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86-2

Falwell Announces
 Organization Change

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)—Jerry Falwell has announced formation of a new organization in an attempt to broaden the agenda as well as the fund-raising potential of the conservative, political-religious Moral Majority.

Falwell explained the newly chartered Liberty Federation will support a number of issues such as President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, financial aid for Nicaraguan rebels—or contras—, and anti-communist efforts in Taiwan, South Korea, the Philippines and South Africa. The organization, of which Moral Majority will be a subsidiary, will continue to address such "strictly moral" issues as abortion and pornography.

During a Jan. 3 press conference, Falwell recalled the chartering of the Moral Majority in June 1979 "by a small group of Americans who were deeply concerned over the social, moral and political dilemmas into which this country had wandered during the past two decades."

"In the course of the past seven years, we have found ourselves drawn into issues and conflicts which were not anticipated in 1979," he continued. "Many persons have felt that the Moral Majority name and charter are not broad enough to cover many of these domestic and international issues."

In addition, Falwell stated he anticipates the organization's budget to increase from \$7 million to \$12 million during 1986. The additional \$5 million in support is expected to come from new constituents, he added.

The Liberty Federation's first official activity will be a "national summit" for the organization's 50 state chairmen and 500 other national leaders to be held Jan. 23-24 in Washington. Vice-President George Bush, who Falwell says he will support in the 1988 presidential race, is to deliver the major address.

Other general sessions and workshops will focus on the 1986 senatorial races; education, registration and mobilization of one million new voters during 1986, and recruitment of new grassroots support for the organization.

Falwell added the organization also will challenge members to run for political office at local, state and national levels. The organization's goal is to have 200 of its members run for office, he said.

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**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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'Center Of Hope' Opens Doors
 To Help Armero's Survivors

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
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IBAGUE, Colombia (BP)—Baptists are opening a "Center of Hope" for survivors of Colombia's killer mudslide.

"The need is so great and...the doors are really open," noted James Giles, disaster relief coordinator for the Southern Baptist mission in Colombia.

Openness to the Center of Hope isn't just an outgrowth of the tragedy, but stems also from on-the-scene emergency work by Baptists from Colombia and the United States, Giles said.

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Three home missionaries have been appointed by the Colombian Baptist Convention to work at the center in Ibague and the surrounding area, where refugees fled after the volcanic eruption in November unleashed a massive mudslide that destroyed the town of Armero.

Rafael and Mary Blanco will be starting mission congregations in two nearby towns, Lerida and Guayabal. To take the assignment, Blanco is interrupting his last year at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali, Colombia.

Lidia Kelly, a new graduate from the seminary, will be the social worker at the center, which will be in a large rented house in Ibague, the area where most of the mudslide survivors are relocating.

All three have participated in teams of seminary students and faculty members that already have been at work in and around Ibague.

Sewing, nutrition and children's health will be among the classes offered at the center. Giles also anticipates efforts to match prospective employers with volcano survivors needing work.

Funds for the center and its missionaries will be provided by Colombian Baptists and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Another home missions couple may be appointed to work among 600 people in three shelters in the town of Chinchina.

"One of our greatest ministries is in listening and offering spiritual help," Giles said. "What they really need is the long-term therapy of being able to work through the loss of loved ones and all their possessions."

Still needed is a prosthetist to work with survivors who lost arms or legs after infectious mud caused gangrene.

"We will probably be able to help as many people as one prosthetist could take care of over a period of a year or two," Giles said.

Interested volunteers should contact the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Two other volunteers are scheduled to work with patients at the state hospital in Ibague: anesthesiologist Raymond Peebles, a member of First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark., who worked at the Baptist Hospital in Eku, Nigeria, during 1982; and plastic surgeon Ronald Stewart, a member of Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

To date, the Foreign Mission Board has spent about \$100,000 in disaster relief funds for emergency efforts in Colombia, according to Bryan Brasington, the board's director for western South America.

About half the money has been used to buy medicines and other emergency supplies. The other half has been used in hunger relief.

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HPU Trustees Elect
Newbury On Split Vote

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press
1/7/86

BROWNWOOD, Texas (BP)-- Howard Payne University trustees accepted a minority report from their search committee and elected Don Newbury, 48, as the new president of the university.

He will assume the presidency immediately, succeeding Ralph Phelps who will be chancellor until his retirement in May.

Newbury has been president of Western Texas College in Snyder for the last five years. He previously was director of community relations for Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth, Texas, for 14 years and also was on the faculty of Sul Ross University and Howard Payne University, where he taught journalism immediately following his graduation in 1961.

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He is a native of Brown County, Texas, and earned a bachelor's degree from Howard Payne in 1961, a master's from the University of Texas in journalism and a doctor of philosophy degree in higher education administration at North Texas State University in 1973.

He is married to the former Brenda Pack of Alpine, Texas. They have three daughters: Julie, 15, Jana, 12 and Jeanie, 10 and are members of First Baptist Church, Snyder, where Newbury is a deacon and teaches college age young adults.

Leon Aduddell, pastor of Allen Heights Baptists Church, Allen, and chairman of the HPU trustees, said Newbury was elected by a split vote of the trustees. He declined to elaborate, but other trustees gave details.

The search committee, headed by Jimmy Towers, pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church, San Antonio, was prepared to recommend Charles Chaney, president of Southwest Baptist University of Bolivar, Mo., also a Howard Payne graduate, but Chaney in a Dec. 11 letter to Towers, withdrew his name from consideration.

Others on the search committee were Gene Porter, Brownwood; Doyle Sumrall, DeSoto; Stan Cromwell, Midland, and Mrs. J.C. Thurmond, Fort Worth, Texas.

Porter, supported by Sumrall, according to Mrs. Thurmond, the board secretary, presented the motion to elect Newbury. The vote was 17 to 15 for Newbury with one abstention and 11 absent.

Newbury was upbeat about the future in a phone interview.

"Howard Payne has been very much a part of my life," he said. "I have an excitement for education and an even greater excitement for Christian education. I feel this is the time that I am meant to serve, and I want to do whatever I can to continue the university's visibility, to work through churches and schools to attract students; to enlist alumni from throughout the nation, so many of whom realize the university has a rich heritage and a bright future.

"I have supported the university my entire life," he said, "and intend to give it my full energies."

According to the Southern Baptist Education Commission, HPU had an enrollment of 851 in the fall 1985 semester, a decline of 10.8 percent from the fall 1984 figure.

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White Named President
At Gardner-Webb College

Baptist Press
1/7/86

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. (BP)--M. Christopher White has been named the 10th president of Gardner-Webb College effective July 1, 1986.

White, currently vice-president for academic and student affairs at nearby Elon College in Elon College, N.C., will succeed Craven Williams who resigned last summer to become president of a Raleigh, N.C., based land development and property management company.

The 42-year-old White is a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He earned his doctorate in biblical studies at Emory University in Atlanta.

White joined Elon College in 1972 as a religion professor and later was chairman of the religion department and dean of academic affairs before being named a vice-president in 1983.

The Georgia native is an ordained Southern Baptist minister and has held pastorates in Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina.

He and his wife, Linda, have two sons: Martin Lynn, 14, and Andrew Christopher, 12.

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Longtime Texas
Pastor Dies

DALLAS (BP)—Herbert R. Howard, 68, who led Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, to become one of Southern Baptists' largest, most prestigious congregations during 29 years as pastor, died in Dallas Dec. 31, following a massive heart attack.

After retiring from Park Cities in 1976, Howard was a counselor for Masters and Johnston institute in St. Louis. He returned to Dallas to establish a marriage counseling service and taught a men's Bible class at the Park Cities church.

Howard was on the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and on other Baptist agencies. He led the Park Cities church to grow from about 1,000 members to more than 5,000.

He was a native of Troy, Ala., and earned the bachelor of arts degree from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., in 1938 before receiving his master of theology and doctor of theolgy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

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Gallup Surveys Show Public
Divided Over Parochial Aid

Baptist Press
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WASHINGTON (BP)—Recent public opinion surveys by George Gallup demonstrate the American people are split nearly evenly over the advisability of legislation to provide government aid to parochial schools.

In separate polls conducted last year but only recently released through Gallup's Princeton Religion Research Center, Americans indicated they are deeply divided over the idea of a constitutional amendment to permit such aid and a Reagan administration proposal for school vouchers to assist parents who send their children to parochial schools.

Responding to a survey question asking, "Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the Constitution that would permit government financial aid to parochial schools?", 45 percent of those interviewed said they would favor such a proposal, with 47 percent opposed. Eight percent gave no opinion.

Another Gallup poll question, noting voucher systems are used in some other countries, found 45 percent of those questioned favor the idea, with 40 percent opposed. Fifteen percent indicated no opinion.

According to Gallup, the results of the poll on vouchers, gleaned from in-person interviews with 1,528 adults, could include a sampling error of up to three percent in either direction. Answers to the query on a constitutional amendment authorizing parochial aid, drawn from telephone interviews with 1,009 adults, include a possible four percent sampling error.

Although voucher proposals are pending in Congress, no constitutional amendment to provide aid to sectarian schools has been introduced.

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Missionary Couples Leave
Burundi After Visa Denial

By Fletcher Allen

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (BP)--Two Southern Baptist missionary families will not be working in Burundi unless visa policies are changed.

Dale and Nelda Gann and Dwight and Brenda Jackson have left Burundi and are transferring to Tanzania. The Ganns will work in Lindi and the Jacksons in Dar es Salaam.

Both couples have been working in Burundi as evangelists, but current Burundi visa requirements make it difficult for evangelists to remain unless they have additional skills.

The Ganns are the Southern Baptist pioneer missionaries in the African nation, having entered the country in 1979. The Jacksons have served one term and recently returned to Burundi after a year's furlough.

Fred and Sami Sorrells, who came on furlough from Burundi in August, are applying for visas now in order to return early to their work in Kirundo. They had been scheduled to return in July or August.

Sorrells is an agricultural missionary and has broad contacts in the Kirundo Province. According to Ken Lyle, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, the partnership between Burundi and the convention hinges largely on whether the Sorrells family is granted visas to enter the country and continue their agricultural work.

They hope to return to Burundi by March if they are granted visas. A favorable action was taken last summer when the Burundi Baptist Union restructured its constitution, which is now sanctioned by the government.

Young Baptist leaders were elected at that time and seem eager for Maryland and Delaware Baptist work crews to continue assisting them in construction, well drilling, tree planting, health care and other community projects.

The fourth Baptist missionary family, Paul and Carol Boone and their three children, are scheduled to return to Burundi in the summer of 1986 after a year's furlough. Since the Boones are medical doctors, their visas may be granted with less difficulty. They have been working at the hospital in Musema.

The Ganns worked in Bujumbura, the capital city; and the Jacksons worked in Rubura, a rural area. The status of Katrina Knox, a nurse headed for a Rubura clinic, now in language study in Paris, is uncertain.

It is not unusual for nations to require missionaries to be skilled in other than evangelistic work. The Foreign Mission Board has encountered such regulations many times, FMB officials say.



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