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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
SBC Executive Committ:  
901 Commerce #7:  
Nashville, Tennessee 372:  
(615) 244-23:  
Wilmer C. Fields, Direc:  
Dan Martin, News Edit:  
Marv Knox, Feature Edit:

**BUREAUS**

**ATLANTA** Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
**RICHMOND** (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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N-60

Executive Committee OKs 'Map'  
For 1990-2000 Bold Mission Thrust

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists' roadmap for ministry during the last decade of the century gained tentative approval during the denomination's February Executive Committee meeting.

The committee unanimously approved themes and goals for the 1990-2000 phase of Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention's plan to present the gospel of Christ to the whole world by the end of the century.

The themes and goals will be considered by messengers to the SBC annual meeting next summer in St. Louis. If approved, they will provide guidelines for leading the ministry of the convention's 14.6 million members, 37,000 churches, 37 state conventions, 21 agencies and institutions and 7,000-plus missionaries.

Themes for the decade have been divided into two major groups. "Share Heritage and Hope ..." is the theme for 1990-95, with annual themes of "Extend Christ's Mission," 1990-91; "Embrace God's Word," 1991-92; "Equip Believers," 1992-93; "Serve in Christ's Spirit," 1993-94; and "Evangelize the Lost," 1994-95. "Go Make Disciples" is the theme for 1995-2000, with annual themes of "Live God's Word," 1995-96; "Share Christ's Love," 1996-97; "Grow in Spiritual Power," 1997-98; "Follow Christ's Servant Example," 1998-99; and "To the End of the Age," 1999-2000.

Goals for the decade are:

- Baptisms: 2.1 million during 1990-95 and 2.5 million during 1995-2000.
- Congregations: 45,000 total churches and church-type missions by 1995; 50,000 by 2000.
- Worship: An average morning worship attendance equal to 55 percent of resident membership and an average evening worship attendance equal to 30 percent of resident membership by 1995; 60 percent in morning worship and 35 percent in evening worship by 2000.
- Bible study: 11 million Sunday school members by 1995; 13 million by 2000.
- Discipleship: 2.5 million church training members by 1995; 3 million by 2000.
- Missions education: 2 million Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood members by 1995; 2.3 million members by 2000.
- Stewardship: \$12 billion in annual undesignated church receipts by 1995; \$20 billion by 2000.
- Home missionaries: 4,500 by 1995; 5,000 by 2000.
- Foreign missionaries: 4,800 by 1995; 5,600 by 2000.
- Missions volunteers: 350,000 total home and foreign missions volunteers for 1990-95; 400,000 during 1995-2000.
- Missions support: \$1 billion contributed to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget in 1995; \$2.5 billion in 2000.
- Associational missions: Each church giving to associational missions on a percentage basis throughout the period.

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During its February meeting, the Executive Committee also adopted a recommendation which would change Bylaw 18, which establishes the membership of the SBC Public Affairs Committee, the body which relates to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The bylaw, to become effective, must be approved by messengers to the 1987 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 16-18 in St. Louis.

The revision would limit the number of agency executives serving on the PAC to five and increase at-large members to 12. The president of the convention retains his committee seat.

In other business, the Executive Committee elected two people to fill vacancies on the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees. This committee will meet this spring and nominate people to fill vacancies on the boards of all SBC entities.

M. Randall Drake, a member of First Southern Baptist Church of Evansville, Ind., was chosen to replace Kenneth A. Martin, a layman from Wadesville, Ind., who resigned because his status changed from non-church/denomination related to church/denomination related when he joined the staff of First Southern Baptist Church of Evansville.

R. Kenneth Spain, pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church in Cadillac, Mich., was elected to replace Truman B. Smith, formerly pastor of First Baptist Church of Clio, Mich., who resigned when he became an associational director of missions in Pennsylvania.

Responding to a change made last summer in SBC Bylaw 32, Representation from Qualified States and Territories, the Executive Committee voted to recommend six states and/or territories for upgraded representation on convention committees, institutions and agencies.

With membership between 15,000 and 20,000, the Alaska Baptist Convention (19,142 members), Nevada Baptist Convention (19,228), New England Baptist Convention (16,844), Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey (19,368) and Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention (17,614) will qualify for representation on the Executive Committee, the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

With membership between 20,000 and 25,000, the Baptist Convention of New York (24,786 members) will qualify for representation on the same committees as the smaller conventions, as well as the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board.

In a related procedure, the Executive Committee voted to recommend to the SBC annual meeting in St. Louis that the Executive Committee charter be changed to allow its size to "be increased to any number not exceeding 100 or decreased to any number not less than 50." The charter amendment is necessary because new representation allowed by the change in Bylaw 32 will push committee membership beyond the current legal limit of 75 people.

In other business, the committee:

-- Approved the recommendation of host cities for the SBC annual meetings in 1993 and 1994. Houston was recommended for the 1993 meeting, to be held June 16-18; Orlando, Fla., was recommended for the 1994 meeting, set for June 15-17. Both locations will be presented for approval to messengers attending the 1987 meeting in St. Louis.

-- Ratified resolutions of appreciation for Richard M. Stephenson, who will retire at the end of February as executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and for Wilmer C. Fields, who will retire at the end of March as vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press for the Executive Committee.

-- Received as information the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee's election of five members of the convention's Public Relations Advisory Committee. They are Karen Benson, manager of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union communications group; Donald S. Hepburn, public relations director for the Florida Baptist Convention; Thomas Miller, vice president and director of communications for the SBC Annuity Board; R. Quinn Pugh, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York; and Presnall H. Wood, editor of the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Christian Life Commission Trains  
Texans For Ministry In Hard Times

By Ken Camp

N-Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (BP)—More than 150 Texas Baptists were challenged "to be about the transformative work of the Lord" in the midst of hard times during the annual statewide Christian Life Commission workshop, Feb. 9-11, at First Baptist Church of Austin.

Focusing on the theme, "Helping People in Hard Times," James Forbes, professor of preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York City pointed to biblical examples of faith. Forbes drew attention to the rebuilding of the house of God in Jerusalem by the Jews who returned from foreign captivity. He compared their task to modern Christians' responsibility to build God's world house — a world based on principles of righteousness, equality and justice.

"There is no way we can build the Lord's house without a fundamental sense of the inappropriateness of our enjoying the blessings of God that we have while other of God's children are without bare necessities," he said. "I believe with all my heart that it is inappropriate for any Christian to ever be rich as long as there is anybody on the face of the earth who dies for lack of subsistence necessities."

Acknowledging that he was preaching to himself as much as to others, Forbes called on Christians to "quit playing games with God" and to pray for a "stirring" of God's people.

"Spiritual revitalization and social action transformation must now come together," he said. "Unless there is a spiritual stirring up, there will not be the energy to get on the path that leads to Mount Zion to build the house the Lord wants built."

In a workshop on helping the poor, State Senator Hugh Parmer of Fort Worth discussed the positive — but limited — impact of state hunger legislation. "It is not the churches who are behind. They are leading the way. It's the state government and, unfortunately, the federal government that lag behind," he said. "We have a responsibility in times of hardship for the people of Texas to see that the most defenseless — the poor, the elderly, the children — have at least their minimal needs for survival met."

State Sen. Grant Jones of Abilene and Camille Miller, administrative assistant to Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, led a workshop on "funding government." Jones, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, noted neither a state-operated lottery nor legalized pari-mutuel gambling is the solution to the state's budget problems.

"Pari-mutuel betting and a lottery are both dealing in human frailty. It is poor public policy to base state revenue on human failure," he insisted.

On Feb. 11, about one-third of the Texas House of Representatives joined CLC workshop participants for a legislator breakfast. State Rep. Stan Schlueter of Killeen, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, discussed approaches to funding government in hard times.

While noting he personally had voted against both pari-mutuel gambling and the lottery in previous sessions, he warned a state-operated lottery "will become extremely attractive" to some lawmakers this year who will see it as "easy money."

CLC Director Phil Strickland encouraged lawmakers to take a long-range perspective and seek to maintain — and when possible improve — programs benefiting poor and abused children and the elderly.

"As we look for places to cut, let us not look to those areas where there is the most human need and the least political power," he said. He also emphasized that the lottery is a highly regressive and inefficient form of taxation that "victimizes the poor."

'Blessed Are Christ's Friends,'  
Prof Tells Seminary Graduates

By Pam Perry

N-  
(MWBTIS)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—"Blessed are those who are in the friendship of Christ, for they shall be his friends to each other," J. Thomas Meigs, told Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary students, suggesting a possible addition to Jesus' beattitudes.

Meigs, associate professor of pastoral care at the Kansas City, Mo., seminary, addressed the topic, "Catching the Rhythm of His Friendship," during the school's spring convocation.

"What is it like to be in his (Jesus') friendship?" Meigs asked. "Two dimensions of the meaning of love surface here — the vertical and the horizontal, (which is) the down-to-earth reality of how we embody and manifest that friendship with each other in his name as his representatives."

Being in the friendship of Christ rebuffs the pervasive attitude of "never mind you," with "we matter now and ultimately to him," he explained.

"Friendship enhances a kind of sanctuary amidst all of our disruptions and crises," he added. "Jesus ordains a certain ability to draw nearer to each other initiated by his own 'I chose you' theme. His call is not of mere obedience. It is something warmer, more intimate,"

How do Christians imitate, embody or catch the rhythm of Christ's friendship? Meigs asked. He noted the answer may be found in the basic principles of pastoral care: "Your capacity to care, to be a friend is linked to your self image. Do they know we are in his friendship and are here to serve him?"

"I want to be a gift to others of his friendship," he concluded. "It's very tough at times because I struggle with the competitive 'eye-for-an-eye' just as you do. But somebody has to do it, and in the promise of God in Christ, we can."

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(BP) photo available upon request from Midwestern Seminary news office.

Former Night Club Singer  
Now A Music Evangelist

By Breena Kent

N-CO  
(NOBTS)

Baptist Press  
2/23/87

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—He was a night club singer, a heavy drinker, a drug user, a man accustomed to the "promiscuous" activity of the night club scene. But, now that Don Bordelon is a Christian, he sings to a different tune.

Bordelon, who has performed concerts throughout the Southern United States, was raised in "Cajun country" around Plaquemine, La. He had no musical training until after he became a Christian. His first course in music was at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he is now seeking an Associate of Divinity degree in church music.

Thus, it was pure, inborn talent that got him jobs singing in night clubs in New Orleans before he became a Christian — a talent so strong that he was given opportunities to compete with "some of the top performers in the area. ... I always competed and won," he said.

Dazzled by the night scene and his newly found glory, Bordelon "got into drugs. I started drinking heavily, and was ... close to being an alcoholic," he said.

Although he was talented, and won many competitions, Bordelon just "couldn't get my foot in the door." Seeking a supplementary source of income, he began working for a life insurance agency in 1981.

"I know the Lord put me there, because the whole office was Christian," he said. "There was a peace, a unity, there that I wanted. I saw a love in their relationship with one another that I wanted, and through their witnessing to me, they got me curious."

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Friends invited Bordelon to an Easter cantata at Riverside Baptist Church in River Ridge, La. "All I knew of Baptists was that they didn't drink, didn't dance." So, to find Don Bordelon in a Baptist church was quite a rarity, he said.

At the service, he "went forward, wanting to know more. But the guy didn't convince me that Jesus was who he said he was," said Bordelon, whose former roommate "had convinced me that all Jesus was was a man who lived 2000 years ago, a prophet."

Bordelon said the more his friends shared with him, the more his curiosity grew.

One day, in January of 1982, while Bordelon was at work, "I went into my boss's office to ask him what Bible was the best to buy. ... I thought that the different translations were actually different Bibles. That day, he led me to the Lord in his office. My life hasn't been the same ever since."

Bordelon's wife, Adele, had accepted Christ when she was 15 years old but no one discipled her as a new Christian, Bordelon said, and she had never been baptized. At one time, Adele had asked Bordelon to go to church with her, and "I said, 'No way you'll find me in a Baptist church!'" A few months later, when Bordelon accepted Christ, they were baptized together.

They began attending church regularly at River Ridge, but he held off becoming involved in the music ministry of the church because "I didn't want music to be the only reason for coming to church."

"There was still a lot of doubt in my life," however, said Bordelon. One day, about a year after Bordelon's salvation experience, "I was down," he said. Although I had salvation, my life wasn't working the way I had thought it would when I accepted the Lord." He stopped in a Christian book store, found some accompaniment tapes, and "sat in a corner and listened to them."

He said, "While I was listening to the tapes, I knew God was saying, 'Don, I want you to use the voice that I've given you for me.' That week, I turned in my resignation and went into full-time evangelism."

He said, "The Lord gave me a gift. ... I want to give it back to Him."

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'White-clothed Angel,'  
Lucy Wright Parker, Dies

N-FMB

Baptist Press  
2/23/87

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (BP)—Retired Southern Baptist missionary Lucy Wright Parker, whose long and fascinating life mirrored 20th century Christian missions, died Feb. 18 in St. Petersburg, Fla., after a long illness. She was 92.

The native Georgian stood just 4 feet 11 inches tall. But she outlasted Japanese occupation forces, World War II, cancer, several other near-fatal illnesses and decades of upheaval during 42 years as a single missionary nurse in China and South Korea.

Her 17-year nursing stint in north China started in 1923 and spanned the Japanese occupation of the region in the 1930s. She worked through bombing raids, and once assisted in 20 consecutive surgeries as bullets riddled the hospital where she worked.

As war raged in 1943, she headed back to China from the United States, determined to help legendary missionary doctor Bill Wallace in south China. It took her two years to reach him — by way of Europe, across Africa and India and "over the hump" of the Himalayas into China.

Reaching China was the easy part of the trek. She spent another year in western China, waiting out sickness and war. Traveling the famed Burma Road, she operated a medical dispensary that treated up to 90 patients a day. She finally tracked down Wallace and his hospital staff at Nanning, where they were "refugeeing" on the run from Japanese forces. The war ended a month later and she helped Wallace reopen his mission hospital in Wuchow.

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Parker brushed off talk of her bravery. "There's nothing heroic about me," she once reflected. "What I did was in the line of duty. It didn't occur to me to be afraid. But sometimes, when I look back on it, I wonder why I wasn't. God was holding me up and helping me over the rough places."

There were plenty of rough places. Besides sometimes overwhelming external hardships, Parker nearly died four times during a three-year period from complications caused by a perforated stomach ulcer. She eventually had two-thirds of her stomach removed. "But I was able to work in between each of these times," she explained. "It didn't hold me up for long. ... When things get me down, I look up. I know where my strength comes from."

She left China in 1947 for furlough, and the Communist regime took power. Bill Wallace later died in a Communist prison. But Parker went on to work for 11 years as nursing director at the Baptist hospital named in memory of Wallace in Pusan, South Korea.

She called the young Korean nurses her "grandchildren," and she became known in the area as the "American maiden grandmother." One Korean news reporter dubbed her "the white-clothed angel." According to one nurse, she spent her spare time visiting Pusan slums, bringing sick people back to the hospital and caring for them "like it gave her great pleasure."

She considered the Korean language more difficult than Chinese, but she became the first American to pass the nurse licensing examination in Korean. She also helped establish the Korean Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

She retired in 1964 at age 70. "We feel like we're losing half our hospital," a colleague said.

In 1971 she married retired missionary Earl Parker, a widower who had also worked in China and South Korea for 36 years. They traveled together extensively before his death in 1980. She later lived with her sister, Emily, in a St. Petersburg nursing home.

Born in Augusta, Ga., she graduated from Shorter College, Rome, Ga., and from the nursing school at University Hospital, Augusta. She taught nursing there before her appointment by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1922.

She is survived by her sister, two nephews, a niece and a son-in-law.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

Home Missionary Marion Hayes,  
Atlanta Church Starter, Dies

N-HMB

Baptist Press  
2/23/87

DUNWOODY, Ga. (BP)—Marion Hayes, former president of the Baptist General Association of New England and Southern Baptist home missionary for 19 years, died Feb. 21 of a heart attack.

Hayes, a church starter on the staff of Dunwoody Baptist Church since 1980, previously had been pastor of the Providence Baptist Church, Providence, R.I., for 13 years. The church was located only a few miles from the site of the founding of the first Baptist church in America by Roger Williams in 1639.

During the last six years, Hayes had been instrumental in starting three new missions in fast-growing Atlanta suburbs sponsored by Dunwoody Baptist Church as a church extension missionary of the Home Mission Board.

Before missionary appointment in 1968, Hayes was minister of education for the First Baptist churches of Tallahassee, Fla.; Nashville, Tenn.; and Shawnee, Okla.

He was a charter member of the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and was its secretary for two years.

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