



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 8, 1984

84-69

Memphis Pastor Sanford
Western Recorder Editor

By James H. Cox

*Ky Paper
(C)-N*

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Jack D. Sanford has been elected editor of the Western Recorder, weekly newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, effective July 1, 1984.

He succeeds Chauncey R. Daley, who is retiring after 27 years as editor.

Sanford, 58, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., since 1976, was approved by the Recorder board of directors April 17, but could not be elected until the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention met May 7 and gave its endorsement.

The election and replacement of a Western Recorder editor is upon nomination by the board of directors of the newspaper, which operates independently of the executive board, but "subject to the approval of the executive board." The minutes also spell out the "principle of the independence of the Western Recorder" and the "freedom of the editor (is) to be reaffirmed and rigidly upheld."

Sanford will join the newspaper staff June 4, working with Daley for four weeks, including attending the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Sanford, was born Sept. 22, 1925, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received the B.A. degree in 1951 from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and holds three degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.--M.Div., 1954; Th.M., 1955, and D.Min., 1974.

He is married to the former Margaret Reeves of Port Arthur, Texas. They are the parents of three grown sons, Michael, Robert and Stephen.

Sanford held student pastorates at French Broad Baptist Church, Dandridge, Tenn., 1949-51, and Dawson Baptist Church, Philpot, Ky., 1952-53. Other pastorates include Salem Baptist Church, Pembroke, Ky., 1954-57; Oaklawn Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky., 1957-63; Florence (Ky.) Baptist Church, 1963-70, and Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, Urbana, Ill., 1970-76.

His denominational activities include the presidencies of pastors' conferences in Northern Kentucky and West Union associations, both in Kentucky, and in Memphis. He was director of Western Recorder for eight years, an executive board member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, chairman of its executive committee and first vice president of the convention. He has been a trustee of Carson-Newman College and served in several other denominational leadership capacities.

Sanford also taught religion at Bethel College, Hopkinsville, Ky., 1954-57, and at Boyce Bible School in Louisville, 1974-75.

He is author of two Broadman Press books, Make Your Preaching Relevant (1963) and Never Look Back (1974). He has contributed to three other Broadman books and more than 100 articles to religious and denominational publications. He wrote a weekly column for three years in the Paducah Sun-Democrat, as well as regular guest columns in the Boone County (Ky.) Recorder two years and the Champaign-Urbana (Ill.) Courier one year.

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Western Recorder.

Truman Remembered, Praised At
Washington Church He Attended

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--Harry S Truman, the first Southern Baptist to occupy the White House, was remembered in a special service commemorating the 100th anniversary of his birth in the church he attended while president as a politician who dared to take risks.

The 33rd president, born May 8, 1884, was praised by U.S. Senator John C. Danforth, R-Mo., as a modern-day politician who risked defeat in the 1948 presidential election for championing the cause of civil rights.

Danforth, an ordained clergyman of the Episcopal Church, reminded worshipers at First Baptist Church in Washington that Truman pushed doggedly for a host of civil rights advances during 1948, the year he upset the heavily favored Thomas Dewey to win a full term as president. Truman became president in 1945, after President Franklin D. Roosevelt died only weeks into his fourth term.

What Truman knew in 1948, Danforth said, is that "public acclaim is no real basis for self-esteem, that public censure is no real basis for self-contempt." He added: "He (Truman) must have known, as he pressed so hard for the cause of civil rights, that popular approval or disapproval is perfectly ridiculous as a source of self-worth."

Only the one "competent appraiser places the fair value on us," the Yale Divinity School graduate said. And that value has been set once for all. It is infinite. It is the price paid to redeem us by Christ on the Cross."

Saying he wanted "to contrast President Truman's courage with the timidity so common in politics," Danforth said Truman undertook a civil rights crusade "unprecedented in the administration of any previous president" in the teeth of political challenges within his own party from left and right.

One year before the election, Truman's Civil Rights Commission "issued a sweeping statement of the goals of the civil rights movement," Danforth elaborated, including abolishing the poll tax and proposing a "broad assault on segregation in education, housing and employment."

Beyond following the commission's recommendations point by point, Truman in early 1948 proposed a federal anti-lynching law, a permanent committee on fair employment, an end to segregation in interstate transportation, protection of voting rights and an end to discrimination in immigration laws against Orientals.

And in July, 1948, the month the Democratic convention was held, Truman "issued his historic executive order desegregating the armed forces, thereby removing what had been a standing embarrassment to American democracy."

All these actions prompted Strom Thurmond, then a segregationist leader in the South, to bolt the Democratic party for the 1948 election. Thurmond and the liberal Democrat Henry Wallace, who also bolted the party, took 10 percent of Truman's 1948 vote. No politician would take such a risk, Danforth declared, "unless absolutely convinced that his own future must give way to a greater principle for which he stands."

The Missouri senator further praised Truman for refusing to "wear his religion on his sleeve," noting "there is a premium for politicians to make a public display of their religion." In a reference to the so-called Religious Right, he added: "These days, there are politically active religious groups that seem to expect public displays of religiosity.

"Jesus did not want public displays. He wanted action. And right from the beginning, the kind of action our Lord has required involved taking risks."

Earlier in the service, First Baptist Pastor Emeritus Edward H. Pruden said he would sum up Truman's life with the word "integrity."

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Pruden, who was pastor of the historic congregation during the Truman years, said the late president once sent him a hand-written note urging him to feel free to preach whatever he would with no regard to the fact that the president of the United States might be present.

Pruden did, once offending Truman for comments made in opposition to the latter's effort to appoint an ambassador to the Vatican.

The 80-year-old Pruden also called attention to Truman's sense of humor, recalling that on one Sunday he placed a five-dollar bill he had autographed in the offering plate with a note attached that the deacon who counted it could keep it if he would replace it with two bills.

"He is the kind of man I should like to have for a next-door neighbor," Pruden concluded.

Current pastor Everett C. Goodwin told the congregation while neither former President Jimmy Carter, who along with wife, Rosalynn, and daughter, Amy, belonged to First Baptist during their Washington years, nor President Reagan was able to attend, each sent regrets and greetings.

Special music for the occasion, including a half-hour sacred concert before the service, was provided by the William Jewell College Concert Choir, Liberty, Mo.

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Mississippi Relief Team
Fights Water Valley Battles

By Tim Nicholas

Baptist Press
5/8/84

*Miss. Paper
(C) - F*

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--When Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force members stopped to get gas after a week of serving 10,000 hot meals to victims and workers after an Easter eve tornado, task force member Ed Bailey, joked to a man waiting to fill up after the team's motor home, "I guess you thought we'd take all day."

"No," the stranger remarked, "I know where you've been and what you've been doing in Water Valley...and I want to pay for your gas." His donation was added to another \$1,260 given without asking by people dropping by the 40-foot combination mobile kitchen, communication center and information booth.

Mississippi Baptists' disaster ministry, operated by the Brotherhood department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was in operation only hours after the tornado struck the north Mississippi town.

Cooperating with Civil Defense, the Baptist ministry was given "about 99 percent" of the food it cooked. The meals were served by the Red Cross and the unit also prepared hot meals for the Salvation Army to deliver.

The Baptist disaster unit tallied 10,844 hot meals in its visit to Water Valley. Another 2,000 snack, coffee and cola "customers" were served. About 110 volunteers from area churches helped in the serving and delivery of hot food. And 20 members of the task force were on the job during the week.

First Baptist Church, Water Valley, was hardest hit among Baptist churches in the series of tornadoes that struck that Saturday. Both educational buildings and the activity building were total losses and the sanctuary heavily damaged.

Other ministries of the disaster unit in Water Valley included radio communications. One man came by distraught over his wife being in the hospital, his house destroyed and his two small children missing who had been left with there with the babysitter. The radio unit got him in touch with the appropriate help.

His children had been moved before the tornado struck and couldn't get in touch because of the melee.

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Another man whose home was destroyed needed radio help to contact his employer in Ohio. The ham operators obliged.

One woman stopped by the unit, which was set up in the middle of the destroyed area of town on a Church of Christ parking lot, and gave \$10. Told the food was free, she said, "No, I want to contribute." She had just been passing through and was impressed by the ministry. A number of the utility workmen made contributions. One Southern Baptist told task force members, "I knew we had the unit, but I never really had an idea of what it could do."

Paul Harrell, who directs the disaster ministry as state Brotherhood director, returned to Water Valley May 1 to see what type of recovery assistance will be needed.

The Home Mission Board was sending \$10,000 in relief funds, and an unknown amount of state mission offering will go to relief. This will depend on the assessment made by churches in the area and through associational missions committees in the affected areas. Said Harrell, "We probably can't cover any person's total loss, but we can help."

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Texas Supreme Court Judge
Named Baylor Law School Dean

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Baptist Press
5/8/84

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Supreme Court Justice Charles W. Barrow has been named dean-elect of the Baylor University School of Law, Waco, Texas.

His appointment was presented by Baylor President Herbert H. Reynolds and approved May 4, by the Baylor Board of Trustees, meeting in Dallas at the Baylor University Medical Center.

Barrow, 62, 1943 Baylor Law School graduate, said it was "really a tough decision" to leave the Texas Supreme Court. "But I just couldn't turn down Baylor," he said. "I owe the school so much."

He will become dean Oct. 1, succeeding Angus S. McSwain Jr. who is resigning effective Sept. 30 after 19 years as dean to devote full-time attention to his "first love"-- classroom teaching.

McSwain, who was named by Reynolds May 4 as a distinguished professor of law, will teach courses on Texas property law at Baylor Law School.

Reynolds, with the concurrence of trustees, appointed an associate dean of the law school, David Swenson, 32, associate professor of law, who joined the Baylor faculty in the fall of 1982. He succeeds John Stanford, who is leaving Baylor to become dean of the law school at Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Okla.

Swenson's appointment will be effective May 14, the beginning of the summer law term.

Barrow has served on the bench nearly 26 years, seven of those on the Texas Supreme Court. He has authored more than 600 written opinions.

He was born in Poteet, educated in public schools in Atascosa County and graduated from Baylor with a bachelor of laws degree, which was redesignated the juris doctor degree in 1969. He worked 13 years as a trial attorney in San Antonio and from 1959-62, served on the bench of the 45th District Court.

In the spring of 1962, he was appointed to the 4th Court of Civil Appeals in San Antonio to fill the unexpired term of his father, H.D. Barrow, who died that year.

Five years later, Barrow was elected Chief Justice of the 4th Court of Civil Appeals, and he held that post until being appointed to the Texas Supreme Court in 1977. Then he was reelected to a six-year term on the Supreme Court in 1982.

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He is a former chairman of Texas Judges and the Judges Continuing Legal Education Committee, a charter member of the Judicial Qualifications Committee, co-editor of the Bench Book for Texas Trial Judges, project director of the Texas Judicial Coordinating Committee, and co-editor of Texas Pattern Jury Charges.

In 1972, Judge Barrow was named Baylor Alumnus of the Year for his contributions to the legal profession, and in 1982 received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Baylor.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Baylor University

Sunday School Board
Gets Scofield Slides

Baptist Press
5/8/84

BSSB-N

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A collection of more than 20,000 photographic slides of biblical archaeology sites taken by the late Fon H. Scofield Jr. has been given to the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board by the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

Scofield, director of audio-visual production for the Foreign Mission Board for 29 years, took the photographs beginning in the late 1950s until his retirement in 1977. The recommendation to transfer the large volume of resources was made by his widow, Johnni Johnson Scofield, to Keith Parks, president of the FMB.

"The Sunday School Board uses resources more than we do now," said Mrs. Scofield, vice-president for communications at the FMB. "The Sunday School Board continues to deal with these subjects, whereas we used them when they were contemporary. I recommended to President Parks that we transfer the collection to the BSSB where it would be a live and working resource. Everybody in our office is very pleased."

While many of the photographs were taken as contemporary illustrations, Scofield's interest in archaeology and his stewardship of travel led him to take historical photographs of biblical sites as opportunities were available.

"Every time he went into the Middle East, he would take some time to work on a site or a group of sites," recalled Mrs. Scofield. "His dream was to gather resources for small schools and for seminaries. He was serious about Bible study and he had wanted to develop programs to take to small churches to introduce them to those sites."

While Scofield died in 1978 before realizing his dreams for the photographs, Mrs. Scofield said she believes her husband would be "complimented and highly gratified the resources will continue to be used."

According to Jerry Ross, manager of the BSSB's art department, the collection "is a most valuable publishing resource for Bible study materials. The great need for photographs of biblical sites for Bible Book Study Guide, Biblical Illustrator and other periodicals and books makes this acquisition very significant."

Bill Stephens, editor of Biblical Illustrator, noted Scofield "made photos in countries where we cannot go today. Warfare and economic development have changed some of the sites, and some important structures that existed when Fon was traveling no longer exist. His photos are invaluable in capturing those sites."

In accepting the gift, Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder said an additional use of the collection would be for "serious students of the word of God who want to do their own research. We believe the Sunday School Board will indeed honor the work and memory of Fon Scofield in the way we maintain and use this collection."

Transfer of the collection to the Sunday School Board's Dargan-Carver Library was begun in early 1984 and is expected to be complete by February 1985.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press on May 3, 1984

Wife Of Alabama
Executive Dies

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Louise Green Pitts, wife of A. Earl Potts, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, died May 5 at Baptist Medical Center, Montgomery, Ala., after an extended illness.

Mrs. Pitts, 64, graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) in 1942. She taught social studies at Handley High School, Roanoke, Ala., and at Atherton High School, Louisville, Ky.

She became the first woman Baptist Student Union director at Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1944, and also served as BSU director at Appalachian College, Boone, N.C.

During the time her husband was pastor of McElwain Baptist Church, Birmingham, 1950-1970, she taught ministerial wives and kindergarten teachers at Howard College and Samford University, Birmingham, and was kindergarten and Girls in Action director at McElwain Baptist Church.

She became Mission Friends director for Alabama Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in March, 1971, and retired in August, 1983.

She is survived by her husband; a son, a daughter and two grandchildren.

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Canadian Conference
Endorses Study Report

By Carol Rathbun

Baptist Press
5/8/84

EDMONTON, Alberta (BP)--Expressing appreciation to those who sought seating for Canadian Southern Baptists in the Southern Baptist Convention, messengers to the 1984 Canadian Conference May 1-3 formally endorsed the SBC Canada Study Committee Report to be presented to the June SBC meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Although the report of the SBC study committee outlines a strategy of increased involvement of the SBC and Canada, it did not recommend the seating of Canadian messengers.

A record number of Canadian pastors and laypersons were on hand. The 88 registered messengers voted unanimously on the following formal response to the SBC report:

"We, the messengers to the 1984 annual meeting of the Canadian Southern Baptist Conference express our deepest appreciation to all who have labored on our behalf in seeking the seating of Canadian Southern Baptists at the Southern Baptist Convention and we also express appreciation to the Southern Baptist Convention as a whole for its efforts and desires to promote the evangelization of Canada.

"Without prejudice to the later possibility of our being seated, we have complete confidence in the conclusion reached by the SBC Canada Study Committee and we do in this meeting endorse the SBC Canada Study Committee's recommendation and humbly solicit the continued support of all our friends in our effort to reach all of Canada for Christ."

In the original motion made by Jim Wallace, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Calgary, Alberta, no reference was made to the future possibility of being seated in the SBC but an amendment by Allen Schmidt, coordinator for Southern Baptist churches in Canada, was approved to add the phrase "without prejudice to the later possibility of being seated."

Schmidt said he had complete confidence in the SBC study committee but, "we still want to let everyone know we would be open to be seated at a later date if that was the desire of Canadian Southern Baptists and the SBC."

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It was pointed out the original motion would perhaps send out a message confusing to those who initiated the seating issue. Henry Blackaby, director of missions for the Capilano Baptist Association in Western British Columbia said, "I appreciate the way the motion was stated, but to say we completely endorse this report says we are happy about not being seated. I think that would send a message back to our supporters that would be difficult to explain."

Wallace admitted getting every word "just exactly right" was hard but they would have to try their best. "We don't want to offend our friends...we don't want to communicate to them that we don't appreciate what they have done," he said. "But we also don't want to communicate to the committee that we look down on what they have done. They have met time and time again. They have invited our people to speak to them...I think they have been more than fair."

D.K. Hale, president of the Canadian Conference and pastor of Jasper Place Baptist Church, Edmonton, also supported the original wording saying, the Holy Spirit had laid it on Canadian's hearts to pray "hard for one solid year" about the Canada issue and the work of the SBC study committee.

"I almost feel that I have got to quit asking our churches to pray if we can't come back and say the Holy Spirit has led in the action," Hale said. "I appreciate the wording and my heart says I am in total agreement with the recommendation of the Canada Study Committee."

The over 200 Canadians attending were able to question reports on the recommendation brought by SBC representative Harold C. Bennett, Fred Roach and R. Keith Parks.

Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, explained the selection process of the 21-member Canada Study Committee. Committee Chairman Roach, a layman from Dallas, outlined the activities of the committee and went through the report point by point.

Roach said the committee meetings were all spiritually oriented. "At every meeting we spent time in prayer. We had key devotional ideas and we did a lot of brainstorming. There was nobody, nobody that had any undue influence on that committee...no agency of the Southern Baptist Convention had any undue influence on the ultimate decision."

Roach said the committee came to the point of drafting a position paper there was a divergence of direction evident, but, "I knew as a committee I did not want to be divisive at the Southern Baptist Convention. We don't need anything else that will divide us. We need to be pulled together under God's leadership."

At that point, Roach said he instructed Parks, Foreign Mission Board president, and William G. Tanner, Home Mission Board president, to write proposals each could approve of how they thought the goal of how to best evangelize Canada could be accomplished.

He reported, "The heads of these two mission agencies came together under God's leadership and came to a consensus as to how best to expand our work in Canada." The document, described as a miracle by those involved, was then reviewed and revised by the members of the study committee, he said, resulting in the final report.

Roach stressed that the committee's recommendation complemented the desires and the goals of the Canada Conference as expressed by its representatives that met with the committee and its own long-range planning report.

"The question gets down to can you accomplish more in helping to evangelize Canada to the adoption of this kind of program, or by adding the words "and Canada" to the Southern Baptist Convention constitution," he said. "And that doesn't do anything except it might let 10 or 15 or 20 or 30 of you vote at the convention."

Roach said the fact seating wouldn't necessarily help evangelize Canada was the basis of their decision. He added that there isn't anybody in the SBC who wouldn't want Canadians to be seated from the fellowship standpoint but that the committee felt seating wouldn't accomplish the goals of the group involved.

Gerald Palmer, vice-president of the Home Mission Board's mission section, said, "There are times when we are going to want to build a fence across the border. I envision a national convention with a sisterly relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention that is unique to Southern Baptists."

Palmer said this was something Canadian churches were headed towards even before the Canada Study Committee and noted there is a general feeling among several of the leadership that it is not just coincidence that all these are happening at the same time. "You have a challenge here to do something unique," Palmer explained. "What will come out I don't know but I am excited for you. I hope you recognize the place Canadians have within the development of the Southern Baptist work in Canada."

Parks said, "The thing that has been thrilling to me in the whole process has been the fact that throughout the process even if there was difference of opinion there was never a difference of spirit. There was a harmony, a genuine desire to do the best we could as individuals and as a group."

Parks said one of the most emotional questions that had been raised was why the Foreign Mission Board had not been actively involved in Canada up to this point. "It's a judgment call," he responded. "We may have made the wrong judgment in it. It was an honest effort to take the limited resources that Southern Baptists made available and try to apply them at point of greatest need as we understand it."

He explained that in the 1950s some decisions were made that Baptists had to live with "right or wrong, good or bad." Those decisions meant the Foreign Mission Board would direct its resources to areas where there was no evangelical witness.

He added, "We are in about half of the countries of the world. We could be criticized for not being in any of the other countries...it's a matter of choice; it's a matter of priorities. It is not that we are not interested in evangelizing Canada. It's not that we do not love the Canadians and some other things some people have perhaps assumed."

Parks denied accusations the Foreign Mission Board was using the same arguments against seating Canada that were used against the western states in years past. He also said the board had never entered into any comity agreement with any group in the world that would discourage Foreign Mission Board involvement in another country.

Parks turned to his interpretation of what the Canada Study Committee report means for missions in Canada. "It means that the guiding shaping role of strategy for the evangelization...of Canada would be in the hearts and hands of the people who live here...I believe that is very, very important.

"Speaking for the Foreign Mission Board...I commit to you the best support we know how to give within the limitations we have placed on us, to be responsive and to assist every way we can to help in evangelization of this great nation," Parks said.

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Canadian Southern Baptists
Move Toward Independence

By Carol Rathbun

Baptist Press
5/8/84

EDMONTON, Alberta (BP)--The Canadian Southern Baptist Conference moved closer to independent status during its annual meeting May 1-3 by adopting a long-range planning report which sets a number of goals leaning the conference toward a preconvention status.

The conference also voted to change its constitution's Statement of Purpose to reflect more than a fellowship body and elected the constitution's phase-in committee to review the current constitution and suggest appropriate revisions at the 1985 meeting.

Changing the conference's Statement of Purpose was a major item of business since the new wording would allow the organization to get a tax number from the Canadian government legitimizing the conference as a legal entity.

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The 88 messengers to the 1984 conference decided to adopt the Statement of Purpose contained in the long-range report. "The purpose of the Canadian Southern Baptist Conference is to provide a channel for cooperating churches to work together and with the Southern Baptist Convention boards and agencies to carry out the Great Commission."

Allen Schmidt, coordinator of Southern Baptist work in Canada, in bringing the recommended change noted the Northwest Baptist Convention with which they are currently aligned was not mentioned specifically in the purpose clause. He said the planning committee felt they wanted to leave open the possibility of relating to a number of state conventions as they expanded their work to include all of Canada, not just the western provinces.

The long-range planning committee which brought the three-page report was elected in 1983. The committee consisted of the moderator and chairman of missions from each of the four associations in western Canada, the Canadian directors of missions, the executive director, missions division director and evangelism director of the Northwest Baptist Convention and representatives from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board.

The committee's report was organized by three objectives: To reach the lost people of Canada; to strengthen the churches and to develop all available resources. Among the growth goals listed in the report were the establishment of 50 new churches and church type missions, and eight area Baptist Student Unions by 1989.

The report also sets a goal of reaching 10,000 in church membership by 1989, a goal Schmidt reported should not be hard to reach. The goal would mean doubling present church membership in five years whereas membership tripled since 1977.

The conference will begin to look toward electing its own executive director-treasurer and adding two other conference level staff positions as outlined in the report. Also, churches are encouraged to "have at least one stewardship emphasis per year and to give at least 10 percent of their general budget to the Cooperative Program by 1989."

Other goals outlined in the report include establishing a Canadian Southern Baptist Foundation and registering for incorporating the Canadian Southern Baptist Conference by the end of 1985. The conference hopes to channel Canadian Cooperative Program funds and other mission funds through the Canadian office as soon as possible.

The long-range planning report was approved unanimously.

Officers for the coming year are: Eugene Laird, pastor of Royal Heights Baptist Church, Delta, B.C., president; Bill Fowler, pastor at Scarborough Baptist Church, Albert, Saskatchewan, first vice-president; Bill Goebel, pastor of First Baptist Church, Williams Lake, B.C., second vice-president; Paul Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, clerk; Bill Youell, layman from Dovercourt Baptist Church, Edmonton, treasurer and Jim Yoder, pastor of Gladstone Baptist Church, Vancouver, B.C., historian.

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C-N

'God's Hand' Seen
In Canada Report

Baptist Press
5/8/84

EDMONTON, Alberta (BP)--Discussion before, during and after the adoption of a formal response to the Southern Baptist Convention Canada Study Committee's report at the 1984 Canadian Conference reflected a general consensus that God has been at work in the study process and that he will continue to work through the committee's recommendation.

D.K. Hale, outgoing president of the Canadian Conference and pastor of the Jasper Place Baptist Church in Edmonton, shared that for a year Canadians have prayed that God will expand their work in Canada as Southern Baptists. "We believe God has responded."

Hale said he couldn't see anything more that could be done at this time to help Canada, and that in good faith, without question, they would accept and trust the integrity of "those who have pledged in our hearing" to follow through on the committee's recommendation.

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"Southern Baptists have said in essence, 'We're one in the work.' The imaginary line between us is not important," he said.

Mickey Porter, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Calgary, Alberta, agreed the SBC Canada report is an answer to prayer. "Specifically, it is an answer to my personal prayer for Foreign Mission Board support for the student work in Canada."

Porter referred to FMB President R. Keith Parks' commitment made during the conference that the board would work with the Canadians in developing student work. "The reason that excites me is that I see student work in Canada as missions, developing an indigenous Canadian leadership. It's been my feeling from the beginning that the Foreign Mission Board was the best of our boards and agencies to help us reach that goal," he said.

There is some concern expressed as to the vagueness of the recommendation since there were no specific actions outlined. But Jim Wallace, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Calgary, said, "I realize that you can't put meat on the bones until the bones are in place."

He said, "We deeply appreciate what our friends in the SBC have done to bring this issue before the convention. Though the recommendation didn't include seating, I feel that what we wanted in being seated is being accomplished."

Larry Spencer, pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Regina, Saskatchewan, said he thought the report was "as specific as it could be at this time," and that as far as benefiting Canada, "it appears to be a very strong step in our direction."

Spencer said he might have preferred that seating was included, but "no one wants to do anything harmful or burdensome to the convention. I see the possibility as we develop as a Canadian entity of being something stronger and more unique that we could be as a state convention-type entity."

He added many were realizing simple seating wouldn't have done much for the Canadians and they would actually have more impact having a Canadian observer assigned to each of the boards of the Executive Committee as outlined in the study committee report.

Spencer concluded, "In the future, I think we will discover even greater benefits (than through the committee's recommendation) than we see right now."

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Sunday School Board
Names Feature Writer

B55B-N

Baptist Press
5/8/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Frank W. White has been named feature reporter in the office of communications at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

White was a reporter and news editor at The Leaf-Chronicle in Clarksville, Tenn., for four years before coming to the board. Previously, he had been publications coordinator at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro.

He holds the B.S. degree in journalism and political science from Middle Tennessee State University and the M.A. degree in journalism from Indiana University, Bloomington.

White and his wife, Natalie Andrews White, have one son, Andrew, 1.

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Missions Bond Baptists, Parks Tells Georgians," mailed 5/4/84, in 19th paragraph please change self-defacing to self-defeating. In 21st paragraph please change "Lone Range" to "Lone Ranger."

Thanks,
Baptist Press