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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Canada Study Committee  
Named; Roach Chairman

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The special committee which will study the relationship of Southern Baptists in the United States and Canada has been named by the three officers of the SBC and the executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee,

Fred Roach, a home builder from Dallas, will chair the 21-member committee mandated by messengers to the 1983 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

Messengers voted 4,306 to 2,568 to refer the question of accepting Canadian Southern Baptists as members of the 13.9 million member SBC to the select committee, stipulating the committee be composed of four representatives each from the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Executive Committee and Northwest Baptist Convention and five at-large members.

SBC President James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, will be an ex-officio member of the committee.

Roach is president of Centennial Homes, Inc., a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser, Inc., which is headquartered in Seattle, Wash. He is a member of Richardson Heights Baptist Church of Richardson, president of Texas Baptist Men and second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Other at-large members are James W. Jones, missions director for the Michigan Baptist Convention and former pastor of First Baptist Church of Trenton; Raymond Boswell, president of an insurance agency and member of Highland Baptist Church of Shreveport, La.; David A. Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Ky., and Earl H. Craig, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.

Foreign Mission Board representatives are Harrell R. Cushing, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gadsden, Ala.; C. Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Paul Box, pastor of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., and Raymond L. Spence Jr., pastor of Second Baptist Church of Richmond, Va.

Home Mission Board representatives are Nelson L. Price Jr., pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church of Marietta, Ga.; Emit O. Ray, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church of Miami; Gerald L. Stow, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cookeville, Tenn., and Wanda Hayworth, a layperson who is a member of Centertown (Mo.) Baptist Church.

Executive Committee members named are J. Thurmond George, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Gilroy, Calif.; Kenneth L. Mahanes, pastor of Far Hills Baptist Church of Dayton, Ohio; Ira Craft, a layman who is a member of First Baptist Church of Columbia, S.C., and Gary F. Young, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Phoenix, Ariz.

Northwest Baptist Convention representatives include K. Milton Higgins, pastor of Rickland (Wash.) Baptist Church; Clint Ashley, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Pullman, Wash.; Clifford Vick, pastor of Lincoln Street Baptist Church of Portland, Ore., and Lu Walker, a layperson who is a member of First Baptist Church of Beaverton, Ore.

Walker also is a member of the board of directors of the Home Mission Board.

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The question of seating messengers from Canadian Southern Baptist churches arose at the 1983 annual meeting of the SBC when C.B. (Bill) Hogue, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla., and a former director of the HMB evangelism section, made a motion to amend the SBC constitution.

Seating of messengers is tantamount to accepting churches as full-fledged affiliates of the convention. Currently, the 60 Southern Baptist churches and missions in the four provinces of western Canada are affiliated with the Northwest Baptist Convention, where they are seated as messengers and have full voting rights.

However, the churches, under present SBC constitution and bylaws, cannot send messengers nor vote at the annual SBC session.

Hogue asked the SBC Constitution Article II, on "Purpose" be revised to read: "It is the purpose of the Convention to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States, its territories and Canada...." Presently, only the United States and its territories--Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa--are included.

Hogue's motion, however, was amended by Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, La., who proposed the special study committee.

In announcing the committee appointments, Draper said he, the two vice presidents--John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., and C. E. Price, a layman from Pittsburgh--and Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, appointed the committee "as directed by the convention...."

"Action was taken in accordance with SBC Bylaw 31 which states in part: 'When the cooperating Baptist churches in a state or territory have 25,000 members, they may file application for representation on the Executive Committee, boards, commissions, standing committees and special committees as provided by the bylaws of the convention'," Draper said.

He added each of the 21 members of the committee "come from a different state, except for those representing the Northwest Baptist Convention, in which case four members were equally divided between Washington and Oregon."

Draper told Baptist Press "at least a third of the people who wrote to us recommending people to serve on the committee, recommended people who are ineligible because of Bylaw 31."

Of the states which touch Canada, only the Northwest Baptist Convention, the Michigan Baptist Convention and the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio are eligible. The other conventions or fellowships--New England, New York, Minnesota-Wisconsin, the Northern Plains (Montana, North and South Dakota and Wyoming) and Utah-Idaho--do not have sufficient membership to meet the eligibility standards, Draper said.

The statement also noted the four appointers "decided not to put staff members of any agency or convention on the committee" but to appoint elected board members. The staff members of the Northwest convention, Executive Committee, HMB, FMB, Baptist Sunday School Board and the Baptist World Alliance will be "resource personnel"

"Other resource persons, such as the state executive directors of the state conventions contiguous to Canada may be invited at the discretion of the committee," the statement said.

Roach told Baptist Press he will meet with Draper soon to "go over the charge to the committee. After that, I plan to try to set up a meeting as quickly as feasible so we can start work." He added the committee will study where it will meet, including Canadian cities.

The Dallas home builder, who said he recently returned from a personal trip to Calgary, Canada, said he believes the responsibilities of the committee "is to be sensitive in studying the way we relate to Canada. I believe we have been selected to be objective, to be sensitive and to make a recommendation based on what we find.

"I am hoping no one comes with a preconceived answer. I know I have none," he said.

Baptist Colleges Too Timid  
About Calling, Godsey Says

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Baptist colleges have been too timid about moral education, a Southern Baptist college administrator told a workshop for college chaplains and directors of religious activities.

"We have played down our 'calling' and perhaps for good reason--because we are no longer listening to it," said R. Kirby Godsey, president of Mercer University, Macon, Ga. "We have sought to discharge our religious responsibility by tacking on the appendages of religion to education and calling it Christian."

Godsey told the participants in the workshop sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission that while education is a good thing, mere education is not enough. "It will do us little good to help our students become masters of technology if they fail to become sensitive to the human spirit."

Baptist colleges and universities must be faithful to their calling and face up to the fact they are educating with a different reason for being, he said, adding Southern Baptist institutions of higher education must begin to work from a confessed theological base.

"The goal of higher education in general is to know. The goal of Christian higher education is to love. We are not driven by an intellectual imperative, but by a moral imperative," Godsey said. That moral imperative should be the driving force, he added. "It compels us to see there is no learning that does not engage values. Ideas alone are dead."

He noted reality suggests yet another implication of the moral imperative. "It is not enough to understand the world; rather we must change it. There is no virtue in knowledge unless the power of knowledge is harnessed for the solution of problems."

In a world symbolized by pavement, computers and shopping centers, he said, Baptist colleges must be the ones that permit the human spirit to breathe.

"It would be convenient if the problems of human experience would come to us in the packages of chemistry, biology, history or religion," he said. "But the issues of life are not nearly so clear cut. Life often hurts and where learning meets life, religion will come alive in our Baptist colleges. For people need not only knowledge, they need insight and understanding. They need hope and love."

Godsey concluded by stressing Baptist colleges and universities must not ignore their calling. "It is our task to insure the power and presence of faith and religion becomes felt in the deliberations of curriculum and administration," he said.

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River Ministry Worker  
Killed In Accident

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LOS FRESNOS, Texas (BP)--A 17-year-old girl who had been assisting Texas Baptists' River Ministry workers was killed and eight of the workers injured when a pickup truck-camper overturned July 9 on a highway east of Los Fresnos in south Texas.

Evangelina Trevino, a member of a Baptist church in Hidalgo, Texas, had wanted to be a summer missionary and for about six weeks her dream was realized as she helped the River Ministry workers as a translator. She was killed instantly, according to Robert Smith, director of missions for Rio Grande Valley Association.

Smith said persons in the accident and their injuries were Jill Feltman of Alabama who suffered a broken collarbone; Mike Haurie of Dallas, a broken wrist; Cindy Goldfarb, River Ministry field nurse from La Feria, Texas, a broken finger, and Kenneth Redding, not a summer missionary but who was helping the River Ministry, a broken arm.

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Suffering minor scrapes and bruises were summer missionaries Kay Burbridge of Dallas; Ethel Rodriguez of El Paso; Robin Chapman, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, and Becky Hoebel of Henderson, Texas.

In the pickup but not injured were Armando Garcia and Gejardo Martinez. Garcia worked with the ministry but was not a summer missionary. Martinez was working as an intern with the field nurse, Nancy Goldfarb, during a break in his medical schooling in Laredo.

Smith said the group had taken a break from the heavy schedule to celebrate one of the boy's birthday at Padre Island. The accident occurred as they were returning.

A driver who witnessed the accident said the truck was not speeding but flipped over while passing a car.

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Relief Needs Outstrip  
Southern Baptist Giving

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist relief planners are applying brakes to spending as demand for hunger and relief ministries overseas outstrips SBC giving to those causes.

Showered by a sudden outpouring of Southern Baptist hunger and relief gifts in the late 1970's, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board expanded its relief work rapidly, but by midsummer 1981 still had accumulated \$4.5 million in unallocated funds. However, by late July this year, the balance had dropped to \$693,755.

The board's human needs consultants feel requests should be weighed very carefully when the balance drops below \$1 million in hunger relief and \$100,000 in general relief.

A single life-threatening crisis may call for immediate release of large sums of money, said Timothy Brendle, community development consultant. When Nigeria expelled two million aliens earlier this year, the board responded immediately with \$327,000 for bread, water and medicine for the refugees.

The low balance is forcing the board to draw up a priority system to deal with requests and is also forcing a temporary shift from development ministries.

"For the past two years, we've been training missionaries to use relief gifts effectively and with integrity and it has greatly increased the demand for relief funds," Brendle said. "Before, Southern Baptists began giving money with no plan for its use. Now we have a plan which has increased the demand faster than Southern Baptists have increased their giving."

Southern Baptists have increased their giving, he pointed out, but not as fast as when an interest in world hunger first swept the convention. Giving so far in 1983 is more than \$2 million, one tenth of one percent ahead of the same period in 1982. But releases are 43.4 percent ahead of last year's record pace.

Top priority will be given to life-threatening crises such as those pending because of flooding in South America and drought in eastern and southern Africa. But Brendle said the board will also try to preserve spending for long-term projects already committed, such as a development project just begun by Louisiana Baptists in the Gokwe region of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe is in the heart of the African drought, and the project has literally kept people alive with feeding programs, he said. But it also offers long-term solutions to the area's hunger problems. Well-drilling, for instance, has already begun.

To avoid a complete shift from ministries which deal with the causes of hunger, the Foreign Mission Board will emphasize low-cost developmental approaches which affect community nutrition and health, said Brendle. Such programs include child growth monitoring to detect malnutrition, oral treatment for dehydration from diarrhea (the top killer of children under six), encouraging breast feeding and child immunization.

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The Foreign Mission Board will continue to respond to emergencies as they arise, said Brendle, but missionaries will be asked to submit requests for long-term projects once a year so they can be weighed against available funds.

"We're not happy with the shift from planned development to a crisis response," he said, "but you can't afford to put yourself into a position where you can't respond to a crisis."

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Baylor University Administrator Named  
President Of Virginia Intermont College

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WACO, Texas (BP)--James E. Martin Jr., dean for men's programs and housing at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, will become president of Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Va., Sept. 1. Both institutions are Southern Baptist.

Martin joined the Baylor faculty in 1978 as an assistant professor of education. He was named director of men's programs and housing in 1981 and dean in 1982.

Martin holds a bachelor of science degree from Western Carolina University, a master of education degree from the University of Virginia and a doctorate of education from Bowling Green State University.

Virginia Intermont College, founded in 1884, offers two-year and four-year programs in liberal arts, fine arts and pre-professional studies. About 800 students attend the college.

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Seminary Graduate, Wife  
Hit The Appalachian Trail

Baptist Press  
8/2/83

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Bob Landham, a May master of religious education graduate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has decided now is the best time to put feet to a 10-year dream and walk the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Amicalola Falls State Park in Georgia.

Landham said now that he has graduated and has the fewest obligations he is likely to ever have, he can test his theories on simple living with a practical trail experience. His father walked the trail several years after it was first built.

"Most people have so much going on in their lives like jobs, children and mortgages, that they often don't think beyond the afternoon," said Landham. "There is a good deal to be learned from living with less than what we have. An uncluttered lifestyle like backpacking is a good way to learn it."

Landham, who has been camping and hiking all his life, said the necessary ingredients of the adventure--time, money, opportunity and "somebody I wanted to walk 2,000 miles with"--finally have fallen together. His wife, Cindy, is trekking with him on the five-month trip which began July 15.

Their 45-pound backpacks will have little space for gifts for the birthdays and third anniversary they will observe on the trail.

Every detail has been meticulously planned for the 151-day trip. The Landhams bought and prepackaged all their food for the entire trip and mailed it to themselves at 22 rural post offices along the way. Plotting their progress against the advance of winter, they will pick up their parkas in Afton, Va., Oct. 16.

They hope to prepare a slide presentation for churches when they are finished, sharing with them the spiritual insights they learned on survival and simplicity.

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