



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

### NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Wilmer C. Fields, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

### BUREAUS

**ATLANTA** Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
**RICHMOND** (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Hasty, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

May 16, 1985

85-62

Resolutions Chairman  
Outlines SBC Plans

DALLAS (BP)—"I hope the resolutions committee can be a catalyst that would in some way bring the convention together in a spirit of harmony," said Larry Lewis, chairman of the resolutions committee for the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Lewis, president of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., added: "If there is a hot seat in the convention, I know I am going to be sitting on it."

In recent years, the work of the resolutions committee has increased dramatically, both in volume and volatile issues. Preliminary indications are the 1985 convention should see a record number of resolutions on issues ranging from women's ordination to depoliticization of the SBC to support/censure of the six SBC seminaries.

In the less than two week since Lewis' appointment as chairman of the committee was announced, some 15 or 20 resolutions have been received at his office at the Missouri Baptist Convention-related school. An additional six proposed resolutions have been received at the Executive Committee offices in Nashville, Tenn.

Under newly adopted SBC by-laws, persons who plan to present resolutions at the convention are requested to submit copies of the proposed resolutions to the committee 30 days in advance of the annual meeting "in order to make possible more thorough consideration and to expedite the committee's work."

"Most of the resolutions we have received relate to particular seminary situations," Lewis said. "They suggest the convention ought to affirm this president or that president or this institution or that one. Others suggest a certain president or institution be censured. There seems to be a lot of concern in the convention now about the seminaries."

According to Reginald McDonough, an Executive Committee staff member who relates to the resolutions committee, topics addressed in the proposed resolutions received in Nashville deal with depoliticization of the convention and women's ordination.

The 1985 resolutions committee will not have a May meeting, as have the previous two committees. The meeting was to allow the committee to organize and to study proposed resolutions before the convention session.

A meeting was not possible this year, according to McDonough, because of time schedules. However, the committee will meet prior to the convening of the 1985 annual meeting, he said.

Lewis said each resolution which is submitted in advance "will be copied and put in the hands of each member of the committee. Then, when we meet, we will carefully and prayerfully consider each resolution which has been submitted."

Persons who wish to submit resolutions in advance should send them to Lewis, c/o the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce #750, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

McDonough cautioned that even though resolutions are submitted to the convention prior to the annual session, they still must be presented by a registered messenger after the convention has started.

---more---

The procedure, now part of the SBC by-laws, for introducing a resolution will be the same as that followed in the past two years. Messengers will submit resolutions to a special table near the podium and manned by one of the SBC officers. One of the parliamentarians also will be present to assist messengers to determine whether the proposal is a motion or a resolution.

The resolutions will be read into the record by one of the officers.

The by-laws ask that the resolutions "be typewritten, if practicable, titled and dated, with the names and addresses" of persons proposing them.

After they are introduced, the resolutions are referred to the committee, which is charged "to prepare and submit...resolutions which the committee deems appropriate for adoption, and to report on all matters submitted to it..."

Both SBC President Charles Stanley and Lewis say they believe issues which have been spoken to in resolutions during the past several years should not be addressed again.

"I do not think repetition is necessary," Stanley said, adding he hopes the "last controversial resolutions possible" will be introduced. "Everything which can be done to keep down unnecessary controversy should be done."

Lewis said: "Every resolution will be considered. The committee might decide a resolution is worthy to be reported out as written, or whether it should be rewritten, modified or combined or that it should not be acted on."

He believes "the convention has spoken pretty explicitly on many issues and taken good solid positions. I really do not see any need to bring those issues up again and initiate more resolutions on them. If we think a position taken before is adequate, a reaffirmation of a previous action might keep us from being embroiled in a lot of unnecessary controversy."

He mentioned abortion, doctrinal integrity and the women's ordination issue as issues adequately spoken to in past conventions.

He did note, however, he believes the 1984 resolution on women's ordination "needs something. I am not sure what, but it seems to need a rewrite or some clarification. I was not pleased with the writing of the (1984) resolution. It seems to bring in speculative and theoretical theological positions."

He mentioned specifically a section which says "woman was first in the Edenic fall" as part of its rationale against women's ordination.

"While I agree with the basic sense of the resolution, that remark about the Edenic fall is a questionable theological proposition that has been very offensive to many people. I also believe any resolution like that should emphasize the autonomy of the local church and say such a resolution expresses a consensus rather than seeking to mandate or instruct the churches."

While Lewis hopes the resolutions committee can be a catalyst to bring some spirit of harmony to the convention, he does not believe the body should "ignore pertinent issues, even if they are volatile."

In regard to the proposed resolutions on the seminaries, Lewis said his "own attitude is not to get embroiled in any of that. To affirm or censure is a matter of internal administration and I think we ought to be infolded in affirming our institutions and Baptist causes in total and not get involved specifically."

He noted any action which relates to internal affairs of any institution automatically is referred to that agency for further study.

The resolutions committee includes three members of the SBC Executive Committee: Gary Young, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Carolyn Miller, a housewife and member of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., and Tammy Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, West Memphis, Ark.

Other members are: Marv McGrew, a layman from Circle Drive church, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Billy Cline, pastor of Merrimon Avenue church, Ashville, N.C.; Cecil Sims, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore.; Alma Ruth Morgan, a church staff member from First church, Bartlesville, Okla.; Larry Holley, a physician and member of North End church, Beaumont, Texas; Bob Dugan, pastor of Columbia church, Falls Church, Va., and Lewis, chairman.

—30—

Southern Baptists Called  
To Day Of Prayer, Fasting

Baptist Press  
5/16/85

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptists have been called to set aside June 4 as a day of prayer and fasting for the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

SBC President Charles Stanley told Baptist Press he wants to encourage every Southern Baptist to pray and fast that day, "specifically that the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas will be honoring to the Christ whom we serve."

Stanley's call to prayer and fasting came as rumors are rife the annual meeting June 11-13 in the Dallas Convention Center could feature pushing and shoving and maybe even fistfights.

The incumbent president, who is pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, said he believes the convention "will be a great witness that will glorify God or we will either damage our witness for years to come."

In calling for the day of prayer and fasting, Stanley cited the New Testament text of first letter of John, chapter 5. "That says if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us and if we know he hears us, we know we have the petition we desire of him.

"We know it is his will that the convention be honoring to him, so we have the authority of God's word to ask and the right to fully expect God to answer our prayer."

Stanley added: "In the Scriptures, each time God's people fasted and prayed, God always responded. That is the whole basis of our doing it."

Stanley, who has announced he will permit himself to be nominated for a second term as president of the 14.3-million member denomination, said he is "confident God's will is going to be done. I feel God is going to be honored and we are going to be Christ-like in our conduct. Messengers should go (to Dallas) expecting that and committed to being Christ-like in everything we do."

The annual meeting, he said, "will be the most prayed over convention in our history. Because it will be, I think God is going to be honored."

For himself, Stanley said he is clearing his schedule for the two weeks preceding the convention. "I am going to get away and be quiet and try to listen to the Lord," he said.

Stanley has refrained from responding to criticism of appointments he has made to the key committee on committees and resolutions committee, saying he "will just let them stand. I did not make them on the basis of whether they would gain great approval or not. I have made my choices and have tried to be fair."

He added he is not worried about a challenge to his leadership. "I have the most perfect peace and quietness in my heart.

"My identity is not wrapped up in being president of the convention. My identity is wrapped up in Jesus Christ, the perfect key to peace and happiness."

Nor does he take attacks personally, he said. "What the Lord allows in my life, he allows for my benefit. I'm not going to deal with people who lie about me—God will."

—more—

Stanley said he is praying a "great revival will break out" when the convention opens in Dallas Convention Center. At his request, a 10-minute prayer time has been scheduled as one of the first items of business.

"When you think about it," he said, "at what other time will there be so many pastors assembled under one roof? What a wonderful opportunity for God to do something fantastic."

—30—

Kansas Pastors Hear  
Draper And Patterson

By John F. Hopkins

Baptist Press  
5/16/85

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)—About 50 persons gathered at Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita to hear Paige Patterson and James T. Draper Jr., outspoken leaders of the inerrancy movement within the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, defended his position in the effort to take control of the SBC, citing trouble within the SBC such as "lost confidence in the reliability of biblical data" and the increasing bureaucracy which has "caused the organization to feed on itself."

In calling for a "reduction in the bureaucracy and a focus on the local church," he singled out as an example what he called the trend in the role of the directors of associational missions. He said "they were once missionaries, then they became directors of associational missions and now some are calling them executive directors of the association."

"Historical and ecclesiastical (developments) within the convention have created a theological problem," said Patterson. He cited what he called the liberal writings of Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., adding: "I am willing to permit them to write these things, but must we pay them to do it?"

Draper, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, cautioned those in attendance about possible failure of the Cooperative Program (CP), but denied he was predicting that it would indeed fail. The CP is the combined effort of Southern Baptist churches through which they support far-flung missions and ministry programs of Southern Baptist boards and agencies.

Draper denied he is opposed to the CP and indicated Baptist news publications had not been fair to him when they reported on his recent statement that he and other conservative leaders may cause their churches to withhold CP gifts.

He said he only intended to "get the attention of the convention and make them more responsible," adding he was quoted out of context by Baptist editors to create what he called "organized hysteria."

(The Baptist Press story which quoted Draper about the possibility of his church escrowing Cooperative funds was read to the former SBC president prior to its release and one quote was removed and one quote inserted at his request. He later declined an offer by Baptist Press to write a followup story explaining his position.)

In defense of the relatively low CP gifts by churches pastored by recent SBC presidents, including current president Charles Stanley, Draper said 1985 was a record year for CP gifts. He added many large churches, with pastors on both sides of the current political division are relatively low contributors in percentage, but major contributors in total dollars.

Both of the men spent considerable time refuting statements made by Russell Dilday, president of Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, who had spoken to the same group days earlier.

Neither Patterson nor Draper was present for the Dilday presentation, but were well-informed on what he said and well-prepared to defend themselves and their activity in the convention political arena.

—more—

In his presentation, Dilday told the pastors he had decided to speak out because "unless there is a change in the takeover plan of the convention, we will lose Southwestern seminary in two or three years."

Patterson denied there is any plan to take over Southwestern seminary, but said there is an effort to make it and other agencies more responsive to the convention.

Dilday said: "Those involved in the efforts to take over the convention are not Southern Baptists, but are more akin to the independents such as Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson."

Several members of the conservative group had appeared recently on Robertson's "700 Club" television program, and Falwell has spoken out in support of the takeover effort within the SBC.

Dilday also addressed the recent incident in which the conservative trustees of Southwestern seminary refused to support the seminary effort to discharge a professor who had failed to live up to professional and moral standards set by the school. Draper, a seminary trustee, viewed the firing as a political move by Dilday, so he voted to retain the professor, but denied he approved of his alleged behavior.

Both Patterson and Draper called for both sides to "sit down and talk and pray about the problems," but so far this has not happened. They declared "unacceptable" the efforts of Oklahoma City pastor Gene Garrison, who recently proposed such a conciliatory meeting. Neither Patterson nor Draper indicated the conditions under which they would agree to meet with those whom they are attempting to "make more accountable."

Patterson said he and Paul Pressler, appellate judge from Houston, convened a meeting of "12-14 pastors" in an Atlanta hotel room in 1978 because each had concerns about the convention, but was aware "anyone who spoke out would be alienated." He added, "After a careful study of the SBC constitution and by-laws, we saw two choices: either to present our views on the convention floor, or try to work within the system by election of officers." He said "we decided it would necessitate contacts in each state and we would have to get acquainted with each other."

According to Patterson, a decision was made at the Atlanta meeting he and Pressler would be "out front to take the heat." This was to protect the pastors involved and out of consideration for their churches. He added by now the movement is so widespread he would not be able to stop it if he wanted to do so.

Patterson said he preferred to call his organization "a communication network," adding there was "no charter, officers or budget--just a group of concerned pastors from each state and Canada." Patterson declined to name those in Kansas and Nebraska who helped organize the effort.

When asked to identify those professors teaching liberal theology in Southern Baptist seminaries, he said, "I know many of them, but it is only my word. I get information from students. The evidence is inadmissible. I can only deal with those who write their (liberal) beliefs."

Patterson refused to characterize a recent meeting in Dallas of the leaders of the Pressler/Patterson group as a strategy-planning meeting. He said it was just several men who met with Stanley while he was in town visiting Southwestern seminary.

He said, "They are always accusing us of having strategy meetings at the convention. Whatever else is true, we did not come into town with a load of pumpkins and if we have a strategy and don't have it planned now, what good would it do to meet over strategy there?"

--30--

(Hopkins is editor of the Baptist Digest, newsjournal of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.)

Dunn And Valentine  
Oppose D.C. Office

By David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP)—Leaders of two Southern Baptist Convention-related agencies with direct ties to Washington have voiced strong support for a recommendation which opposes establishment of a Southern Baptist "governmental affairs office" in the nation's capital.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and Foy Valentine, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, expressed hope messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas June 11-13 will support the recommendation to be brought by the convention's Executive Committee.

A motion from last year's convention in Kansas City, Mo., which was referred to the Executive Committee, proposed the establishment of a Southern Baptist office in Washington which would "address public and governmental affairs."

Following extensive study of the matter by its program and budget subcommittee, the full Executive Committee voted in February to "affirm SBC's historic relationship to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs." A government affairs office in Washington exclusively related to the SBC "does not appear practicable," the Executive Committee recommendation noted.

Rumors have circulated since the February meeting the Executive Committee recommendation may be challenged from the floor of the convention.

The Baptist Joint Committee, which represents the SBC and eight other Baptist bodies in behalf of religious liberty and the separation of church and state, has maintained offices in Washington for more than 40 years.

The Nashville, Tenn.-based Christian Life Commission, which is responsible to the SBC for addressing social and moral issues, also has maintained close government ties in its work, especially in the field of Christian citizenship development.

The Kansas City motion came in the midst of intense pressure on the Baptist Joint Committee over the agency's steadfast opposition to a public school prayer amendment backed by the Reagan administration. Much of the criticism contended that positions taken by the BJC in recent years have not represented the majority opinion of Southern Baptists.

Dunn noted, however, "every single position statement" adopted by the BJC during the last six years has been unanimous, which reflects "full and complete support" of the committee's Southern Baptist members.

Dunn acknowledged Southern Baptists provide 80 percent of the funding for the BJC but added the denomination also reaps the most benefits. "Ninety percent of the staff, the time and the energy are clearly Southern Baptist, so Southern Baptists are simply paying their fair share," he said. The Baptist Joint Committee has consistently enjoyed a "warm and mutually supportive working relationship with other denominations," he added.

Valentine, who has directed the Christian Life Commission for 25 years, said a new Southern Baptist office in Washington would necessarily create "serious conflicts" and confusion related to the agency's convention-assigned programs.

The CLC is responsible for education and action in areas such as Christian citizenship, family life, economics, race relations, gambling, world hunger, pornography and alcohol and drug abuse. In recent years the scope of the agency's work has led to increased concentration in the nation's capital.

Both Dunn and Valentine indicated a new office in Washington would disrupt the close working relationship between their two agencies. The BJC staff often assists the CLC and other SBC agencies on matters related to legislation and government policy.

The CLC maintains an office in the Baptist Joint Committee's quarters for the use of its director of Christian citizenship development and other staff members during frequent trips to Washington, they said.

### Three In Baptist Family Said Killed By Contras

SCMOTILLO, Nicaragua (BP)—Contra guerrilla fighters attacked an isolated house in northern Nicaragua early May 5, killing three members of a Baptist family and wounding several others, according to Baptist sources in Managua.

Baptist leaders traveled May 13 to Smotillo, just south of the Honduran border in Chinandega Department, to participate in a memorial service at the Baptist Church of Smotillo, where most of the murdered family regularly attended.

Paula Librada Espinales, mother of the family, told Baptists the attack began just after midnight when a smoke bomb was lobbed at her family's house, located less than two miles south of the border. Then shooting began. Her 32-year-old son, Samuel Lainez Espinales, fell dead with a bullet in the back.

A small bomb or grenade landed on the roof and exploded, she said, killing her son-in-law, Santos Ramon, 16, and fatally wounding her nine-year-old daughter, Maria. The child died an hour or so later. Two other children were slightly wounded by shrapnel, and the woman's husband, who was taking cover, was seriously injured.

When the shooting stopped, a group of armed men stormed the house. Twice they shot the lifeless body of Santos Ramon, according to Mrs. Espinales, and they beat another 14-year-old son, accusing him of being a government soldier because he wore green pants that looked like army fatigues. The men repeatedly asked for guns and searched the house. Finding no weapons, they left. Distant neighbors who heard the gunfire arrived several hours later.

There was no clear motive for the attack, other than the fact the two men killed in the attack earlier had served in the Nicaraguan military (the Sandinista government of Nicaragua has imposed a military draft). Mrs. Espinales did not know if the attackers were aware of her sons' former military duty.

"All we try to do is serve God," she told Baptist leaders. "We meet the needs of our friends and family that have to be met. We're not politicians (active in politics). There was no reason."

The contras, who are fighting to oust the Sandinista government, often have been accused of terrorizing Nicaraguan civilians, especially in the northern border area. They insist their policy is to kill only soldiers and known Sandinista agents and sympathizers.

The area of Chinandega where the attack occurred is a frequent site of contra activity and skirmishes between contras and Sandinista troops, Baptists said. But the area has not yet been forcibly evacuated by the government as have some other border regions.

The Baptist convention financially has aided Mrs. Espinales and the surviving members of her family, who have moved to Smotillo.

--30--

Stanley Reelection Would Lessen  
'Caustic Accusations,' Criswell Says

Baptist Press  
5/16/85

HANNIBAL, Mo. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention does not face an immediate split but the polarization will continue if the rift between factions is not healed, according to W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas.

The 76-year-old Criswell, in Missouri to address the graduating class of Hannibal-LaGrange College, was interviewed by both Susan Denkl r, public relations director for the Baptist school, and Bob Terry, editor of Word and Way, the official newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

--more--

But while the former two-term president of the SBC isn't forecasting a split, he does think a division could occur later--and is convinced any healing process will also be a lengthy proposition. "Feelings are too deep (for a quick return to unity within the SBC). God is going to have to heal us. No man can do it," he said.

The reelection of Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, as president of the 14.3-million member denomination is vital, Criswell feels, both to the non-Southern Baptists who are watching what will happen at the annual meeting in Dallas June 11-13 and to the group within the convention which has rallied to the effort to turn the SBC in a more conservative direction.

The election of Stanley to a second one-year term as SBC president, "would be a word to the world about our idea of a model and idea of a great ministry. Charles Stanley loves us (Southern Baptists) and wants to work with us," Criswell said.

He told Denkler the "liberals" in the SBC have no one to nominate. "That is the problem the liberal has," he said. "Where in the world are you going to get somebody who is a liberal to represent the real, thriving thrust of the work of our convention? All they can do is try to get a conservative preacher and use him, which I think they'll try to do."

The most often mentioned challenger to Stanley, Winfred Moore of Texas, "is a wonderful pastor, a conservative man," Criswell told Terry. "But he will have a hard time defeating Stanley because nobody knows him. Stanley preaches to thousands every week (over cable television)."

Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas for the past 25 years and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas for the last two years, has said Stanley should not be elected because of his history of low support for Southern Baptist causes. Stanley has been criticized for the low percentage First Baptist, Atlanta, gives through the Cooperative Program, the SBC's voluntary, unified budget (less than three percent when he was elected president, now increased to five percent).

Criswell placed most of the blame for the SBC problems on two Southern Baptist seminary presidents: Russell Dilday (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas) and Roy Honeycutt (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.). He called Dilday's comments on the on-going conflict "vicious and uncalled for" and chided Honeycutt for declaring "Holy War" on the group which supports Stanley's election.

"I don't think any man who receives money from us ought to take out money and damn us, and that includes Keith Parks," he said.

Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, recently issued a statement saying the controversy was hurting mission efforts and urging the election of a convention president with a proven history of support of cooperative missions. In answer to a reporter's question, Parks said he could not support Stanley's reelection.

First Baptist, Dallas, the largest Southern Baptist church with 25,000 members, gave \$1,075 in undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program the first three months of 1985 but designated another \$540,564 to specific SBC causes, according to figures published in the Baptist Standard, newjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Criswell praised his associate pastor, Paige Patterson, and Houston judge Paul Pressler, the most visible leaders of an announced plan to elect convention presidents (including Stanley) who could influence the selection of trustees of the convention's agencies and seminaries to rid the SBC of perceived "liberal" elements.

Without their efforts, Southern Baptist institutions would slip away from the denomination and become "liberal," he insisted. He defined a "liberal" as "being so broadminded one is not bound by the restrictions of the Bible."

Other SBC leaders, including Moor, Dilday, Honeycutt and Parks, have denied any "liberal drift" in the convention.



In the commencement address, Criswell told the students, "Those who attack the Word of God do so blatantly, statedly, viciously and vituperatively. They say if you have tractors to move mountains, you don't need faith. If you have penicillin, you don't need prayer. If you have positive thinking you don't need salvation..."

But, he said, "there has never yet been a spade of dirt turned by an archaeologist that failed to confirm the historical accuracy of this book."

Describing himself as a conservative who believes in the infallibility of the Bible, Criswell emphasized, "I do not say we are infallible in preaching the message of the Bible. I just say the Bible addresses every facet of human life."

Criswell is one of many across the convention who feels the problems of SBC may best be dealt with by a special committee, saying such a committee would be a "healing gesture and a great blessing" provided it was "manifestly fair."

"We've got to cease these attacks on each other and get back to praying together, working together and winning the lost together," he insisted. "Unless we do, as time goes on, and I mean a long time—not even in my lifetime—there will be a gradual polarization of the churches and institutions and leaders in the convention. That could be devastating."

--30--

Baptist Laity Journal  
Planned By Ex-President

By Tim Nicholas

Baptist Press  
5/16/85

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (BP)—Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, the last layman to be elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and John Baugh, chairman of board of Sysco Corporation in Texas, have announced plans to publish a new periodical, The Baptist Laity Journal.

Cooper told the Baptist Record, newsjournal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, he hopes the first issue will be out sometime in May, prior to the June SBC meeting in Dallas.

"We hope it would be a voice of reconciliation," said Cooper. "There is a group of us who feel like we want to use the voice of the pew in bringing together the diverse points among Southern Baptists," he said, "recognizing there will be diversity but maintaining unity in the areas of evangelism, missions, Christian education, stewardship and discipling or equipping the saints."

Cooper indicated much of the planning was yet ahead for the new publication, such as compilation of a mailing list. He said the first issue is being edited largely by James Cole, former editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message and current executive vice-president of the Baylor University Alumni Association in Waco, Texas.

Baugh, a member of Second Baptist Church, Houston, announced at a San Antonio, Texas, meeting in early May that the periodical will be designed "to inform Southern Baptist laity and to protect and preserve traditional Baptist doctrines."

A statement of purpose, written by Baugh, noted that in the current crisis, "one voice has been silent, that of the laity. As major stockholders of the Convention, it is imperative the laity let their voices be heard above the roar of the raging storm."

Baugh said many Southern Baptist laity "resent the threat posed to the historical Baptist doctrines, the Cooperative Program and related causes. Some of these laymen and laywomen, as volunteers (not employed by any Southern Baptist church, agency or institution), have formed an organization to publish the Baptist Laity Journal to inform Southern Baptist laity to protect and preserve traditional Baptist doctrines."

Baugh's statement of purpose noted these laypersons intend "to resist efforts of those who do not recognize these doctrines but seek rather to gain control of Southern Baptist churches, agencies and institutions."

--more--

Cooper said the organization is still in its formative stages and that other names of those involved would be released shortly. As to content of the first issue, that was still being developed. "I doubt if I see the content before it goes to press," said Cooper.

--30--

Southern Seminary Music  
School Addition Dedicated

Baptist Press  
5/16/85

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—A \$1.1 million addition to V.V. Cooke Hall, home of the School of Church Music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has been dedicated in special ceremonies on the seminary campus.

The building project, begun last summer, adds an additional 12,100 square feet in floor space for an instrumental recital hall, a choral recital hall, five teaching studios and 10 practice rooms. It also included the air-conditioning of Alumni Chapel, the 35-year-old structure which is the site of regular worship services, convocations and commencement exercises at Southern seminary.

Increased enrollment in the School of Church Music over the past eight years necessitated the expansion, said Milburn Price, dean of the school.

The expansion was made possible by gifts from numerous individuals and groups, plus \$925,000 through the Cooperative Program.

--30--

Lawson Tabbed  
BPRA President

Baptist Press  
5/16/85

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Ken Lawson, director of the product development department of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., has been elected president of the Baptist Public Relations Association for 1985-86.

Others selected include: Karen Benson, assistant director of public relations for Baylor University, Waco, Texas, program vice-president; Philip Poole, public relations specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., membership vice-president; Kathy Palen, public relations director for Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., newsletter editor; Leisa Hammett, assistant editor, information services, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, secretary;

Irma Duke, information coordinator, Foreign Mission Board, placement coordinator; Tim Nicholas, associate editor, Mississippi Baptist Record, treasurer, and Linda Lawson, supervisor, news and information section, Baptist Sunday School Board, awards chairman.

--30--