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February 25, 1986

86-24

Stanley Asks Assistance In Selecting Committees

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President Charles F. Stanley has asked for assistance in selecting nominees for four 1986 SBC appointive committees.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, made his request in an open letter to "all state convention executives, elected persons and all others."

"The very important task of presenting the 1986 Committee on Committees nominees, as well as those to serve on the Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee and Tellers Committee is underway," he wrote. "We would count it a blessed favor and a great service to our Lord if you would prayerfully assist us in this effort."

As convention president, Stanley is charged with the responsibility of appointing members to the four committees in consultation with the SBC's two vice presidents--W. Winfred Moore, first vice president, of Amarillo, Texas; and Henry Huff, second vice president, of Louisville, Ky.

"Many hundreds of names are submitted each year from various sources, and the winnowing process is crucial and tedious," Stanley said. "We want only that which will be God's will to his glory."

He asked for "names of pastors and lay people from your state convention that you feel would serve true to God's Word and their assignment," adding, "these persons must be above reproach in their moral life and Christian demeanor."

Information needed for each name submitted includes telephone number and address of both the person's home and church, the church's Cooperative Program giving percentage and the church's baptism figures and resident membership. Stanley also said he needs to know whether or not the proposed persons plan to attend the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta in June and each individual's length of time in his or her church and state.

The information should be sent to Stanley in care of First Baptist Church, 754 Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta, GA 30365.

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Court Upholds Regulation
 Of Adult Movie Theaters

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press
 2/25/86

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the right of cities to impose zoning restrictions on adult theaters, provided such establishments are not banned altogether.

In a 7-2 decision announced Feb. 25, the high court held that municipalities do not do violence to the First Amendment's free speech clause by imposing "a form of time, place and manner regulation" on adult theaters but stop short of outlawing them.

The decision, written by Justice William H. Rehnquist, endorsed a 1981 ordinance of the city of Renton, Wash., a Seattle suburb, stating adult theaters may not be located within 1,000 feet of any residential zone, single- or multiple-family dwelling, church, park or school. Such "content neutral" regulations, Rehnquist wrote, "are acceptable so long as they are designed to serve a substantial governmental interest and do not unreasonably limit alternative avenues of communication."

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Renton's ordinance was written, he added, "not to suppress the expression of unpopular views," but "to prevent crime, protect the city's retail trade, maintain property values and generally 'protect and preserve the quality of neighborhoods, commercial districts and the quality of urban life.'"

Responding to the contention of the theater owners--that the city effectively denied their ability to buy property--Rehnquist noted the First Amendment is not violated when proprietors of adult theaters "must fend for themselves in the real estate market." He added the Supreme Court has "never suggested that the First Amendment compels the Government to ensure that adult theaters, or any other kinds of speech-related businesses...will be able to obtain sites at bargain prices."

Justices William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall dissented, arguing unsuccessfully the ordinance discriminated against "certain forms of speech based on content." They added, "That some residents may be offended by the content of the films shown at adult movie theaters cannot form the basis for state regulation of speech."

In a related action announced the day before the Renton decision, the high court summarily affirmed a federal appeals court that struck down an Indianapolis law seeking to ban pornography on the basis it violates the civil rights of women. The law allowed any woman claiming she had been harmed by pornographic materials to seek damages from businesses selling or exhibiting them.

The 1984 law--reportedly similar to statutes in a dozen other cities--has not been enforced under court orders pending final disposition. A federal appeals court in Chicago ruled earlier that the Indianapolis law violated the First Amendment's free speech clause.

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, along with Rehnquist and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, indicated they had voted to schedule the case for full argument before the high court. But four justices must agree before a case receives such treatment.

The action affirming the lower panel carries the effect of extending its ruling nationwide.

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Directions 2000 Forum
Focuses On Future Of SBC

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
2/25/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptists will go "back to the future"--maintaining traditional values while adapting to a changing environment--as they minister in the closing years of the 20th century, according to a consensus report developed by denominational planners.

About 200 Southern Baptist Convention leaders formulated the report during Directions 2000 Forum, a long-range strategy session designed to help formulate denominational plans for the final decade of the century.

"Our purpose was to involve church, association, state convention and SBC agency leaders in the development of the 1990-2000 SBC Bold Mission Thrust Emphasis Plan," said Reginald M. McDonough, executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee and chairperson of the workgroup which coordinated the forum. He said the plan is being formed utilizing "a broad-based assessment of desired directions, recommendations of general goals and the development of coordinated promotion plans."

Bold Mission Thrust is the convention's campaign to present the gospel of Christ to every person on earth by the year 2000.

Although forum participants stressed their plans were preliminary and their wording unpolished, they developed a consensus document which should give direction to Bold Mission Thrust activities during the decade. The document included 11 principal areas of concern:

--Authority of the Bible;

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- Need for non-Christians to find faith in Christ;
- "Authentic" worship of God;
- Christian nurture and discipleship;
- Commitment to missions;
- Support for families;
- Creation of new churches;
- Ministry in cities;
- Service to people in need;
- Biblical doctrine and Baptist polity and heritage; and
- Stewardship of resources.

The list of concerns was formulated following two presentations that prepared participants to think about upcoming world needs and what Southern Baptists can do about them.

The first presentation, "Trends Toward 2000," focused on global changes which will affect ministry during the next 15 years. It was prepared by Doran McCarty, professor of ministry at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and presented by O.D. Morris, research director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

"People are the bottom line, not technology, housing or automobiles," Morris said. The world's population is changing, with the largest increases coming in Third World countries, he noted, pointing out gigantic gains in the numbers of young people, city dwellers and non-Caucasians.

"The world is getting smaller," he added, citing the complex interconnection of such factors as economic relationships, education, tourism and even international marriages. Other factors which he said will shape trends include acceleration of the "information era," diversification of education, an increase in the world's "income gap," an expanded influence of technology, a focus upon human worth as a social issue and a renewed interest in many forms of religion.

The second presentation was an explanation of the "Bold Mission Thrust Planning for the 1990's" questionnaire, analyzed and presented by J. Clifford Tharp Jr., research associate for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The survey's findings were based on 7,081 responses from Southern Baptists in 33 state Baptist conventions, Tharp said. Respondents were asked to rank 87 concepts in importance on a four-point scale. The concepts dealt with how churches should respond to changing population, the "world getting smaller," the information era, diversity and specialization of education, the income gap, technological advances, social issues and religious diversity.

The five items which earned highest rankings revolved around winning/reaching non-Christians for Christ and affirming the authority of the Bible, Tharp reported. Other major concerns included support of/involvement in missions, stewardship, basic Baptist doctrine/beliefs, witness and ministry to internationals, family, Christian worship, lay involvement, ministry to the poor/homeless, disaster relief and drug/alcohol support services, he said.

Forum participants took information provided by Morris and Tharp and divided into 20 groups to analyze the data and rank Southern Baptist priorities. Their group reports were synthesized by a panel headed by William R. O'Brien, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. This group articulated the 11 basic concerns which comprised the final consensus findings.

Those findings will be drafted into a report to be considered by the SBC Inter-Agency Council in May, reported the Executive Committee's McDonough. After further fine-tuning, the report will be circulated among state convention and SBC agency leaders in the next step in a process designed to develop the convention's primary emphases for the 1990s.

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Matthews Resigns As Pastor
Of South Carolina Church

By John Roberts

Baptist Press
2/25/86

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--Denominational leader C. David Matthews has resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., "for personal reasons."

Matthews' resignation was received during a special session of the church board of deacons Monday, Feb. 24. Matthews asked that the resignation be effective immediately.

Matthews was not present at the meeting, but a letter he had written was read by Thomas Kirby, chairman of the deacons. Part of that letter stated, "Personal circumstances now beyond my control make it necessary that I submit my resignation immediately."

Associate Pastor Donald H. Rose was named interim senior minister.

A Texas native, Matthews had been pastor of the Greenville congregation since 1976. Under his leadership, the church added 500 members, reaching a total of 2,900. The church's budget tripled to \$1.3 million annually, and its annual support to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget increased 400 percent. The congregation completed a \$5 million building program about two years ago.

He has been involved in Southern Baptist Convention work on state and national levels. He was president of the general board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in 1982-83. He is a member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and was that group's chairman from 1982 to 1984. Matthews also has been on the Southern Baptist Denominational Calendar Committee and was a member of the Commission on Pastoral Leadership of the Baptist World Alliance.

Matthews was a featured speaker at the Southern Baptist Forum, held prior to the SBC annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., in 1984. He is co-chairman of the moderate-conservative movement among Southern Baptists in South Carolina.

He is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. In addition to the Greenville pastorate, he has been pastor of churches in Texas and Oklahoma.

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Crismon, Long-Time Seminary
Librarian, Dies At Age 79

Baptist Press
2/25/86

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Leo T. Crismon, known to three generations of students as librarian at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., died in his sleep Feb. 19 in his Louisville home.

Crismon, who was only four days from his 80th birthday, was librarian at Southern seminary from 1951 to 1971. He began working as assistant librarian for the seminary in 1937.

A native of Iberia, Mo., Crismon graduated from William Jewell College in 1930. He received the master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from Southern seminary and earned a library science degree from Columbia University in 1956.

Following seminary graduation in 1935, Crismon was pastor in Missouri's Mt. Zion Baptist Association. He was pastor of New Liberty Baptist Church in Henryville, Ind., for six years while on the seminary staff.

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Crismon was a former member of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, former assistant secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and was church clerk of Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church for more than 30 years.

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Fair Replaces Boyd
As PCPA Executive

Baptist Press
2/25/86

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—Bob M. Boyd of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., has been replaced by Harold Fair of Nashville's United Methodist Publishing House as executive director of the Protestant Church-Owned Publishers' Association.

The association, in its annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 24-26, also chose Thomas Earl Carpenter, senior vice president of the United Methodist Publishing House Cokesbury Division, to succeed James W. Clark, executive vice president of the Sunday School Board, as the association's president.

Protestant Church-Owned Publishers' Association is a trade association composed of 31 denominationally-owned and -operated publishing houses.

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SBC Language Missions
Workers Receive Awards

Baptist Press
2/25/86

MIAMI (BP)—Southern Baptist language missions workers for three states have been cited for outstanding accomplishments by the language missions division of the denomination's Home Mission Board.

Oscar Romo, director of the division, presented the awards at a banquet at the Miami Airport Marriott during the board's annual Language Missions Leadership Conference.

Bruce Gardner of Sandy, Utah, director of missions for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, received the award for new ethnic missions started.

Lonnie Chavez of Fresno, Calif., director of language missions for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, was honored for refugee resettlement and ethnic leadership development.

Hubert O. Hurt of Jacksonville, Fla., director of language missions for the Florida Baptist Convention, was cited for his work with internationals.

The Home Mission Board language missions division also recognized two women not employed by the denomination for volunteer work with language groups.

Jean Jones of Birmingham, Ala., received the Missions in Context award for refugee resettlement and for her role as bilingual specialist for her public school system. Jones coordinates bilingual education for 20 language groups for the Birmingham Board of Education.

Mary Elizabeth Palmer of Atlanta received the division's Mosaic Award. Palmer was honored for her ongoing work in translating a Laotian hymnal for the Asian congregation which meets at Columbia Drive Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., where she is a member. Her husband, Gerald Palmer, is missions vice president for the Home Mission Board.

The group also honored James Godsoe, who is retiring as missions division director for the Florida Baptist Convention. He was presented the Missions Heritage Award for his overall contributions to language missions.

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