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April 29, 1986

86-62

President Names
SBC Committees

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)--Persons to serve on the 1986 Committee on Committees and Resolutions Committee have been named by Southern Baptist Convention President Charles F. Stanley.

The two committees are appointed by the convention president and do not require ratification by messengers to the annual meeting, scheduled June 10-12 in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The 54-member Committee on Committees, composed of two persons from each state eligible for representation on SBC boards, has as its primary task nominating the 54-member Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, which in turn nominates persons to serve as trustees of the national agencies of the 14.4-million-member denomination.

The Resolutions Committee, made up of 10 persons, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee, receives, processes and reports back on all resolutions introduced at the annual meeting. The committee prepares and submits to the convention resolutions it "deems appropriate for adoption."

Stanley named George Dye, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fort Mill, S.C., to chair the Committee on Committees, and Executive Committee member Alan Sears, assistant U.S. attorney and member of Walnut Street Baptist Church of Louisville, Ky., as Resolutions Committee chairman.

The appointive powers of the president have been at the center of the political controversy swirling in the SBC for seven years. According to acknowledged strategy, the convention can be moved to a more conservative stance by electing fundamental-conservative presidents, who appoint like-minded Committee on Committees members who nominate persons of similar belief to serve on the Committee on Boards. Then, the Committee on Boards nominates fundamental-conservatives to be trustees of the agencies.

Under the SBC Constitution, the president appoints the Committee on Committees "in conference with" the two SBC vice presidents, currently Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas, and Henry Huff of Louisville, Ky.

Stanley told Baptist Press he held an all-day meeting with Moore and Huff to discuss the master list of suggestions from which the appointments were made.

"I sent them the computer list of more than 500 names and they then came to my home and we sat down and went over all of the lists. I asked if there were anyone they had a real objection to, and they mentioned not more than one name," Stanley said.

He added the three officers went over the list state-by-state and "Moore and Huff gave me suggestions to consider."

Stanley said 11 of the 54 persons appointed to the Committee on Committees were suggested by one of the vice presidents, as were three of those named to the Resolutions Committee.

The president, who is pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, said suggestions were sought from all across the convention, including an open letter to Southern Baptists, circulated through the denomination's news service, Baptist Press. More than 200 suggestions came in from the open letter, he said.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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In all, some 500 names were submitted, he added, including recommendations from denominational executives, state convention officials, pastors, directors of missions and church members.

Fred Powell, senior associate pastor at the Atlanta church, who assisted Stanley in the "winnowing" process, said the Committee on Committees includes persons suggested by Moore and Huff, one state convention president, three past state convention presidents, a director of missions, a state Brotherhood director, two state convention executive directors, a state paper editor and a vice president of a state convention.

Asked if he expected a repeat of 1985, when second vice president Don Wideman complained publicly he had been shut out of the selection process, Stanley said: "I don't see any reason why we should (have controversy). I have tried to be as fair as I know how to be.

"I have selected people from small churches and large churches. There is an adequate distribution of women. In one or two places, I have appointed people from churches where I felt involving them (in SBC life) would increase their participation.

"I think it is a good, sound list. I think it is representative of Southern Baptist life."

Concerning resolutions, Stanley said he has not yet discussed the process in detail with Sears, but said: "My present feeling is that I would like to see the resolutions toned down again this year so that we can emphasize the move toward peace and reconciliation. I think resolutions often stir up unnecessary disagreement that I don't think we need at this convention."

Stanley also had asked the 1985 Resolutions Committee to "keep the lid on" the denominational controversy. Last year, the committee received 74 suggested resolutions and reported 11 back to the convention.

The president said he believes the 1986 committee "will be very sensitive to where we are in the life of the convention and I think they will respond accordingly."

Sears told Baptist Press the Resolutions Committee will have an orientation meeting in Atlanta Saturday, June 7, to prepare to do its work. He also asked that copies of proposed resolutions be sent to him, in care of the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce, Suite 750, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

At the convention, Stanley said messengers may submit proposed resolutions at a special desk set aside near the podium. At specified times in the order of business, the name of the messenger presenting the resolution and its topic will be read into the proceedings.

Sears, who has been the executive director of the U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography in Washington, said: "My view of the role of the Resolutions Committee is that it should help the convention make a statement for the advancement of Christianity in our world. It is not a forum for political infighting."

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

ALABAMA-Sammy Gilbreath, pastor of Highlands church, Florence, and Mrs. Martha Beaty, member of Clayton church, Clayton.

ARKANSAS-Lamar Lifer, pastor of Olivet church, Little Rock, and Frank Lady, a member of Central church, Jonesboro.

ARIZONA-Bill Weide, pastor of First church, Gilbert, and Don Cartwright, member of North Phoenix church, Phoenix.

CALIFORNIA-John Jackson, pastor of Crescent Southern church, Anaheim, and Mrs. Jeanette Bingaman, member of Immanuel church, San Bernardino.

COLORADO-Kenneth Barnett, pastor of South Wadsworth church, Denver, and Mrs. Nancey Berlin, member of Riverside church, Denver.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Robert K. Gehman, pastor of Wisconsin Avenue church, Bethesda, Md., and Mrs. Becky Sims, member of Capitol Hill Metropolitan church, Washington.

FLORIDA—William Anderson, pastor of Calvary church, Clearwater, and Mrs. Gloria Parker, member of First church of Markham Woods, Lake Mary.

GEORGIA—A.B. Hatfield, pastor of First church, Alpharetta, and Ben Reed, member of First church, Atlanta.

ILLINOIS—Ed Pikey, pastor of First church, Waterloo, and Les Snyder, member of First church, West Frankfort.

INDIANA—Don Deel, pastor of East Lake church, Merrillville, and Kevin Burke, member of First Southern church, Terre Haute.

KANSAS/NEBRASKA—Jimmy Furr, pastor of Harrison Street church, Omaha, Neb., and Harold Finch, member of Emmanuel church, Overland Park, Kan.

KENTUCKY—James Jones, pastor of Campbellsville church, Campbellsville, and Russ Adkinson, member of First church, Brandyburg.

LOUISIANA—Emil Turner, pastor of First church, Harrisonburg, and Bill Murfin, member of First church, Kenner.

MARYLAND/DELAWARE—William Brazell, pastor of Severns Park church, Pasadena, Md., and Mrs. Linda Lawler Viel, member of First church, Essex, Md.

MICHIGAN—Mike Durbin, pastor of Level Park church, Battle Creek, and John Woods, member of First church, Clio.

MISSOURI/IOWA—Jim Wells, pastor of Oakwood church, Lee's Summit, Mo., and Mrs. Sharon Robnett, member of Highland View church, St. Charles, Mo.

MISSISSIPPI—W.E. Greene, pastor of Pine Grove church, Louin, and Don Vineyard, member of Eastwood church, Indianola.

NORTH CAROLINA—Greg DeMarco, pastor of Corinth church, Monroe, and Wayne Pollard, member of First church, Glen Alpine.

NEW MEXICO—Michael D. Dean, pastor of First church, Artesia, and Ronnie Blakely, member of First church, Jal.

NORTHWEST—Frank Palmer, pastor of Oak Harbor church, Oak Harbor, Wash., and Rex Phillips, a member of Pines church, Spokane, Wash.

OHIO—Charles Betts, pastor of First church, Vandalia, and Mrs. Donna Carringer, a member of North Liden church, Columbus.

OKLAHOMA—Michael Taylor, pastor of First church, Stigler, and Gary Torres, member of Cameron church, Lawton.

SOUTH CAROLINA—George Dye, pastor of First church, Fort Mill, (committee chairman), and Ronald Edwards, a member of First church, Greenville.

TEXAS—David Walker, pastor of First church, San Antonio, and Mrs. JoRuth Wosika, a member of First church, El Paso.

TENNESSEE—Rick White, pastor of First church, Franklin, and Frank Steil, member of Central church, Hixson.

VIRGINIA—Vander Warner, pastor of Grove Avenue church, Richmond, and Mrs. George Ford, a member of First church, Roanoke.

WEST VIRGINIA—Cledith Campbell, pastor of Altizer church, Altizer, and John Bryan, member of First church, Bluefield.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Executive Committee members are Alan Sears, assistant U.S. attorney and member of Walnut Street church, Louisville, Ky., chairman; William D. Powell III, a dentist and member of Shades Mountain church of Birmingham, Ala., and Kenneth Mahanes, pastor of Far Hills church, Dayton, Ohio.

Members are:

C.B. Hogue, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, and member of First Southern church, Fresno, Calif.; Lewis Adkinson, pastor of Circle Drive church, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Norris Sydnor, pastor of Riverside church, Mitchellville, Md., and chairman of the 1982 Resolutions Committee;

Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth church, Tucker, Ga.; Ann Frazier, a member of Roanoke church, Roanoke Rapids, N.C.; Eldridge Miller, pastor of First church, Sallisaw, Okla., and Mary Kay Selter, a member of First church, Lubbock, Texas.

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Baptist Press
4/29/86

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS

JUNE 8-9, 1986

Holiday Inn Crowne Center

Atlanta, Georgia

Theme: "CAPTURE THE VISION"

Sunday Afternoon, June 8, 1986

Carl Duck, director of missions, Nashville Baptist Association, Nashville, Tenn., presiding

1:00—Registration—Maurice Flowers, director of missions, Jones Baptist Association, Laurel, Miss.

2:00—Call to Order—Bob Lee Franklin, director of missions, Noonday Baptist Association, Marietta, Ga.

--Hymn—Bob Van Sant, musician, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Ga.

--Welcome—Russell Barker, director of missions, Atlanta Baptist Association, Atlanta

--Prayer—Bennie Creel, director of missions, Sweetwater Baptist Association, Madisonville, Tenn.

2:05—"Capture the Vision"—Bob Lee Franklin

2:25—Special Music—Bob Van Sant

2:30—"An Atmosphere for Vision"—Robert Dale, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

3:30—Break

4:00—Business—Bob Lee Franklin

4:10—Hymn—Bob Van Sant

4:15—"A Vision's Cost—Stephen"—Everett Anthony, director of missions, Chicago Metro Baptist Association, Oak Park, Ill.

4:40—Hymn—Bob Van Sant

4:45—"A Vision of Witness—Phillip"—Ken Carter, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta

5:05—Benediction—Weldon Stevens—director of missions, Olympic Baptist Association, Port Orchard, Wash.

Sunday Evening, June 8

Mack Smoke, director of missions, San Jacinto Baptist Association, Baytown, Texas, presiding

6:00—Dinner

6:45—Invocation—George Davis, director of missions, East Central Baptist Association, Urbana, Ill.

--Introduction and Announcements

6:55—Special Music—Kathryn Moone, concert artist, First Baptist Church, Hapeville, Ga.

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7:00—"A Vision of Going--Peter"--Sam Pittman, SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.
 --Benediction--Lowell Houts, director of missions, Metro Baptist Association, Mitchellville,
 Iowa

Monday Morning, June 9

Bob Lee Franklin, presiding

8:00--Registration

8:25--Hymn--David Scott, minister of music, Locust Grove Baptist Church, Smyrna, Ga.

--Prayer--Henry West, director of missions, Mississippi Baptist Association, Blytheville,
 Ark.

8:30--"A Vision of Ministry--Ananias"--Melvin Hill, director of missions, Blue River--Kansas City
 Baptist Association, Lee's Summit, Mo.

8:50--Special Music--David Scott

8:55--"Accomplishing Your Vision"--Robert Dale

9:50--Break

10:15--Hymn--David Scott

10:20--Business

10:35--"A Vision of Church Starts--Cornelius"--Larry K. Martin, director of missions, Greater
 Boston Baptist Association, Newton, Mass.

10:55--Special Music, David Scott

11:00--"A Vision of Life--Paul"--Frank Pollard, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

--Benediction

11:45--Lunch

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Mission Directors To Focus
 On Capturing 'The Vision'

Baptist Press
 4/29/86

ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of associational missions from across the Southern Baptist Convention will explore their dreams of combined ministry when they gather for their annual meeting June 8-9 in Atlanta.

"Capture the Vision" will be the theme for the 1986 Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, held in the Holiday Inn Crowne Center.

"The director of missions' main task is dreaming. He is to have a vision of what an association can do and be with churches working together in fellowship," said Bob Lee Franklin, president of the organization and director of missions for Noonday Baptist Association in Marietta, Ga.

The conference will revolve around the necessity of dreaming and will provide types of dreams for associational missions, Franklin explained.

Robert Dale, a professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and author of the book, "To Dream Again," will "try to set the whole pattern for us on the necessity of dreaming," Franklin said. Following will be six "visions" presented in chapters 7-10 of the Book of Acts, related by people who can be models of the dreams they describe, he noted.

Those topics and presenters include "A Vision's Cost--Stephen," by Everett Anthony, director of missions for Chicago Metro Baptist Association; "A Vision of Witness--Phillip," by Ken Carter of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta; "A Vision of Going--Peter," by Sam Pittman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.;

Also "A Vision of Ministry--Ananias," by Melvin Hill, director of missions for Blue River--Kansas City Baptist Association, Lee's Summit, Mo.; "A Vision of Church Starts--Cornelius," by Larry Martin, director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association; and "A Vision of Life--Paul," by Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., and former president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Attendance at the conference is expected to number between 400 and 450 persons, an all-time high and about half of the 900 directors of missions across the convention, Franklin said.

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Postal Subsidy Redistribution
Triggers Small Rate Decrease

WASHINGTON (BP)—A small reduction in non-profit postal rates took effect April 20. The reduction came as a result of a redistribution of federal subsidy money.

In early April, President Reagan signed a deficit reduction bill containing a provision that ended postal subsidy for limited-circulation, for-profit newspapers.

Since the legislation did not reduce the overall amount of federal postal subsidy available, the U.S. Postal Service board of governors voted to redistribute the limited-circulation subsidy money to the rate structure's non-profit category, which includes Baptist state newspapers and some church newsletters.

A Postal Service spokesman said the reduction should result in a non-profit rate decrease of about 1 to 4 percent.

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Congressman Says Nation
Faces Fiscal, Moral Deficits

By Kathy Palen

Baptist Press
4/29/86

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Baptist minister who is a U.S. congressman told a Baptist congregation in the nation's capital the United States now faces two deficits—one fiscal, one moral—and it must make decisions about both.

Rep. William L. Gray, D-Pa., speaking at the anniversary dinner of First Baptist Church of Washington, urged the congregation to remember a society reflects its values and priorities through the choices it makes.

"If you want to find out what a person stands for or a group stands for or a church stands for or a society stands for, look at their budget because it tells you more about them than any sermon that they might preach," said Gray, who is senior minister of an American Baptist church in Philadelphia. "Why? Because where a church puts its resources will tell you what they value and how they interpret their mission as God's people in kingdom building.

"Where a society puts its resources will tell you more about that society than any speech on the House floor, the Senate floor or in the White House."

Gray, who is chairman of the House Budget Committee, said the nation must make some tough budget decisions because it is "drowning in a sea of red ink that is choking off our productivity, our economic growth, our ability to provide jobs and opportunity for the next generation, as well as the current generation."

He suggested using Jesus' concern for "the least of these" as a measuring rod for determining budget priorities in government as well as in the church.

"In that way, government becomes a vehicle for expressing our values and addressing the deficit problem, but doing it in a way that meets the values of what we proclaim in our faith."

The congressman said the nation's "moral deficit" is in its foreign policy, which he described as emphasizing military solutions rather than looking for the real causes of conflict. He pointed specifically to U.S. policy toward South Africa.

"We're caught in a dilemma," he said. "We light candles for those oppressed in Poland, but don't have the moral strength to light a match for those oppressed in South Africa."

He said a Christian should ask what would be the position of justice, compassion and love regarding national policy.

"If you do the right thing, if you stand for justice, if you uphold the highest, then that becomes the foundation for protecting your economic and strategic interests," he concluded.

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Court Refuses To Review
Baptist Pastor's Firing

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Virginia minister has lost his effort to have the courts review his dismissal as pastor of a black Baptist congregation.

Theodore R. Little Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Crestwood, of Chesapeake, Va., had wanted a state court to take up his case. When that panel declined to grant him a full trial, he unsuccessfully appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court. Following that rebuff, he asked the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene. But in an order issued April 28, the high court also refused.

Little claimed throughout his appeals process that he was denied due process of law, a right guaranteed in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, when the state circuit court in Chesapeake ordered him not to go on church property after he refused to accept a congregational vote dismissing him in late 1984.

Little had been pastor of the congregation for less than two years when a dispute broke out over what a 10-1 majority of the membership called his "disrupting and taking over the church." When he refused to accept the result of the vote dismissing him, the congregation sought an injunction barring him from continuing his functions as pastor, including Sunday preaching.

The circuit court issued a temporary injunction ordering Little to stay away. At the same time, the panel appointed a commissioner who was directed to conduct another vote to determine if Little should be terminated. That vote, conducted in early 1985, affirmed the congregation's earlier decision to oust him. Three weeks later, the court issued a permanent injunction against the former pastor.

In his written appeal to the high court, Little's attorney compared his client's situation to that of a corporate executive with a valid contract who is fired by stockholders at an extraordinary meeting in which the question of those who qualify as stockholders entitled to vote is in dispute.

In addition, the attorney wrote, the state court "unlawfully interfered in ecclesiastical affairs which are outside the jurisdiction of a civil court." He then asked the high court to order a full trial before the lower panel.

But lawyers for the church also argued on grounds of separation of church and state that the lower court was not constitutionally qualified to hear the case on its merits. To have granted Little the kind of trial he sought, they wrote, "would have amounted to the State determining who the pastor of the church should be.... A congregation's determination as to who shall preach from the church pulpit is at the very heart of free exercise of religion."

Two high court justices, Thurgood Marshall and William J. Brennan Jr., dissented from the refusal to schedule the case for argument, stating that the state court's involvement in the case at all was "dangerous and unwarranted." The lower court, they wrote, "should have limited its inquiry to the terms of (Little's) employment contract and to whether the church had taken the actions requisite to terminating that contract."

The other seven justices apparently were unpersuaded by that reasoning, however. In order for the court to grant full review in a case, four of the nine justices must agree. (85-1435, Little v. First Baptist Church, Crestwood)

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Rural America Faces
Growing Health Crisis

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
4/29/86

WASHINGTON (BP)--Rural America--home for more than 70 percent of all Southern Baptists--may be poorer and hungrier than even the experts have guessed.

After a year-long study of rural poverty, a report by Public Voice for Food and Health Policy concluded this country's rural poor "are underfed, undernourished and in poor health."

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Public Voice, a consumer research and advocacy organization, reported that in 1983—the latest year for which such statistics are available—13.5 million poor people lived in rural America, compared to 12.8 million living in urban areas of cities with populations of 50,000 or more. In 1979, there were 9.9 million rural poor.

Despite such statistics, the report noted most domestic hunger studies in recent years have overlooked the worsening plight of rural America while focusing on urban poverty. "The result," it stressed, "is a health policy crisis of national proportions."

The study's findings should sound a call to alert for Southern Baptist churches, many of whom have increasing hunger and malnutrition in their own backyards, said hunger and rural issues experts at two Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the SBC Christian Life Commission, said the study is "another reminder that hungry America is largely the America of the rural South. The fact that the hunger belt overlaps the Bible belt is a sign that we are having a tough time translating our faith into concrete action."

Gary E. Farley, associate director of the SBC Home Mission Board's rural-urban missions department, said the study "adds further evidence that rural America's troubles are broader than the farm crisis."

Farley cited several factors which have contributed to worsening rural poverty:

--Commodity prices have fallen below costs of production.

--Small factories are closing and the jobs are being exported to Third World countries where costs are cheaper for labor and production.

--Falling energy prices have shut down coal mines and curtailed domestic oil development and production.

--Multi-national corporations have shifted the refining of petrochemicals to overseas locations.

--National retail chains have expanded into the rural areas, causing small-town businesses to close.

--Changes in cost and delivery of health care are closing small-town hospitals.

"The frightening thing about this crisis is that it is touching people who have never before known the anguish of poverty," Farley said.

In its study, funded by the Ford Foundation, Public Voice found "startling disparities between the nutritional status of the rural poor and that of the nation as a whole." And the gap is widening, it added.

The study's survey of health conditions considered indicators such as dietary intake, height-for-age and other anthropometric measures and low birthweight and infant mortality rates. In each category, the rural poor fared significantly worse than the rest of the nation.

For example, in 1983 the infant mortality rate (proportion of children who die in the first year of life) was 46.4 percent higher for rural counties than the rest of the nation. Between 1980 and 1983, the gap between low birthweight rates (infants weighing 5.5 pounds or less per 100 live births) in rural poor counties and the rest of the nation grew 34 percent.

In terms of height-for-age, an indicator of chronic undernutrition, 7.3 percent of poor rural children were abnormally short compared to 2.8 percent of non-poor children. The contrast was most pronounced in the South, where the respective figures were 8.8 percent compared to 3.1 percent.

Meanwhile, the study said, public assistance in rural America has been waning. Public Voice found that 56.8 percent of the rural poor, compared to 53.9 percent of the metropolitan poor, remained unserved by the government food stamp program. Translated into per capita numbers, the figures are \$222 monthly for the rural poor compared to \$368 for metropolitan poor. An even wider gap exists in Aid to Families with Dependent Children, where monthly per capita figures are \$161 for rural poor and \$554 for metropolitan poor.

Both Farley and Parham encouraged Southern Baptists to respond to the rural crisis through gifts to the Home Mission Board's program of domestic hunger relief. Farley also suggested a "networking" program among churches would match rural needs with urban resources. Another important strategy, he said, is for churches to work cooperatively through Baptist associations to provide social ministries for the rural poor.

"Many rural and village congregations lack the resources to meet escalating needs for food, clothing and shelter," he said.

Parham said Southern Baptists have demonstrated "a growing compassion" for the hungry in America. "What we need now," he said, "is a growing understanding of the forces causing hunger and an increasing commitment to practice Christian citizenship as well as Christian charity."

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Tanner Urges Missionaries
To Find Place Of Blessing

Baptist Press
4/29/86

ATLANTA (BP)--In a service commissioning 89 new home missionaries for service in 26 states and Canada, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner urged the new missionaries to find a place of spiritual peace in their ministry and to look for God in times of stress.

The 89 missionaries, who have already begun serving on their respective mission fields, are sharing the gospel from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska. A highly diverse group, the missionaries include Korean, Vietnamese, American Indian and black couples.

In a message to the missionaries, Tanner compared their assignments to the experience of Jacob, who wrestled with God. As a result, God gave Jacob his blessing, and changed his name from Jacob to Israel.

Tanner urged the missionaries to find their own "special place of blessing" where they, like Jacob, can receive grace and spiritual nourishment.

Such a place is usually a place of separation away from the distractions of everyday life, Tanner said. While most people think of the church building as the place where God can be found, Tanner said "any place can be a special place if God is there."

He warned the missionaries, however, that sometimes this special place is also a place of struggle.

"You may resist him (God), but you'll discover that the place of struggle can be transformed into a place of submission. It's a place that many of us find difficult, but your will has to be submitted to God in order for you to be effective in God's service," Tanner said.

When that happens, Tanner said the place of struggle and submission turns into a place of splendor.

Tanner challenged the missionaries to find their own place of blessing where they can be alone with God, struggle with God, and submit to his will so that it can become a place of splendor.

During the commissioning service at Wieuca Road Baptist Church, the 89 missionaries were presented with certificates and led in a prayer of dedication by Dorothy Samples, president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

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Two of the missionaries, Franklin Scott of Pine Bluff, Ark., and Doyle Braden of Garden Grove, Calif., told of their personal call to missions service and of the challenges they face.

Scott, a black church relations missionary working in Arkansas, praised members of First Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., for loving him regardless of the color of his skin, and ordaining him as the first black deacon since the pre-Civil War era. Scott is a native of Columbia, S.C.

Braden, director of missions for Orange County Baptist Association in the greater Los Angeles area, urged Baptists to pray for him as he seeks to challenge the 52 Southern Baptist churches in Orange County to reach 2 million people who speak 43 languages. A native of Plano, Texas, Braden is a former pastor and minister of education of Texas churches, and former consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The 88 missionaries commissioned by the board are in Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Virginia, and Canada.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press

Southern Seminary Receives \$1 Million
In Endowment For Second Month In A Row

Baptist Press
4/29/86

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--For the second consecutive month, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has received new funds totalling more than \$1 million.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill Williams of Fort Smith, Ark., have committed \$500,000 for an endowed professorship in memory of their son, Donald Leigh Williams, who taught Old Testament at Southern Seminary from 1961 until his death in 1983 from cancer.

Another \$500,000 gift is contained in a trust established by the late Allen Hulette of Frankfort, Ky., who provided that Southern Seminary receive the annual income from a \$540,000 investment for 75 years, then receive the principal for the seminary's endowment.

Including three other gifts totalling almost \$1.2 million, the seminary has received \$2.2 million in new endowment funds since Feb. 1, said Wesley M. Pattillo, vice president for development.

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Annuity Board President Urges
Support Of Committee Proposal

Baptist Press
4/29/86

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist Annuity Board President Darold Morgan has called on members of Southern Baptist retirement plans to contact their U.S. senators, urging support of a Senate Finance Committee proposal to retain present rules relating to 403 (b) tax sheltered annuities.

The rules, which would be included in the tax reform bill now being studied by the Senate, directly affects the retirement plans for Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employees administered by the board, Morgan said.

The proposal removes the \$7,000 cap on 403 (b) annuities, reverses the rule that would include IRA contributions in the \$7,000 cap and eliminates the 15 percent penalty on withdrawal from 403 (b) plan prior to age 59 and a half.

The Church Alliance, a group of leaders from 29 mainline religious denominations, supports the proposal, Morgan said. He is president of the alliance.

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