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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**"SBC Today" Selected  
As Publication's Name**

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)--"SBC Today" has been selected as the name for a new national publication dealing with issues facing the Southern Baptist Convention, Editor Walker L. Knight said.

Knight, director of the editorial department for the SBC Home Mission Board for 23 years, recently requested early retirement to start the new independent publication. Although general plans for the publication were announced then, a name had not been selected.

"SBC Today" was picked from a list of more than 50 possible names, said Knight, because "it best describes what the publication is."

"It conveys the feeling that this is news for the SBC, and that it deals with what is happening in the SBC right now," Knight said.

The name is also "in vogue" currently, said the editor, who cited as examples, "USA Today," a new national newspaper published by the Gannett newspaper chain; "Christianity Today," a long-time nondemoninational magazine; and the NBC-TV "Today" show.

It is also a name without any "loaded connotations," said Knight. He explained that one name given serious consideration, "Forum," was rejected when it was discovered "Penthouse" magazine publishes a sexually-explicit monthly called "Forum."

The name, "SBC Today," was selected by a mission group from Oakhurst Baptist Church where Knight is a member. More than 45 persons responded when Knight challenged the church to form a mission group to help him with editing and production, circulation promotion, bookkeeping and office management.

The church also is providing office space in their building at at 222 East Lake Dr., Decatur, Ga. Office furnishings have been donated by friends and family members.

Knight said an attorney is now drafting articles of incorporation under Georgia law, and that he hopes a board of directors for the publication can be enlisted and announced within the next two months.

First issue of the 24-page monthly tabloid is planned in April. Knight, 58, will retire from the Home Mission Board on March 1.

The publication will be financed, Knight said, with contributions from individuals, church s, and from subscriptions and advertising. Annual subscription rate for "SBC Today" will be \$15 a year, with a pre-publication offer of \$25 for two years. Ads will cost \$650 a page.

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**Brazil MK Injured  
In Fall From Horse**Baptist Press  
1/10/83

BRASILIA, Brazil (BP)--Brent Depee, son of Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil, suffered a ruptured small intestine Dec. 30 when he was thrown against a tree while riding a horse.

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The 15-year-old Depee was visiting the rural town of Corrente with his parents, Kent and Donna Depee of Missouri, when the fall occurred. Depee and another missionary kid, Jonathan Carter, were galloping across a field when Depee's horse veered, hurling him against a tree.

An initial examination revealed only bruises and soreness, but when abdominal pain persisted for several days, Depee's father rented a small plane to take him to a hospital in Brasilia. Grounded by bad weather in the town of Barreiras, father and son traveled about 450 miles to Brasilia by taxi Jan. 2.

Doctors in Brasilia were alarmed by the younger Depee's condition and upon examination discovered the perforated small intestine, which had caused internal infection. They operated immediately, closing the perforation.

Depee's condition was described as stable but still serious following the operation, with a slow recovery anticipated. He was expected to remain in the hospital for at least another week.

The Depees live in Campinas, Brazil, where the missionary parents attend language school. They plan to move to Corrente to work in agricultural evangelism after completing language school.

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North Central Thrust  
Urged To Evangelize

By Robert Hastings

Baptist Press  
1/10/83

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (BP)--"Southern Baptists can never appoint enough professional missionaries to evangelize the world," Roy Edgemon told the 370 persons attending a three-day North Central Mission Thrust Conference in Kalamazoo.

Edgemon, secretary of church training for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., urged a total mobilization of all church members to propagate the faith. "This is the style of New Testament ministry," he said. "The apostles never attempted to do all the witnessing alone."

Edgemon cited a recent study by the Church of the Nazarene, which showed why members of that faith depend on the professional clergy to do much of their witnessing. "This study revealed that many pastors feel threatened by the prospect of a laity trained to minister," he said. "Also some of their laity showed signs of 'staff infection,' a willingness to give more to hire another staff member rather than getting involved themselves. Too, both clergy and laity evidenced a weak theology or understanding of the priesthood of all believers, that all have equal access to God, all are gifted of the Holy Spirit to serve and witness."

Ernest E. Mosley, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association, retiring president of the North Central Missions Thrust (NCMT), said there are now 2,024 churches in the seven North Central states, compared to 1,758 when the united project began in 1973. "The number of missions and chapels has grown from 178 in 1973 to 342 at the present," he added.

The North Central Missions Thrust, a cooperative effort of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Ohio hopes to double Southern Baptist work in the upper Midwest by 1990. It is one phase of Bold Mission Thrust, a worldwide emphasis that lasts until 2000 A.D.

If these seven states reach their goal by 1990, there will be 3,516 SBC churches within their boundaries.

R.V. Haygood, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, pointed out that the actual number of new churches is higher than reports suggest. "You must consider these are net increases," he said. "Since 1973, all states have lost some churches by merger, disbanding, returning to mission status or affiliating with other bodies."

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But Tal Bonham, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, pointed out that just as some congregations disband or leave Southern Baptists, others come back. He cited two churches in Ohio, and maybe as many as four that forsook independency in 1982 and returned to the state convention.

Keynote speaker Gerald Palmer, vice president of missions at the Home Mission Board, said that just as a tiny snapshot can't capture the glory of the Grand Canyon, so no segment of work can describe the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Someone once asked me to explain Southern Baptists," he said. "When I learned he had read such 'authorities' as the Sword of the Lord magazine, I simply told him you can't explain Southern Baptists--you must experience them!"

Chicago Pastor Don Sharp, who led a conference on how to start black churches, d cried the notion that the nation's cities need to be "rechurched." Sharp said he counted 1,100 black churches in the Chicago Yellow Pages alone, and that Chicago is the largest Catholic diocese in the world.

But Sharp did plead for new churches, faithful to the New Testament. "Pseudo-churches spring up wherever we fail to preach biblical truths," he warned. Sharp also said pastors of all churches--new and old--need to stay longer. "As blacks, we can't understand the white pastor who moves every two or three years," he said. "This gives the image of a fickle God who has lost his sense of direction. We can't understand God leading a man all over the United States, a year here and a year there."

Sharp, who founded Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church 18 years ago with a dozen members, and now has 700, told how he declined a job offer from the Home Mission Board in 1971, because of commitment to his people in Chicago. "This doesn't mean I'll never move," he said, "but most black pastors feel strong loyalty to where God plants them."

James Hightower, a specialist in pastoral care at the Baptist Sunday School Board, another conference leader, sounded the same idea, when he pointed out that the pastor who moves as often as every two or three years enjoys the title of pastor in name only. "It takes a leader two years in the field to earn the title of pastor, emotionally," he said.

Each of the seven states except Illinois has a partnership with an older SBC state. Texas aides the work in Minnesota and Wisconsin, Arkansas in Indiana, Tennessee in Michigan, Missouri in Iowa and Kentucky in Ohio.

All seven states were represented in the Kalamazoo meeting except Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Robert Wilson of Michigan succeeds Mosley as NCMT president for 1983-85. Columbus, Ohio, will host a similar conference in January of 1985.

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Veteran Educator  
H.I. Hester Dies

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1/10/83

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--H. I. Hester, 87, a pioneer Southern Baptist educator, died in his sleep Jan. 9.

Hester, born March 17, 1895, in Lyons, Ga., was on the staff of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., from 1926 to 1961, serving as professor, chairman of the Bible Department, vice president and interim president.

Subsequent to his retirement, Hester was vice president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., from 1961 to 1965. He was president of the Midwestern board of trustees from 1957 to 1961, during the time the theological school was established.

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Prior to going to William Jewell, Hester was instructor at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., where he had gone following his graduation from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., with a master of theology degree. He also was a graduate of Wake Forest College (now University) in Wake Forest, N.C.

Hester had served in a number of denominational posts, including having been a trustee at Southern Seminary, a member of the SBC Education Commission, and co-founder and secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Association of Colleges.

He had endowed a number of lectureships, including ones at Midwestern seminary, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and through the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Hester authored many books, the best known of which were *The Heart of Hebrew History* and *The Heart of the New Testament*, both of which are used as college textbooks.

In 1982, William Jewell College established a scholarship in his honor for students entering the pastoral ministry. Previously, the Center for Christian Ministry at the college was named in his honor.

His wife of 55 years, Carolyne, died in 1976. He is survived by two nephews and a niece.

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Texas, Mexican Baptists  
Become Evangelism Partners

By Orville Scott

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1/10/83

MEXICO CITY (BP)--Mexico Partnership, a three-year evangelistic effort by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, about 500 churches of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board began Jan. 1.

The first volunteer to serve in the new evangelistic partnership is Susie Ann Bobbitt, who will teach second grade at the Lincoln School in Guadalajara, Mexico.

William H. Gray, coordinator of the Partnership Missions office in the Baptist Building in Dallas, said excitement is mounting and, "ultimately Mexico Partnership should be one of the greatest evangelistic thrusts in our history.

"Just as in any great evangelistic thrust, we will need to prepare the nearly 500 churches and about 50,000 church members in Mexico to fully apply the resources in manpower and money that Texas Baptists offer," said Gray, a missionary in Mexico for 23 years.

"We will need the prayers and sometimes the patience of Texas volunteers as we lay the groundwork for the release of God's Holy Spirit as was done in Mission to Brazil."

Mission to Brazil began slowly in 1978 and 1979, but more than 3,700 Texas volunteers who paid their way to serve in the effort reported 90,000 decisions for Christ by the time Brazil Baptists celebrated their 100th anniversary in Salvador, Brazil, last October.

"Once Baptists on both sides of the Rio Grande River are praying and prepared, we expect the Lord is going to perform wonderful things through the partnership," said William M. Pinson, executive director of the BGCT.

Mexico has about 70 million people and is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. It was the first Latin American country Southern Baptist missionaries entered.

Although Mexico is Roman Catholic by tradition most of the country is wide open to the witness of Texas Baptists, said Alejandro Zamora, president of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico.

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Hendrix Named CLC  
Project Coordinator

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Lela Hendrix, 42, has been named special project coordinator for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission effective Jan. 1.

Hendrix, a free-lance writer and adjunct professor in the department of behavioral sciences at Belmont College in Nashville, Tenn., will correlate Christian social concerns and Christian social ministry projects for the Commission and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

According to Foy Valentine, CLC executive director, Hendrix's responsibilities include research, writing and working on such issues as enhancing the status of women in Southern Baptist life and supporting Southern Baptist concerns related to world hunger.

Hendrix, a free-lance writer in the youth section of the Church Training department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has led local, state and national conferences, workshops and seminars for youth and adults. She served as minister of education and youth at Bellvue Baptist Church in Nashville and is author of *Extended Family: Combining Ages in Church Experience*. She has also designed and facilitated personal growth seminars for women.

A native of Missouri, Hendrix earned her M.Ed. degree from Vanderbilt University and her B.S. degree in psychology and education at George Peabody College, both in Nashville.

She is married to John Hendrix, program design and planning coordinator in the Church Training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The Hendrixes have two children.