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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 19, 1985

85-73

**BWA Headquarters Will  
Move To New Location**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance will have a new home in McLean, Va., beginning Oct. 1, 1985.

Presently the headquarters is at 1628 Sixteenth Street, NW in Washington.

BWA officials explained the building no longer met the needs of the growing worldwide ministry of the Alliance and joint ownership with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention prohibited a possible expansion at the present site. The move into the four-year-old office building in McLean, approximately 12 miles from Washington, will mean more space for all divisions and departments of the Alliance.

The new headquarters building was acquired for \$1.28 million. Remodeling and new furnishings will require additional funds. The BWA will start a \$1.5 million fund raising campaign as soon as a master solicitation plan has been developed.

The 12,000 square foot brick structure is located in the central business district of McLean, with needed business facilities, such as post office, print shops and restaurants within a few hundred yards. Bus connections link the office with both Washington airports and with the city.

BWA President Duke K. McCall said: "I am thrilled to see what God has been saving for us." McCall had an active part in the purchase of the present headquarters building in 1947.

BWA General Secretary Gerhard Claas expressed satisfaction over the recent business transaction.

"While in the past we had to work in offices that had been designed as living quarters," Claas states, "now for the first time we will occupy real office facilities."

Beginning in October, the new address of the Baptist World Alliance headquarters will be: 6733 Curran Street, McLean, Virginia 22101.

The Baptist World Alliance is a voluntary fellowship of 131 Baptist conventions/unions with headquarters in 93 countries, and a total membership of more than 34 million Baptist believers.

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**High Court Deadlocks In  
Driver's License Dispute**

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press  
6/19/85

WASHINGTON (BP)--For the second time this spring, the U.S. Supreme Court has deadlocked on a key church-state case, leaving a sticky issue essentially unresolved.

By a 4-4 tie vote, the high court affirmed a lower federal panel's ruling that a Nebraska woman must be given a driver's license in spite of her refusal to have her photograph made for the license.

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**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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Nashville, Tennessee**

Frances J. Quaring, who claims no religious affiliation and attends church infrequently, argued throughout her challenge to a Nebraska law requiring the photo that to have her picture made would violate the second of the Ten Commandments ("Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing....").

In an earlier proceeding, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with Quaring, holding her free exercise of religion was unduly burdened by the state law. Nebraska then brought an appeal to the nation's high court.

The tie vote means that Quaring may receive her driver's license and that federal courts in the Eighth Circuit (encompassing the states of Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota) must rule accordingly in similar cases.

But the 4-4 ruling, occasioned by the recent illness of Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., does not bind other federal courts.

When the case was heard at the high court last January, an assistant state attorney general argued that Nebraska had a compelling interest in requiring motorists' photographs on drivers' licenses to help police identify suspected criminals and assist financial institutions in corroborating customers' identification.

The state argued further that driver's license photos are necessary for sales clerks in confirming the identity of youthful, would-be purchasers of alcoholic beverages. In addition, the state maintained, Nebraska has a legitimate interest in achieving the objective of "uniform applicability" of the driver's license law, adding the "risk of prejudice and inconsistency would be very high" without it.

But Quaring's attorney countered the state could have written into the law exceptions for persons, like his client, who object for religious reasons to having their pictures made. The real question posed by the dispute, he argued, was whether the state's objectives could have been achieved by "less restrictive" means.

Although the high court deadlock leaves the driver's license controversy unresolved at the national level, the justices agreed to hear a pair of new cases next term that address similar questions.

Sometime after it convenes for a new term next October, the court will hear arguments in disputes involving a Pennsylvania man's refusal to allow authorities to assign a Social Security number to his young daughter and an Air Force officer's insistence he be allowed to wear a yarmulke—or Jewish skull cap—in accordance with his religion's teaching.

Stephen J. Roy, a Native American, has refused to meet requirements in the Social Security Act and the Food Stamp Act that his daughter, Little Bird of the Snow, be given a Social Security number. He maintains that to meet the requirement would violate his religious precepts.

Roy has argued he considers Social Security numbers to be part of a "great evil" afflicting modern society. The "great evil" idea is the central tenet of a belief system based on the legend of Katahdin, a system that condemns computers, modern society's reliance on computers and weaponry that employs computer technology.

Although Roy, his daughter's mother, Karen Miller, and a second daughter use Social Security numbers, he has said he came to his religious views after those numbers were assigned.

For its part, the government has argued that "the individual's interest in religious liberty must yield to the greater interest of society in the efficient administration of its welfare programs."

In a legal brief filed with the high court, the government argued further that a 1982 Supreme Court decision that an Amish man must pay the employer's share of Society Security contributions for his employees is binding in the present controversy. (84-780, Heckler v. Roy)

In a second case accepted for review, the high court will decide if Air Force Captain S. Simcha Goldman, a practicing Orthodox Jew, may be forced to remove his yarmulke while in military uniform.

Goldman, a psychologist in a military hospital, has argued his free exercise of religion was abridged by an order that he refrain from wearing the skull cap while on duty.

The government, on the other hand, has upheld the order because of its concern for discipline and the uniform appearance of Air Force personnel. (84-1097, Goldman v. Weinberger)

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Teen Suicide Epidemic  
Calls For Church Action

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press  
6/19/85

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Churches can take an active role in the fight against the rising epidemic of teenage suicide by simply "lending a listening ear," according to Joe Richardson, personnel counselor for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Richardson, who led sessions on parent/teen communication during this year's summer youth celebrations, noted suicide is the third leading cause of death among teenagers today, outnumbered only by accident-related deaths.

He challenged parents and leaders of youth to lend a helping hand because "most persons are ambivalent about death when attempting suicide."

Explaining research supports the theory that listening and talking is of great importance to a person considering suicide, Richardson said, "Don't think that once a person decides upon suicide there is nothing you can do to prevent it. Quite the contrary is true; part of them wants to live and anything you can do to give them a reason to live may help."

According to Richardson, the church should play an increasing role as care-giver to youth because a vast majority of teens are growing up in broken or fragmented homes or in situations where there has been no central adult model who provides care and concern.

He believes parents and youth leaders can be generalists at providing the counseling services of understanding, listening, respect, care and confidentiality. However, he stressed the importance of not playing therapist when the problems become too great or too personal.

"The time to provide professional help is when there are serious behavior problems, personal and family problems, extreme social problems or when you as the adult cannot maintain an objective outlook," said Richardson.

"It's time for us to realize that it's okay to seek the help of a competent outsider who can give us an objective opinion," he explained. "We need to admit that we are human and give ourselves a chance to come out of a bad situation whole by seeking professional help."

Richardson listed several clues parents and leaders can look for which may indicate a tendency toward suicide. The list includes: giving away treasured objects, sudden behavior changes, verbal clues in notes or conversations, substance abuse and unresolved disappointments.

"We should never consider a teenager's loss as insignificant, no matter how we may feel. Failure to make the team may be a great disappointment to a youth even though adults don't see it as very significant," noted Richardson.

Richardson said in addition to caring for teens who may be considering suicide, the church must minister to the remaining victims of those persons whose attempts have been successful.

"Ministering to the families and friends of a suicide victim is a process which is long term," he noted. "The grief process can take several years and all people will at some time go through the stages of denial, anger, bargaining, depression then adjustment," he said.

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He noted these stages are God-given emotions which help a person deal with the significant loss of a friend or family member.

"The best thing we can do for the remaining victims is to care for them, listen to them and stand by them through the entire grief process," he said.

The summer youth celebrations are a project of the youth section in the Sunday School Board's church training department.

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New Computer System  
Counts SBC Ballots

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press  
6/19/85

DALLAS (BP)—A new computer system operating twice as fast as the old card sorting machine was used by the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention to tabulate 45,248 ballots in almost an hour and a half.

Two Data General computers, plus a card reader and printer, were leased by the SBC from Computer Election Services in Dallas this year for the first time to count ballots for the convention, according to Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary and Tim Hedquist, convention manager.

Henry J. Foster, general manager of Computer Election Services said there is almost no way possible for counterfeit ballots to be used in SBC elections when ballots are counted by his firm's computers.

For more than a decade, the SBC has used a mechanical IBM card sorter to count ballots during elections, but IBM has gone out of the computer card business, Foster said.

Foster said his firm, which has been in the business of counting ballots for local, state and national elections since 1969, handled the tabulation of 86 million ballot cards during the 1984 elections.

Foster said it was "extremely fortunate" the convention was being held in Dallas this year, because it would have been virtually impossible for his firm to have provided the requested 10,000 extra ballots "overnight" if the convention had been meeting outside Dallas.

Hedquist said he had ordered 36,000 sets of ballots for the Dallas convention, thinking that would be an adequate supply. When registration passed 35,000 on Monday, Hedquist called Foster and placed a rush order for an additional 10,000 sets of ballots for delivery the next morning.

Foster asked three of his employees to work all night printing and die-stamping the computer cards. They finished the job at 5:30 a.m., and Foster and another employee delivered them within two hours in their personal cars.

"That couldn't have been done almost anyplace else in the country," Foster said. "We could have gotten them printed overnight, but not delivered if the meeting had been held in Atlanta instead of Dallas."

Foster said his firm has never been asked to make delivery on such a massive order overnight.

If Computer Election Services does the ballot counting for the SBC next year, Foster said there is a possibility even more sophisticated security measures might be taken to prevent ballot irregularities.

For example, Foster said an infra-red ink strip can be added to the ballots that cannot be seen by the human eye, but can be read by the computer operators. Such a system was not used by the 1985 convention, but could be added in future conventions if the SBC so desires, Foster said.

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"We are extremely sensitive to ballot security," Foster said. "Our company's reputation and integrity is on the line every time there is an election, and we will do whatever is necessary to protect that reputation of honesty and integrity," he said.

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Maryland Newspaper  
Names Assistant Editor

Baptist Press  
6/19/85

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)--Robert E. (Bob) Allen of Marion, Ill., has been named assistant editor of the Baptist True Union, newsjournal for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, according to W. Fletcher Allen, editor.

Allen is a May graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and is a veteran newsman. He will join the staff June 25.

Allen currently is news director at Southern seminary. He was editor of the campus newspaper, The Towers, previously. His journalistic experience includes internships with the Western Recorder and the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, state convention papers of Kentucky and Arkansas.

He also has worked in the press room for the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

Prior to attending seminary, he earned the B.S. degree in journalism at Southern Illinois University and was a reporter with the Daily Times, Sullivan, Ind.

The new assistant editor is married to the former Vicki Johnston of Little Rock, Ark. She is an accountant and a graduate of the University of Arkansas.

Allen succeeds Randy Cowling who resigned in April.

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Mime Uses God's Gifts  
To Share Gospel Message

Baptist Press  
6/19/85

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Mark McMasters doesn't rely on words to convey the message that God is love.

As a Christian mime, McMasters says he uses the gifts and talents God has given him to show "God meets our needs. He heals us, forgives us, loves us and frees us."

McMasters, a member of First Baptist Church, Buies Creek, N.C., became interested in mime in 1977 while a student at Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C. After graduating with a degree in religion he attended the Dell'Arte School of Mime and Comedy, Blue Lake, Calif.

"While studying mime I discovered this was where I was supposed to be vocationally, said McMasters who is the featured artist during this summer's four church training-sponsored conferences at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers.

"God has given me a talent and a love for mime and has then provided the opportunities to use my gifts as a ministry," he said.

He believes persons can relate to the characters he portrays because people see themselves without being threatened by the truth.

"Hopefully people can hurt with me, laugh with me and be able to identify their needs," he noted. "I feel I have accomplished something when I can provide the ministry of laughter to someone who has not been able to laugh."

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Explaining that visual images impact persons more than words, McMasters said, "Persons respond to the messages of the mime characters because they have had to be involved in the communication process. I provide just enough mystery that they stay interested until they have received the message."

Although McMasters' sketches portray different characters and emotions the most central theme he tries to convey is that "God really cares for us and meets our needs."

McMasters believes visual imagery has the potential to convey the very timely Christian messages because the characters usually are depicted with the innocence of a child.

"I can show people some of the inadequacies of their Christian lifestyle in a non-threatening way because the truths are portrayed with a child-like faith."

Reluctant to accept praise or credit for the success of his ministry, McMasters explained "like any other type of ministry the first thing I try to do is seek God's blessing."

Explaining he is committed to reaching people with the gospel, McMasters said, "Mime is all about people. It is not just illusion, it is the communication of your beliefs. Because of that I believe in my heart what I am trying to convey with my characters."

In the future McMasters will continue to use mime as a ministry as long as "God uses me to reach people with the message that he is love."

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Brazilian 'Dump People'  
Get Baptist Medical Help

By Mike Chute

Baptist Press  
6/19/85

VITORIA, Brazil (BP)--The people of Sao Pedro II slum--reportedly the worst in the whole state of Espirito Santo--had waited a long time for medical help. A Southern Baptist medical-dental team, the first of any kind into the area, found many had waited too long.

Called the "dump people," the 15,000 inhabitants of Sao Pedro II actually live in the city garbage dump of Vitoria, one of Brazil's larger cities. They "live off what they can get out of the trash," said Southern Baptist missionary Hilda Cowsert, who coordinated the medical team's efforts. "The fact is, if you have no money, no food, no job, you go to Sao Pedro II."

The Southern Baptist team from the United States included two dentists, three eye doctors, two nurses and two dental assistants. Five missionaries worked alongside the doctors, interpreting and offering support. Thirty Brazilian doctors also participated in the operation, as well as other Brazilian medical personnel and students.

Members of the Praia do Canto Baptist Church of Vitoria screened patients, determining the most critical needs. They also handed out tracts, took names and addresses for follow-up and shared the gospel message.

The team took only the worst cases. They worked 10 hours a day for two weeks, treating 1,271 eye problems and 360 dental cases and performing 645 medical examinations.

The dentists went with plans to fill teeth. They quickly found the situation graver than they anticipated.

"The saddest thing was that I could do no restorative work," said dentist and team leader Robert Lumpkin of Birmingham, Ala. "This (restorative work) takes time and we just didn't have a lot of time." He had just finished pulling all the teeth of a 14-year-old boy. "There are so many people in a lot of pain."

Television documentaries have made Brazilians aware of the problems in San Pedro II. The city government has tried to help. At one point the government selected another dump site for garbage, according to missionary George Cowsert. But a Sao Pedro citizens' group went to local officials and said: "You have to bring the garbage back because we are starving to death."

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Southern Baptist missionaries have worked in Sao Pedro for the past four years. A new vocational training center, built with Foreign Mission Board hunger relief funds, recently opened to help the people learn skills. Social ministries also will be a part of the center's program.

A congregation of more than 400 people now meets in the center's chapel each Sunday, sponsored by the Praia do Canto church.

Getting the medical team to the site took Hilda Cowsert more than a year. First she won the support of the mayor of Vitoria, who issued a letter allowing the team to enter Brazil. Then, she had to locate a Brazilian doctor willing to have the team work under his direction; otherwise, the Americans wouldn't have been permitted to work in the country.

Original plans called for more medical personnel, including a gynecologist, pediatrician, general practitioner and dermatologist. "We just didn't have enough answers (to those requests) to do that," Lumpkin explained. But he has plans to bring another team to Sao Pedro next year.

"To relieve the pain of a person is a natural witness," said Lumpkin. "We can be a witness for the Lord in the ability to provide a professional service. We don't ask anything of the people and that impresses them. When they find we've come from the States to do this and we're not getting anything for it, they say 'This man, Jesus, must be somebody special.' It makes them think and gives us a natural opportunity to witness."

Local Baptists also were impressed. Cowsert told of a Brazilian Baptist nurse who watched in amazement when American nurse Faye Lumpkin "actually took a patient's foot in her hands and washed the foot before applying medicine to the cut." The Brazilian explained to the missionary that Brazilian nurses don't touch patients. "She was impressed by Faye's great testimony of love shown for the people just by the fact she wasn't afraid to touch them," Cowsert said.

The team's work is "just the beginning," according to Cowsert. "There will be ongoing medical work here." She reported the Brazilian doctors who helped the American team have set up an office in the training center for providing free medical care. The mayor has pledged to send a dentist to carry on the work begun by the team. A pharmacy set up in the center will fill prescriptions at no cost.

It took a long time for medical care to come to the people of Sao Pedro II. But Southern Baptists have now opened the door wide, not only to alleviate physical suffering, but spiritual as well.

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(Chute is a missionary press representative in Brazil.)

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

Preacher Enlistment Head  
Goes Back To Mid-America

Baptist Press  
6/19/85

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A former Southern Baptist missionary who came to the Foreign Mission Board last year to organize efforts to find preacher missionaries has resigned, effective July 9.

John David Floyd, director of the board's missionary enlistment department, has been named vice-president for development and public relations at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn. He left a vice-presidency at Mid-America in April 1984 to come to the board.

Floyd worked in the Philippines from 1965 to 1976 as a church starter and later as director of church growth. His work at the Foreign Mission Board came in response to expanded efforts to identify more preachers willing to be evangelists and church starters overseas.

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His job was to select, train and supervise furloughing missionaries to help him identify candidates throughout the States. He also oversaw two full-time consultants working out of the board's offices in Richmond, Va.

Floyd went to Mid-America as an instructor and later became professor of missions and chairman of the department of missions. In 1980 he was named vice-president for administrative affairs. Most recently he had been the seminary's vice-president and director of the school of world mission and church growth.

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Former SBC Parliamentarian  
Decries Dallas Procedures

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press  
6/19/85

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (BP)--A three-time Southern Baptist Convention parliamentarian has criticized SBC President Charles F. Stanley's "flagrant misuse" of parliamentary procedure at the denomination's annual meeting in Dallas.

William J. Cumbie, SBC parliamentarian in 1978, 1979 and 1982, also termed "bizarre" 1985 parliamentarian Wayne Allen's key ruling preventing nominations from the floor to the pivotal committee on boards.

Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., ruled out of order a Virginia pastor's move to substitute state convention presidents and state WMU presidents for the slate of nominees to the key panel, whose main task is to nominate trustees to SBC agencies and seminaries.

Control of the important committee lies at the heart of the six-year battle for supremacy between fundamentalists and moderates in the 14.3-million member denomination. The Dallas challenge posed a direct threat to fundamentalists' thus-far successful efforts to take over the convention through the appointive power of the president.

The fundamentalist faction has elected each of the last four SBC presidents and stands to gain numerical control of several agencies and seminaries by the time Stanley's appointment cycles have run their course.

Cumbie, executive director of Mount Vernon Baptist Association in Alexandria, Va., and a former president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, called Stanley's use of Allen throughout the Dallas meeting "improper," noting the parliamentarian "is an assistant to the president, not an officer of the convention." Only in rare instances, Cumbie stressed, is a parliamentarian to address the messengers.

Cumbie was among dozens of messengers seeking recognition during the tense moments Wednesday evening, June 12, when Stanley and Allen attempted to explain the ruling arrived at by Allen and two co-parliamentarians that no substitute slate would be allowed.

The basis for the decision, Allen told messengers, was wording in Bylaw 16 of the SBC Constitution and Bylaws, that "the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees... shall be nominated to the Convention by the Committee on Committees."

The words, "shall be nominated," Allen ruled, meant that substitute slates such as the one proposed by Richmond, Va., pastor James Slatton were out of order.

The ruling set in motion a long series of bitter objections that lasted throughout the Wednesday evening and Thursday morning business sessions of the convention. The protests ended only after former SBC First Vice-President John P. Sullivan and newly elected First Vice-President W. Winfred Moore appealed from the podium for their end.

Allen, Cumbie said, "completely missed the meaning of Bylaw 16," adding it is technically silent on the question of substitute slates or additional nominations from the floor to the Committee on Boards.

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But Bylaw 32, he insisted, makes "explicit" provision for additional nominations or a substitute slate. Bylaw 32 reads: "The adoption of recommendations contained in reports to the Convention shall not bind the Convention on any other matters in the body of the reports; but the Convention reserves the right to consider and amend the body of all reports."

In addition, Cumbie noted Robert's Rules of Order, which Bylaw 11 designates as the convention's parliamentary authority, provides specifically in Section 50 for nominations from the floor under all circumstances.

Cumbie said that in 36 years of attending SBC annual meetings, "I have never seen a more flagrant misuse of parliamentary rules than that which occurred in Dallas."

He added: "Among the things needing correction in our convention's life is a conscious effort to diminish the misuses of the rules and an increased willingness to let the messengers make their decisions within the convention's Constitution and Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order."

While referring to the current "sickness" in the SBC that has led to "excesses" such as those he described in Dallas, Cumbie also noted Southern Baptists generally "do our business poorly." Too often, he lamented, rules are "twisted for political advantage" and presiding officers are "sometimes arbitrary."

Cumbie, who was parliamentarian in 1978 and 1979 for former President Jimmy R. Allen and co-parliamentarian in 1982 for Bailey Smith, suggested the time may be ripe for the convention to consider employing a professional parliamentarian "outside our ranks" in order that the parliamentary process be "non-political."

He suggested further the newly elected peace committee seeking solutions to the denomination's woes ought to discuss the issue of who the parliamentarian should be and suggest proper procedures for his future use.

What happened in Dallas, Cumbie said, is symptomatic of a "pervasive mistrust of the ordinary messenger's capacity to understand and decide" issues before the convention.

He observed a better mindset would be to heed an axiom attributed to 18th century Baptist missionary pioneer William Carey: "Trust the Lord and tell the people."

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Grand Avenue Grows  
Through Sunday School

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press  
6/19/85

FORT SMITH, Ark. (BP)—A Sunday school commitment for reaching people has been the basis of church growth during the past 11 years at Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Smith, Ark.

That commitment began with a Sunday school revival in 1974 and is what makes the church a "Sunday school church," said Steve Stege, minister of education.

Growth for the church has meant a \$2.5 million, 2,000-seat capacity sanctuary completed in 1980, a \$2.5 million educational building addition completed in 1985 and a \$1.45 million budget which includes 27 percent for the Cooperative Program and associational missions.

Bold reaching with scheduled outreach activities, enrollment goal setting and use of the Super Growth Spiral for organized growth planning are plans which are working for the Grand Avenue church.

"The church made a commitment to reach people," Stege explained. "The people took those principles of growth learned in the Sunday school revival and started reaching people."

Sunday school attendance grew from 500 in 1974 to 900 by 1980. The church started dual Sunday schools in 1980 and attendance soon increased to 1,200. When the Sunday school moved into new facilities on the last Sunday in February of this year, more than 1,500 were present.

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Now the church has goals for an enrollment of 4,300 and attendance of 1,800 by September 1986, Stege said.

Sunday school growth depends on involvement of church members and strong volunteer leaders, said Stege. "It doesn't matter who the pastor or minister of education is. The people have to be committed."

Stege and the pastor, James W. Bryant, have been on the church staff for less than two years.

Since 1974, Sunday school has been at the heart of evangelism at the church. The Sunday school enrolled 450 new members and 176 persons were baptized into the church in 1984. Most of the baptisms were from the Sunday school, Stege said.

"People here are leading others to the Lord. Even the Together We Build program became an evangelistic effort for some members," Stege said, explaining witnessing opportunities that some members found during the recent campaign to finance the education building construction.

Training Sunday school leaders is an ongoing project with weekly worker meetings, quarterly workers training and annual worker preparation week programs.

In October 1984, Stege called for 215 new Sunday school workers and enlisted 244. Those workers plus the 315 existing workers filled the needs for the 70 departments and 133 classes in the expanded Sunday school.

Grand Avenue is a Sunday school church because the people are involved in reaching, teaching, winning and developing, Stege said.

"They have a heart for reaching people. They teach people the Word of God. Evangelism is at the heart of the Sunday school and they minister and develop new Christians," he explained.

Being a Sunday school church means that Sunday school is the top priority in programming and planning. "Everything we do in this church relates to the Sunday school somehow," Stege said.

The Super Growth Spiral which the church has used since October 1981 has been the focus of Sunday school development and even was the basis for the recent building program, according to Stege.

"The Growth Spiral gave a vision of what was possible. They built the new building because they wanted to reach more people for Christ," Stege explained.

Dual Sunday schools have been continued even though the new space would permit one. However, dual Sunday schools will allow room for the 1987 enrollment goal of 5,000 and average attendance of 2,500.

New growth goals will be set beyond 1987 because "there is no saturation point or peak," Stege contends. "There is no saturation point until the whole city is won to Christ."

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**BAPTIST PRESS**

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION