

**(BP)****-- FEATURES**  
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'Bum Of A Pastor' Opens  
Church's Eyes To Needy

By Bob E. Mathews

KINGSTON, Okla. (BP)—On a recent Sunday morning, members of First Church, Kingston, Okla., noticed a shabbily dressed, bearded man wandering around the church, poking in garbage cans and finally resting on the church's steps. His pants legs were worn, his cap was dirty, his shoes were old and worn and his coat needed cleaning.

A few of them commented about "that old bum." One of the members approached the man and offered him money to buy a meal and another invited him to attend the services. Somebody ought to have the pastor talk to him, a few thought.

The morning service started and after the special music, much to the surprise of most of the members, the "old bum" walked in the door and started down the aisle. Some whispered, "Look th re, that old guy's come inside!" Another said: "There he is...he's the guy who was sitting on the steps."

Not only had he come inside, he went right up to the front and walked behind the pulpit. Then he reached up and took off, first his cap and then a wig. Then Bobby Rice Jr. told his congregation he had already delivered a sermon that morning...outside the church. Rice preceeded to preach his message on compassion for humanity and the sin of unconcern.

He commented on the member who had offered to buy him a meal—former Oklahoma governor Raymond Gary. After Gary's offer, Rice had revealed his identity and sworn the governor to secrecy. Next, Rice pointed out the man who invited him to church—Jim Stevenson who was to be baptized that evening.

"I was amazed at the reactions," Rice said. "No one got mad, but they had their eyes opened to 'who is your neighbor.'" Several members told Rice later that his sermon and ruse had made them more aware of how unconcerned they are.

Keith Chronister, youth director, told Rice at the evening service he had felt guilty about not speaking to the old man and on the way home from church that morning he stopped and witnessed to two men gathering aluminum cans on the roadside.

The disguise was good enough to cause a Kingston police officer to stop Rice for questioning. The pastor had to reveal his identity to the officer and ask his cooperation.

Two young people made professions of faith during the morning service and were baptized along with four others in the evening service.

Rice used a similar technique while a member of a church in Texarkana, Ark. "Some of the church members there actually pushed me aside as they hurried into the church," he recalled.

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High Court To Deal With  
Abortion, Pornography

By Stan Hastey

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WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court announced April 15 it will consider again next term limits states may place on abortion and under what conditions local governments may regulate adult theaters through zoning laws.

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Both cases--to be decided during the high court term beginning next October--present the justices with legal and constitutional questions already considered in previous disputes. In keeping with its practice the court did not announce reasons for reconsidering.

The abortion dispute, appealed to the court by Pennsylvania, involves a 1982 state law restricting abortion in part by requiring minors to obtain parental consent or a court order before having an abortion; requiring physicians to use abortion procedures designed to preserve the life of a viable fetus; and insuring that patients are advised of abortion alternatives, including adoption.

According to an earlier ruling by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, those legal restrictions impermissibly inhibit a woman's right to an abortion. The suit challenging the law had been filed in a federal district court by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Since the Supreme Court's landmark 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* that women have a right to privacy which includes deciding whether to have an abortion, numerous states have sought legal means of restricting the procedure. Such efforts have been based in part on the high court's own 1973 breakdown of the pregnancy cycle into three trimesters, during each of which the state's interest in the survival of the fetus increases.

The court held in *Roe v. Wade* that during the first trimester a woman has a virtually unrestricted right to an abortion in consultation with her physician. During the middle trimester, the court ruled, the state's interest in the fetus grows and the state may impose some restrictions. In the final trimester states may choose to outlaw abortion altogether.

Two years ago the high court struck down an Akron, Ohio, ordinance containing some of the same restrictions present in the Pennsylvania law and reaffirmed its 1973 decision. (84-495, *Thornburgh v. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*)

In another action, the court announced it will review a decision of another appeals panel throwing out a Renton, Wash., zoning ordinance forbidding adult movie theaters within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, parks or schools. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the ordinance violated the First Amendment by restricting possible sites for the theaters and that the town presented insufficient evidence to establish "substantial governmental interest" in restricting free speech.

Renton, a suburb of Seattle, relying in part on guidelines set down by the Supreme Court in a similar 1976 case, enacted a law requiring adult theaters and bookstores to locate inside a 520-acre commercial area. The owner of an adult theater challenged the law, claiming much of the area was unusable and that the town's motive was to keep out his kind of business. (84-1360, *City of Renton v. Playtime Theatres Inc.*)

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Six-Month CP Figures  
Top \$58 Million

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press  
4/17/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Halfway through the Cooperative Program's 1984-85 fiscal year, Southern Baptists have given \$58,102,957 in undesignated gifts through their national, unified program budget.

The basic operating budget for the year, which ends Sept. 30, is \$118 million.

March receipts of \$10,125,631 were more than \$500,000 more than March 1984 figures and marked the second time in three months gifts through the Cooperative Program had topped the \$10 million mark.

"The fact gifts to the national mission and educational programs of the Southern Baptist Convention are 7.68 percent ahead of last year--almost double the inflation rate--is encouraging," Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said.

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"Realizing \$58 million has been filtered through three layers of voluntary giving is even more impressive. No one tells an individual Southern Baptist how much to give to his local church, no one tells a local church how much to send to its state convention and no one tells a state convention how much to send to the national convention--each step is voluntary.

"Voluntary cooperation is at the heart of all Southern Baptist do."

But while praising the response of Southern Baptists to the spiritual needs of the world, he noted those needs demand more commitment, "in prayer, in time, in careers, in finances."

"In Ethiopia, starving women and children crawl underneath the trucks which have hauled grain bought with Southern Baptist dollars to pick up the individual grains of corn that have fallen to the ground," he pointed out. "That may be the most dramatic picture but it is not the only one. Millions of people, in the United States and the rest of the world, are starving spiritually, just as desperate for the grains of God's love.

"The Cooperative Program has been used of God to meet many needs. Our challenge is to respond to the needs still unmet—to say our mission is more important than our differences, our call more urgent than our personal positions, our love stronger than our egos."

The national Cooperative Program receives money from the 37 state conventions which cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention to fund a budget shared with 20 national agencies. One half of the income goes to the Foreign Mission Board, just under 20 percent to the Home Mission Board and another 20.6 percent to the six Southern Baptist seminaries. The only other agency which gets more than 1.6 percent is the Radio-Television Commission which receives 4.2 percent.

Growth of the national budget has been striking in recent years. A decade ago, the mid-year total stood at \$20.5 million and five years ago it was only \$36.1 million.

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Court Rejects Deistic Group  
Appeal For Tax Exemption

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press  
4/17/85

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Michigan "religious" group claiming to follow the teachings of colonial deist Thomas Paine lost its final legal test when the Supreme Court left standing a lower decision upholding the Internal Revenue Service's denial of its application for tax exemption.

The Ecclesiastical Order of the Ism of Am Inc. failed to convince the justices to review a ruling last July by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals that IRS officials were justified in refusing the request for the prized status. That panel affirmed a decision by the U.S. Tax Court that IRS was right in denying the application.

Founded by George N. Baustert, the organization deliberately set out to pattern itself after the Universal Life Church, a California-based group that has signed up thousands of "ministers" who in many instances have tried to avoid paying taxes. According to a brief filed with the high court, the Ism of Am was discriminated against because IRS continues to recognize the Universal Life Church on its list of tax-exempt groups.

"Because deism does not comport with the religious beliefs of more 'traditional' religions, and because it does not meet the IRS criteria for what a religion ought to be, the IRS has sought to suppress it," attorney Joseph Falcone, of Southfield, Mich., argued.

Falcone wrote further that IRS "blatantly discriminates in favor of religions that are organized into churches" and that the Tax Court "has systematically engaged in a pattern of denying exempt status to new religious organizations that may be organized and operated differently than traditional churches, thus suppressing the free exercise of religion."

The Encyclopedia Britannica describes deism as an "unorthodox religious attitude" that arose in England and America in the 17th and 18th centuries.

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More generally, "it refers to what can be called natural religion, the acceptance of a certain body of religious knowledge that is inborn in every person or that can be acquired by the use of reason, as opposed to knowledge acquired through either revelation or the teaching of any church."

Among its adherents during the colonial period of American history were Paine and founding fathers Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

In a brief asking the high court not to review the case, U.S. Solicitor General Rex E. Lee described the Ism of Am as a group which provides adherents with detailed suggestions on how to avoid paying taxes.

For a donation of \$25 ("Phase I"), a person is ordained a minister. For another \$75 ("Phase II"), the "minister" receives a "Doctorate of Divinity" degree, a legal charter complete with federal and state tax exempt numbers, and a pamphlet on avoiding taxes, "Untaxables I."

For subsequent donations of \$50 each, the adherent is declared a "Bishop" and "Cardinal," and is given the pamphlets "Untaxables II and III." (84-1053, The Ecclesiastical Order of the Ism of Am Inc. v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue)

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Seminary Trustee  
Nominees Named

Baptist Press  
4/17/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Trustees to serve the six Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated seminaries have been nominated by the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

The nominations are included in the Committee on Boards report, released to Baptist Press April 16, by Bob Eklund, urban evangelism associate with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, and committee chairman.

Under convention bylaws, seminary trustees serve five-year terms and are eligible for two full terms on the boards.

Trustees are clergy or denominationally related, unless specified.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY (63 trustees): 14 nominations considered; 10 new trustees, four reappointed.

Nominated to replace members ineligible for a second term are John T. Wallace of Parkway church, Lexington, Ky., replacing Wayne Dehoney, Louisville; W. Ray Frye, a land developer and member of Calvary church, Alexandria, La., replacing William P. Greenlee, Lake Charles; William Watkins Causey of Parkway church, Jackson, Miss., replacing David R. Grant, Jackson;

Gerald C. Primm of Eller Memorial church, Greensboro, N.C., replacing W. Linville Roach of Greensboro; Kenneth E. Hall, a contractor and member of Crescent Hill church, Louisville, replacing Joseph Stopher of Louisville (local member); Joe D. Cross, an auto dealer and member of Walnut Street church, Louisville, replacing Frank Ellis of Louisville (local member), and Roy Savage, Hillside church, Greeley, Colo, replacing James Latimer, Denver (at-large member).

Nominees to fill unexpired terms are Sam H. McMahon Jr. of First church, Charlotte, N.C., replacing John L. Ryberg, Smithfield, who died (1986), and Robert D. Beddingfield of First church, South Lyons, Mich., replacing Gary W. Schwitz, Novi, who resigned (1987).

Bob L. Wagner of Second church, Marion, Ill., replaces Jim W. Robinson Sr., Belleville, who declined a second term.

Reappointed to a second term are William H. McBeath, Washington, D.C.; Ronald D. Stewart, Lebanon, Ohio; Richard T. Hopper, Ardmore, Okla., and Vernon O. Elmore, Corpus Christi, Texas.

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SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY (36 trustees): 8 persons considered; 6 new trustees, 2 reappointed.

New trustees replacing members ineligible for second terms are Jim V. Dice, a businessman and member of First church, Salem, Ill., replacing George H. Kunce, Herring; Truman B. Smith of First church, Clio, Mich., replacing Michael M. Nardin, Detroit; Rheubin L. South, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention and member of First church, Jefferson City, replacing Donald V. Wideman, North Kansas City, and Ron S. Lewis, a church growth specialist and member of Clearview church, Brentwood, Tenn., replacing Melvin G. Faulkner of Seymour.

Wayne Lee Allen of First church, Carrolton, Texas, was nominated for a full term, replacing Kenneth Chafin of Houston, who resigned (at-large member).

Acie Charles Baggett of First church, Haysville, Kan., fills the unexpired term of Earl E. (Gene) Hawkins, Topeka, who resigned (term expiring 1989).

Renominated for second terms are Drew J. Gurnels Jr., Mobile, Ala., and John P. McNaughton, Fort Worth, Texas (at-large member).

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY (36 trustees): 7 nominations considered; 3 new trustees, 4 reappointed.

Nominated to replace trustees ineligible for reappointment are Charles L. Wood of University church, Wichita, Kan., replacing Kenneth D. Emerson of Wichita; Forrest Jackson of First church, Pryor, Okla., replacing Robert Post, Tulsa, and Gene Brock, a dentist and member of First church Wichita Falls, Texas, replacing Wayne O. Watts, Wichita Falls.

Renominated for second terms are David B. Ray, Pontiac, Mich.; Ernest L. Carswell Jr., Taylors, S.C.; B. Conrad Johnston, Salem, Va., and Andrew C. Nolin Jr., Montgomery, Ala. (local).

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY (30 trustees): 7 nominations considered; 5 new trustees, 2 reappointed.

Nominated to replace trustees ineligible for reappointment are Robert D. Crowley of Montrose church, Rockville, Md., replacing John E. Roberts, Baltimore, and Arlie L. McDaniel Sr., director of missions and member of Trinity church, Moscow, Idaho (representing Northwest Convention), replacing W.E. Speed, Pasco, Wash.

James Warren Herron of First church, Rock Hill, S.C., replaces Henry Finch Jr., of Rock Hill, who resigned; William Dial Delahoyde, assistant U.S. attorney and member of Providence church, Raleigh, N.C., replacing Charles D. Page, Charlotte, who moved, and Ralph E. Holt Jr., of Lake Forest church, Wilmington, N.C., replacing John G. Hicks, Asheville, who died.

Renominated to second terms are Bill G. Bruster, Knoxville, Tenn., and Jesse P. Chapman Jr., Asheville, N.C.

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY (35 trustees): 8 nominations considered, 5 new trustees, 3 reappointed.

Nominated to replace members ineligible for renomination are Robert T. Baggott Jr., first church, Dothan, Ala., replacing William A. Hartley, Birmingham; Melvin M. Hill Sr., director of missions and member of First church, Grandview, Mo., replacing Dan Rainbolt, Independence (local), and Robert L. Perry, director of missions and member of Nashua church, Kansas City, Mo., replacing K. David Stone of Independence (local).

David Simpson, editor of the Indiana Baptist and member of Calvary church, Greenwood, Ind., fills the unexpired term of Rondell L. Stovall, Terre Haute (expiring 1987), and Lowell E. Socolofsky, a college professor and member of Westside church, Omaha, Neb., fills the unexpired term of William H. Camp, Columbia, Mo. (expiring 1986).

Renominated to second terms are Marvin Roush, Hyattsville, Md. (DC Convention); Philip Lykes, Lakeland, Fla., and J. Truett Gannon, Stone Mountain, Ga.

GOLDEN GATE SEMINARY (35 members): 8 nominations considered; 3 new trustees, 5 reappointments.

Bonnie G. Metcalf, assistant professor at California Baptist College, and member of Palm church, Riverside, Calif., was named to replace George Musacchio, Riverside, who was ineligible for reappointment (at-large member).

Named to fill unexpired terms are Norman H. Taylor of First church, Silver Spring, Md. (DC Convention) replacing John W. Baker, who died (term expiring 1986), and Robert Ferrell of Rosemont church, Montrose, Colo., replacing Murray Boyd, Aurora, who resigned.

Reappointed to second terms are Mrs. William L. Self, Atlanta; O.Q. Quick, Baton Rouge, La.; Mal Utleys, Lexington Park, Md.; James H. Slatton, Richmond, Va., and James W. Rives Jr., Van Nuys, Calif. (at-large member).

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Trustee Nominees  
Report Released

Baptist Press  
4/17/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Trustee nominations for Southern Baptist commissions and committees have been released by the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

The Committee on Boards report was released April 16 by Chairman Bob Eklund, urban evangelism associate with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Nominees are clergy or denominationally related, unless specified.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST FOUNDATION (35 members): 10 nominations considered; 4 representatives of SBC agencies and 1 at-large member to be named when the Committee on Boards subcommittee meets in Dallas prior to the annual meeting.

Reappointed are O. Q. Quick of Baton Rouge, La., representing Golden Gate seminary and Norris E. Smith of Memphis, representing the Historical Commission.

At-large members reappointed are Gilbert E. South, Lutherville, Md.; Billy M. Cary, Huntingdon, Tenn., and Robert F. Owens, Foley, Ala.

Representatives to be named later are from the Foreign Mission Board, replacing W. Curtis English, Alta Vista, Va.; Home Mission Board, replacing Bill Sherman, Nashville, Tenn.; Annuity Board, replacing Alden Wilson, Jackson, Tenn., and Brotherhood Commission, replacing Robert A. Alexander, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The at-large member to be named later will replace Morris Early, Nashville, Tenn.

AMERICAN SEMINARY COMMISSION (16 members): 3 nominees considered; 2 new members, 1 reappointed.

New members are George W. Lampkin, an educator and member of First church, Norfolk, Va., replacing James M. Griffin, Hampton, Va., who resigned, and Stephen R. Taylor, First church, Goodlettsville, Tenn., replacing Fred E.A. Johnson, Nashville, Tenn., who is ineligible for reappointment.

Reappointed to a second term is Roy D. Raddin, Greenville, Miss.

EDUCATION COMMISSION (21 members): 6 nominations considered; 1 new member, 5 reappointed.

New member is Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University and member of First church, Shawnee, Okla., replacing Leon S. Hill of Enid, Okla. (ineligible).

Reappointed are Leslie Wright, Birmingham, Ala.; D. Jack Nicholas, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; William R. Hann, Westminster, Calif.; Robert E. Lambert, Castle Rock, Colo. (at-large) and Bill W. Stacy, Cape Girardeau, Mo. (at large).

BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION (36 members): 10 nominations considered; 4 new members, 6 reappointed.

New members are William Tim Brown, an educator and member of Riverland Hills church, Columbia, S.C., replacing L.W. Brasington, Columbia, S.C.; Thomas W. Daniels, retired military and current realtor and member of Germantown church, Germantown, Tenn., replacing Wendell W. Crews, Athens, Tenn.;

New at-large members are Joel E. Waddell, minister of music at Summerville church, Summerville, S.C., replacing W. Lee Prince, Anderson, S.C.; and Joe T. Lenamon, a banker and member of Travis Avenue church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Reappointed are B.G. Byrd, Santa Ana, Calif.; Gregory W. Brockman, Littleton, Colo.; Tom L. McGuire, North Fort Myers, Fla.; James M. Hensley, Spokane, Wash.; Henry Adrion III, Fort Worth, Texas, and Fred W. Graham Jr., Asheboro, N.C. (at-large).

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION (30 members): 8 nominations considered; 2 new members, 6 reappointments.

New members are R. Lloyd Crawford, a businessman and member of Applewood church, Wheatridge, Colo., replacing Mrs. Edith Hargis, Northglenn, Colo., ineligible for reappointment, and Thomas E. Boland, a banker and member of First church, Chamblee, Ga., replacing Lon L. Day Jr., Atlanta, who declined a second term.

Reappointed are Fred Lackey, Athens, Ala.; J.W. Atchison, Pine Bluff, Ark.; Larry Caton Noia, Fountain Valley, Calif.; Roy T. Rhodes, Tallahassee, Fla.; C. David Matthews, Greenville, S.C., and Mrs. Virginia H. Hendricks, Glorieta, N.M. (at-large).

HISTORICAL COMMISSION (34 members): 9 nominations considered; 4 new members, 5 reappointments.

New members are Mrs. Marlena Rikard, associate professor of history at Samford University and member of Shades Crest church, Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. Gaylon Cothorn, a free-lance writer and member of Starlight church, Phoenix, Ariz., and Phil Langley of Crown Peak church, Parachut, Colo.

Named to fill an unexpired term is Mrs. Miles L. Dawson, a homemaker and member of Hoffmantown church, Albuquerque, N.M., replacing Mrs. Bonnie B. O'Brien of Albuquerque, who moved (term to expire 1986).

Reappointed are Mrs. Helen Y. McKee, Washington; James R. Beasley, DeLand, Fla.; Waldo P. Harris III, Washington, Ga.; Richard T. McCartney, Oklahoma City, and Norris E. Smith, Memphis, Tenn. (local member).

RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION (26 members): 7 nominations considered; 2 new members, 5 reappointed.

New members are Richard L. Wakefield, First church, Cabool, Mo., replacing John E. Hughes, Independence, who was ineligible for reappointment, and Michael S. Hamlet, New Pisgah church, Spartanburg, S.C., replacing John E. Roberts of Greenville, who declined a second full term. (Roberts, commission chairman, served a three-year unexpired term and a full term. He was eligible for a second four-year term, but declined).

Reappointed are Jack B. Johnson, Phoenix, Ariz.; LaVerne Butler, Louisville, Ky.; T.W. Terral, Baton Rouge, La.; W. John Peper Sr. Glen Burnie, Md., and Richard L. Cochrane, Renton, Wash.

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION (26 members): 11 nominees considered; 4 new members, 1 new member to be appointed later, and 6 reappointments.

New members include B. Lee Black, foundation secretary for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, Albuquerque, replacing Bernard W. Dougharty, Alamogordo, and Joe E. Burton, First church, Radford, Va., replacing John C. Ivins, Richmond, Va.

New members filling unexpired terms are Levi Parrish Jr., Eastgate church, Burton, Mich., replacing Donald Campbell, Flint, Mich., who moved (term to expire in 1987), and Jim Rich, stewardship secretary for the Colorado Baptist General Convention, Englewood, replacing Daniel Pena, Colorado Springs, who resigned (term to expire in 1988).

A new member will be named in Dallas to replace Larry Taylor, Jefferson City, Tenn., who moved.

Reappointed are James C. Dorriety, Blakely, Ga.; Loyd R. Wilson, Naperville, Ill.; Mrs. Thomas A. Durham, Alexandria, La.; Tom A. Gratton, Suitland, Md.; William D. Ledbett r, King's Mountain, N.C., and Ben Green, Wenatchee, Wash.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (15 members, eight of whom serve by virtue of office as SBC administrators): 2 persons considered, 2 new members. The Committee on Boards also nominates the chairman of the PAC.

New members are Bill Gunter, secretary of insurance for the state of Florida and member of First church, Tallahassee, replacing Donald R. Brewer, Palatine, Ill.; and Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans seminary and member of First church, New Orleans, replacing Russell H. Dilday Jr., Fort Worth, Texas.

Samuel T. Currin, current chairman and U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Raleigh, was recommended as chairman.

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR COMMITTEE (6 members): 2 nominations considered, 2 new members. The Committee on Boards also nominates the chairman.

New members are Mrs. A.D. Foreman, a homemaker and member of First church, Monroe, La., replacing Mrs. Don Workman, Lubbock, Texas, and Johnny Roger Johnson, Trinity church, Springfield, Ore., replacing Wayne V. McDill, Portland, Ore.

Fred Powell, senior associate pastor at First church, Atlanta, was nominated as chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS (6 members plus the current president of the SBC): 2 nominations considered, 2 new members. The Committee on Boards also nominates the chairman.

New members are Wilbur A. (Pat) Patterson, banker and member of Emmanuel church, Overland Park, Kan., replacing J. Nixon Daniel III, Pensacola, Fla., and Reed Larson, banker and president of the National Right to Work Committee, Annadale, Va., and member of First church, Falls Church, Va., replacing Larry C. Crawford, Burlington, N.C.

The Committee recommended Fred H. Wolfe, Cottage Hill church, Mobile, Ala., as chairman.

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE (11 members, including 5 by virtue of SBC office, which includes bylaw changes stipulating the current president of the SBC—Charles F. Stanley, First church, Atlanta—and the president of the Baptist Sunday School Board—Lloyd Elder—serve by virtue of office. The move eliminated two at-large positions.)

Other persons serving by virtue of office are Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-trasur r, Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.; R. Keith Parks, president, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., and William G. Tanner, president, Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

The committee considered six other nominations. Three new members were nominated; three were renominated.

New members are C.B. Hogue, executive director of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno, replacing Warren C. Hultgren, Tulsa, Okla.; T. Truett Ott, appellate judge and member of First church, Tampa, Fla., replacing John D. Ratliff, Albuquerque, N.M., and S. Truett Cathy, businessman and member of First church, Jonesboro, Ga., replacing Porter W. Routh, Nashville, Tenn.

Renominated were Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, Miss., and Jack R. Jones, Arlington, Va.



The committee nominated James T. Draper Jr., immediate past president of the SBC and pastor of First church, Euless, Texas, for a five-year term. Draper, however, declined the nomination, recommending instead that Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union-SBC, Birmingham, Ala., be renominated.

Posts held by Jesse Fletcher, Abilene, Texas, and Lee Satterfield, Alta Vista, Va., were eliminated.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP (15 members, seven of whom serve by virtue of office). Eight nominations considered; 4 new members, 4 renominations.

New members are Hon V. Lao, a building consultant and member of Bethel church, Conrad, Calif., replacing Kell C. Williams, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Brian Harbour, First church, Pensacola, Fla., replacing Glen Braswell, Denver, Colo.; Bill Bowyer, First church, Effingham, Ill., replacing Stanley O. White, LaHabra, Calif., and John B. Brashear, Brookside church, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, replacing Mrs. Huis Coy Egge, Corsicana, Texas.

Reappointed are Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, Miss.; Floyd W. Harris, Burt, Va.; Ted Coldiron, Enid, Okla., and William E. Hull, Shreveport, La.

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Foreign Mission Board  
Responds to China Opening

By Erich Bridges

Baptist Press  
4/17/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Quickly expanding opportunities for professional and social service in China have led the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to create an office to help Southern Baptists respond.

The Cooperative Services International office, approved by Foreign Mission Board members at their April meeting in Nashville, Tenn., will help Southern Baptists identify and meet needs expressed by Chinese Christian and secular institutions.

The office eventually may seek service opportunities in several other countries closed to missionaries, in cooperation with the board's geographic area directors. But involvement beyond China is at least a year or two down the road, according to Charles Bryan, senior vice-president for overseas operations.

Potential opportunities may include openings in China for Southern Baptist educators technicians, medical and professional personnel, as well as development of Chinese-American institutional relationships and provision of material resources.

"We will not be sending missionaries," said Bryan. "We will not be initiating anything." The board will respond to opportunities and needs as groups in China identify them, he said.

Foreign missionaries have not been able to work in China for more than 30 years. There is no indication from either the Chinese government or Chinese Christian this is going to change. But China's increasing openness to the outside world, coupled with eased restrictions on religious activities, has enabled Chinese Christians to expand their work and their contacts with church groups outside China.

The Three-Self Patriotic Movement, China's officially recognized Protestant movement, has opened or reopened some 2,000 churches nationwide, along with a number of seminaries. Estimates of attendance at thousands of home meetings, often called house churches, range from 5 million to 50 million.

In March, Chinese Protestant leaders announced they will form an independent foundation to promote "health, education and social service projects" in China. They said involvement in the Amity Foundation will be open to overseas Christians and religious institutions. The foundation will channel both funds and personnel to humanitarian projects in China, without sacrificing Chinese Protestants' "three-self" principles of self-support, self-government and self-propagation free of foreign control.

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Bishop Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting), head of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement and the China Christian Council, will be foundation president. Ding's close associate, Han Wenzao, said the foundation will enable Chinese Christians to "play a more active role in our nation's social development" and "make our Christian involvement and participation more widely known to the Chinese people."

Foreign Mission Board officials have met personally with Bishop Ding several times and corresponded with him "to discuss matters of his concern," Bryan reported. "Things are developing so rapidly that we can't keep up now with the opportunities and those opportunities are going to multiply in the future," said Bryan. "We need to be organized to respond."

The director of the Cooperative Services International office, whom the board hopes to elect in May, will gather information on China opportunities, develop relationships with Chinese Christian leaders and secular institutions (such as universities) and help Southern Baptists seek appropriate involvement.

In the United States, the director will relate to Southern Baptist individuals and institutions interested in contributing to Chinese society.

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Three Million More Testaments Ordered," mailed 4/15/85, in seventh paragraph please delete the word "no" from the phrase "the order filling time could be no longer."

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

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Boards Subcommittee  
For Dallas Named

Baptist Press  
4/17/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A subcommittee to consider vacancies and other changes in the report of the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees has been appointed by Chairman Bob Eklund.

The seven-member subcommittee will meet in advance of the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 11-13, at Dallas Convention Center.

Under SBC operating policies, the subcommittee can consider vacancies brought about by a nominee refusing to serve, moving or dying between the meeting of the Committee on Boards and the time the report is presented to the convention.

Eklund said several positions were left vacant and will be filled at the Dallas meeting.

He added, however, the subcommittee is not authorized to make substitutions for persons already appointed, unless the nominee is, for some reason, unable or unwilling to serve.

To serve on the subcommittee will be Eklund, urban evangelism associate with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas; John Maddox, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wynne, Ark.; J.T. Knott Jr., a businessman from Raleigh, N.C.; Lynn Clayton, editor of The Baptist Message, newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La.;

Ken Smith, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla.; Jay Chance, vice-president for public affairs at California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif., and Martin King, a layman from Anderson, Ind.

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