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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 14, 1983

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HMB Notes Offering Progress, Approves New Personnel

ATLANTA (BP)--Five percent of the \$25 million goal for the 1983 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, \$1,276,000, had been received by mid-April, according to Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner.

Tanner, speaking to the executive committee of the agency's board of directors, noted receipts are running three percent ahead of the same period last year.

The executive committee also received news of the resignations of two HMB staff members. Ramon Martinez, director of ethnic resource correlation, will serve as ethnic education coordinator for the Florida Baptist Convention after 17 years in association with the HMB. Jack Ellenburg, associate director in missionary personnel, resigned to become pastor of Riverland Hills Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C.

Two new staff were elected to fill positions as associate directors in the missionary personnel department. William C. Graham will assist in recruiting and screening missionary candidates in the eastern United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and W. Ronald Holloway will fill the same role for the central U.S.

Graham, pastor of Middletown Baptist Church, Middletown, R.I., since 1974, has been pastor of churches in Wisconsin, Texas and Kentucky. He is a graduate of Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He holds the rank of captain as a chaplain with the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

Holloway earned degrees from Florida State University in Tallahassee and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has been minister of education for First Baptist Church, Avondale Estates, Ga., since 1979 and has held minister of education posts in Florida, Oklahoma, Texas and Alabama during the past 26 years.

Also, 32 persons were approved for assignments in 14 states, including two missionaries, four missionary associates and 26 who will receive pastoral aid.

D. Wayne and Martha Dyer of Bowdoinham, Maine, were named missionaries. Jack and Jacqueline Bettis of Fort Smith, Ark., and Robert and Janice Henrickson of Longbeach, Calif., were named missionary associates.

The Dyers will move to New York, starting missionary work in the department of rural/urban missions where he will be director of associational missions.

He is a graduate of Truett-McConnell College in Georgia, Dallas Baptist College in Texas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and presently is pastor of Maine Street Baptist Church in Bowdoinham.

Dyer has held a variety of positions, including radar operator in the Air Force, air traffic controller and farmer. He is presently moderator and director of church training for the Upper New England Baptist Association.

She attended Campbell Junior College in North Carolina and Truett-McConnell and is presently a customer service representative for L.L. Bean.

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The Bettises will move to Oklahoma City. He attended Southwestern Seminary Extension Center and is presently pastor of Oak Cliff Baptist Church in Ft. Smith, Ark. He is moderator for the Concord Baptist Association in Ft. Smith.

The Henricksons will remain in Burleson, Texas, to work as missionary associate/church planter apprentices. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and is associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church. She is a graduate of Southwestern.

Named to receive pastoral aid were O. James Jr. and Beverly Ballard of Penrose, Colo.; D. Kent and Carolyn Berry of Criswell, Ore.; Cal and Elizabeth Collins of N. Las Vegas, Nev.; H. Milo and Shirley Duer of Nokomis, Ill.; Leonard and Marsha Everman of Wasilla, Alaska; Ace and Patti Gilbert of Cincinnati, Ohio; H. Charles and Joyce Hargrove of Deerpark, Wash.; Dwight and Judy Huffman of Mammoth, Ore.; Lawrence and Linda Jones of Cottonwood, Idaho, and Frank and Ann Kriz of Hurricane, Utah.

Also named to receive assistance were David and Patricia Lee of Dayton, Ohio; Kwang Hee and In Ja Lee of Santa Marie, Calif., and Eugene and Josephine Linn of Sioux Rapids, Iowa.

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Baptists Overseas Invited to Join
In Planning New Global Thrusts?

By Bob Stanley

Baptist Press
4/14/83

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Southern Baptists are inviting Baptist partners overseas to join in planning world evangelization strategies that will lift Bold Mission Thrust into a higher orbit.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, hopes the proposal approved at the board's April meeting will enable Baptists to move into the future of world missions with daring and boldness. At least 12 of the conventions or unions with which the board works overseas are already sending missionaries to other lands. Others are beginning to witness across national lines.

The board voted to "consult all interested Baptist bodies with whom we are linked in a working relationship to discover better strategies for jointly sharing Jesus Christ with everyone in the world before the end of the century."

Parks said Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's 25-year plan to accelerate evangelism both at home and abroad, was never intended to imply "Southern Baptists would reach the world by ourselves." Neither, said Parks, is he suggesting the Baptist unions and conventions with which Southern Baptists are linked overseas will be "the sole builders of the kingdom of God."

But, he told board members, to reach the next thrust in foreign missions, "we must move to a new level of participation where we have lines of responsibility and organizational ties."

Parks does not foresee this strategy planning will involve all evangelical Christians, or even all Baptist denominations related to the 30-million-member Baptist World Alliance.

A co-chairman of one of the BWA's key committees on evangelism and strategy, Parks said the type of partnership effort the board is proposing would be exactly what the BWA is encouraging its member bodies to do.

Parks did not elaborate on when or how the strategy planning would be carried out, but said the necessary follow-up actions would be presented at a later meeting.

Southern Baptists have about 3,200 missionaries in 96 countries, with plans announced in April to start work in three other nations. Overseas Baptists to whom the board relates totaled about 1.57 million at the end of 1982. Their churches reported more than 140,000 baptisms last year.

Parks noted that significant missions progress followed two consultations in 1965 and 1975. But at these only a few Baptists from other countries joined the predominantly Southern Baptist planning sessions.

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Missions has changed drastically in recent years, he noted, with some experts predicting the strength of Christianity may be moving south of the equator for the first time.

Today, Brazilian Baptists have their own foreign mission board with 75 missionaries serving in 15 countries. Nigerian Baptists have official foreign missionaries only in Sierra Leone, but Nigerians living in other West African nations have helped start 20 churches each in Benin, Togo and Ivory Coast, four in Upper Volta and three in Ghana.

Other missionary-sending countries include Spain, Germany, South Africa, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and Jamaica.

With such strong interest being shown, Parks said "we need to sit down with any who will join us as equal partners and begin to project which ones among us will be approaching this neglected area or that needy country or those hidden peoples (unreached by the gospel).

"We need to reassess our resources to see what each can provide and how these can be intermingled in such a way as to be used of God to preach the gospel to the most people possible in the shortest possible time."

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First Church Bonds Approved
By HMB Service Corporation

Baptist Press
4/14/83

ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the HMB Service Corporation approved issuance of bonds worth \$910,000 to four Southern Baptist churches during their April session in conjunction with the Home Mission Board executive committee meeting.

The bonds are the first to be issued under the new "Broadway Plan" church bond program administered by the HMB's subsidiary corporation, which serves as broker-dealer for the bonds.

Robert Kilgore, director of the HMB church loans division and president of the HMB Service Corp., called the action "a historic step in Southern Baptist life." Kilgore noted the HMB's ability to make bonds available "will benefit not only our churches in pioneer areas, but churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention."

The four churches approved for bond issues are Fairfax Circle Baptist Church, Fairfax, Va.; Calvary Baptist Church, La Porte, Ind.; Poydras Baptist Church, St. Bernard, La., and Beacon Baptist Church, Hudson, Fla.

Kilgore explained the HMB Service Corp. studies requests for bonds from churches and determines if bonds issued would be sound before approval is granted. The corporation follows a guideline that not more than 35 percent of a church's income be pledged to debts, he said.

The HMB subsidiary consults with individual churches to determine at what interest rate and terms the bonds will be offered. The HMB Service Corp. may opt to buy portions of bond issues for resale, Kilgore said, although it has no obligation to buy back bonds. Once sold, "that will be a matter between the bond holder and the church," he explained. The church, rather than the corporation, must guarantee the bond payment, he added. Citizens and Southern (C&S) National Bank of Atlanta acts as trustee/paying agent for the Broadway Plan.

The program's early reception by the public has been positive, Kilgore reported. "We already have a file full of names" of persons interested in investing in church bonds, he said.

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Recommendations Requested
For Sunday School Director

Baptist Press
4/14/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Officials of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board have requested recommendations for director of the Sunday school department.

The position, which is responsible for leadership of Southern Baptists' 7.6 million-member Sunday school program, was vacated Feb. 28 when Harry Piland resigned to become associate pastor of administration at First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.

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Ralph McIntyre, director of the Bible teaching division and int rim dir ctor of the Sunday school department, said recomm ndations may be submitted by any Southern Baptist and must be made in writing.

Recommendations should include the writer's profile of personal, spiritual, educational and professional qualifications for the position, a biographical sketch of the person being nominated and the reasons for the nomination.

McIntyre said recommendations should be mailed no later than May 2. In addition to the public announcement through Baptist Press, a letter to state and SBC leaders requesting recommendations was mailed April 12.

He said, as part of the continuing search process, all recommendations will be carefully reviewed by executive management personnel. It is hoped a nominee can be presented to the board's trustees at the Aug. 16-17 meeting.

"The enrollment in Southern Baptist Sunday schools has increased by more than 225,000 in the last two years. We are seeing signs in churches all over the country that 8.5 by '85 (SBC effort to increase Sunday school enrollment to 8.5 million by 1985) is being taken very seriously," McIntyre said.

"We need as leader of the Sunday school department a person with a commitment to continuing outreach, growth and quality Bible study through the Sunday shcool."

Recommendations should be mailed to Ralph McIntyre, Sunday School Board, MSN 148, 127 Ninth Av nue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

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Tw nty-three Foreign Missionaries
Named at Biggest Indy Baptist Meet

Baptist Press
4/14/83

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--The largest Southern Baptist gathering in Indiana history saw 23 new foreign missionaries appointed April 12.

Some 6,500 people drove from as far away as Iowa and northern Ohio to attend the For ign Mission Board appointment service in Indianapolis. Groups from Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kentucky and all over Indiana also came to the event sponsored by Southern Baptists' North Central Mission Thrust.

The n w missionaries are headed for 12 countries, including Lebanon, where Louisianian Russ Futrell will teach at the Baptist school in battleweary Beirut. The school, located in west Beirut, was hit by shells during last year's Israeli invasion.

"Whenever people hear me tell them I'm going to Lebanon as a missionary they generally give the same response: 'You're going where?'" Futrell told the Indianapolis crowd. "Then they proceed to question my sanity."

Futrell, who worked for two years in Beirut as a missionary journeyman, said he loves Lebanon and the Lebanese and returning will "be like going back home."

Long and Mary Pham, Southern Baptist Vietnamese missionaries, will minister to Southeast Asian refugees in the Philippines. Now naturalized American citizens, the Phams learned the refugee experience firsthand when they fled their homeland in 1975 as the North Vietnamese swept into the south.

Four laymen were appointed as mission business managers. Another, Charles Browning of Arkansas, was tapped as a maintenance technician in Jordan, where he will be accompani d by his wife, Nancy Woodward Browning of Arkansas. Like his lay colleagues, Browning express d excitement about the chance to us his skills as a missionary.

"The Lord wants me to use the talents and abilities he has given me," said Browning, who has an industrial technology degree. "I didn't need to change professions to serve Him."

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Fifty people walked forward during an open invitation to commitment at the end of the service. Almost 30 committed themselves to career foreign missionary service. Others offered themselves for volunteer assignments and journeyman service.

Other missionaries appointed were Larry and Sheila Forshee Bailey of Arkansas, assigned to Togo; Ken and Sharyl Harrison Braddock of Colorado and Texas, to Tanzania; Judy Carpenter, Tennessee, to Brazil; Robert and Debbie Barger Cochran, Texas and Florida, to Belgium, and Brenda Fritz, Missouri, to Ghana.

Also named were John and Jane Murray Gilbert, Missouri and Oklahoma, to Chile; Dan and Carol Halbrook Hylden, North Dakota and Texas, to Botswana; Larry and Linda Gracy Rhodes, Oklahoma and Florida, to South Korea; Lynn Smith, Alabama, to Jordan; Ted and Carolyn Woodson Stephens, Oklahoma, to Macao and Karen Wright, Kentucky, to Chile.

The board also employed Beverlyann Milam of Massachusetts as a special project medical worker. She will work in Yemen.

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Foreign Board Releases \$75,000
For Polish Church Construction

Baptist Press
4/14/83

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$75,000 in its April board meeting to help three Polish Baptist congregations construct church buildings.

Funding of \$25,000 each was approved for Baptists in Katowice, Gdansk and Elblag. Nearly \$120,000 more was released for seven building projects and two building funds in the Eastern European countries of Hungary, Yugoslavia, East Germany and Romania.

The three buildings in Poland already have foundations, according to Isam Ballenger, the board's director for Europe and the Middle East. The properties were made available to the Polish Baptist Christian Union by the government on the condition that churches be built.

"Polish Baptists have been giving sacrificially so that these could be started," Ballenger said. "Our part would be only a small portion of the total." West European Baptists also are contributing.

Each congregation hopes it will soon be able to use part of its building for worship. The church at Katowice, which has met for decades in a Lutheran building, will have its own building for the first time. The congregation in Gdansk has long met in an old German Baptist church Ballenger described as a fire trap. At Elblag, the congregation is being forced to vacate an old building.

Two-thirds of the Baptists in Europe live in Eastern European countries. The churches there are vibrant and well-attended, Ballenger explained. Church buildings are important because church functions are not allowed outside the church, he added.

All the allocations for construction were made from the 1982 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, named for an early Southern Baptist missionary to China.

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Harlan E. Spurgeon Named
JMB Vice President

Baptist Press
4/14/83

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Harlan E. Spurgeon, 51, president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., will join the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff as vice president for human resources.

The Foreign Mission Board elected Spurgeon April 13 during its meeting in Indianapolis, Ind. He succeeds Bill W. Marshall, who was elected executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in December.

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The Missouri native and former missionary to Taiwan will oversee departments managing the enlistment, selection and training of all new missionaries and volunteers, medical care for missionaries, missionary furlough study and world missions conferences, contacts with students and retired or former missionaries and relations with black Baptists and other ethnic Baptists.

Spurgeon, Southwest Baptist University president since 1979, worked as a missionary evangelist and pastor in Taiwan for 15 years until his resignation in 1972. His missionary colleagues elected him chairman of the Taiwan Baptist Mission three times.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said Spurgeon would bring to his new assignment "solid mission commitment and experience, identification as a pastor-preacher and fine experience as an administrator."

Parks emphasized that Spurgeon's long experience as a preacher would aid the board in its ongoing challenge to Southern Baptist preachers to consider foreign missionary careers.

Spurgeon was pastor of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, Mo., from 1972 to 1979. Before beginning work in Taiwan he led other churches in Missouri, Kentucky and Kansas.

He received the associate of arts degree from Southwest Baptist University; the bachelor of arts degree from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and the doctor of ministry degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Spurgeon is married to the former Joann Long of St. Louis. They have four grown children. He expects to begin work in mid-June at the Foreign Mission Board's offices in Richmond, Va.

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(BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press)

Lottie Moon Tops \$50 Million
But Falling Short of Goal

Baptist Press
4/14/83

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts have passed the \$50 million mark but are expected to fall short of the \$58 million goal.

With \$50,567,643 given so far and only seven weeks to go before the May 31 closing of books on the 1982 offering, Carl Johnson, Foreign Mission Board treasurer, told the board at its April meeting the shortfall could be as much as \$3 million.

But he said an increase of 8 to 10 percent over the 1981 offering would show that "Southern Baptists are still conscious of the world's spiritual needs" despite financial hardships imposed by high unemployment.

For the last few years, all of the offering goal has been budgeted in response to requests coming from the mission fields. If the offering does fall short this year, items will have to be sliced off the capital portion of the 1983 budget so field operating needs can still be met.

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RTVC Names New VP
During April Meeting

By Greg Warner

Baptist Press
4/14/83

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Billy T. Barber, 52, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla., will become vice president of development services of the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) June 1.

The appointment was announced to RTVC trustees during their April 11-12 meeting. In other action, the board elected new officers, approved a plan for developing and distributing spot announcements on radio and television and heard a report from RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen on implementation of the launch strategy for the American Christian Television System (ACTS).

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In his position with the RTVC, Barber will direct the agency's fund raising efforts through major gifts and direct mail and supervise the promotion and audience response department.

He succeeds John Scales, who became director of development at Baylor University in 1981.

Barber was pastor of the Tampa church for 14 years. After 32 years as a pastor, he joined the University of Tampa in 1981 as director of community relations.

A native Texan, Barber graduated from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He served three churches in Texas before becoming pastor of First Baptist Church, Hobbs, N. Mex., in 1962.

The trustees voted to budget approximately \$180,000 per year, beginning in 1984-85, for more television and radio spot announcements to run on public service (donated) air time. The spots would deal with ethical and moral concerns and be sent to all cable stations at a rate of eight per year. Under the plan, the project could begin in the 1983-84 budget year if additional funding can be found.

In his president's report, Allen said the RTVC had begun implementing a task force strategy authorized by the trustees in January for launch of ACTS in 1984. He reported major renovations on studio and editing facilities are nearing completion.

Allen said receptivity is growing in cable television and advertising industry for the ACTS plan of programming and program sponsorship.

He also noted recent cancellation of some cultural exchange tours between the United States and China would not affect the trip planned for the RTVC Centurymen later this year since the invitation came from Shanghai Television and not the Chinese government.

New officers elected are: Stewart R. McChesney Jr., Arvada, Colo., chairman; John E. Roberts, Greenville, S.C., first vice chairman; T.W. Terral, Baton Rouge, La., second vice-chairman, and Laverne Butler, Louisville, Ky., recording secretary.

The board authorized the formation of a non-profit corporation, ACTS Satellite Network, Inc., which will distribute ACTS programming to cable television systems. The RTVC trustees will constitute the board of trustees of the new corporation. The action was taken in part to clarify the nature of ACTS for cable system operators.

In its January meeting, the board committed itself to raise \$130,000 for the RTVC. As a first step, members themselves pledged \$33,300 during the April session. They plan to contact other prospective donors, including the former trustees. The board will study the possibility of a revolving loan program to assist churches in building television stations to carry ACTS.

Trustees held a special recognition dinner April 11 for Ralph and Wanda Tacker, mission service corp volunteers, who recently completed their one-year service. Tacker, a Dallas businessman, has spearheaded RTVC plans for building ACTS stations.

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Moody Granted Leave of Absence,
Contract Will Not Be Renewed

Baptist Press
4/14/83

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Dale Moody will remain on the payroll but not in the classroom at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Moody, the focal point of theological controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention for more than six months, was granted a one-year leave of absence by the Southern Seminary board of trustees who determined that Moody's current contract with the seminary will expire July 31, 1984. Moody will be paid full salary until that date but his teaching responsibilities at Southern will be completed this June at the end of the current academic year.

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Several churches have cut off financial support from Southern Seminary and the Arkansas Baptist Convention passed a resolution last fall asking for Moody to be terminated for his teaching on apostasy--a doctrine that a person can lose his "salvation" or "fall from grace."

Ironically, Moody said he had prepared a letter requesting retirement on July 31, 1983, "because I've gotten tired of the creedalism..."

Moody had publicly criticized Southern's Abstract of Principals, part of the seminary charter for 125 years and the oldest statement of faith among Southern Baptists. A copy of the document is signed by every person who teaches at the seminary as a commitment to teach "in accordance with and not contrary to" its 20 doctrinal statements--one of which says that once a person is "saved" by the grace of Jesus Christ his salvation is eternal.

Moody has requested the 1983-84 leave of absence early in 1982, before criticism of his views became an issue with the trustees. The trustees considered the matter in executive session. Reportedly, Roy Honeycutt, seminary president, was the only salaried Southern employee in the meeting.

Moody reached regular retirement at age 65 in 1980 and had been teaching under a series of short-term appointments since that time. He told Baptist Press he had been under the impression, "and nobody ever corrected me," that he was under a five year contract that would expire when he was 70.

However, Southern spokesmen said the personnel policy limits to one year at a time the length of contract for a person over 65.

The board also heard a report from a committee on academic policies on its review of the way former president Duke K. McCall and Honeycutt had handled questions about faculty commitment to the Abstract of Principals. Specifically, the committee said the two administrators had "fulfilled their responsibilities required under the charter and bylaws" with reference to the Moody controversy.

In a related action the trustees adopted an official statement on "Freedom and Responsibility in a Denominational Seminary." The document reaffirms the contractual nature of the abstract which was termed a doctrinal consensus, officially approved, within which academic freedom for every professor is guaranteed. It said the abstract seeks to guarantee "the continuation of historic Baptist emphases on the primacy of scripture and liberty of conscience, while maintaining theological continuity with the cardinal principles which Baptists hold in common."

Moody, 68, holds earned doctorates from Southern and from Oxford University in England. He has been a visiting scholar at the Institute for Advanced Theological Studies in Jerusalem, and studied under noted theologians Paul Tillich, Karl Barth and Emil Brunner.

After the trustee action Moody insisted his position is consistent both with Baptist history and the Bible. "I believe the scriptures are inspired and authoritative in every matter...and when things contradict the scriptures I reject them--I don't care how hoary they are with antiquity." He said the Abstract of Principles contradicts the Baptist Faith and Message (adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963) at three points.

But, "the abstract doesn't have a statement on biblical inerrancy and the Baptist Faith and Message does--and I accept the Baptist Faith and Message totally," he said. "I will walk to Nashville to debate the historical, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ and the reality of a Second Coming (by Jesus)."

Noting, "my people have been Baptist of some kind or another for 14 generations," Moody said he would remain a Southern Baptist because, "I'm not about to leave the people who nurtured me in the faith."

He said any literal application of the abstract would cause everyone at Southern to have to resign because the abstract says the Lord's Supper should be observed using wine and because it says "we are to have no worldly amusement" on Sunday which would exclude watching football games on Sunday afternoon.