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Moore, Fort Smith Pastor,
Named Arkansas Executive

By J. Everett Sneed

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) -- Don Moore, 49, a Fort Smith pastor, has been elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Moore, pastor of Grand Avenue Baptist Church, replaces Huber Drumwright, who died Nov. 2, 1981. L.L. Collins, associate executive secretary, has been interim executive secretary.

The Fort Smith pastor, who was elected unanimously in an open vote at a called meeting of the 92-member state executive board, Sept. 23, said he plans to resign his pastorate Sept. 26, and assume responsibilities in Little Rock Oct. 18.

Kerry Powell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Forrest City, and chairman of the nine-member search committee, said the group held 15 meetings since it was formed nine months ago. He described Moore as "a man who loves Jesus ... preaches the Word ... raises our sights (as a state convention) ... and is of impeccable character and high standards."

In accepting the call, Moore thanked the board for the unanimous vote, and said: "I am humbled by your confidence. I believe with all my heart that God is preparing me and has called me to do this."

Moore has been pastor of the Fort Smith congregation for 12 years. During his tenure, church membership has increased 59 percent, growing from 1,910 to more than 3,000, and Sunday School enrollment has grown 70 percent, rising from 1,583 in 1970 to 2,697 in 1981.

According to the Arkansas Convention annual, Moore's church was second in the state in 1981 in Cooperative Program giving. The annual reports the church gave \$288,127 to missions, including \$197,778, through the Cooperative Program. The total church budget was \$1,819,735.

Moore attended the University of Arkansas and graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in 1955, and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1958. He has been pastor of churches in Smackover, Camden and Jonesboro, Ark., Corum, Okla., and New Orleans.

He was president of the Arkansas convention, 1974-75; state pastor's conference, 1972, and co-chairman of the 1976 statewide evangelistic campaign. He has been a trustee of Ouachita Baptist University and president of the Baptist Student Union Advisory Committee.

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Baptist TelNet Tape
Tested on Satellite

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9/24/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--It was only a test, but the first videotape of potential Baptist TelNet programming was successfully transmitted by satellite Sept. 24 from the uplink of Westinghouse Group Productions in Pittsburgh.

The purposes of the test conducted on Westar 4 satellite were to evaluate equipment and to view the quality of tapes which could be transmitted to churches, according to TelNet Manager Joe Denney.

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Denney said the 48-minute tape test for the Sunday School Board's satellite telecommunications network was "very good. With additional equipment we'll be able to further improve the quality of the picture that can be received in churches, associations and state conventions."

The tape test included excerpts of eight conferences on marriage and family life, deacon ministry, church training, Sunday School, student ministry and one worship service.

After viewing the transmission at WDCN-TV in Nashville, Sunday School Board President Grady Cothen said he is encouraged by the progress in developing programming and technology.

"Given time to perfect equipment, technology and programs, we're going to be able to operate a truly first-class network for the denomination," said Cothen. "We're going to be ready." The network is expected to be operational in the spring of 1984.

To date, more than 100 conferences and seminar sessions have been videotaped at Ridgecrest (N.C.) conference center and at the spring Christian Life Commission seminar in Atlanta. Some will be edited into Baptist TelNet programs, Denney said.

Don Fearheiley, supervisor of the church programs and services telecommunications unit, said many Church Program Training Center seminars will be taped at the board this year and plans are under way to tape sessions at both Ridgecrest and Glorieta (N.M.) in the summer of 1983.

In other developments, Denney said construction is expected to begin early in 1983 on the Nashville uplink which will transmit TelNet programs to the board's transponder on the Spacenet 1 satellite.

Information about program subscription fees and costs of satellite dishes and other receiving equipment to be marketed by the board will be available early in 1983, Denney said.

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(BP) photos to be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Baptist Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press

WMU Approves Plans,
Launches New Building

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—In a rare called meeting, the Executive Board of Woman's Missionary Union dedicated property and approved plans for a new national headquarters building to be built on "Missionary Ridge," south of Birmingham.

WMU officials also said work on the site development has begun with the partial grading one-half mile of road. The new building will be occupied by April of 1984.

Citing biblical examples of the significance of mountains, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, called the new site of national WMU's headquarters, which will be built on New Hope Mountain, a "signal of God's love to the waiting world."

Leading in ground breaking and site dedication ceremonies, Weatherford said, "Mountains have always been prominent in lives of God's people.

"Moses went to the mountain, and God gave him the law. The prophets proclaimed God's message from the mountain. In the old days people worshipped on mountains in order to be closer to God and Jesus himself said that a city on top of a hill could not be hidden."

Weatherford called the relocation of the 1.1 million member Southern Baptist auxiliary a venture of faith.

Quoting from Isaiah 54:2-3, Weatherford said that WMU, SBC, is "indeed lengthening its cords and strengthening its stakes." She noted that this was the same text used by William Carey in 1792 when he launched the modern day missionary movement in England.

"Like Carey, we are expecting things from God and we acknowledge we are attempting for God as we challenge and motivate Southern Baptists to extend their work," she said.

Standing in a cleared area on which the 140,000 square-foot structure will stand, twenty-one state WMU presidents who serve on WMU's Executive Board drove in brass stakes.

Weatherford called the stakes symbolic of the faith and support of Baptists in state conventions.

Dorothy E. Sample of Flint Mich., national president of WMU, SBC, presided at the ceremony.

Also participating were Alma Hunt of Richmond, Va., executive secretary of WMU, SBC, 1948-74; Marie Mathis of Dalhart, Texas, president from 1956-63 and from 1969-75; Helen Fling of Birmingham, Ala., president from 1963-69, and Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., president from 1975-81.

During Hunt's administration WMU moved to its present location in downtown Birmingham in 1952. During Gregory's tenure the executive board voted to relocate.

Members of the Relocation Committee participating were Betty Gilreath of Charlotte, N.C., chairman; Camilla Lowry, Auburn, Ala.; Pattie Dent, Holly Springs, Miss.; Rachel Howard, Doraville, Ga., and WMU, SBC staff members Catherine Allen and Audrey Cowley.

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(BP) photos to be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Woman's Missionary Union

Helms Loses School Prayer
Battle On Senate Floor

W. B.
By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
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2 A month-long Senate floor battle waged by New Right conservatives to take away the Supreme Court's authority to decide school prayer cases failed after four unsuccessful efforts to end a filibuster against the measure.

Facing an early October adjournment as well as a Sept. 30 expiration of the current debt ceiling extension, the Senate voted to remove all amendments from the debt ceiling bill -- including the school prayer rider sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.-- and then passed the bill.

The action apparently ended prospects for passage of school prayer legislation in this Congress but Helms vowed to press his case in the next session of Congress which begins in January. In addition, President Reagan's proposed constitutional amendment on school prayer is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee, but chances of floor action appear to be increasingly unlikely as Congress nears adjournment.

Helms' school prayer and abortion amendments to the debt ceiling bill had tied up the Senate since mid-August. The floor situation had become what majority leader Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., described as a "legislative deadlock" with Helms never coming close to the 60 votes necessary to cut off debate and his opponents falling short on a vote to kill the prayer language as they had done earlier when the Senate voted to table Helms' abortion rider.

After the final cloture vote failed by seven votes, Helms made a last try to preserve his language by asking the Senate to send the full bill back to committee with instructions to bring it back to the floor with his language intact. But a motion by Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., to kill Helms' motion prevailed 51-48. Then the Senate voted 79-16 to send the measure back to the Finance Committee with instructions to remove all amendments, and passed a "clean" debt ceiling bill, 50-41.

It was the "court-stripping" aspect of the Helms proposal that drew the strongest opposition from senators joining Sen. Lowell P. Weicker, R-Conn., and Sen. Max S. Baucus, D-Mont. in fighting the school prayer rider.

Sen. Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., expressed concern over the precedent that would be established in such a removal of court jurisdiction.

"What next?" Tsongas asked during the debate. "Tomorrow why not preclude the Supreme Court from deciding freedom of speech cases, and maybe freedom of the press, or the right of people to peaceful assembly?"

On the subject of school prayer, Weicker charged that any time a school board or other civil authority "steps onto the field," a merger between religion and government has begun. It is because such a merger has not occurred in the U.S., he said, that "religions have thrived here where they had no place to grow anywhere else in the world."

For his part, Helms insisted Congress is within its bounds to limit or restrict jurisdiction of federal courts.

"It is quite all right with me for Senators to oppose prayer in school," he said, "but let them not pretend that there is any nefarious scheme afoot in trying to limit a runaway judiciary. I thought that is what we were elected to do."

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\$125 Million Budget
Goal, 1983-84, Okayed

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Baptist Press
9/24/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) -- A \$125 million goal has been established for the 1983-84 Cooperative Program budget of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The goal, from which the detailed budget will be prepared, includes an operating budget of \$114,500,000, compared to the 1982-83 figure of \$96,635,000.

Included in the overall goal is a \$3,340,385 capital needs budget and a Bold Mission Thrust Challenge goal of \$7,159,615.

A detailed budget will be prepared following budget hearings in January, and will be presented at the February session of the Executive Committee. Final action will be at the 1983 annual session of the SBC in Pittsburgh.

According to material presented during the September meeting of the Executive Committee, anticipated receipts for 1983-84 are \$122 million, a 14 per cent increase over projected receipts for 1982-83.

During the September session, representatives of the 20 Southern Baptist Convention agencies presented preliminary budget requests, which asked for increases ranging from 12 to 92 per cent.

R. Keith Parks, president of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board, which oversees work in 96 countries around the world, asked for an allocation of \$62,140,000 for 1983-84, a 29 per cent increase (\$14,300,700) over the 1982-83 allocation.

William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board, requested a 15.26 per cent increase (\$2,900,000) for an allocation of \$21,900,000 for next year.

The largest increase was requested by the Annuity Board, which oversees retirement, annuities and insurance programs of the 13.8 million member denomination. Darold Morgan, AB president, requested a 92.05 per cent increase, jumping \$440,000 to \$918,000.

Morgan said much of the requested increase will be used to supplement "promotional costs in enlisting Southern Baptist pastors to participate in the Southern Baptist retirement program."

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During their session, members of the Executive Committee also established an expense policy for the convention president, providing funds for the elected leader to travel within the United States during his term of office. Also, it provides travel expenses for the spouse, when appropriate, and for the first and second vice presidents, when requested by the president.

The committee also approved revised convention site and housing guidelines, which will be presented at the 1983 annual meeting for consideration and action.

The revision eliminates block room reservations, expands requirements for exhibit space and requires the host city to provide a list of hotels in addition to those participating in the housing bureau.

Also, members were told New Orleans, Los Angeles and Chicago are being considered for the 1989 or 1990 annual meeting. A final report and recommendation on the site will come during the February meeting.

The committee's bylaws workgroup has been asked to study the messenger registration procedure for possible revisions, and the president and order of business committee are looking at voting procedures at the annual meeting.

In other business, the committee:

—Was told the bylaws workgroup is continuing its study of Article III of the SBC Constitution concerning membership in the convention, noting all suggestions will be welcomed, but saying no change will be recommended to the Pittsburgh meeting.

—Requested the presidents of the six seminaries to consider the need for a study on the utilization of trained ministers. The action is in response to a motion presented at the 1982 annual meeting.

—Reported it considers that the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement "sufficiently speaks" on the matter of a "Bill of Rights for Churches." The response was to a motion calling for a study of a "Bill of Rights for Churches, presented at the 1982 annual meeting.

— Expressed appreciation to the churches, associations and state conventions for the work done on providing special ministries to persons and families experiencing severe stress related to unemployment, noting the local church can best help persons in such situations. The action was in response to a motion in New Orleans calling for the formation of a task force to study ways churches can assist unemployed persons.

—Adopted resolutions of appreciation for the service of three persons who will retire as state convention executive secretaries at the end of 1982. They are Roy Gresham, Maryland; James H. Landes, Texas, and Franklin Owen, Kentucky. Also adopted was a resolution commemorating the 300th anniversary of First Baptist Church of Charleston, S.C., the oldest congregation in the SBC.