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Pollard New President
Of Golden Gate Seminary

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas, was elected president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in a called meeting of seminary trustees Feb. 8.

The Pollards will move to the Mill Valley campus in the spring.

Pollard has been host and Bible teacher for "At Home With The Bible," a radio and television program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Radio and Television Commission since the program began in 1978 and has been the preacher for the worldwide "Baptist Hour" radio program since 1976.

Pollard was pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., before moving to San Antonio in 1980. Previously, he was pastor of Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas.

He holds the bachelor of business administration degree from Texas A & M University and the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has done doctoral studies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity from Mississippi College.

He is the author of three books, and in 1979, was selected by Time magazine one of the seven most outstanding Protestant preachers in America.

"I am a mystic about following God's will," Pollard said. "I genuinely feel this is God's place of ministry for me." Pollard follows William M. Pinson Jr., who left the seminary in June to become executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The new president said, "I owe my ministry to my seminary training. I came to Southwestern with little biblical knowledge and no church background. Everything I needed to prepare for ministry was provided through the seminary.

"We assume too much when we assume seminary students come for their training with strong biblical backgrounds," he said. "From my own experience, I know that for many students seminary will be their first exposure to biblical studies."

"I am thrilled about the prospect of helping other ministers prepare for ministry," he continued. "The seminary is much more than a graduate school of theology. Our primary function is the practical preparation of men and women for ministry."

Pollard was born in Olney, Texas, on Feb. 25, 1934. He is married to the former Jane Shepard. They have two children, Brent, an architectural student at the University of Texas-Austin, and Suzanne, a student at Baylor University.

Golden Gate Seminary has 900 students at the main campus, off-campus centers in Garden Grove, Calif. and Portland, Ore., and centers for ethnic ministry preparation throughout the West.

The presidential search committee included Chairman O.Q. Quick, businessman from Baton Rouge, La.; William E. Shannon Jr., management consultant from Medford, Ore.; William O. Crews Jr., pastor of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif.; Carlos McCloud, director of evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas;

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Charles A. Carter, attorney from Jackson, Miss.; Mrs. Mildred Carlton, homemaker from Wauchula, Fla., and Wallace Denton, associate professor of family life at Perdue University in Lafayette, Ind.

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(BP) photos to be mailed to the state Baptist papers by Golden Gate Seminary

Parks Takes Strong Stand
Against Israel Resolution

By Bob Stanley

Baptist Press
2/9/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Any Southern Baptist Convention resolution supporting the State of Israel will hinder the denomination's mission work both in the Middle East and other parts of the world, R. Keith Parks said.

Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said it is his "sincere prayer" that such a resolution will not be discussed on the floor of the SBC's annual meeting in Pittsburgh in June.

He made the statements at the board's February meeting a week after plans were announced at a Washington, D.C., prayer breakfast to reintroduce a pro-Israel resolution tabled by messengers at the 1981 New Orleans convention.

Maryland pastor Norris W. Sydnor Jr., resolutions committee chairman in New Orleans, told several hundred persons at the National Prayer Breakfast in Honor of Israel he will reintroduce the Israel resolution and predicted it will be adopted. The Roundtable, a new right group founded by Southern Baptist layman Edward E. McAteer of Memphis, Tenn., sponsored the breakfast.

At last year's convention James Deloach of Houston introduced the resolution but later joined with Parks in urging the convention to reject it. As a result, the resolution was tabled.

In his February board report Parks elaborated on the potentially harmful effects of such a resolution. "Much attention is given in many countries, even in the secular press, when Christian groups speak on political matters," he said.

"It is not my intent to imply criticism of any who hold the opinions expressed in this resolution," Parks said. "There is nothing in my heart nor in this report that reflects negatively on the Jewish people."

But he said such a resolution "will cause us to be identified politically in such a way that would jeopardize permits to work and safety of Baptists (not just missionaries)" in many parts of the world.

Southern Baptists have 45 representatives who work with Baptists in Israel. But the denomination has many other missionaries or representatives in pro-Arab parts of the Middle East and in other areas of the world where populations are predominantly Moslem.

Parks said the resolution violates the traditional Baptist principle of separation of church and state and also reflects an eschatological viewpoint (theological interpretation of end times) "that is not an agreed-upon belief among Southern Baptists."

The resolution presented in New Orleans included the statement that "God's prophetic program as presented in the scriptures includes the present State of Israel as part of God's completion of all things."

Parks said there is "a difference regarding eschatology among board members and staff, as well as missionaries and Southern Baptists in general. None of us has a right to impose that personal conviction upon all Southern Baptists or to imply that all Southern Baptists hold to the conviction that any individual may hold.

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The latter statement stemmed from remarks Sydnor made as he presented a plaque engraved with the words of the pro-Israel resolution to the Israeli Consul-General in the United States at the prayer breakfast. Sydnor's wording implied the plaque was being presented "on behalf of 14 million Southern Baptists."

Parks said "multiplied millions in the Middle East as well as other parts of the world" would interpret such a resolution as implying opposition to their own people. "Understandably," he added, "they would be reluctant to welcome representatives whom they feel are enemies of their own government. Although this would not be true, we must never do or say anything that could be interpreted to imply this."

Other reports at the board meeting noted a record 140,844 baptisms last year in overseas churches related to Southern Baptist work and a five percent increase in membership. The 12,170 churches and 14,997 mission points have a total membership of 1.57 million and relief allocations last year totaled a record \$8 million.

Announcement was made of another major donation by a Richmond couple, J. Harwood and Louise Cochrane, for the new Missionary Learning Center being built near Richmond. Their latest donation of land in metropolitan Richmond, estimated to be worth more than \$500,000, brings the Cochranes' total contributions to the center to about \$1.5 million.

More than \$10 million of the \$15 million required to build and operate the center now has been donated. Construction is expected to be completed by the summer of 1984.

The board's overseas committee approved guidelines for medical work that underscore a trend toward a broader scope of health care such as preventative medicine and community health programs. The guidelines will not limit health care ministries (formerly called medical missions), says Franklin Fowler, the board's senior medical consultant. Instead, he said, they will permit expansion into such areas as private practice, nursing care and supplying personnel to national institutions.

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Florida Radio Station WJAX
Sets Record with 'Baptist Hour'

Baptist Press
2/9/83

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--In 1943, WJAX first broadcast "Baptist Hour," produced by the fledgling Radio Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Forty years later, WJAX-AM has now carried "Baptist Hour" longer than any other radio station in America, making it one of the longest-running syndicated programs in radio history.

To mark the fortieth anniversary of that first broadcast March 21, "Baptist Hour" will air a special program from WJAX studios recorded Jan. 18 to be heard on the 396 radio stations carrying the 30-minute program.

"Baptist Hour," itself only two years old in 1943, was the flagship program of the early radio ministry of Southern Baptists. WJAX, oldest of three radio stations in Jacksonville at that time, was one of about 20 stations in the country to carry the program in those early days. But it is the only station that has continued service uninterrupted through the years.

"Religious programming has always played a major role in our development," said John Thomas, general manager of WJAX. "We consider it a public service."

There are now 22 radio and six TV stations in the Jacksonville area. WJAX, which has changed its musical format several times to keep up with changing tastes, now plays rock music. But its commitment to religious programming has not changed. "We have to pay attention to anything that is that important to our community," Thomas said.

WJAX airs "Baptist Hour" at 7:30 a.m. each Sunday. The station also carries "On Track," a program of contemporary Christian music, and sister station WJAX-FM broadcasts "Black Beat." Both are produced by Southern Baptists.

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For the March anniversary program, "Baptist Hour" host Frank Pollard interviewed Thomas and Dan C. Stringer, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention. The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, which succeeded the Radio Committee as producer of "Baptist Hour," also presented WJAX with one of the original recordings of the historic 1943 broadcast.

The 20-inch phonograph record, called an "electrical transcription," was of the sermon, "Paying the Price to Follow Christ," preached by famed Southern Baptist preacher R. G. Lee.

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(BP) photo to be mailed to state Baptist papers by the Radio-TV Commission

Cochranes Add \$500,000
To Mission Center Donations

Baptist Press
2/9/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--J. Harwood and Louise Blanks Cochrane of Richmond have donated land in metropolitan Richmond valued at more than \$500,000 toward construction of the Foreign Mission Board's missionary learning center.

Proceeds from the sale of the land will boost total gifts and pledges to more than \$10 million toward the \$15 million goal for construction and operation of the facility.

The gift, announced at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting Feb. 8, brought the Cochranes' total donations to the center to about \$1.5 million.

Named for Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive director emeritus, and Mrs. Cauthen, the center will be used to train new missionaries and volunteers and debrief workers returning from overseas. The center opens in the summer of 1984.

Gifts and pledges for construction total \$4.26 million in addition to a \$6 million endowment for operating costs bequeathed to the board by the late Cecil B. Day, founder of Days Inns of America. All funds for the project are being solicited directly from individuals and are separate from Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program giving or the annual Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions.

Cochrane, a Southern Baptist layman and Foreign Mission Board member, founded Overnite Transportation in 1935. He is board chairman and chief executive officer of the Richmond-based company which has grown to be one of the nation's largest trucking firms.

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Overseas Baptist Churches
Top 140,000 Baptisms In 1982

By Bill Webb

Baptist Press
2/9/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Overseas churches related to Southern Baptist mission work baptized a record 140,844 believers in 1982, nearly 11 percent more than the previous year.

Brazil, completing one century of Baptist work, accounted for a third of those baptisms--47,565, according to Charles W. Bryan, Foreign Mission Board senior vice president for overseas operations.

"In the midst of earthquakes, regional wars, tremendous human suffering and economic crises, 1982 was still a year in which there were many blessings from God," he told board members in their February meeting.

Nigerian Baptists were second to Brazil with 16,193 baptisms, followed by the Philippines, 11,243; South Korea, 9,800, and Tanzania, 7,229 (one for every 3.5 members). Baptists in Mexico exceeded 5,000 baptisms for the first time.

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Membership in overseas Baptist churches grew to nearly 1.57 million in 1982, up almost 75,000 from 1981. Church membership in Kenya jumped 36.7 percent in 1982 to 22,486. In Bangladesh, where growth traditionally has been slow, membership increased by 26.3 percent to 1,433.

Despite the crippling effects of worldwide recession in many of the 96 countries where Southern Baptists work, total contributions by overseas Baptists exceeded \$65.8 million, 25 percent more than 1981 giving. "Many of them, like the Christians of Macedonia, gave out of their poverty beyond what they were able," Bryan said.

The number of overseas churches increased by 700 from 11,470 in 1981 to 12,170 as missionaries continued to focus on churches that will reproduce themselves, Bryan noted. The gospel also is preached at 14,997 missions and other preaching points.

Some 10,842 National Baptist pastors (up from 9,571) lead those churches. National Baptists totaling 6,173 enrolled in seminaries and theological institutes during 1982 and 6,467 more took courses of theological education by extension.

"While recognizing the primacy of the spiritual, foreign missionaries ministered to the whole person," Bryan pointed out.

More than 1.6 million patients received health care from 173 missionary physicians, nurses and other medical personnel working alongside nearly 5,000 national colleagues. Hunger and relief allocations totaled \$8 million for 192 projects in 43 countries.

Missionaries and nationals presented a Christian witness to 137,714 students in Baptist schools scattered around the world.

Print and broadcast media aided Baptists both in their witness to unbelievers and their nurture of believers. Radio and television broadcasts reached an estimated audience of 94 million. Ninety-five missionaries and 736 nationals together produced 2.3 million books, 67.5 million periodicals and 17.7 million tracts.

The appointment of 406 new missionaries in 1982 brought the total overseas missionary force by year's end to 3,213, Bryan said.