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March 5, 1986

86-29

Valentine 'Suspect'
According To Computer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--During more than three decades of leadership in the often-controversial field of Christian ethics, Foy Valentine's name has been met with a wide variety of responses.

But a computer's recent assessment may have topped them all.

The incident occurred when David C. George, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., and current vice chairman of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, was using his personal computer to prepare his column for the church newsletter. The subject was Race Relations Sunday, and George, who is Valentine's pastor, appropriately included a reference to his prominent church member's work in race relations during 25-plus years as executive director of the commission.

After completing a draft of the column, George used a computer program which checks for misspellings and typographical errors. The program stops at any word it does not recognize and offers a suggested spelling for it. If it does not find an alphabetically similar spelling, it will give a phonetic spelling.

When the computer came to the name Foy Valentine, it stopped and printed the following message:

Suspect Word: Foy
Suggestion: Phooey

George said he couldn't help but laugh aloud, since through the years "many benighted Baptists have had the same response."

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**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee**

Non-Profit Postal Rates
To Increase Again March 9

By Kathy Palen

Baptist Press
3/5/86

WASHINGTON (BP)--Non-profit mailers--including state Baptist newspapers and some church newsletters--will experience an additional postal rate increase of approximately 7 percent March 9, the U.S. Postal Service board of governors has announced.

This additional rate increase follows closely behind an increase that took effect Jan. 1 for non-profit mailers. The governors pointed to a last-minute reduction in postal subsidy appropriations approved by Congress and signed by President Reagan as the major reason for the additional increase.

In December, the board of governors approved the initial increase of about 30 percent. That increase, however, was based on the governors' assumption that the Postal Service would receive \$820 million in federal funds to subsidize non-profit mailing rates during 1986.

Following that decision, however, the president vetoed the bill that contained the \$820 million figure and instead signed a substitute measure that contained only \$748 million. That final figure fell \$233 million short of what the Postal Service said it needed to maintain the 1985 level of subsidized rates.

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The Feb. 7 incident reminded missionaries in Amman "of God's protective care," said Alta Lee Lovegren, press representative of Jordan's Southern Baptist mission.

Residents in the mission-owned building are missionaries Pat Frost, Lynn Smith, Geraldene Volkart, Wilson and Cheryl Tatum and their two children, James, 8, and Russell, 6, and missionary journeyman Patricia Raffield.

One missionary noticed billowing smoke and alerted others in the building to evacuate. Tatum and fellow missionaries Bernie Fairchild and Graydon Hardister and Hardister's son, David, fought the fire with portable extinguishers after the others had evacuated to the Hardister home next door.

It was only the second fire on mission property since Southern Baptist work in Jordan began in 1952. Cause of the fire was thought to be an electrical problem.

Frost is from Parks, Ark.; Smith from Birmingham, Ala.; Volkart from Boonville, Mo.; Wilson Tatum from Shreveport, La.; Cheryl Tatum from Frost, Texas; Raffield from Dexter, Ga.; Fairchild from Great Falls, Mont.; and Hardister from Pine Bluff, Ark.

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Chief Bookkeeper Stevens
Joins Executive Committee

Baptist Press
3/4/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Bettie Marie Stevens has joined the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee as chief bookkeeper.

Stevens, who has been supervisor of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's business office since December 1981, succeeds Ada Ruth Kelly, who is retiring after more than 20 years as the Executive Committee's chief bookkeeper. In her new job, Stevens works with Vice President for Business and Finance Tim Hedquist in recording and maintaining all accounting records of the Executive Committee. Her employment was effective March 1.

In addition to her work with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Stevens was data processing specialist and assistant to the director of business services for the Florida Baptist Convention from March 1968 to November 1981.

She also has been assistant to the comptroller of Gulf Federal Savings and Loan Association in Crestview, Fla., 1963-68; secretary in the Brotherhood department and executive secretary's office and bookkeeper in the business office of the Florida Baptist Convention, 1960-63; and administrative assistant to the comptroller for Gulf Federal Savings and Loan Association in Crestview, 1956-60.

A native of Crestview, Stevens is a graduate of Crestview High School and the American Savings and Loan Institute. She earned a certificate in computer programming from the Computer Languages Corporation of Jacksonville, Fla.

She was president of the SBC Computer Users Association in 1975-76.

Stevens became a Christian at the age of 12 and has been a lifelong active church member. She is fluent in sign language and has acted as an interpreter for the deaf.

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Bible Study Plan Offers
Bridge For Unchurched

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press
3/4/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Bernadette Salviano sees a new mission field for Southern Baptists in the "yuppie" world of business professionals.

"I'm a missionary in the business world," Salviano, graphic arts manager for Purvis Systems, of Middletown, R.I., said while attending an Outreach Bible Study National Institute in Nashville, Tenn.

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Realizing the immensity of the Crabb's task, Hollingsworth and Naomi Cooper of Shearer Hills Baptist Church in San Antonio accepted the challenge of refurbishing the church's facilities and lining up workers for the center's medical and dental clinic.

Saturday building teams are roofing the two-story church building and remodeling the medical and dental examining rooms. When the clinic is remodeled and begins operating near its capacity, a Mission Service Corps couple will be on duty to witness to patients and to obtain information for follow-up visits.

Throughout San Antonio and the surrounding areas, Saturday builders are involved in helping San Antonio Baptist Association meet its "Mission Texas" goals of reaching non-Christians, helping churches start churches, meeting human need and aiding churches in transition. Often, they have discovered meeting one objective helps to meet another.

"We saved one church \$6,000 by roofing their building after they sustained hail damage," said Hollingsworth. "Now they are putting that money into starting new work."

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Persecution Drives Wakim
From Ministry In Lebanon

By David Reid

Baptist Press
3/5/86

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--For George Ibrahim Wakim, the trail leading to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was a bit more treacherous than for most seminary students.

The trail and travail began when Wakim angered militant Sunni Moslems by refusing to broadcast Islamic propaganda over a Beirut, Lebanon, station.

"In spite of me being a Christian, they wanted me to work for them," Wakim says. "They said, 'We'll pay you double,' but I refused. Their faces turned red. I thought, 'George, this is the day you meet your Creator.'"

Fearing for their lives, Wakim and his family fled Lebanon for the United States in 1983, eventually moving to Fort Worth, Texas, where he enrolled in Southwestern seminary and was called as pastor of an Arab mission.

Hoping to avoid a long immigration process, Wakim applied for political asylum. He was denied, and as his visa neared expiration, he feared deportation and uncertainty.

"If I were to return to Lebanon under present conditions, it is very possible I would go missing and never appear again," he says.

However, with the help of the seminary, the Baptist General Convention of Texas and University Baptist Church which sponsors the Arab mission, Wakim has been granted a permanent resident "green card" and no longer is threatened with a forced return to Lebanon.

Wakim's father, a Lebanese Baptist pastor, leads a church founded by Southern Baptist missionaries. The younger Wakim decided the ministry was not lucrative enough for him and planned to become an electrical engineer.

But, he notes, "God's ideas were different from mine."

After he failed his engineering school entrance exam, Wakim began writing and recording evangelistic radio programs in Beirut for a Lutheran radio ministry, which distributed tapes throughout North Africa and the Middle East for broadcast to Moslem audiences.

Wakim's confrontation with the Sunnis occurred seven years later.

"When I refused to work with them, the Lord gave me strength. I expected any day they would come get me," he recalls.

Wakim, his wife and his son were trapped for 21 days in their Beirut apartment when fighting broke out between the Lebanese army and the Shiite Amal militia. They ran out of food.

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"I decided to risk going to the market. But a Moslem neighbor brought six loaves of bread--three for his family and three for us," he says. "This neighbor I will never forget. I pray that he will know the Lord someday."

After fighting subsided, Wakim knew his family must leave Lebanon. They joined his parents, who had fled with four younger sons to Massachusetts.

Wakim eventually moved his family to Fort Worth and entered Southwestern's master of arts in communications program, which he will complete in May.

Wakim, who has received job offers in Lebanon, hopes to begin a broadcast ministry to Arabs living in the United States. He does not plan to return to the Middle East unless there are drastic changes.

"If peace comes back, and the Lord wants me to go, I'll go," he says. "But there are 300,000 Arabs living in Michigan, 80,000 in Houston, 14,000 in Dallas-Fort Worth and many more scattered throughout California and along the East Coast. They need someone to reach them, too."

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(David Reid is a student newswriter at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.)

Hardin-Simmons University Receives
\$3 Million For Building, Chapel

Baptist Press
3/5/86

ABILENE, Texas (BP)--An additional \$1 million from Mrs. Charles Logsdon of Abilene, Texas, will make possible a \$3 million theology building and chapel at Hardin-Simmons University.

Trustees for the Texas Baptist school approved plans for the new building and chapel at their semi-annual meeting in late February.

Logsdon recently transferred property valued in excess of \$2 million to construct the new building and in recent days has committed another \$1 million to add the chapel, said Jesse C. Fletcher, president of the school located in Abilene.

The building will house the Logsdon School of Theology, named for Logsdon and her husband.

Trustees also approved naming the building and chapel in honor of the Logsdons.

Fletcher said the 18,000-square-foot theology building will contain classrooms and offices for faculty. The 6,000-square-foot chapel will seat about 350 people.

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Smith Says Nobody Wept
For 4,000 Babies Aborted

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press
3/5/86

ATLANTA (BP)--Former Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith said all America wept when seven astronauts died in the Challenger space shuttle explosion, but nobody wept that same day "when 4,000 unborn babies were murdered in their mothers' wombs."

"It's time we wept and confessed our sin before God" for not fighting legalized abortions, Smith said in a Bible conference sponsored by his "Real Evangelism" organization at Roswell Street Baptist Church in suburban Marietta, Ga.

Smith, former pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., who resigned last year to enter full time evangelism, also decried statistics indicating 1,100 Baptist pastors filed for divorce last year. "The breakup of so-called Christian homes is at epidemic stages," he said.

He told of meeting on an airplane a member of the Church of Satan who said he was praying and fasting that Satan would destroy the homes of 1,000 Christian ministers this year.

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Smith spoke twice on the program that featured former SBC President Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., and current SBC President Charles Stanley of Atlanta. He also expressed support for the conference's closing speaker--Jerry Falwell of Lynchburg, Va.

"I'm just thankful for somebody who stands for the truth," Smith said of Falwell. "We'd better get behind people who stand for the unadulterated, unmitigated truth of God."

In introducing him, Smith compared Falwell to Jesus Christ, saying both had enemies who didn't like what they said. "Never did a man speak so boldly as this man (Falwell) about abortion, pornography, evil in government, a nation that needs moral revival, the problems of homosexuality and the compromise of the Word of God," Smith said of Falwell.

Almost 5,000 persons who overflowed the church near Atlanta gave Falwell a standing ovation. The conference was hosted by three Atlanta churches: Eastside Baptist Church of Marietta; Rehoboth Baptist Church; and Roswell Street Baptist Church of Marietta.

During the closing sermon, Falwell said Christians today are living in a "pressure-cooker" and offered suggestions on how to deal with the tension.

Christians, he said, must recognize God's sovereignty in chastisement, in humility...and in God's sufficiency.

He decried organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union, which he called "the Anti-Christian Liberties Union," the National Organization of Women, which he dubbed the "National Order of Witches," and the National Education Association. These organizations, he claimed, "are going day and night to throw God out of everything America stands for."

Earlier in the conference, John McKay, a member of Smith's "Real Evangelism" team who led music for the meeting, said the media had tried to stir up controversy by asking if Falwell's presence on the program was in indication he planned to join the Southern Baptist Convention.

McKay said Falwell doesn't need the Southern Baptist Convention. "He's bigger than the SBC," McKay said. Falwell was late arriving at the conference in his private plane. He also left early, and was not available for media interviews.

In an interview, Smith said Falwell was invited to speak on the program for two reasons. "He has helped lead this nation back to moral values, and I believe he deserves our support. Second, he is a very popular Baptist preacher who believes the Word of God and people want to hear what he has to say."

Smith said the conference was not a "political" rally. "We're trying to have a conference where we honor the Lord and leave excited about winning this world to Jesus Christ," Smith said.

He added attendance at the "Real Evangelism" conference exceeded 95 percent of the evangelism conferences sponsored by Baptist state conventions. "I weep deep in my spirit when people go to a conference expecting to get something and don't get anything," he told the opening night crowd. About 1,500 persons, most of them pastors and church staff members, attended morning sessions.

Speakers repeatedly called for Baptists to return to biblical principles of evangelism and to take a strong stand for morality in an immoral nation.

SBC President Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, said the key to a successful ministry is simply meditating both day and night on the Word of God, so that Christians can know the "mind of God."

Meditating on God's Word, said Stanley, enables Christians to develop a quiet spirit, sharpens the person's perceptions, develops a pure heart, confirms the advice received from others, deepens a hunger for God, improves self-image and increases faith.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., said faith is the essential ingredient to reaching the world for Christ. He cited four steps to developing a vital faith--being saturated with the Word of God, being separated from sin, being dedicated to the Saviour and being activated by the spirit of God.

Jay Strack, an evangelist from Fort Myers, Fla., called for Baptist preachers to be on fire for God, like the Apostle Paul, and to defend the faith.

"Some people believe you can't be scholarly and believe the Bible," said Strack. "But the smarter a man is, the more he is going to love the Word of God."

He was critical of Baptist schools which he said destroy the faith of students through use of such methods of biblical study as higher criticism. "Higher criticism," he said, "really becomes lower condemnation."

Both Strack and Smith expressed support for Stanley's highly-publicized comments that AIDS is God's judgment on homosexuals for disobedience. "I believe God's curse is not so much upon those who pervert sex," said Strack, but "God's curse is upon those who pervert the Scriptures."

Smith, in a message on the family, urged wives to be submissive to their husbands "just as if he were God." He offered five reasons why wives should be submissive--because in doing so, she is being submissive to Christ; because it leads to depending upon God, not upon self; because it gives a sense of spiritual satisfaction; because it creates a "new husband" and because it will change the wife's image.

"Never, never, never is adultery and fornication excusable and justifiable," Smith said. but adding when the wife fails to meet the sexual needs of her husband, she is partly to blame if the husband is unfaithful to her.

In another message, Smith outlined seven conditions for real revival to happen--when it is in the providence of God, when the hearts of Christians are broken for the non-Christian, when Christians have a spirit of prayer, when preachers focus their attention on revival, when Christians confess their sins, when Christians make the necessary sacrifices and when it is done God's way instead of man's way.

"If genuine revival really came, some of our state (Baptist) papers would explain it away," Smith said. He told of leading a "revival when 1,400 persons were saved" and yet it barely got a mention in the state Baptist paper. "When real revival comes, it ought to be on the front page of every state paper in America," he said.

Other speakers on the three-day program included Manley Beasley, evangelist from Euless, Texas; Bill Stafford, evangelist from Chattanooga, Tenn.; and John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston. Except for Falwell, the program was similar to a conference sponsored earlier this year by "Real Evangelism" at First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas.

During the closing session, there was an appeal for prayer for the upcoming "Good News America: God Loves You" simultaneous revivals throughout the Southern Baptist Convention this spring, by Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

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Free Enterprise, Family Values
Go Hand-In-Hand, Bush Insists

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
3/5/86

DALLAS (BP)--Vice President George Bush told about 1,400 people at Dallas Baptist University's second annual Business and Christian Leadership Banquet in Dallas March 3 that free enterprise and traditional family values go together.

"I believe that a nation, if it's to succeed in achieving greater growth through allowing greater freedom and free enterprise, has got to put its faith in the strength that comes from family, and it comes from each of us in knowing personally the power of God's love," Bush said.

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Free enterprise is growing in many countries of the world, he said, singling out Communist China, which has "decided to let people keep a little of what they earn."

The Communist Chinese have abandoned their war on the family and are building on the strength of the family, Bush said. "I would like to see the next step be permitting more freedom of worship," he added.

He recalled attending services with a "little embattled" congregation in China a number of years ago, noting "I felt something special there in a totalitarian society of a billion people deprived of religious freedom."

But he reported today the Chinese are permitting distribution of Bibles and said, "I can't help but believe that if it goes further in permitting religious freedom, they will find inner strength and vitality."

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Hospital Chaplain Urges
Ministry To Family Abusers

By Sherri Anthony Brown

Baptist Press
3/5/86

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Citing statistics that one million children are abused in the United States each year, a hospital chaplain told fellow chaplains, "if we are to minister to family abusers, we must recognize our own participation in abuse."

"We prefer to ignore some of the harsher realities of life," said Wesley Monfalcone, director of chaplaincy at Martin Memorial Hospital in Stuart, Fla., during a national conference at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of chaplaincy.

"We resist things threatening and frightening," added Monfalcone. "But if chaplains are to be helpful, they must be realistic."

Monfalcone, author of the book, "Coping With Abuse in the Family," spoke four times on "ministry to the abused and the abuser," saying the problem of family abuse is far more pervasive than most people want to admit.

As a result of more than one million cases of child abuse annually, up to 4,000 deaths occur each year, he said.

An additional 4,000 women die annually from spouse abuse, he said. Six million American women in any year are beaten by their husbands or boyfriends. It is the largest cause for injuries to women, Monfalcone said.

Spouse abuse is not limited to husbands beating their wives, he added. Each year 282,000 American men are beaten by their wives or girlfriends.

Each year two million elderly people are abused. Most are white women, living with a relative.

"We are all capable of abuse," he said. "We all have the potential for the highest and lowest behavior."

Monfalcone pointed out subtle abusive behavior that almost everyone commits, often unknowingly. Such incidents include ignoring people, being inconsiderate, carrying a grudge, invasion of privacy, scape-goating and neglect of affection or care.

Several dynamics of family abuse can help the chaplains understand the abuser, Monfalcone said. The first is the shadow-self. "We all want to present a self that is good," he explained.

The two most widely suppressed feelings--especially among Christians--are anger and sexuality, he added, noting, "It takes energy to keep these feelings suppressed, and the feelings tend to control us."

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Events of one's life develop a script that often is lived out. "Consistently telling a child 'You'll never amount to anything,' will almost guarantee he won't amount to anything," Monfalcone pointed out.

A person who abuses another family member has almost certainly been abused previously, he said. "The cycle is strong."

Another dynamic deals with fear. "Often abusers want all their basic needs met by their spouse or child, but all (needs) cannot be met by another human," said Monfalcone.

His final characteristic of an abuser is stress, he said. Most people involved in severe abuse have a high level of stress and a low tolerance for stress.

To be an effective minister to abusers, Monfalcone encouraged the chaplains first to realize that family abuse exists and to refuse to be blinded by appearances which can be deceiving.

He also suggested helping to create a climate of trust in churches and to encourage churches to offer shelter and counseling for both the abuser and the abused. Some programs also offer ways to reduce stress--parenting classes, sitting services for both children and elderly people.

Most importantly, said Monfalcone, chaplains must approach counseling with humility. "If you talk with someone who has been abused, you will come across superior if you do not recognize that everyone participates in abuse," he insisted.

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Baptist Joint Committee
Adopts Infiltration Position

By Kathy Palen

Baptist Press
3/5/86

WASHINGTON (BP)--Noting an emerging pattern of government insensitivity to the rights of churches, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has adopted a position statement on government infiltration of churches.

The infiltration statement was approved during the annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee, which is made up of 42 members representing eight U.S. Baptist denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition to approving the position statement, the committee also authorized a task-force study on the teaching of religion and values in public schools, adopted a proposed budget for 1986-87 and heard reports on ongoing work by Baptist Joint Committee staff.

In its position statement, the committee pointed to an increased willingness of the government to infringe upon the free exercise of religion and to intrude into churches without regarding separation of church and state.

According to the statement: "The BJCPA condemns the use of paid informants, undercover agents and surreptitious tactics by any government agency investigating religious organizations as improper and illegal when less intrusive means of investigation or fact gathering are available. We lament the chilling effect upon worship, prayer, faith and fellowship freely exercised when worship services are invaded through the use of electronic eavesdropping equipment. We abhor government agents' fraudulent use of the name of Jesus Christ to gain access to the household of faith."

The task force that drafted the position statement was set up last year following a report on alleged church infiltration by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service agents and paid informants, who tape recorded worship services in Phoenix, Tucson and Scottsdale, Ariz.

The position statement also calls upon Baptists to be alert to government intrusion into churches and to report any such intrusions to the Baptist Joint Committee.

A proposed resolution introduced by Albert Lee Smith, a Southern Baptist representative from Birmingham, Ala., sparked the authorization of a task-force study on the teaching of religion and values in public schools.

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Smith's resolution, which cited a research study conducted by Paul Vitz for the National Institute of Education, called for recognition of the lack of references to "the history, heritage, beliefs and values" of religion in American social studies and history textbooks. Smith also asked the committee to "affirm that religion has made a valuable contribution to the formation and development of our country and that it still does today."

Following discussion on the proposed resolution, Robert Tiller, director of governmental relations for the American Baptist Churches, USA, called for the formation of a task force to study the issues raised by Smith's resolution. Tiller's motion was approved by the committee with one dissenting vote.

In other business:

The committee adopted a proposed 1986-87 budget of \$598,200, of which \$435,700 would come from the SBC Cooperative Program budget.

James M. Dunn, Baptist Joint Committee executive director, presented a report on denominational Bible chairs at state universities. Dunn said the Baptist Joint Committee is continuing to work with Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox on developing guidelines that would maintain such chairs in that state without violating the First Amendment.

The committee heard a progress report concerning representation on the Baptist Joint Committee. Currently, the committee's governing board includes 15 representatives from the SBC; 11 from American Baptist Churches, USA; two from Baptist General Conference; three from National Baptist Convention of America; two from National Baptist Convention, USA Inc.; three from North American Baptist Conference; three from Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc.; and three from Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

The committee elected each of its current officers to a second term. They are Wes Forsline, American Baptist pastor in Minneapolis, chairperson; Lloyd Elder, SBC Sunday School Board president from Nashville, Tenn., first vice chairperson; Violet Ankrum, Progressive National Baptist layperson from Washington, second vice chairperson; and Donald Anderson, Baptist General Conference editor from Arlington Heights, Ill., secretary.

The committee also heard staff reports on the four programs assigned to the Baptist Joint Committee: government relations, information services, denominational services, and research and legal services.

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Challenge To Airport Chapel
Gets High Court Green Light

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press
3/5/86

WASHINGTON (BP)—A group of Cleveland taxpayers seeking to mount a legal challenge against a chapel at Hopkins International Airport in effect has received a green light from the Supreme Court to take city officials and the local Roman Catholic diocese to court.

The dispute centers on an agreement reached three years ago between the city and diocese to construct a chapel in a shopping mall along one of the concourses of the airport. When a trio of Cleveland taxpayers took initial legal action against the arrangement, the city and diocese entered a counterclaim that because the three could not show they were adversely affected economically, they should not be allowed to proceed with the lawsuit.

Although a federal district court ruled two years ago the taxpayers lacked such legal standing, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed, holding that while the matter of economic interest was open to question, the taxpayers had established sufficient "noneconomic" interest to be allowed to proceed.

By refusing to disturb that decision, the Supreme Court in effect handed the taxpayers a preliminary victory allowing them to file a new suit on the merits of their claims. (85-1168, Cleveland v. Hawley)

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High Court Rejects New
Christmas Display Case

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Louisiana man whose elaborate Christmas display brought down the wrath of neighbors who claimed it was a nuisance has lost the final round of a long legal battle against local authorities and state courts who agreed with the neighbors.

Alvin C. Copeland, who beginning in 1978 set up various figures and scenes of the season--religious and secular--had asked the Supreme Court to overrule an earlier decision by Louisiana's highest tribunal that ordered the display disassembled and had the Metairie man jailed for contempt of court.

Copeland's legal difficulties began when three of his neighbors filed suit against him in a state court, seeking an injunction forbidding the display. They were subsequently joined in their suit by the local governmental unit, Jefferson Parish. After a trial, the state panel issued a ruling limiting the number of days and hours Copeland was allowed to illuminate the display and play recorded seasonal music.

After another round in a state appeals court, the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled against Copeland, agreeing with neighbors and town officials that the display was a public nuisance. Last December, after Copeland set up another such display--this time including only religious symbols and music--that panel ordered him jailed for contempt.

In his unsuccessful appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, Copeland argued in written papers that his freedoms of religion and speech were being violated. As to his conviction on the nuisance charge, he pointed to the annual Mardi Gras celebration and large crowds around football stadiums as evidences he was singled out for prosecution. (85-977, Copeland v. Rodrigue)

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Former Editor Joins
Fort Worth Magazine

Baptist Press
3/5/86

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Don Turner, former editor of the Rocky Mountain Baptist, newsjournal for the Colorado Baptist General Convention, is new managing editor for Fulness magazine.

Ras Robinson, president of the Fort Worth, Texas-based magazine, made the announcement March 3.

"Our purpose at Fulness is to offer encouragement in knowing the fulness of Christ," Robinson said.

Turner fills a post vacated by Kathryn Bohlin, who has become manager of circulation and advertising. She was managing editor from the inception of the magazine seven years ago.

Turner, a journalism graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, previously worked on the Amarillo (Texas) Globe-News and the Odessa (Texas) American.

He was pastor of First Baptist Church of Midkiff, Texas, before assuming editorship of the Rocky Mountain Baptist in 1982. That position was vacated in November 1985 following financial problems of the Colorado convention.

Fulness published its first issue in January 1978 with the support of a number of Southern Baptist pastors who had expressed the need for a magazine of spiritual growth primarily for Southern Baptists. It is predominantly Southern Baptist in its readership and board composition. Robinson, president and editor, founded the magazine after having been manager of the products division of Broadman Press.

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