

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC

Nashville, Tennessee

-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

## NATIONAL OFFICE:

SBC Executive Committee:

901 Commerce #754

Nashville, Tennessee 37203

(615) 244-2351

Herb Hollinger, Vice President

Fax (615) 742-8911

CompuServe ID# 70420.1

**(BP)**

## BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522, CompuServe 70420,250

DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232, CompuServe 70420,115

NASHVILLE Linda Lawson, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300, CompuServe 70420,57

RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151, CompuServe 70420,72

WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223, CompuServe 71173,316

March 6, 1996

96-39

WASHINGTON--Sekulow: Hawaii decision may further hurt culture.

WASHINGTON--Bauer calls for pressure to ensure family values.

WASHINGTON--Black suburban church can reach needy, McCall says.

TENNESSEE--Executive Committee signs pact with consultant; notes savings.

TENNESSEE--1996 ACP software, paper forms scheduled for release in April; photo.

GEORGIA--Prof uses sculptor's skill to teach about his Creator.

KENTUCKY--'Disastrous' encounters yielded romance, marriage.

MISSISSIPPI--William Carey College selects president; elevates Edwards.

TEXAS--Southwestern tops local schools in United Way per capita giving.

TENNESSEE--Southern's David Gushee to join Union faculty.

Sekulow: Hawaii decision  
may further hurt culture

By Dwayne Hastings

Baptist Press  
3/6/96

WASHINGTON (BP)--A threatened ruling in a Hawaiian state trial court may be the most vicious assault on religious liberty the United States has ever seen, Jay Sekulow said March 4.

The state, traditionally recognized as a favorite retreat for honeymooners, may soon be the first jurisdiction in the nation to recognize same-sex marriages, said Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, a leading religious liberty advocacy group.

"This is an attack which could destroy and undercut this culture so significantly that it could alter the way we view ourselves as a people," Sekulow said at the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's 29th annual national seminar.

"As we approach the third millennium, we are probably at the most critical crossroad in our history," Sekulow said. "We are now faced with what I think is perhaps the greatest challenge to religious liberty: The growing movement for same-sex marriage and the shift in our culture toward a view that says the family can be defined however one wants us to define it."

Sekulow explained the Hawaiian Supreme Court has ruled that unless the government can show a compelling interest in why same-sex marriages should not be allowed to take place, the court may hold the constitutional rights of gays and lesbians would be violated if they are not given the same recognition as traditional married couples.

Despite the gravity of the situation, Sekulow told the Washington, D.C., conference he harbored a "tremendous amount of hope." While acknowledging the abortion issue failed to move the church to action, he said, "I believe the church is going to rise to the occasion. I am convinced that people sitting in the pews are not going to say, 'Oh, this is OK.'"

Homosexuals "are getting special rights, and we're barely hanging on to ours," Sekulow added. Through legislation and litigation, the homosexual lobby is seeking to legitimize a lifestyle that is wrong, Sekulow said. "This is serious stuff. These people have a very serious agenda.

--more--

"For the sake of the proclamation of the gospel, we need to win this fight," Sekulow insisted. "If they can legitimize this, the effectiveness of our witness will be significantly undercut -- more significantly than we can even imagine.

"If we are going to engage this culture, we have to preach the gospel," Sekulow said. "What this country needs is a pure gospel message aflame in every pulpit in this country.

"We cannot allow the gospel message to get so watered down under political correctness trying to make everybody happy."

While Christians should not be distracted by political bones thrown at them by gratuitous legislators, he admitted political agendas are important, saying, "We can't be salt and light without engaging ourselves in politics. If Christians hope to engage the culture, they must confront the issues. ... Salt is only effective when it is rubbed into the meat. We have to be rubbed into this culture. We are offering this culture its only way out, and that's through the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Sekulow said the debate cannot ignore the fact the policies of the past have only contributed to the nation's moral slide: "We are going to have to point to the debris that is left of programs that have failed and a culture that is run amok."

Sekulow said attacks on the traditional family are being launched in courtrooms across the country, citing a recent ruling by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, which held there is a constitutional right to intimate association between same-sex adults.

Having argued numerous cases before the U.S. Supreme Court where Christian rights had been threatened, Sekulow admitted the Hawaiian case was "a very tough case."

He dismissed attempts by the homosexual rights groups to compare their struggle to the civil rights movement, calling the comparison of sexual conduct with race and gender "outrageous."

The modern church has not seen persecution like it may face in the near future, Sekulow said. "We've seen nothing yet if they legitimize what I am talking about. It will be beyond the scope of our imagination."

--30--

**Bauer calls for pressure  
to ensure family values**

**By Marty Croll**

**Baptist Press  
3/6/96**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Family advocate Gary Bauer urged Christians to force political candidates in upcoming races to stand by God-honoring American values -- and to withdraw support from candidates who waver.

Responding to questions March 5 during the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's 29th annual national seminar in Washington, D.C., Bauer warned that candidates might "play games" to win the backing of conservative Christian groups.

"We ought to stand and call him (the candidate) to task, even if inadvertently it will help a president that many of us don't like," said Bauer, president of the Family Research Council and a former White House family policy adviser who helped fan the embers of the Reagan revolution in the 1980s.

"I don't think we should get into the business of picking the lesser of two evils. We need to hold out a standard to say what it is we believe and what America needs, and if the candidates are not willing to rally to that standard, then I don't think we need to worry about what will happen to them on election day."

Bauer reminded seminar participants that "over a period of time, most politicians fear unemployment more than anything." They really are listening, even when they appear unresponsive, he said. "In a democratic republic such as ours, ultimately public opinion is everything.

--more--

"I've been there when the calls pour in. At the White House. In the Congress. I've seen votes do a complete about-face in 24 hours," he said. "And even when the vote isn't switched, you have caused sleepless nights. It might mean the next time that politician will think twice before going against the values of the overwhelming majority of the American people.

"You have much strength in this country. And it's growing every day."

Bauer stopped short of endorsing a presidential candidate, saying his council has worked to sway all the candidates closer to the family values "millions of Americans still believe in."

"Fight for those things. Stand for those things. Teach your children about those things," he said. "Only support candidates who are willing without shame or embarrassment to defend those things."

In a 20-minute address preceding the question-and-answer session, Bauer accused the United States of forgetting God and of separating virtue from liberty. While victories against tyrannies of the 20th century brought America greatness, "it is also the worst of times," he said.

"There is a sense we all have that America is one wrong turn away from disaster. Having forgotten God, we have unleashed the hounds of hell on our streets, in our neighborhoods and communities."

The words "In God We Trust" imprinted on American money have become as devalued as the money itself, he said. "To listen to the cultural elites and the media, you would think the greatest threat facing America is that Christian men and women will get into the public square and actually attempt to affect public policy."

Apart from the debate over whether the United States was established as a Christian nation, one thing is certain: The founding fathers believed only a virtuous people could remain free, he said.

"But in 1996, the popular culture teaches our children that virtue is old-fashioned; different strokes for different folks; if it feels good, do it. If that notion gains credence among the American people, it will doom the democracy."

Public reaction to the death of Jerry Garcia, the Grateful Dead rock-and-roll band leader demonized by the drugs and alcohol that consumed his life, serves as an indicator of this mind-set, Bauer said. "The culture greeted his death as if a great American hero had left us. I saw senators walk out of committee hearings to go into halls and talk into a bank of cameras about how crushed they were that this great man had died."

The drive for abortion on demand also reflects this mind-set. "We've been subjected to a multimillion-dollar campaign to try to tell us the highest American value is choice. That's ludicrous."

Just as a pro-choice stance for states involving slavery disregarded the rights of slaves, so a pro-choice stance involving abortion disregards the unborn child, he said. As a civilized nation, America has made a decision to refuse to allow freedom of choice to wife-beaters or child pornographers.

"It has always been what we choose, not the act of choosing, that matters," he said. "It would be my hope that sometime soon we will make the decision as a civilized nation that we won't tolerate 1.5 million abortions a year."

--30--

Black suburban church can  
reach needy, McCall says

By Lee Weeks

Baptist Press  
3/6/96

WASHINGTON (BP)--The face of E.W. McCall's congregation at St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church in La Puente, Calif., has changed dramatically the last five years.

--more--

On any given Sunday, the predominantly African American congregation will include hundreds of recovering drug addicts, ex-convicts and reformed juvenile delinquents. That is quite a contrast to the days when the church was made up mostly of wealthy retirees and professional elites, including businessmen and businesswomen, doctors, lawyers and engineers.

St. Stephen is located in a suburb 35 miles east of Los Angeles. Distanced from the fast-paced city life, La Puente serves as a bedroom community for people who work in L.A.

But many of the worshipers at the 4,400-member church live as far as 50 miles away. They come from the inner city and neighboring towns. Sunday school attendance has grown over the last five years from an average of 600 to 1,000.

The reason, McCall said, for the church's unprecedented growth is simple: Spiritual ministry combined with social ministry. He said the social ministry is rooted in Matthew 25 where Jesus tells the disciples, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

"Too often our churches are just there as a country club, and we don't make a difference," McCall said March 5 at the 29th annual national seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"No longer can the black community in particular and the whole of America in general depend upon government to take care of all our needs and wants. The black church must see the need to transform itself into a force to deal with holistic approaches to ministry."

About four years ago, McCall initiated a social ministry program through the church that included a drug treatment program, tutorial program, midnight basketball league for youth, food bank and homeless shelter.

"Sometimes we look in suburbia, and we somehow see no people who are without food, clothing or shelter," he said. "Yet there are people without these vital necessities of life. It is important to set up local programs and travel back into the city on skid row where these needs are clearly present."

McCall, who has led the church since 1970, credits the success of the church's social ministry to God's blessings on the work of 400 committed church members who have been its core volunteers.

"That is one of the geniuses of our church," he said. "We're working for the kingdom. If we can involve people in ministry, attendance will grow."

On a recent Sunday morning, 247 people who had completed the church's 12-step drug rehabilitation program were seated in the congregation, McCall said.

"We believe in recycling lives," he said. "I think it's our responsibility to reach the people where they are. Where much has been given, much is required, and God is going to hold us accountable."

The church, McCall said, cannot wait for the world to come to it; the church must go to the world.

"This sense of urgency must first be found in our willingness to share Jesus now," he said. "People are dying by the thousands every minute, going to hell because there are still those people who don't see the urgency to tell souls about the saving grace of Jesus."

--30--

Executive Committee signs pact  
with consultant; notes savings By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press  
3/6/96

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Executive Committee has signed a contract with an Atlanta management consultant firm and released the first estimate of savings associated with the anticipated restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention.

--more--

Representatives of the ITF, a 10-member group created by the SBC Executive Committee last September to oversee the implementation of the restructuring, have an initial meeting March 7 with Coopers and Lybrand, LLP, A Professional Services firm. Coopers was selected from among several national concerns which submitted bids because "Coopers provides significant expertise in assisting organizations with change," according to Ted Warren, ITF member spokesman and chief operating officer of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Atlanta firm, Warren said, has assisted hundreds of businesses of various sizes, including other Baptist entities, and received good recommendations. Warren said the firm will have Southern Baptists on its team and plans to give the SBC high priority by making "national-level consultants" available.

"We are not employing Coopers and Lybrand for them to tell us what to do, but to assist us in achieving all the effectiveness we envision," Warren said.

The "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring plan, approved by messengers at the 1995 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta, calls for the merging, consolidation and/or dissolution of several entities and ultimately reducing the number from 19 to 12. A second vote on SBC Bylaw 15, which lists individually the various agencies, is required and is scheduled during the 1996 annual meeting this June in New Orleans.

The cost savings, Warren said, will be substantial, although he emphasized the dollar amounts are early estimates. During the 1996-97 SBC fiscal year (October through September), Warren said the ITF believes a savings of \$289,000 will be achieved from entities being dissolved or modified. Under the restructuring plan, the Education Commission would be dissolved and functions of the Historical Commission, Stewardship Commission and Southern Baptist Foundation would be assigned to other agencies, effective June 1997.

During fiscal 1997-98, Warren said, the ITF expects a savings of \$1.1 million. In addition, there should be several million dollars saved in the "efficiencies gained in the revamped structure." Warren cited the creation of a single North American Mission Board from the merger of the Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission and Brotherhood Commission.

The first full SBC fiscal year, Warren said, should see savings exceeding the full cost of the management consultant, the expenses of the ITF and the legal costs involved.

"While significant savings are expected, that is not our primary objective," Warren said. "It is to increase effectiveness in how we assist churches accomplish their mission here and abroad."

The March 7 session with the Coopers and Lybrand team will be called a "project mobilization meeting." Warren said it will:

- confirm objectives, the approach, focus points and the "deliverables" from Coopers and Lybrand.

- develop a schedule of on-site meetings with the various SBC agencies involved in the merger to create the NAMB.

- formulate key questions.

- identify needed data. This will involve two streams of work, Warren said: change management and financial/systems analysis.

The process, Warren said, will be specially designed to bring considerable input from the "stakeholders," and especially those entities involved in the merger and dissolution. But also the process will involve state conventions because, for instance, many have cooperative working agreements with SBC agencies.

The interaction with the agencies begins this month and the Coopers and Lybrand team will be gathering data, doing an analysis and consolidation and producing a high-level financial analysis for the ITF's report to the New Orleans meeting in June. In the change management process, Warren said, the team envisions multiple interviews with personnel associated with the NAMB, including focus groups, leading to a period of analysis and consolidation.

--more--

The ITF, in its June report, will identify key issues and provide a transition plan (what needs to be done, by whom and when), Warren said. However, he said, only so much can be done prior to the final approval of Bylaw 15 at the New Orleans meeting.

--30--

1996 ACP software, paper forms  
scheduled for release in April

Baptist Press  
3/6/96

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The 1996 Annual Church Profile software and paper forms will be released on schedule the first week in April by the Sunday School Board's strategic information unit.

"The 1996 software was rewritten from the ground up," said Tom Carringer, strategic information specialist. "We feel we have made great progress to correct the problems experienced in 1995."

The ACP is a statistical tool by which individual churches can measure their progress. Statistics are then compiled at associational, state and Southern Baptist Convention levels, a six-to-seven month annual process.

Problems with the 1995 software caused delays in distribution and difficulties with use, Carringer acknowledged. After apologizing in the fall of 1995, the goal for 1996 has been to release materials on time, address problems experienced last year and position the ACP for maximum effectiveness in the future, he said.

Three Tennesseans among those who previewed the materials and software in January agreed the 1996 version is easier to use and a significant improvement over 1995.

Mike Overcash, information systems manager for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said after the preview meeting the 1996 ACP software is "so much easier and user-friendly. I think we scared a lot of people last year (with the software problems). I hope we can get them back. If they'll give it a chance, I think it'll be good."

Ray Maynard, director of missions for Union Baptist Association headquartered in Sparta, Tenn., said the materials are a "whole lot clearer." Materials prepared by the association for ACP also can be used other ways within the association, Maynard said, voicing appreciation for the partnership among associations, state conventions and the BSSB.

Debbie Love, secretary at Chapel Hill Baptist Church in Smyrna, Tenn., will be preparing her first ACP in 1996. After trying out the software, she said she believes it will be easy to use.

"I don't think I'll have any problems on the congregational end," Love said. "I'm looking forward to using it."

During the four-hour preview meeting, several offered suggestions for improvements. Carringer pledged to consider what could be done to address each concern.

Materials are being introduced to state convention statistical representatives March 8-9 in New Orleans.

Materials being released to state conventions include 1996 ACP booklets, electronic form for churches in DOS, associational clerk's booklet and processor for associations. States then distribute them on varying schedules to associations.

--30--

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by BSSB bureau of Baptist Press.  
Outline on SBCNet News Room.

Prof uses sculptor's skill  
to teach about his Creator

By Carol Collins

ROME, Ga. (BP)--To see Lee Benson around campus, one can tell he is a craftsman by the way he dresses. In blue jeans and suspenders or turtlenecks and sport coats, he dresses practically and comfortably, ready to get into the potter's clay at a moment's notice.

Benson is the director of Shorter College's department of visual arts and is in his fifth year of teaching sculpture, ceramics and gallery seminars at the Baptist-affiliated college in Rome, Ga.

A conversation with Benson quickly evidences the way he's seen among other faculty and staff members -- a non-assuming yet unique, "real" individual devoted to his Lord, his family and his work.

"I think it's wrong to take God out and to just have art for art's sake," Benson states. "You can't separate art from God.

"Christ is the greatest artist. The Bible says God made Adam from mud. In class when we do a life-size sculpture, it clicks -- 'There's Adam.' Because when you're working with the clay, and you're doing the feet, you think, 'This is OK,'" he says matter-of-factly while reclining in his chair.

"Then, when you get to the shin, you're interested. By the time you get to the knee, you're intent." At this point, he sits on the edge of his chair and leans forward.

"Once you get to the hips, you're beginning to love this piece of art. You become devoted to it. When you have completed its torso, it takes on new meaning," Benson continues, emphatically and enthusiastically. "You are its creator.

"God worked day and night, the Bible says. We are living art creations. You literally love your sculpture. I'm sure that's what God did," he says with quiet emotion. "He thought man was so good, so beautiful. He loves us.

"Students begin to make a connection between themselves and a real God, not just a God they've heard about at church," Benson recounts. "There's a great revelation about this God. He should be in everything we do -- why we do art, why we clean our room, why we watch the TV we watch, why we drive the way we drive, why we love our wife and families the way we do.

"It's also great to see them 'catch it,' that God is real, you can talk to him like you talk to the neighbor next door."

The husband and father of four is a dedicated teacher, not only at Shorter College but at Fellowship Baptist Church as well. He currently teaches a "nearly and newly married" Sunday school class and Awanas, a Scripture-memory program for children from kindergarten to sixth grade. He also was instrumental in the development of the church's 24-hour prayer ministry of which he serves as prayer coordinator.

Considered by others a gifted teacher, his accomplishments also are proving he is a gifted artist. As a testimony of God's provision and faithfulness, he declares, "God has blessed us this year more than anytime in the past."

Benson was chosen to do one of 12 sculptures for the Olympic Park at Marietta and Lexington streets in Atlanta through a commission from the Corporation for Olympic Development.

"It's a bollard," Benson explains. "That's a pole design. The word 'bollard' is an English term. In English cities, these poles separated the city scape from the park scape." He went on to explain that his bollard will be designed specifically with the blind in mind. It will have strips of tile with braille inscriptions and will be intricately designed for touch.

"They literally see with their hands. Maybe the idea comes from my work with Alabama."

The work Benson is referring to is a commission he received last summer from the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. He is building a 23,000-pound cement sculpture titled, "The Ring of Love," to be used by graduating classes for the next 50 years to commemorate the wisdom gained while attending the institute.

He also was one of 25 artists selected from 3,000 entries for a three-year traveling exhibition. Three of his pen-and-ink drawings, literature interpretations from the Bible, will be part of this exhibition which will tour every major market in the country.

"It's the first time any of my two-dimensional work has received national recognition," he says. "I've been in national shows, but never like this. Every art organization in the country will see it."

While under his direction, the enrollment of the art majors at Shorter has doubled. "Our department has everything a big school art department has -- ceramic studio, sculpture studio, great skylights in the painting/drawing studio, kilns, everything, just on a smaller scale, allowing for personal instruction. We try to ensure that when students leave Shorter, they can get a job."

Benson tries to prepare them for life as well as for a career. "I want them to know that following Christ is a lifestyle, not a game. I believe the world is looking for joy, not just happiness. Things can make you happy -- a new car, new clothes -- but the only source of joy is Christ."

One of the greatest rewards of teaching, he notes, "is hearing a student say he has come to know Christ better by taking one of my classes."

--30--

Collins is director of public relations, Shorter College.

'Disastrous' encounters  
yielded romance, marriage

By Ken Walker

Baptist Press  
3/6/96

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)--Some people relate stories of "whirlwind" romances, but Mike and Wanda Klein got swept away by a hurricane and a flood.

The Kleins, who met as volunteers with Kentucky Brotherhood's disaster relief ministry, celebrated their second anniversary of marriage in mid-February. And in appropriate fashion, they had just returned from a disaster relief assignment in West Virginia.

The couple first met during Kentucky Brotherhood's relief efforts in Florida after Hurricane Andrew. At that encounter, on a massive food line in Florida City, Fla., the only thing on their minds was dishing out nearly 20,000 meals a day to hurricane victims.

But as the Kentucky volunteers chatted during off-duty hours, they discovered something in common: Each had lost their mates to death in March 1991.

Although they enjoyed their fellowship in Florida, after the disaster work ended Wanda returned to Lexington and Mike traveled back home to Henderson.

Then came the Midwest floods in the summer of 1993. Four days after Mike went to Quincy, Ill., Wanda showed up with another crew.

They resumed their friendship, but this time the talks were longer and the sharing deeper.

They discovered more common ground. Each had three children and three grandchildren, and both loved serving God through disaster relief efforts. Neither slept much in Quincy; when Wanda got up at 3:30 a.m. to brew coffee, Mike was awake too.

"I wasn't attracted to him at all at first," Wanda said. "It was just a nice friendship."

"Neither of us thought we would remarry," Mike agreed. "But we picked up our friendship (in Illinois) and started dating."

That required some serious planning since Henderson is 200 miles west of Lexington.

Serious about spanning the geographical distance, Mike set out to prove the truth of 1 Corinthians 13, which says love bears all things, believes all things and endures all things.

After their marriage on Feb. 12, 1994, he moved to Lexington and became a member of Victory Baptist Church.

--more--

Their respective children were accepting of their marriage, which made it a lot easier, he said. So does having a partner to travel with during retirement -- and to be by his side every time they report to a disaster-relief site.

"I'm glad I remarried," he said. "It makes life better. We feel this (disaster relief) is a calling, and we feel God put us together."

"It's just amazing," Wanda added. "You can't ever outgive the Lord."

--30--

William Carey College selects  
president; elevates Edwards

Baptist Press  
3/6/96

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (BP)--Longtime Mississippi College administrator Rory Lee, 46, has been awarded a five-year contract as president and chief operating officer of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The action is part of a 10-year plan for "strengthening the top management team of the Mississippi Baptist institution" approved recently by WCC trustees, according to a news release from the 2,200-student Baptist-affiliated college.

The plan was recommended by Jim Edwards, WCC's current president and chief executive officer.

Edwards, 58, president since 1989, has been awarded a seven-year contract as chancellor and CEO of the college.

Lee will leave Mississippi College, another Baptist-related school, after a 25-year career there, where he currently serves as vice president of institutional advancement. He served MC as interim president in 1993-94 after the resignation of Lewis Nobles. Howell W. Todd was eventually selected as the new MC president.

"I am so very pleased to have this new opportunity for Christian service," Lee said. "I am excited because of the care and personal concern for the students that I see being shown by the outstanding faculty and staff at William Carey College. Their mission to help students learn is apparent and it is quite evident that they are achieving that mission."

"Rory Lee has a reputation as one of the most gifted administrators in our nation," Edwards said. "As an educator and pastor, he is respected as a person of integrity and vision."

"He and his wife, Janet, have demonstrated their love for Mississippi Baptists and commitment to Christian education for a quarter-century. They have contributed significantly to the growth and improvement of their alma mater, Mississippi College."

"We believe their joining the William Carey College family provides our institution with some unique opportunities to continue strengthening our long-range plans to serve all Mississippi Baptist constituents and provide educational excellence."

Lee will be responsible for managing the college's internal operations, including academic programs, student development, planning and budgeting and facility needs at WCC's three campuses in Hattiesburg, with 1,500 students and Gulfport and New Orleans, encompassing 700 additional students.

Edwards will continue as CEO, including his college-wide responsibilities for executive-level decisions, but he will focus a larger portion of his time on fund-raising and external relations.

Lee is expected to begin his WCC duties on June 1.

--30--

**Southwestern tops local schools  
in United Way per capita giving**      **By Dena Dyer**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Once again, Southwestern gave more money per capita to United Way in 1995 than any other school in Fort Worth, Texas, according to Barbara W. Sullivan, education division director for United Way of Metropolitan Tarrant County.

"As long as I can remember, Southwestern has been the top per capita giver of any educational institution in Tarrant County," Sullivan said.

Current and retired Southwestern faculty and staff gave a total of \$22,741 during the fall 1995 campaign, which began in late August and ended in mid-October. The seminary had 100 percent participation and gave \$133.77 per capita.

Ranking second in per capita giving was Texas Christian University, with \$63.97 per employee. Per capita giving is computed by dividing the total employee contribution by the total employment.

Sullivan said Southwestern's figures are impressive because the average for the educational division per capita giving is \$21.

"And this year, Southwestern had fewer employees but a higher participation rate. This displays a real sense of stewardship for the entire community to see."

Wes Black, associate professor of youth education and 1995 campaign faculty chairman, commended the seminary family for its support of United Way.

"United Way reaches out in ways we could not as individuals," he said. "But as we pool our money, the United Way funnels the contributions to many charitable organizations."

As a result, Black noted, the seminary is able to support numerous worthwhile programs such as Crisis Intervention, Goodwill, Easter Seals, Boys and Girls Clubs, Family Services and the Red Cross. United Way also gives money for research into illnesses such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and sickle cell anemia.

Sullivan said Southwestern "has been such a role model in sacrificial giving, especially since I understand that so many people at the seminary tithe. I have heard others lift Southwestern up as an example and say, 'Look what they did. We can do that, too!'"

Supporting United Way is one way the seminary can impact Fort Worth, Black noted.

"We are good witnesses to the community when we give."

--30--

**Southern's David Gushee  
to join Union faculty**

**Baptist Press  
3/6/96**

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--David P. Gushee, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will join the Christian studies faculty at Union University, Jackson, Tenn., this fall.

Gushee also serves as the seminary's acting associate dean of the school of theology and acting director of professional studies.

Gushee "is an outstanding and prolific scholar who should bring a whole new dimension to our program," said George Guthrie, chair of Union's department of Christian studies.

Prior to joining the seminary, Gushee served as managing editor of the ESA Advocate, the journal for Evangelicals for Social Action, a Philadelphia-based Christian advocacy group.

--more--

A widely published author, Gushee is best known for his book "The Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust: A Christian Interpretation." A second book, "Preparing for Christian Ministry," co-edited with Walter Jackson, will be published this year. In addition, many of Gushee's articles and reviews have appeared in such publications as Christianity Today, Christian Century, Sojourners and Review & Expositor.

A frequent speaker for Southern Baptist churches and organizations, Gushee is the principle author of the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention's widely quoted statement on abortion clinic violence. He participated in drafting the SBC's historic resolution on racial reconciliation passed during the convention's 1995 sesquicentennial.

Gushee holds a Ph.D. and a master of philosophy from Union Theological Seminary, a master of divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a bachelor of arts from the College of William and Mary.

Union University is a four-year, liberal arts university affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Founded in 1823, the 2,000-student institution is the oldest university in the Southern Baptist Convention.

HOUSE MAIL

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>(BP)</b>  | <b>BAPTIST PRESS</b><br>901 Commerce #750<br>Nashville, TN 37234 |
| F<br>I<br>R<br>S<br>T<br><br>C<br>L<br>A<br>S<br>S | Southern Baptist Library<br>and Archives                         |