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HMB directors want new process  
for NAMB presidential search

By David Winfrey

Baptist Press  
4/18/96

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)--Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors supported the use of 13 "incorporators" to establish a new missions agency but objected to authorizing that group to nominate the new agency's president and board officers.

At their April 17 meeting, HMB trustees offered their own proposal for a presidential search committee which would double HMB representation in selecting the North American Mission Board's first leader. Board members also elected Mississippi pastor Greg Martin as chairman and other new officers.

The Southern Baptist Convention restructuring, approved by messengers at last year's SBC sesquicentennial meeting in Atlanta, calls for dissolving the Home Mission Board, the Brotherhood Commission and the Radio & Television Commission and assigning their duties to a newly created North American Mission Board.

The SBC Executive Committee's Implementation Task Force (ITF) proposed naming 13 "incorporators" (including two HMB representatives) to help establish the North American Mission Board, nominate a president and propose officers for the agency's board of directors.

Outgoing HMB chairman Steve Swofford praised ITF members for their attitude during meetings with Home Mission Board leadership. "We have been very, very well received by the ITF," he said after the board meeting. "But nobody likes change, and when change is brought about in strange and new ways, it's very hard for us to deal with."

The task force asked HMB board members to ratify a resolution that would have positioned them as supporting nomination powers for the incorporators. Instead, directors passed three resolutions related to restructuring, including one that proposed an alternative structure for a president search committee.

"I think they're frustrated," said Swofford, pastor of First Baptist Church, Rockwall, Texas, of the HMB trustees' action. "They just to some degree have felt left out of the process."

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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The first resolution affirmed using incorporators, but added "we do not endorse the incorporators serving as a presidential search committee or as a nominating committee for the board officers."

The second resolution appointed board members John Avant, a Brownwood, Texas, pastor, and Charles Fuller, a Roanoke, Va., pastor, as the two HMB representatives to the incorporators.

The third resolution, proposed by Billy Bissell, pastor of Boston Avenue Baptist Church, Muskogee, Okla., recommended forming a presidential search committee separate from the incorporators.

That committee would be composed of board members who serve the three agencies being eliminated (four per agency) and who will serve as directors for North American Mission Board. One representative would also come from the Implementation Task Force.

Board member and Houston attorney Walt Carpenter said the resolution better represents the intent of SBC messengers who voted to restructure the denomination "than the interpretation of the Executive Committee."

Avant encouraged board members to pursue "positive diplomacy" rather than the motion. The North American Mission Board trustees can reject any candidate the incorporators recommend, he added.

Ron Meyers, pastor First Baptist Church, Machesney Park, Ill., said board members have a responsibility to express their views about the proposed structure. "I don't think they're jiving us, but I sure would like them to hear our heart and know it officially."

Also during the meeting, directors voted to close the HMB Caribbean office and to eliminate the office's position of executive director.

The closing represents a shift in the board's strategy to evangelize and congregationalize that area, which includes Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, said Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance. "This will minimize administrative responsibilities and maximize field work."

Missionaries in that region will be categorized as national missionaries, reporting to their respective HMB office, after the office closes June 30, he said.

In board elections, all five positions were filled without contest. Martin, pastor of Commission Road Baptist Church, Long Beach, Miss., served as the board's first vice chairman before being elected chairman.

Kenneth Cheek, pastor of Northridge Baptist Church, Northport, Ala., was elected first vice chairman. John Avant, pastor of Coggin Avenue Baptist Church, Brownwood, Texas, was elected second vice chairman. Cloma Odom of Centerville, Ga., was re-elected secretary, as was assistant secretary Marti Hefley of Hannibal, Mo.

Also during the meeting, board members:

- established a department of ethnic evangelism. That position would be similar to an existing position for the office of black evangelism, Kelley said.
- elected Benjamin F. Kelley Jr. to be director of HMB development. Kelley currently serves as development director for the Brotherhood Commission.
- learned the administrative committee will employ Missouri writer James Hefley to write a history of the Home Mission Board.

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Giving decline forcing cuts  
in human needs ministries

By Mark Kelly

Baptist Press  
4/18/96

SOWETO, South Africa (BP)--If not for Southern Baptists who give to hunger and relief offerings, Nick would still be just another dirty, hungry, desperate kid in the Protea squatters' camp -- without hope either in this life or in the one to come.

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Protea camp -- named after a beautiful African wildflower -- is a ramshackle collection of hundreds of tin shacks thrown up on the outskirts of Soweto, South Africa. Tepid water flows from a few public taps. Portable toilets overflow into the streets. Idle men watch tattered children scamper down the dirt lanes.

With unemployment at 70 percent and alcoholism rampant, there's precious little hope for youngsters like Nick, says Ron Lomax, a Southern Baptist missionary who just completed four years of service in Soweto.

In fact, when Lomax went to the camp for the first time, looking for opportunities to share the gospel, the residents of Protea spurned him.

"They didn't trust us. They thought we were policemen," said Lomax, a Missouri native appointed to South Africa in 1987. "They were so hungry they weren't going to listen to us share the gospel with them.

"We realized we either had to feed them or teach them how to go to work and feed themselves."

Thusong Baptist Centre opened on 50 acres near Soweto in February 1992 with a multifaceted program in vocational training: welding, motor mechanics, masonry, auto body repair, sewing, gardening and candle making. As the weeks went by, students began accepting Christ during morning devotions. After a couple of months, a group of students asked for help to start a church in their camp -- the Protea camp.

That new congregation won to Christ a streetwise youth named Nick, who became youth leader, then youth director in the church. Recently camp residents elected him to lead their youth club, where he will have influence with dozens of young people. He's also taking Bible classes and praying about God's call to ministry.

"We've seen all that happen through human needs ministry: a vocational training school, a church started, a young man won to Christ," Lomax said. "We've seen people come to know the Lord -- lives turned around -- because Southern Baptists were willing to help them meet some of their physical needs first."

As Southern Baptists touch hurting people with human needs ministries, God opens doors for the gospel, says Bill Cashion, a former missionary to Venezuela who directs the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's human needs program. Yet some of the best opportunities for ministry are being lost for lack of funds.

A steady decline in Southern Baptist giving to hunger and relief has forced dramatic reductions in human needs ministries around the world. Giving dropped from \$7.2 million in 1991 to \$5.7 million in 1995 -- a 20.5 percent decrease. As reserves have dwindled, ministry spending has been pared back -- from \$10.2 million in 1991 to \$5.8 million this past year, a 42.4 percent reduction.

The lack of funds forced missionaries in South Africa to turn down an invitation to duplicate the Thusong program in squatters' camps all over the country -- a frustration experienced by Southern Baptist missionaries around the world. Ongoing ministries are being funded at half-level, Cashion said, and new requests are discouraged, except in the case of dire catastrophes like the current famine in North Korea.

Southern Baptists ought to be enlarging, not retrenching human needs ministries because they represent a strategic opportunity to share God's love with 1.7 billion people who've never had a chance to hear of it, said Avery Willis, the board's senior vice president for overseas operations.

"It is ironic that, at a time when we are focusing on the Last Frontier where people have the least access to the gospel, some of our best opportunities are being lost because of a decrease in hunger and relief funds," Willis said. "Meeting human needs is one of the best ways to make an impact in a World A people group."

The 225 ministry projects conducted in 62 countries during 1995 touched refugees and victims of flood, drought, disease and famine in the name of Jesus. Points of ministry ranged southern Asia and the Pacific to Brazil and the Caribbean. The \$5.8 million spent taught people how to farm and fish and build -- and told them about a God who can meet all their needs.

But if the giving trend continues, even those ministries will have to stop, Cashion said.

"People need to see that when they give to human needs ministries, they are sowing seeds that will result in a great harvest of souls," he said. "When we approach people with a cup of cold water in one hand and the bread of life in the other, God's going to open the doors."

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(BP) photo (horizontal) and graphic (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers April 18 by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Outline and graphic available in SBCNet News Room.

Volunteer team ventures  
into South African camps

By Julie Nall

Baptist Press  
4/18/96

SARCOXIE, Mo. (BP)--More than 250,000 people -- sometimes as many as a half-million -- camp outside South African cities, building homes of tin, dirt or whatever they can find. They are literally in the dark without electricity and spiritually in the dark without the gospel of Jesus Christ.

More than 3,000 South Africans were given medical care by 22 volunteer Southern Baptist medical professionals from 12 different states in a two-week trip focusing on squatters' villages. About 800 of the patients accepted Christ through the team's witness, according to Tom Cox World Ministries, a Foreign Mission Board-approved partnership evangelism organization from Mountainburg, Ark., that organized the trip. The professionals donated medicine and 3,000 pairs of eyeglasses.

"There weren't any doctors with us, so we couldn't diagnose," said Teresa Littles, an assistant in a physician's office and member of New Fairview Baptist Church, Sarcoxie, Mo.

"We just did what we could," said Littles, who worked in a tent in an Etwatwa village. The nurses and nurses' aides distributed vitamins and antibiotics, sometimes seeing conditions they were helpless to improve. An optometrist distributed the eyeglasses.

The squatters' villages consist mostly of people who move from rural tribal areas toward the city to seek employment, Littles explained. With recent reports indicating the unemployment rate has continued to rise in South Africa, people are seeking hope as they search for work, Littles said.

The nurses and optometrist provided patients with primary health care while other volunteers preached and counseled those waiting to be seen. South African pastors Louis Marais of Benoni Baptist Church and Gilbert Ndlovu of Alexandra Baptist Church assisted in ministering to underprivileged people in the Ivory Park squatter camp near Johannesburg and the Jubilee Hospital near Pretoria.

Littles is a veteran volunteer, having traveled to India to do missions work in February 1995. South Africa wasn't as dirty as India and was more advanced, she reported. But South Africa also was more violent. The volunteers were told to stay inside one day because of a "necklacing" in the village -- people had put a tire around a man's neck, filled it with gasoline and set it on fire.

Volunteers also were subject to danger in the villages. The Ivory Park church paid members of a gang to protect their church and its members. While some people looked down on this effort, Littles explained the church hoped to use it as an open door to reach the gangs, at the same time securing safety.

In the country of more than 41 million people -- a nation filled with racial tension -- there are many Christian denominations. Whites are predominant in the Dutch Reformed Church and blacks are in African Separatist, Methodist or Anglican churches. Hindu, Islam and African traditional religions also are present.

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Baptists have been present in South Africa since shortly after the Napoleonic wars. Still, Protea Baptist Church, begun in Soweto in 1993, was the first new church in the area in 30 years. The building is a tin shack in Protea, a squatters' camp in the corner of Soweto. Attendance the first day was 65 adults and 62 children; it soon rose to more than 100 on any given Sunday.

The Protea church started through the ministry of Thusong ("Place of Hope") Baptist Center outside Soweto. At Thusong, 75 to 80 squatters' camp residents receive vocational training over five weeks. They receive instruction in sewing, candle/lotion/polish-making, typing, welding, motor mechanics, masonry and gardening.

Tom Cox, who works with the Foreign Mission Board in soliciting volunteer medical teams, declared the South Africa trip a success. "Because of the people we took and because of the cooperation between whites and blacks, it was a milestone in race relations," he said.

Like many missions partnership ventures, the volunteers fund their own trips. For Littles, funding was an issue in whether she could go.

"Mommy, you'll be doing God's work, won't you?" her 9-year-old son asked. His question was the answer she anticipated; the cost became secondary and she gladly went on the trip.

If just one soul was saved, Littles contended, the entire project was worth the effort. Many were saved and now others are aware of the gospel. It was profitable, she said, because "now they know there is hope."

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S.C. names national consultant  
for denomination transformation By Mark Jeffcoat

Baptist Press  
4/18/96

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Citing an emerging obligation to share what they are learning about church and denominational growth, the South Carolina Baptist Convention's executive board elected George W. Bullard Jr. as national consultant for denominational transformation during its semiannual meeting April 15-16.

The position is unique among Baptist state conventions because it crosses both state and denominational lines.

Bullard, currently director of the convention's strategic development and associational growth team, will assist churches and denominations across the nation with strategies for increasing membership, developing disciples and expanding ministries. The new assignment, beginning May 1, is for three years.

Since 1991 the South Carolina convention has been involved in a sharply focused effort to assist the state convention's 1,880 churches with intentional processes to support growth. The emphasis, called "Empowering Kingdom Growth," was conceived in response to state and national trends of stagnant and declining church memberships.

Said B. Carlisle Driggers, executive director-treasurer of the convention, "Through Dr. Bullard, we will be in an improved position to relate our learnings to other denominational officials and receive insights from them in return. For a fact, SCBC is charting a new course for the strengthening of churches and denominational entities across the nation. I pray for the success of this venture."

The SCBC, oldest of the state Baptist conventions, has received national recognition for its re-engineered approach to serve member churches. Leadership Network, an interdenominational network of church leaders, held a major national meeting in March in Columbia showcasing the S.C. model.

Bullard has been one of the strategists for the convention and chairman of the staff task force that has managed the growth emphasis. He previously worked in a similar position with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. He helped plan and coordinate Mega Focus Cities, a growth strategy for large metropolitan areas.

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Bullard is widely recognized as a church growth strategist, an authority in conflict management, an advisor to denominational leaders and a writer. He has extensively developed a life cycle model for churches, which helps church leaders know what types of assistance a church may need to best facilitate growth.

In the new position, Bullard will lead in planning strategic conferences for national and regional denominational leaders. He will continue to assist convention staff in growth matters and also will write the story of the Empowering Kingdom Growth emphasis.

The son of a pastor and denominational leader, Bullard, 45, earned the master of divinity, master of theology and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He completed undergraduate work at Mars Hill (N.C.) College.

Prior to coming to South Carolina, he served as pastor of West Side Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; consultant with Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware; and director of mission ministries, Mecklenburg Baptist Association, Charlotte, N.C.

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Golden Gate trustees approve  
intercultural studies school

By Mark A. Wyatt

Baptist Press  
4/18/96

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Cross-cultural training and bilingual theological education got a boost April 16 as trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary approved plans for a new school of intercultural studies.

Trustees also hired five new faculty members, adopted a policy governing seminary investments and approved an increased budget for the coming year during their regular spring meeting at the seminary's main campus in Mill Valley, Calif.

President William O. "Bill" Crews called the school of intercultural studies a "major component" in Golden Gate's dream to shape effective leaders for the churches of tomorrow.

"The multicultural world in which we all now work and live is changing so rapidly and we must do our best to prepare our students for this dimension of their ministry," Crews told trustees.

The school of intercultural studies will include two new master's degree programs and emphases in intercultural studies for existing graduate programs designed to train urban pastors as well as home and foreign missionaries. In addition, the school will serve Korean and Latino students seeking theological training while acquiring English ministry skills for ethnic congregations.

The school was made possible by a \$5.25 million gift from David and Faith Kim of Santa Ana. The gift, announced last fall, was the largest ever received by Golden Gate Seminary.

Crews told trustees of another large gift -- \$1.1 million -- Golden Gate received April 12. But he declined to discuss details, citing the donor's wish for anonymity.

Faith Kim, a doctor of ministry graduate of the seminary, was one of five new faculty approved by trustees. She was named associate professor-at-large of Christian education and intercultural studies.

In addition to being a longtime seminary benefactor, Kim has been an adjunct professor at the institution's Southern California campus in Brea for several years. In her new position, she will teach intercultural studies at Golden Gate's three west coast campuses in Brea and Mill Valley, Calif., and Portland, Ore.

Sam Williams, adjunct professor and pastor of BayMarin Community Church in San Rafael, was named assistant professor of pastoral leadership. Williams also will direct the seminary's church planter program while continuing to serve the San Rafael congregation as pastor.

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Joseph Kim, another adjunct professor, was named assistant professor of intercultural education. He also will coordinate the bilingual training tracks at Golden Gate's Southern California Campus.

James Higgs was named associate professor of preaching. Higgs, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Francisco, since 1979, has previously taught preaching and ethics at Golden Gate as an adjunct professor.

William Lyle Wagner was named to the Westmoreland Chair of Evangelism as professor of evangelism and church growth. Wagner has served as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary since 1965. He previously was a pastor in New Mexico.

Trustees also authorized the first full-time professor at Golden Gate's Northwest Campus. Mike Kuykendall, formerly a part-time faculty member at the Portland, Ore., campus, will teach and direct the center's library operations.

Two retiring professors each were given the title "senior professor." William Schweer and Oscar Brooks, with a combined 35 years' teaching experience at Golden Gate, are expected to teach additional courses in the future.

Crews reported on a reorganization of the seminary's administration. He explained Michael Thompson, vice president for student affairs, asked to be relieved of administrative duties to focus entirely on teaching. Reassigning those duties among other administrative staff will prevent the need to fill the vice president's position, Crews said.

A policy governing how seminary funds will be invested received trustee approval. It says Golden Gate "will not directly hold investments in companies or entities whose products or services are inconsistent with the stated moral views of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Golden Gate is one of six seminaries operated by the SBC. Others are located in Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina and Kentucky.

Jim Stephenson, Golden Gate vice president for business affairs, cautioned market conditions make it "virtually impossible" to completely avoid so-called "sin stocks." But he said the new policy will help ensure Golden Gate does not invest in industries such as alcohol, tobacco and gambling.

In addition to the new investment policy, trustees authorized creation of an investment management team to develop and oversee specific investment strategies for the seminary. Officials said the team will become more important as efforts continue to increase seminary endowment funds and reduce the institution's dependence on Cooperative Program funding.

A slight increase in CP funds is projected in the seminary's 1996-97 budget approved by trustees. The \$6,382,100 spending plan is \$496,400, or 8.4 percent, above the current budget of \$5,885,700.

Nearly three-fourths of the budget increase will cover the cost of new faculty positions and a library technical services manager. The budget also provides funds for a system of merit pay increases which will replace cost of living increases.

Student fees will increase an average of 5 percent in the coming year. Southern Baptist students will pay \$925 per term, compared to the current figure of \$880. Fees paid by non-Southern Baptist students will increase from \$2,200 per term at present to \$2,300 a term under the new budget.

Crews noted for the first time in memory revenue from student housing and other services will not be needed for seminary operations under the new budget. Instead, that income will become available to fund long-delayed maintenance and renovations in such auxiliary programs.

Crews also presented what he predicted may be his final report on Golden Gate's years-long "Seminary Ridge" development project. He said the seminary now has a signed contract to sell four acres for a proposed 30-unit condominium project overlooking San Francisco Bay. If the deal goes through, the seminary will receive \$3.6 million dollars for the site within the next few months, Crews said. That would increase the total amount raised by land sales to nearly \$5 million dollars earmarked for seminary endowment.

Trustees voted to set aside \$1.6 million from expected proceeds of the sale to match special allocations by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. The money is for an endowment fund which provides loans to help seminary employees purchase homes in the Bay Area, rated the nation's most expensive housing market.

In other business, Golden Gate trustees:

-- heard reports from directors of the seminary's regional campuses in southern California, Oregon and Arizona as well as plans for a new center scheduled to open next fall in Denver, Colo.

-- reviewed plans for a \$12 million "Shaping the Future" capital gifts campaign currently under way to boost seminary endowment.

-- re-elected George Mullinax of Virginia as chairman and Barrett Duke of Colorado as secretary.

-- approved strategic planning guidelines for the coming year.

-- endorsed the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelistic thrust known as "Celebrate Jesus 2000," urging every member of the seminary community to join in the effort to pray for and share Christ with every person in America by the end of the decade.

-- voted to hold their spring 1997 meeting April 7-9 at the Northwest Campus in Portland, Ore.

The next meeting of trustees will be at the campus in Mill Valley Oct. 7-9.

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GGBTS to offer new degrees  
in intercultural studies

By Cameron Crabtree

Baptist Press  
4/18/96

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will offer three degrees in its School of Intercultural Studies, according to seminary officials. Last year, Golden Gate received a \$5.25 million gift to endow the new school.

Seminary faculty recently approved requirements for a new master of arts in intercultural studies and a master of divinity with a concentration in intercultural studies. In addition, a bilingual master of divinity track, on "pilot project" status for the last two years, will move to permanent status in the new school.

The seminary's trustees approved formation of the new school and its programs at their annual spring meeting April 16.

"The school of intercultural studies at Golden Gate Seminary will help students develop the skills, knowledge and character necessary for the real world of global mission and ministry," said seminary President William Crews.

Seminary officials predicted the new school and its degree programs will better train missionary candidates to serve abroad, those seeking to minister within specific cultural contexts and those leading multilingual congregations in North America.

The master of arts in intercultural studies, which will be offered beginning in fall 1997, is a two-year, 48 credit-hour course of graduate study designed to provide "in-career professionals with intercultural training" and to prepare pre-career students for work nationally and globally in cross-cultural and intercultural situations.

The degree is shaped by a view of "life investment" in three key areas, according to Tom Wolf, associate professor of missions at Golden Gate and teaching pastor of The Church On Brady in east Los Angeles:

-- Covenant. "All kingdom involvement is based on and out of biblical revelation, the Christ-centered and mission-driven covenant of God intended to include others from all the peoples of the earth into the salvation we already experience."

-- Culture. "All kingdom involvement is somewhere with someone. To properly honor and to effectively impact the cultures and the peoples of the planet, affirming, blessing, and critiquing culture is at the core of all our endeavors."

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-- Church. "All kingdom involvement is entrusted to God's people. Rooted in Scripture, drawing on history and surveying our generation, the church referent places the local congregation, strategizing to bless others, at the center of everything of genuine significance in the destiny of our planet and the universe."

The requirements for entry into the new master of arts degree are the same as for other post-bachelor programs at the seminary, including a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution. The degree is designed to be "rigorous academically and practical experientially," said Wolf.

The master of divinity with a concentration in intercultural studies, which will begin in fall 1996, requires 88 credit hours of study.

"The (degree) seeks to bring a remedy to a changing community by equipping leaders with tools, insight, understanding and sensitivity to be productive in the intercultural, primarily urban setting," said Leroy Gainey, associate professor of Christian education at Golden Gate and pastor of the multicultural First Baptist Church, Vacaville, Calif.

"Unless students can minister with people who are different from themselves, they are likely to be ineffective and unproductive in contemporary setting," said Rodrick Durst, the seminary's vice president for academic affairs.

The degree combines the basic theological studies offered by the seminary with advanced studies in intercultural and sub-multicultural ministries.

"Within this context, the intercultural studies school will provide students with a much-needed theoretical and practical background to become more skilled, effective, confident and productive ministers in the diverse ministry setting," Durst said.

Bilingual master of divinity tracks for selected language groups, including Korean and Latino, are scheduled to begin at the seminary's Mill Valley campus in spring 1997.

Currently, a bilingual Korean master of divinity track is offered at the seminary's Southern California Campus in Brea.

The bilingual tracks provide courses in non-English languages or bilingually while students are gaining a required level of English-language proficiency, allowing them to later merge into the regular master of divinity program.

Students are expected to pass three sequential classes related to English skill development during their first two years in the program. Once the three courses are successfully completed, students move into the regular master of divinity program.

The program "represents a needed training resource," said J. Sam Simmons, director of the Brea campus.

Seminary leaders said the new school and the new degrees are needed because the world in which churches minister today are vastly different from previous generations.

"The intercultural skills formerly needed primarily, if not only, by those going abroad are still needed, now with ever greater urgency than ever before," according to a statement prepared by Wolf. "But now, the same intercultural skills once used primarily for cross-cultural, international service are also profoundly needed by those ministering in our multicultural national settings."

In other matters related to the new school, seminary trustees elected two people to teach in the area of intercultural studies.

Faith K. Kim, adjunct professor at the seminary's Southern California Campus in Brea since 1991 and director of the Los Angeles Korean Ethnic Leadership Development Center since 1990, was elected associate professor-at-large of intercultural education.

Joseph J. Kim (not related to Faith Kim), adjunct professor at the Brea campus since 1994 and youth pastor of two churches in southern California since 1990, was elected associate professor of intercultural education.

Professors Wolf, Gainey and other faculty also will teach in the new programs.

"The Golden Gate School of Intercultural Studies is a mentoring vision, a curricular process and an experiential laboratory to equip prospective and experienced Great Commission Christians for effective intercultural endeavors," said Wolf.

Golden Gate trustees  
elect 5 to faculty

By Cameron Crabtree

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological elected five faculty members at their spring meeting April 15-16 on the seminary's Mill Valley campus.

At a dinner meeting following the business sessions, trustee chairman George Mullinax of Portsmouth, Va., spoke to all the seminary faculty members.

"I want to thank you on behalf of Southern Baptists," said Mullinax. "You are the single most influential group in our convention and we're grateful for what you do to influence the lives of young people who will lead and minister in our churches for years to come."

Trustees elected Joseph Kim as assistant professor intercultural education; William "Bill" Wagner as professor of evangelism and church growth, occupying the E. Hermond Westmoreland Chair of Evangelism; Faith Kim as associate professor-at-large for intercultural education; James Higgs, associate professor preaching; and Sam Williams as assistant professor of pastoral leadership and director of the seminary's church planting program.

Joseph Kim has served as an adjunct professor at the seminary's Southern California Campus in Brea since 1994, teaching in the areas of church growth, multicultural ministries and English as a second language. He will coordinate the seminary's bilingual master of divinity program at the Brea campus.

He is youth pastor at Brookhurst Christian Fellowship in Fullerton, a position he's held since 1993. He served as youth pastor at Orange (Calif.) Korean Baptist Church from 1990-93.

Kim holds a master of arts in Christian education from Golden Gate; a master of science in mechanical engineering from California Polytechnic University in Pomona; and a bachelor of science from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He also is a doctor of education candidate at Biola University, expected to graduate with the degree in May

Bill Wagner, a Southern Baptist missionary since 1965, has been missionary-in-residence at Golden Gate for the 1995-96 academic year. He served the last 14 years as the Europe and Middle East consultant for evangelism and church growth of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board. Wagner was based in Germany and Austria.

While in Europe, Wagner started and pastored four churches; established the Baptist Youth Center in Austria; chaired the European Baptist Federation Committee for Mission to Muslims in Europe; led the practical theology department at the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Heverlee, Belgium; coordinated MasterLife Discipleship Training in Europe; and served as the home missions director for the Austrian Baptist Union.

He received a doctor of theology from the University of South Africa in Pretoria; a doctor of missiology from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif.; a master of divinity from Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and a bachelor of science from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Before becoming a missionary, Wagner was pastor of Hermosa Baptist Church in Albuquerque from 1961-65. While there the church grew from 20 members to 450 members, started one mission and sponsored two other missions.

Faith Kim (not related to Joseph Kim) has served as an adjunct professor at the seminary's Southern California Campus since 1991, teaching in the areas of Christian education, multicultural ministry and other ministry areas.

In her new position, she will teach at the seminary's various regional campuses in the western United States.

She has directed the seminary's Los Angeles Korean Ethnic Leadership Development center since 1990, having previously taught there.

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Since 1990, Kim has been a director of education in the youth and young adult ministry at Korean Pilgrim Baptist Church in Alhambra, Calif. She helped start Korean Koinonia Baptist Church in Tustin in 1979 and served as that church's director of second-generation English-speaking ministries. Prior to that she was involved in the youth ministry at Berendo Street Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

She received a doctor of ministry from Golden Gate Seminary; a master of Christian education from Wheaton (Ill.) Graduate School; and a bachelor of arts from Ewha Women's University in Seoul, Korea.

James Higgs, pastor of First Baptist Church in San Francisco since 1979, has served as an adjunct professor at Golden Gate Seminary since 1993, teaching in the areas of preaching and ethics. He will continue as pastor of First Baptist.

Prior to his current pastorate, Higgs was pastor of Medina Baptist Church in Roselle, Ill., 1976-79; Calvary Baptist Church in San Francisco, 1973-76; and Trinity Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, 1958-72.

He received a doctor of theology from Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary; a master of theology from Dallas Theological Seminary; and a bachelor of arts from Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C.

Sam Williams, pastor of BayMarin Community Church in San Rafael, Calif, since 1992, has taught as adjunct professor at Golden Gate in the areas of leadership, church growth, church planting and evangelism. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Williams will oversee restructuring of the seminary's church planting program.

He will continue as pastor of BayMarin, a contemporary church, which describes itself as "committed to reaching and discipling the unchurched, and being a sending base for training church planters and starting new churches."

Williams was pastor of Del Cerro Baptist Church in La Mesa, Calif., from 1972-92. In his 20 years of ministry at Del Cerro, the church became a model for churches seeking to minister amid the California culture. It made the transition from a traditional church, plateaued for many years, to a growing church known for its innovative approaches to worship, missions and outreach. It started seven new churches and a satellite congregation.

He received a master of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a bachelor of arts from Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas.

In addition, Robert A. Baker, a supervisor at the Center for Family Therapy in southern California, will serve one year under presidential appointment as associate professor of pastoral care at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Baker has served as adjunct professor at the seminary in the area of pastoral care and counseling, teaching both at the Southern California campus in Brea and at the residential campus in Mill Valley.

A member of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., Baker also directs the lay counseling program at Whittier Hills Baptist Church in Whittier, Calif. He also has a private practice in southern California.

He was senior pastor of First Baptist Church in LaVerne, Calif., for nine years and director of family ministries at Walnut Valley Baptist Church in Walnut, Calif., for two years. In addition, Baker served as a staff therapist for Minirth-Meier Clinic West's outpatient clinic.

He received a master of science in marriage, family and child counseling and bachelor arts from California Baptist College in Riverside and a master of divinity from Golden Gate. He is a doctor of philosophy candidate in clinical psychology at the Saybrook Institute's Graduate School and Research Center in San Francisco, expected to graduate in May 1997.

A California-licensed marriage, family and child counselor, Baker is a clinical member of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and the Christian Association of Psychological Studies.

Also, Michael Thompson, vice president for student affairs and associate professor of spiritual formation, asked to be relieved of his administrative duties to devote full attention to teaching. His assignment as associate professor of historical studies is in effect.

Prayer, fasting for Tibet  
scheduled for May 24-25

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists have set aside a 24-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. May 24 to pray for the people of Tibet, the region of Asia famous for its rugged Himalaya Mountains and home to the highest peaks in the world.

Each spring, Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians devote one day to prayer for a specific group of people who have little or no access to hearing the good news of Jesus Christ. The 1996 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization focuses on the nearly 5 million Tibetans worldwide.

Tibet lost its brief independence as a Buddhist state in 1950 when China invaded the country. Tibetans have stubbornly defended their culture and ethnic identity against communist efforts to integrate them into Chinese society. There are no more than a handful of Christians in Tibet, and no known congregations.

A resource kit to support the prayer emphasis is available free of charge from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The kit includes a video about Tibetans, news coverage on Tibet adapted from The Commission magazine and a prayer guide. To order, call 1-800-866-3621 or write Customer Services, Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767. Please allow two weeks for delivery.

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Missionaries cite hand  
of God in their journey

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press  
4/18/96

ROSWELL, Ga. (BP)--Some would label it mere coincidence, but four new home missionaries call it the hand of God.

A home missions commissioning service April 16 highlighted their testimonies, the importance of cooperation among Southern Baptists and the urgency of evangelism. Sixty missionaries from two foreign countries and 21 states were commissioned at First Baptist Church, Roswell, Ga.

Peter Kendrick was born in Seoul, Korea, and abandoned by his parents, he said. A foreign missionary nurse "saw me and loved me. I can still remember her holding me," he said. "She introduced me to a couple serving in the Navy who had Christ in their hearts and room in their home for one more boy."

Now Kendrick is an associational director of missions in Warren, Ohio, serving with his wife, Patricia.

Rodney Harrison made a profession of faith when he was 6 and immediately told his best friend about Jesus. The boy's mother said her son could never play with Harrison again.

"After that, I didn't tell people about Jesus for fear of losing friends," he said. Rejecting God's call to missions, he became a nurse. Then a Mission Service Corps volunteer couple moved their mobile home next to Harrison's. As a result of their ministry, Harrison's wife, Julie, made a profession of faith, and he responded to the call to missions.

Harrison is now a church planter in Visalia, Calif., the same community where he was raised.

Ginger Smith was a high school senior when she saw an ad for the Sojourner program. Sojourners are high school students serving in summer missions. She applied and was assigned to work with home missionary Mildred McWhorter in Houston.

But Smith and her parents had reservations about her leaving a small Louisiana town for Houston's inner city. McWhorter, who has since retired, drove to Louisiana and convinced the Smiths their daughter would be safe.

Serving in Houston "changed my life," she said. "I had never before seen people in need." Smith is now director of the Brantley Baptist Mission in New Orleans.

Tom Maluga was a Texas pastor when Danny Souder, pastor of Northlake Baptist Church in Dallas, visited Chicago's Uptown Baptist Church with other members of the Home Mission Board directors. The church building hosted four ethnic congregations and dozens of ministries, but the congregation was without a pastor.

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Souder was convinced that Maluga was the man for the job. As Maluga was commissioned, he referred to Souder as an "angel" for recommending him to the Chicago congregation.

Speaking to the missionaries, Mike Williams, assistant executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, said home missions "brings into focus the value of cooperation." Most home missionaries are jointly sponsored by the Home Mission Board and their state convention.

"Think of yourself as a personalized gift from every Southern Baptist to that place where you serve," Williams said.

HMB President Larry Lewis urged missionaries to make evangelism a priority. "Don't work yourself to a frenzy only to find that which you've worked so hard for amounts to nothing . . . There is only one place you can invest and have eternal dividends, and that is the kingdom of God."

Lewis noted Revelation 21 refers to God wiping away tears in heaven. "Will you shed tears of heartbreak and regret or tears of joy?"

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Draper urges seminarians  
to rely on God's energy

By Dena Dyer

Baptist Press  
4/18/96

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--"We in the Southern Baptist Convention are firing 125 pastors a month. At that rate, we will fire every pastor in the convention in 25 years," James T. Draper Jr., Baptist Sunday School Board president, told a Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary chapel audience April 9.

Draper's message, "Laboring Together with God," was part of the annual Sunday School Board Emphasis Week at the seminary's Fort Worth, Texas, campus.

The BSSB and other SBC agencies receive 18,000 phone calls a year from staff members of Southern Baptist churches who either want to change churches or quit, Draper said.

"If that were to continue, we would go through every staff member in the SBC in three years," he said.

"When you students leave here, your greatest obstacles will be within yourself and within the family of the church. How will you survive and even thrive in such an atmosphere?"

"By doing God's work in his strength, not yours," Draper answered, noting ministers experience burnout because they try to do the work of God in the energy of the flesh.

Citing 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, Draper stressed Christians are laborers together with God.

"We're working on his energy and his strength," he said. "You will run out of energy and 'hit the wall' if you are not laboring on God's energy."

Ministers often get too comfortable with their role, he added. "We must never get over the awe that we handle the very things of God."

He then noted four things ministers need to realize in order to stay empowered with God's energy:

-- First, Christians are not all alike -- and that's OK. "Paul and Apollos were different, but God used them both. Be you! God has chosen to honor our uniqueness."

-- Second, believers don't all do the same things. "Paul said that 'Apollos planted, and I watered.' I believe that planting and watering stand for the diversity of ministries of the church. There are simply no unimportant people -- or jobs -- in God's kingdom."

-- Third, the church is bound together in unity. "In verse 8, Paul states that he who plants and he who waters are one. This is not about theology or politics. It's about our relationship to and in Christ."

-- Fourth, God's children will succeed. "If we labor in his energy, God will give the increase. We are not on the losing side."

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Mims: God's testing makes  
for effective Christians

By Dena Dyer

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--"There's not one person who has ever been effective for God who has not been tested by God," said Gene Mims, vice president of the church growth group of the Baptist Sunday School Board, during an April 10 chapel service at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mims' message, "Things to Learn in the Valley," was part of the annual Sunday School Board Emphasis Week at the seminary's Fort Worth, Texas, campus.

"God tests us so that we might know who he is," Mims said. "We must accept and learn and thank God for the valleys of testing in our lives."

Citing Genesis 22, in which God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, Mims stressed three principles that are true during periods of God's testing:

-- First, God sometimes leads believers to places they don't necessarily want to go. "Did you really desire to be here? Some of you probably would have never imagined yourselves in seminary."

-- Second, God often asks Christians to give up what's most precious to them. "God wants to be the absolute object of your devotion and affection. Whatever is between you and God must either be sacrificed, removed or dealt with."

-- Finally, God always provides. "No matter what we go through, God is always Jehovah-Jireh."

Mims then gave four applications for how Christians can deal with testing from God:

-- First, listen to God. "Like Moses, we must have such an intimate relationship with God that we can hear him tell us when to stop or go."

-- Second, obey when God speaks. "Even when we can't understand his purposes, we must be able to discern his voice -- as Moses did -- and immediately obey."

-- Third, any test is a test of God's life. "A time of testing reveals something about us, but it also reveals something about God."

-- Fourth, have faith that God will provide. "Abraham had extreme faith -- faith that God would raise Isaac from the dead. God will always give us much more than he takes away."

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Baylor vice president  
named Samford provost

Baptist Press  
4/18/96

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--James S. Netherton, Baylor University's second-ranking administrator as vice president and chief operating officer, has been named provost of Samford University.

Netherton, who directs day-to-day operations at Baylor and assumes chief executive responsibilities in the absence of the president, will become Samford's chief academic officer June 1.

He will succeed William E. Hull, who retires as provost May 31. Hull will continue in his role as university professor and teach courses in New Testament preaching and other subjects.

"Dr. James Netherton is the consummate academic and higher education administrator in one person," said Samford President Thomas E. Corts. "With Dr. Netherton at Samford, my biggest job may be to convince the trustees I'm still necessary! He is a scholar-thinker-doer, a family man, a committed churchman. It would be rare if Samford could find another person with such a combination of needed qualities."

Netherton manages a \$150 million annual budget at Baylor; he directs all financial and business offices, is responsible for all university planning activities and supervises such special staff offices as treasurer, athletics, internal audit, computing and information systems, institutional research and minority affairs.

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He has served in his present post since 1991. At Baylor since 1981, he held a series of vice presidential positions with increasing areas of responsibility.

The Jackson, Miss., native is a graduate of the University of Mississippi with a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Virginia. In addition to administrative responsibilities, he taught math during his first four years at Baylor and has taught a colloquium in the honors program since 1985. He taught at Armstrong State College in Savannah, Ga., from 1973-81.

The new Samford provost has served as a commissioner for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accrediting agency since 1991. He chaired the commission's Criteria and Review Committee to make accreditation recommendations for all member institutions during 1995 and has chaired visiting committees for such institutions as Vanderbilt, Tulane, Furman, Mercer and other universities.

Netherton and his wife Patricia are parents of two sons, Jay, 22, and Kirk, 19.

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