



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 15, 1986

86-54

Baptist Friends Try To Make
Sense Of FBI Killer's Life

By Greg Warner

MIAMI (BP)—Members of Miami's Riverside Baptist Church knew Bill Matix as a quiet, hard-working man struggling to overcome his first wife's violent death. They are hard-pressed to explain the 34-year-old's role in the death of two FBI agents in a shootout that also cost Matix his life.

Matix and Michael Platt, 32, a close friend, neighbor and business associate, were shot to death April 11 in the Miami suburb of Kendall after what was labeled the bloodiest gunfight in FBI history.

Police say Matix and Platt, suspects in six Miami bank and armored car robberies and four murders, were overtaken by seven FBI agents pursuing the pair in four cars. Matix, an ex-Marine armed with a semi-automatic rifle, emerged from his disabled car and, according to police, killed two FBI agents. The other five all were wounded.

As the suspects then tried to flee in one of the cars, a wounded agent crawled to the car window, stood and shot them both.

Even police had difficulty linking such violence to the lifestyles of their two chief suspects in the robberies—men they described as "good fathers" and "family men."

"We thought we would find a bunch of neo-Nazi survivalists who didn't care if they lived or died," Metro-Dade Sgt. Tony Monheim told the Miami Herald. "This was a real shock."

Both Matix and Platt lived in comfortable suburban Miami homes and were described by neighbors as quiet and hard-working. They were partners in a landscaping business.

Emit Ray, pastor of Riverside Church, where Matix was a member until about a year ago, told the Herald he counseled the young man several times about his grief over his wife, who was stabbed to death in an unsolved robbery/murder in Ohio in 1983. "We thought William Matix was a man who needed help," Ray said. "We didn't know then how much."

Members of Riverside's singles group recalled Matix, who had a two-year-old daughter, dated several women from the church and seemed eager to remarry. Last summer he met and married a woman from Wayside Church and moved his membership there, though he reportedly seldom attended. The marriage lasted only a month.

Platt, whom Matix met in the military, also lost his first wife to a violent death. Regina Platt's death, from a shotgun blast to the head in 1984, was ruled a suicide. Platt also remarried and lived with his wife and four children.

Matix was featured last month in an article in Home Life, published by the Baptist Sunday School Board, in which he told of his conversion to Christianity in 1979, his wife's murder and his effort to recover.

The article, by free-lance writer Doris Miller, was based on Matix's personal testimony, which he reportedly had delivered often in revival services during the past few years. Reuben Herring, editor of the magazine, said the article, one of 1,200 unsolicited manuscripts received each month, was accepted for publication 15 months ago.

One unidentified woman who dated Matix said he was a gentle man who doted over his daughter.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, TN

"What bothers me about this whole thing is this was somebody I met in church, not in a bar," she told the Herald. "He would date someone a short time and right away want to make a commitment. I felt sorry for him. I thought he wanted to replace his wife because he was hurt so badly."

One Riverside member told the Herald Matix "always had something nice to say.... He talked the whole religious lingo like we do. I thought he was a very nice man, but I thought there was alot of hostility in him."

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Board Elects Texan As Chairman,
Reaffirms Its Seminary Policy

By Bob Stanley

Baptist Press
4/15/86

DENVER, Colo. (BP)—By a vote of 38-32, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board elected Robert E. Smith of Weslaco, Texas, as its new chairman April 11.

Smith, retired director of missions for the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association, edged out C. Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. Both are veteran members of the 83-member board, which supervises the work of more than 3,700 missionaries in 106 countries.

It was the closest the board has come to a division resulting from the theological controversy which has gripped the Southern Baptist Convention in recent years. Corts, while a strong supporter of missions and the SBC Cooperative Program, was viewed by some board members as representing fundamental-conservative viewpoints. Smith would be viewed by most as falling within moderate-conservative ranks.

M.W. (Buck) Buckalew, a layman from Falls Church, Va., was elected first vice chairman, 40 to 31, over Howard Baldwin, a multimedia evangelist from Richmond, Va. The other two officers, Claude Kirkpatrick of Baton Rouge, La., second vice chairman, and Mary Dalton of Asheville, N.C., recording secretary, were elected by acclamation.

Contacted for comment, Corts said the similarity of the votes both for the chairman and the first vice chairman indicated to him that people were voting along "party lines."

"My sense of concern lies not with the results—I can live with that—but with the process which some of the board members evidently employed in injecting politics, accusations, innuendo into the process," Corts said. He added, however, he respects Smith and in no way was trying to implicate him in this process. "I will support him fully," he said.

Gene Triggs, board member from Yazoo City, Miss., said phone calls were made on both sides before the election. "My concern was to elect someone who would work well with Dr. Parks and the board staff in furthering the cause of world missions," he said. "I respect Mark (Corts) and feel he's a valuable member of the board. But I felt that Bob Smith, because of his service on various committees and more recently as chairman of the board's Administrative Committee, was ideally suited to be promoted to chairman of the board."

At the same meeting, members of the board's Human Resources Committee rejected a bid to appoint graduates of Mid-America Seminary directly without their having to do a year's study at one of the six seminaries sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a report to the full board, the committee reaffirmed the board's long-standing policy requiring that, for career missionary assignments where a seminary degree is necessary, "the degree must be from an SBC seminary or an accredited seminary plus one year of study (26 semester hours) at an SBC seminary."

Mid-America is located in Memphis, Tenn., and supported directly by that city's 16,000-member Bellevue Baptist Church and other churches which accuse the Southern Baptist seminaries of becoming too liberal in their theology. Mid-America's faculty includes former Southern Baptist missionaries and places emphasis on missions. Bellevue's pastor, Adrian Rogers, has announced he is willing to be nominated to succeed Charles Stanley as SBC president at the 1986 annual meeting in Atlanta.

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Proponents of the plan to appoint Mid-America graduates without further training at an SBC seminary emphasize many of its preachers feel called to missions but face financial obstacles in being required to do an additional year's study at an SBC seminary.

The board's guideline statements, which were in effect before Mid-America was founded, were adopted primarily to deal with candidates from Princeton, Yale, Fuller, Vanderbilt, Dallas Theological Seminary and others. The board has said through statements it believes its missionaries, supported by Southern Baptists, need the strong identification with the denomination and its goals which attendance at an SBC seminary helps provide.

At the close of the three-day meeting, the board's outgoing chairman, Harrell R. Cushing of Gadsden, Ala., warned that board members need to unite in developing a "genuine and high level of real and honest-to-goodness trust in each other and staff and in what we're doing."

Cushing said he could remember the day before Southern Baptists became embroiled in the recent theological controversy "when we didn't ask, 'Whose side is this person on?' and I regret that we're asking that question today."

He said he believes God has entrusted Southern Baptists with "the greatest missionary force the world has ever seen in all of Christendom."

The devil, he warned, is always pleased when he can create problems and difficulty in the cause of Christ. "If we're not careful," he said, "we'll let the devil undermine the confidence, the trust, the commitment we ought to have in this which God really wants to bless in a great way."

Cushing also called on board members personally to become involved in working to provide stronger financial support for foreign missions, from the local church level up to the convention's Executive Committee.

"I do believe we ought to reach our country for Christ," he said. "I know there are more lost people in America than in many of the places where we serve in our world. But when you measure resources being expended totally to the people of this country (against) the needs of the foreign fields, not only those in which we are now serving but those in which we ought to be serving, the comparison is almost unbelievable in the fact that the foreign mission enterprise is so greatly lacking in support and resources being made available to it."

The board's April meeting was the first held in Colorado. It ended with an appointment service at Denver's Downtown Auditorium Arena, where Baptists from Colorado and neighboring states witnessed the naming of 69 new missionaries. Hundreds of people came forward at the close of the service to get pins signifying they will pray daily for world missions.

One former missionary was reappointed and 64 journeymen were employed pending medical clearance and successful completion of training July 25. These additions will bring the total new personnel added so far this year to 158.

Davis Saunders, director for work in Eastern and Southern Africa, presented an oval plaque on which the Ethiopian government expressed its appreciation for relief and rehabilitation aid which Southern Baptists have provided to Ethiopian drought victims.

Recently the board allocated another \$1.6 million for hunger relief in Ethiopia, where Baptist missionaries and volunteers are operating five feeding centers. This brings total Southern Baptist allocations for relief in that country to \$3.9 million since the denomination opened its first feeding station in Rabel in early 1985.

Ethiopian government officials have praised the Southern Baptist effort as a model they would like to see other relief agencies follow.

The board also voted \$10,000 as "seed money" for an endowment to help provide scholarships for Southern Baptist black students wanting to enter seminary or blacks wanting to do volunteer work overseas. The board hopes black churches and others will contribute to the fund to make it possible for more blacks to participate in foreign missions.

President R. Keith Parks updated members on response to his February report to the board in which he stressed the need for Southern Baptists to be open to any changes that may be necessary in their foreign missions outreach to accomplish Bold Mission Thrust. Parks said he had received about 200 letters from missionaries and 50 to 55 memos from staff offering their suggestions on changes that may be needed.

Two key ideas that have emerged thus far, he said, involve setting up a top-level global evangelization strategy group and providing a special room at the board where visual displays could portray both current world trends and what needs to be done to share the gospel efficiently in view of these realities.

Parks said he hopes to have more specific proposals ready for the board to evaluate at its Ridgecrest, N.C., meeting in late June and then have definite plans ready to present in October.

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Baptist Press
4/15/86

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE
June 7-9, 1986
Wieuca Road Baptist Church
Atlanta, Georgia

June 7, 1986

Saturday Afternoon, Session I

Presiding: Harry L. Cowan, president

Coordinator: Gary Ingle, educational, West

1:30--Call to Order--Harry L. Cowan, minister of music, First Baptist Church, New Orleans

--Welcome to Wieuca Road Baptist Church--Robert Snead, minister of music, Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta

--Welcome to Georgia--Warren Fields, director, church music department, Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia, Atlanta

1:35--Worship--William J. Reynolds, leader, associate professor of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Al Travis, organist, professor of organ, Southwestern seminary, Fort Worth; Robert Blocker, pianist, dean, School of Music, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

2:00--Concert--Shorter College Chorale, Shorter College, Rome, Ga.; John Jennings, director

2:30--Selected Repertoire Reading Session for Church Choir--Don Fontana, minister of music, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, Calif.

3:30--B.B. McKinney As Remembered By The People--Robert Hastings, editor emeritus, Illinois Baptist, Springfield, Ill.

4:00--Concert--William N. Robinson Family, Kingsport, Tenn.

4:30--Address: "Vignettes of The Music Minister In Southern Baptist Life"--Hugh McElrath, professor of church music, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

5:00--Benediction--Gary Ingle, chairman, music department, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.

Saturday Evening, Session II

Presiding: A.L. "Pete" Butler, vice president, educational, chairman, School of Music, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Coordinator: Paul Magar, denominational, west, associate director, church music department, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City

6:30--Mini-Concert--Al Travis, organist

6:50--Concert--Dawson Memorial Baptist Church Choir, Birmingham, Ala.; Bob Hatfield, director

7:20--B.B. McKinney--"The Churchman Years"--William J. Reynolds

7:35--Choral Techniques--Don Fontana

--Demonstration Choir--Wieuca Road Baptist Church Choir; Robert Snead, director

8:35--Concert--Kentucky Baptist Chorale; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Male Chorale; Don Hustad, director

"The Revelation of St. John the Divine"--Dominick Argento

9:10--Benediction--Don Browning, minister of music, First Southern Baptist Church, Glendale, Ariz.

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June 8, 1986

Sunday Afternoon, Session III

1:30—Registration desk opens

—Music exhibits open

2:30—Mini-Concert—Robert Blocker, pianist

2:50—Concert—Young Singers of Callanwolde, Atlanta; Stephen Ortlip, director

3:20—B.B. McKinney—"The Denominational Years"—W. Hines Sims, retired director, church music department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Shalimar, Fla.

3:35—Church Musicians of Tomorrow - Part I

1. Lewis Oswalt, tenor, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary student

2. Angela Ray, soprano, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student

3. David Mellnik, baritone, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary student

4:05—Personal Development & Enrichment of the Church Musician: I. The Body—Ray Conner, director, church recreation department, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn.

4:35—Concert—Georgetown College Chorale, Georgetown, Ky.; Tony Whitfield, director

5:05—Benediction—Ron Bostic, dean, School of Music, Wingate College, Wingate, N.C.

Sunday Evening, Session IV

Presiding: Susan Clark, vice president, local church, minister of music, Oakdale Baptist Church, Brandon, Miss.

Coordinator: Dick Ham, local church, east, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky.

7:00—Choral Worship—Wieuca Road Baptist Church Choir; Robert Snead, director

7:30—Offertory Hymn—William J. Reynolds

—Offertory Prayer—W. Hines Sims

—Offertory—Mark Hayes, pianist, musician and composer, Kansas City, Mo.

7:45—Personal Development and Enrichment of the Church Musician: II. The Mind—John Hewett, pastor, First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C.

8:15—Commissioned Anthem: "Psalm of Celebration"—Mark Hayes

8:20—Concert—Hardin-Simmons University Choir, Abilene, Texas; Loyd Hawthorne, director

8:50—Benediction—Harry Eskew, professor of church music, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

9:00—Reception—Sponsored by the department of church music, Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia and Wieuca Road Baptist Church

June 9, 1986

Monday Morning, Session V

Presiding: Wade Davis, vice president, denominational, associate director, church music department, Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia, Atlanta

Coordinator: Ron Bostic, editor of publications

9:00—Worship—William J. Reynolds, leader; Al Travis, organist; Robert Blocker, pianist

9:30—President's Address—Harry L. Cowan

9:45—30th Anniversary of SBCMC, 1957-1986—W. Hines Sims; Paul McCommon, retired director, church music department, Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia, Atlanta

10:15—Break

10:45—Annual Business Session

—Recognition of SBCMC Charter Members

—Recognition of Church Musicians (30 years or more of active service)

—Recognition of SBCMC Presidents

—Presentation of Honorary Memberships—Ken Osbrink, retired minister of music, Central Baptist Church, Miami, Fla.; Paul McCommon; Robert Douglas, distinguished professor of musicology, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth

—W. Hines Sims Award—Donald Winters, retired dean, School of Music, William Carey College, Hattisburg, Miss.

11:30—Concert—North Carolina Singing Churchmen; Charles Gatwood, director

12:00—Benediction—Mary June Tabor, associate director, church music department, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City

Monday Afternoon, Session VI

Presiding: A.L. "Pete" Butler, vice president, education

Coordinator: John Gardner, denominational, east, design and process specialist, church and staff support division, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn.

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- 1:30—Worship—William J. Reynolds, leader; Al Travis, organist; Robert Blocker, pianist
 2:00—Concert—Junior High Choir, First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas; Gerald Ware, director
 2:30—Choir Enrichment: Motivation and Development—Don Fontana
 3:15—Break
 3:45—Concert—Tennessee Baptist Chorale; Julian S. Suggs, director, church music department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, Tenn.
 4:15—Division Meetings
 Local Church.....Chapel
 Presiding: Susan Clark, vice president, local church
 Panel Discussion: "How To Have A Successful Youth Choir"
 Panel: Polly Epps, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Social Circle, Ga.
 Jack Gantt, minister of music, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Carrollton, Ga.
 Billy Jack Green, minister of music, Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.

 Denomination.....Sl01
 Presiding: Wade Davis, vice president, denomination
 Address: "Current Trends in Congregational Song"—Terry York, literary design editor, church music department, BSSB, Nashville

 Education.....Choir Room
 Presiding: A.L. "Pete" Butler, vice president, education
 Address: "The Gospel In Music"—Louis Ball, chairman, division of fine arts, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.
 5:15—Adjourn for Dinner

Monday Evening, Session VII

- 6:45—Church Musicians of Tomorrow - Part II
 1. David Kirk, tenor, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary student
 2. Margie Story, soprano, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary student
 3. John Blizzard, baritone, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student
 7:15—Concert—Augusta First Baptist Church Choir, Augusta, Ga.; Glenn Adkins, director
 7:45—Offertory Prayer—Donald Winters
 —Offertory—Jane Martin, organist, assistant minister of music, Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta
 7:50—Concert—Frank Little, chairman, music department, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.
 8:20—Personal Development and Enrichment of the Church Musician: III. The Spirit—John Hewett
 8:50—Concert—Florida Singing Men and Women; Paul Bobbitt, director, church music department, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla.
 9:20—Installation of New Officers
 9:30—Benediction—Hugh McElrath, president-elect

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Church Musicians To Celebrate
 30 Years Of Combined Strength

Baptist Press
 4/15/86

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist musicians will look to the past, present and future when they convene for the 30th anniversary session of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference in Atlanta June 7-9.

"We will be celebrating 30 years of strengthening musicians through fellowship and through spiritual and musical renewal," said Harry Cowan, president of the organization and minister of music at First Baptist Church of New Orleans. The meeting will be held at Wieuca Road Baptist Church immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 10-12.

"We are going to take a look at the church musician—the past, present and future," Cowan said. "We started (as an organization) in Chicago in 1957. We will take a look at our roots,...and come up to the present day. Then we will have six seminary students share performances with us as we look at church musicians in the future.

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"We also will observe the 100th anniversary of the birth of B.B. McKinney, Southern Baptists' best-known writer of gospel hymns," he noted. "We will have people who have been closely associated with him—W. Hines Sims and William J. Reynolds, both former directors of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department, and Robert Hastings, his biographer—sharing some things about his life and the contributions he made to Southern Baptists."

In addition, participants will focus on the body, mind and spirit of the church musician, he said. Ray Conner, director of the Sunday School Board's church recreation department, will speak on the body. John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C., will discuss the mind and spirit.

The conference also will feature the premiere of the organization's anthem commissioned for this year, "Psalm of Celebration" by composer Mark Hayes of Kansas City, Mo.

Don Fontana, minister of music at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, Calif., and former music conductor at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., will lead three sessions on professional skill development.

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(Editor's Note: Following is the third in a four-part series exploring the implications of the ongoing school prayer debate.)

Despite Resolution, Baptist
Views Vary On School Prayer

By Kathy Palen

Baptist Press
4/15/86

WASHINGTON (BP)—Messengers to the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention approved a resolution supporting a then-pending constitutional amendment, sponsored by President Reagan, that would have banned any constitutional prohibition of vocal prayer in public schools.

The resolution traced the "considerable confusion as to the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution with regard to prayer in schools" to 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decisions. It also cited public school officials and lower courts' frequent misinterpretation of those decisions as a "ban on voluntary prayer."

In spite of that resolution—the one most recently approved by SBC messengers—Baptists within the convention hold varying opinions on legislation of prayer in public schools.

Skeet Workman, a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, said she favors school prayer because "God loves nations that honor him and place him first." She said the Supreme Court's decision to remove prayer from public school classrooms "broke God's heart." Following that 1962 decision, along with the high court's decision on abortion in Roe v. Wade, "the moral climate in America began to change," Workman said.

Noting the apathy of Christians about the school prayer issue, Workman—who moved adoption of the 1982 SBC resolution—said, "Sometimes I think we're more afraid of what people think than what God does. As Christians we should say, 'Let our children pray.'"

A Richmond, Va., pastor, however, called "organized and official prayer observances" in public schools inappropriate because they violate the principle of separation of church and state.

"People have forgotten that the fact is the law has to be written to cover all cases," said James Slatton, pastor of Richmond's River Road Baptist Church. "When they try to insinuate their own religious preferences into the public arena, they fail to realize that opens the door to all kinds of abuses."

In agreement with Slatton is the pastor of a Southern Baptist church in the predominantly Mormon state of Utah. "Being in an area where we are the minority, I realize the danger of legislating such an issue," said Terry Minchow-Proffitt, pastor of Salt Lake City's University Baptist Church.

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Minchow-Proffitt said many Southern Baptists are unaware of the ramifications of legislative action on school prayer. Describing his own situation, he said any religious observance, including prayer, in Utah public schools would to some extent have a Mormon bias. While that bias probably would be expressed in subtle ways, "students who don't understand could get swept up in it," he said.

Workman said she does not accept such an argument against school prayer. "We underestimate what Jesus Christ can do," she said. "God plus one is a majority."

Coercion should not be used to involve schoolchildren in prayer, said Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

"I am very strongly supportive of students' having the right to gather in voluntary groups outside the classroom to pray together," Allen said, adding, "I don't want anybody being coerced into being in a prayer group or session."

Allen said while he supports students' having equal access to school facilities for extracurricular activities such as prayer groups, he does not think a student who does not believe in prayer should have to participate. Nor, he added, does he think that student should be forced to listen to a prayer within the classroom setting.

The president of a Southern Baptist college shares Allen's views. Larry Lewis, president of Missouri's Hannibal-LaGrange College, said he supports equal access legislation because it "allows the same privilege to religious groups as to any other group."

Lewis said, however, he is "reticent to favor any law that would insist on prayer and Bible reading in a school program." He said public schoolteachers, who are paid government employees, should not lead children in religious exercises or teaching.

As for the silent prayer amendment now awaiting U.S. Senate action, Slatton called the idea "silly." He said no such legislation is needed, since silent prayer already is possible in public schools.

Allen said the right to silent prayer is a "moot question" since a person could pray silently even "in a Siberian concentration camp" because no one else would know about it. As to a legislated moment of silence in public schools, Allen said, "I don't see great value in it-- except maybe in saying we have the right."

Slatton argued proponents of school prayer actually are "talking about the right to impose religious observances on people." He said he would like "to explode the nonsense of banning God" from the classroom, since "you can't ban God from any place." What the Supreme Court decisions of the 1960s did do, Slatton said, was to protect students from being required "to go through religious observances while on school property under the supervision of the state."

Students should have the right to believe and also the right not to believe, Slatton said. He summed up the school prayer issue with the illustration that "it is a good thing to take a bath, but not on Main Street at high noon."

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Southern Seminary Trustees
Stress Confidence In Faculty

Baptist Press
4/15/86

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--After investigating all concerns raised by the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee, trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., commended the seminary faculty as teaching and writing in accordance with the seminary's statement of faith.

Meeting in annual session April 7-9, trustees voted 39-12 to adopt a unanimous report by the 11-member trustee Academic Personnel Committee. The report concluded "the faculty members cited in the concerns have both taught and written in accordance with and not contrary to the Abstract of Principles."

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The Abstract of Principles is the 1858 statement of faith included in the seminary charter and is signed by all faculty at Southern.

The report added "all faculty members should be commended for their sincere quest for truth and should be encouraged to continue such quest in the years ahead."

Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt said the committee, in its discussion, "recognized many of the concerns raised to be legitimate questions of individual Southern Baptists which deserved serious consideration. The committee sought to act redemptively in each situation, and determined, following extensive examination, that all faculty are teaching and writing within the guidelines of the Abstract of Principles."

While maintaining the Abstract of Principles as the governing statement of faith for Southern seminary, the trustees joined the seminary faculty in affirming the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement and requested it be used in the recommendation of faculty to teach at the seminary. In a unanimously-adopted 1984 declaration, the seminary stated, "We further support and commend with other Southern Baptists the 1963 'Baptist Faith and Message,' specifically its statement on the Bible."

In one of their final actions, trustees adopted a Resolution of Thanksgiving in which they expressed appreciation to Honeycutt, theology dean G. Willis Bennett and faculty members about whom concerns were expressed by the Peace Committee for the way in which they "took seriously their need to respond cooperatively and openly to the concerns."

Honeycutt indicated appreciation for the work of the seminary's trustees. "We are thankful for the board of trustees and for the diversity which they represent," he said.

In other actions, trustees:

--designated the chapel in the proposed Campus Center Complex as the Badgett Dillard Memorial Chapel, honoring the 33-year service of the seminary's executive vice president who died on March 29. They also announced establishment of a memorial fund for this purpose and invited contributions of persons wishing to honor the veteran administrator.

--heard Honeycutt's president's report, in which he announced major gifts totalling more than \$3 million in the first quarter of 1986, and reported a rise in spring enrollment, including a 20 percent jump in entering students at the master's level.

--adopted an operating budget of \$13,226,805 for the 1986-87 fiscal year, and a \$650,000 capital need budget.

--increased the salary scale for all seminary employees by 3 percent.

--elected three new members to the board of directors of the Southern Seminary Foundation-- Charles Barnes of Louisville, Ky.; Weldon Cole of Stamford, Conn.; and Judy Rose of London, Ky.

--elected new officers for the board--Perry Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., chairman; Emil Williams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark., first vice chairman; George Steincross, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Mo., second vice chairman; and Fred Pfannenschmidt, president of Gibson/Pfannenschmidt Realtors, Louisville, secretary.

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Mercer Wins \$2.4 Million
In Federal Asbestos Suit

Baptist Press
4/15/86

MACON, Ga. (BP)--A Federal Court jury has awarded Mercer University \$2.4 million in damages against two manufacturers of asbestos-containing material discovered and removed from Mercer's buildings.

The jury's April 11 award includes compensatory damages for the costs Mercer incurred in removing the products from three buildings on the Mercer Atlanta campus and \$1 million in punitive damages against each of the two defendants--National Gypsum Company and W.R. Grace and Company.

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Mercer brought suit in April 1985 to recover the costs of removing and replacing the asbestos materials in buildings on both its Macon and Atlanta campuses. The materials of concern have the potential to release respirable asbestos fibers which have been associated with cancer and other diseases. The Macon buildings were excluded from the case in March because of the statute of limitations.

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Braidfoot Cites Dangers
Of Legalized Gambling

By Breena Kent

Baptist Press
4/15/86

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—"If we think we will ever proclaim the gospel to the entire world while lacking the moral commitment to keep legalized gambling out of our own states and homes, we're kidding ourselves," said Larry Braidfoot in a chapel address at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The director of Christian citizenship development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission said gambling is "resorting to short-range solutions to problems that can only be solved by long-range planning. We are being encouraged to care for our own needs and not look out for the needs of others."

Braidfoot, author of "Gambling: The Deadly Sin," said Americans wagered \$152 billion in legalized gambling in 1985, and there are an estimated eight million impulsive gamblers in the nation today.

"Impulsive gambling is the same as alcoholism," he said. "The only difference is that impulsive gambling is harder to cure."

The president of Scientific Games, a corporation which "spends millions of dollars getting lotteries established in states," reported that not one state lottery game is played primarily by the middle- or upper-class population, Braidfoot noted.

"And yet you visit 10 minutes with the mayor-elect of New Orleans and he spouts a different story told by the gambling industries from studies that say everyone who plays is nice and white and makes somewhere between \$15,000 to \$30,000," he said.

"Legislators are so gullible. What do they expect the lottery industry to say? That we're taking bread and milk money out of the mouths of children?"

Braidfoot also said bankers and real estate salesmen who believe they can keep taxes down by supporting legalized gambling may be surprised when bankruptcy occurs as a result of embezzlement.

As an example, he told the story of a man who over six months wagered \$9 million and lost in an Atlantic City casino. The bank the man worked for soon discovered it was \$9 million short.

"The temptation of the state is to look out for its own needs and not others," said Braidfoot. However, he emphasized a basic concern of the United States government as set forth in the Constitution is "to promote the general welfare."

"That's something Christians and non-Christians alike can certainly agree on more than we've been able to," he said.

Nevertheless, many people do not oppose legalized gambling for fear of being labeled as "meddling, conservative, bleeding-heart, do-gooders," he said.

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