growth efforts on a single homogeneous unit. Our evangelistic and discipleship efforts need to reflect the same diversity as that of our Savior.

#### The conditions of kinship — vv. 21, 31-35

Jesus' popularity was beginning to sky rocket; however, this feeling was not universal. In verses 20-35 two negative reactions to Jesus are exposed. First, some, including his family, thought he had gone mad (v. 21). Others were of the opinion that he was evil (vv. 22-29). His family intended to "take charge" of Jesus. This word carries the idea of "arrest." Their concerns may have been noble and centered on his exhaustion and lack of appetite. Scripture is clear that his immediate family did not accept him as the Messiah until after the Resurrection. Regardless of their motive, Jesus used this as a teaching opportunity. Essentially Jesus said that human relationships are to be subordinated to spiritual relationships. The question, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" (v. 33) is qualitative in its focus. The idea is what "sort of" people constitute my

spiritual family. He was not denigrating human family but was elevating the spiritual family. It is not uncommon to hear in our churches, "He is closer to me than my brother," or "she is closer than my sister." This is good, proper, and spiritually wholesome. Jesus is saying that the higher family of faith takes precedence over the family of flesh.

#### The character of the response — ch. 4:1-20

If the Gospel is true, then why weren't the Jews rushing to embrace it? Jesus answered this question by parable in 4:1-20. The fault did not consist of an inadequate message or an inept messenger, but of hard, superficial, and preoccupied hearts. The major emphasis of the story was upon the condition of the soil not the sowing of the seed. The seed and the sower were the same throughout the parable. The only variable was the condition of the heart. Our responsibility is to sow the seed of the Gospel. Only the Spirit of God can prepare the heart to receive it. Take hope, "He who goes out weeping, carrying the seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him," Psalm 126:6. □ — Thomas Vinson is pastor of Leewood Church, Memphis.

## Leaders commended for removing names from ECT document

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Texas Hispanic leaders have commended the two Southern Baptist Convention agency heads who recently removed their signatures from the controversial "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" document.

On April 6, Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, and Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, announced they were withdrawing their signatures from the document. They were among the 40 original signers of the accord, drafted one year ago to highlight areas of common concern for Catholics and conservative Protestants.

The Hispanic leaders acknowledged the original intent of the accord may have been "noble." However, the endorsement of it by Land and Lewis had created "an unnecessary disturbance" in Hispanic Baptists' work and witness "as evidenced by their withdrawal from the document," according to the officers of the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas and presidents of the state's 30 Hispanic fellowships.

"Perhaps we could say it is a lesson well learned," the statement said. "We applaud their courage to make necessary changes and we look forward to working together to reach Hispanics and others for Christ."

In March the group released a statement distancing themselves from the evangelical-Catholic document. □

## Golden Gate trustees approve new budget

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Amid reports of "significant belt-tightening" in administrative operations, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved a \$5.6 million budget during their regular meeting April 10-12.

The budget reflects a drop in Cooperative Program of \$171,000. The seminary is the only SBC institution whose CP allocation is being reduced for 1995-96, President William Crews told trustees.

He noted that though the seminary operates through other campuses, the SBC seminary funding formula only counts work done at so-called "main" seminary campuses.

To make up the difference, seminary officials expect a 5

percent growth in student enrollment and maintains instructional programs while cutting back in other areas, said Jim Stephenson, vice president for business affairs.

The new budget also calls for an increase in student matriculation fees from \$800 to \$880 for students from Southern Baptist churches. □

## Evidence of God's will includes persistency

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — God does not typically reveal his will by supernatural phenomena as earthquakes or mighty winds but instead by a still small quiet voice that speaks to the heart, said Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board.

"It is an impression he puts in our mind or a burden

he places on our heart that won't go away," Lewis said during home missions emphasis week at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

"You'll try to sleep at night, but you'll wake up thinking about that which God has planted in your heart. You try to hide from it — to get away from it — but there is no way you can escape it," he said. □

## Pioneer Baptist broadcaster dies

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Norvell Slater, whose warm voice on "Hymns We Love" on Dallas radio stations encouraged generations of Texans to "go to church," died April 18. He was 87.

A pioneer broadcaster, Slater was announcer-producer of the SBC Radio and Television Commission's syndicated radio series, "Master Control," from 1959-62.

"Hymns We Love," was thought to be the longest-running program of Christian music with the same host on any commercial radio station (1952-93). His radio career spanned more than 60 years. □

## Music conference to feature Lowery

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will host Charles Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantlyn Church, Albuquerque, N.M., as worship preacher during its 39th annual meeting June 18-

## 'Movement of God' in Haiti awaits more volunteers

Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — There's a "movement of God" afoot in rural Haiti, but it could come to naught unless more Southern Baptist volunteers answer the call to serve there, and soon, according to Mickey Caison of the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Caison, who has served as project coordinator of the Haitian relief effort since it began last November, said he has only about half of the volunteers he needs to help with water well repairs.

The work has proven to be a highly effective tool for evangelism.

"When our food distribution teams were there over the winter, they were concerned because they didn't see evangelism. Working in the warehouse, we didn't have an opportunity to interact with people," Caison said.

But the well repair teams have been out among the people every day in locations all over the countryside, he added, with many opportunities to reach people with the Gospel message. The people are responding, Caison said.

"There's a movement of God going on down there in those mountains that no one is seeing or hearing about with all the bad things about Haiti coming out in the newspapers and television programs," Caison said. "There are going to be many more opportunities at those wells to win people to salvation, but we're not going to be there like we should if we don't have the team members."

The Brotherhood Commis-

sion and the Foreign Mission Board are jointly sponsoring the work in Haiti, in conjunction with the Baptist Convention of Haiti.

The recently concluded food distribution effort in Haiti involved 161 volunteers serving on 16 teams. They distributed more than 32,000 "family packs" of basic food commodities.

Fourteen-day slots for volunteers are available through the month of June. Teams are set to depart on April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10, and June 24. Medical-dental support personnel also are being sought for teams in Haiti. Team members will depart for seven-day trips on May 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Prospective volunteers should call Beth Huneycutt, the Brotherhood Commission's volunteer recruiter at 1 (800) 280-1891 for more information. □



CAISON



LEWIS

19 in Atlanta.

The theme of the meeting is "We Are God's People," said conference president Mark Blankenship, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's music department.

The two-day conference will feature four seminars on various aspects of church music, performance of church music commissioned by the conference, and performances and/or demonstrations by several groups.

The conference will be held at Peachtree Corners Church in Norcross, Ga. □

## DOMS to address relationships during pre-SBC meeting

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — "Building Relationships" will be the theme of the 34th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions June 18-19 in Atlanta. The meeting, to be held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, precedes the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 20-22.

Featured speakers include Don Hammer, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; John Perkins, DOM, Hernando, Miss.; Lottie Crim, DOM wife, Green River, Wyo.; Ignatius Meimaris, DOM, Needham, Mass.; and Emmanuel McCall, College Park, Ga., pastor and former Home Mission Board staffer. □

## Seminars to launch Hispanic meeting

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Seminars on family, men's, women's, and youth concerns will launch the Southern Baptist Hispanic Fellowship's June 17-18 meeting prior to the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta.

The theme for the gathering at Briarlake Church, Decatur, Ga., will be "What the Spirit is Saying to the Hispanic Church."

The group also plans to make several recognitions to various individuals and organizations including Fermin Whittaker, executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention, as leader of the year and the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas, for "Ninety Years of Faithful Service."

Speakers include evangelist Rudy Hernandez and SBC Foreign Mission Board Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiner. □

## Missions highlighted by African Americans

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Foreign missions will be the emphasis of the annual worship service of the African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention. The fellowship was formally organized three years ago, encompassing the 1,500 African American

churches in the SBC.

The worship service, at 5 p.m., June 18, will be held at Christian Fellowship Church, College Park, Ga.

Speakers for the foreign mission emphasis will be Ralph D. West, pastor of Brookhollow Church, Houston, and David Cornelius, director of black church relations for the Foreign Mission Board.

The fellowship's business session will be held June 19 at 11 a.m. at Greenforest Church, Decatur, Ga. □

## Georgia Tech hosts campus ministers

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Baptist Student Center at Georgia Tech University will host the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers for its annual meeting, June 16-18, in Atlanta.

Theme of the meeting is "Charting a Course for the Twenty-first Century."

Featured speakers include Lloyd Allen, Mississippi College, Clinton; Emmanuel McCall, College Park, Ga., pastor and former Home Mission Board staffer; and Michelle Tooley, Belmont University, Nashville. Jack Causey, pastor of First Church, Statesville, N.C., is worship leader for the meeting.

In addition, the meeting will include four "breakout sessions" for campus ministers to share common concerns and a variety of seminars. □