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September 16, 1987

87-139

Elder Urges Employees
To Be Peacemakers

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE (BP)--Employees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board were urged to be peace-keepers and peacemakers by President Lloyd Elder during a recent chapel service.

In his address, Elder explored the role of Southern Baptist Convention agencies in implementing and observing the Peace Committee Report alongside the Baptist Faith and Message statement.

"We are charged with the same peace-keeping and peace-seeking effort as was our Savior," Elder said. "Regardless of what we do as part of a strategy of peacemakers, if we lose sight of the peace we have in Jesus Christ our Lord, all else becomes shallow and our efforts are not productive. Peace given by Christ is not simply the absence of war or conflict in this world, but an abiding inner right relationship with God, self and others. The world can neither give nor take away such peace (John 14:27).

"The eternal peace of Jesus Christ must be the central factor for Southern Baptists as they interpret the role and responsibility of agencies and others in implementing the Peace Committee Report and following the guidelines of the Baptist Faith and Message," he continued.

Elder read the motion passed by board trustees in their August meeting which assures the Southern Baptist Convention that "we will operate the Baptist Sunday School Board in compliance with the spirit and the letter of the Peace Committee Report."

In an affirmation of the work of the Peace Committee, Elder said copies of their report would be distributed to all employees in Baptist-required positions at the board.

He urged employees "to study carefully with your head and your heart the full Peace Committee Report ... to seek to understand it ... and to give your fullest support to it.

"As we have been doing, we must continue to show good faith to our trustees in following their guidance and pursuing peace with all our hearts," he said.

Elder also said the Baptist Faith and Message statement, which has been signed since 1969 by board employees in Baptist-required positions "is an outstanding confession of faith but a sorry creed."

"It has not been nor is it now intended to be a creed. It is a guideline of the expectations of our convention upon us and we will treat it carefully and faithfully," he said.

At the same time, Elder added, "Holy Scripture itself is the authority for our work at the Baptist Sunday School Board. The authority is not a man-made document but it is a revelation of God in Jesus Christ come down to us in Holy Writ and given to us in a trustworthy and dependable fashion over which we do not have judgment but which has judgment over us."

"This does not diminish the Baptist Faith and Message, but clarifies what it is intended to be," he said.

"We will continue to do our employment practices by the Baptist Faith and Message and we will continue to evaluate our performance by our faithfulness to the Baptist Faith and Message," Elder emphasized.

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"We will continue to pursue our programs assigned to us by the Southern Baptist Convention by the Baptist Faith and Message," he explained. "We will publish our products and render our services gladly measured by the confession of faith of our people called Southern Baptists.

"We will contribute to the opportunity for us to bring the peace of Christ to a lost nation through an emerging and growing Southern Baptist Convention to bring that message to a lost world," Elder further stated.

"We will continue to be servant leaders as veterans in the army of Jesus Christ," Elder promised. "In doing that, the Baptist Faith and Message will not become our creed, but neither will we ever neglect it in the pursuance of our task.

"We will give our best to it and therefore we will give our best efforts and careful attention to the Peace Committee report and the instruction of our trustees," he said.

"The end result I could hope is spiritual results in local churches," Elder said. "We must urgently pursue peace to see churches grow in a likeness of Jesus Christ in the peace that only he can give.

"Let it be said of us that we have sought peace and continue to seek peace to make these the best days of service at the Sunday School Board," he concluded.

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

Alliance Directors
Decry PAC Action

Baptist Press
9/16/87

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Alliance have unanimously expressed their dismay that the Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee endorsed Judge Robert H. Bork, "a political candidate," for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Alliance directors, in a resolution which cited SBC actions calling for non-endorsement of political candidates, asked the PAC "to withdraw its endorsement of Judge Bork."

The Public Affairs Committee, according to the Alliance directors, had taken an "unprecedented entry into a political process by a Southern Baptist agency."

Alliance directors also said the PAC "does not speak for all Southern Baptists on this or any other issue."

The resolution came during an organizational meeting for the fledgling SBA which was formed in April by Southern Baptists who feel that Baptist traditions and principles are threatened by trends within the SBC.

Directors also named an executive board, established task forces or board committees to deal with matters of concern and encouraged state affiliates to send women and laypersons to serve on the SBA board.

A task force on theological education was created to suggest alternative methods in the event Southern Baptist seminaries lose their ability to conduct open inquiry into theological matters.

Another task force on church literature was asked to explore the need for new materials, document what materials are available from other sources and to explore the production of supplemental, undated biblical material that can be used weekly by the churches.

The literature task force was created because of dissatisfaction with some recent Sunday school lessons produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The task force leader was instructed to contact the Sunday School Board to ask if supplemental materials might be produced for churches holding moderate theological positions.

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The newly named executive committee of the SBA includes the officers Henry Crouch of Charlotte, N.C.; Susan Lockwood Wright of Chicago; Henry Huff of Louisville, Ky.; Richard Groves of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Bruce Morgan of Griffin, Ga.; plus Henry Carpenter of Cocoa, Fla.; Tom Simms of Richton, Miss.; Linda Weaver-Williams of Glen Allen, Va.; Marvin Cameron of Gatlinburg, Tenn.; J. Frank Gilreath Jr. of Charlotte, N.C., and Anne Neil of Wake Forest, N.C.

The SBC also voted to hold its annual convocation March 21-23 at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Membership in the SBA totals more than 10,000 people, including 1,400 member who have paid between \$25 and \$100 fees. Others are in 14 churches which have joined.

Directors adopted goals to reach by convocation time: 2,500 regular members who will pay \$30 each; 250 sustaining members to pay \$100 each; and 30 churches who will pay \$1 per resident member. Student membership is \$10.

The SBA board spent considerable time discussing the role and representation of women within the organization. Anne Neil, active in Women in Ministry in the SBC, told the directors, "The SBA is the first group of Southern Baptists in my lifetime to go on record as supportive of equal partnership with women in ministry.

"But is the SBA committed to taking women seriously?" She was supported by other women present.

The directors responded, insisting that each state have a woman among its three or more directors, and the first vice president of the SBA will be a liaison with the national Women in Ministry group.

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Rare Bible Donated
To Southern Seminary

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press
9/16/87

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--While a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ralph Winters paid a dollar for a copy of the Hebrew Bible, picking out the oldest-looking book he could find in a box of used Bibles outside a professor's office.

Fifty years later, the Mississippi Baptist minister has returned the Bible to the seminary as a treasured relic.

Published in 1521 in Venice, Italy, the complete Hebrew Bible predates the 1524-25 edition which became the "textus receptus," the authoritative Hebrew text for most English translations, including the King James Version. The Bible is the second published by Daniel Bomberg. Two Orthodox Jews, the sons of Baruch Adelkind, edited the text.

As a student, Winters did not know any of that when he browsed through a box of used Bibles outside the office of Hebrew professor Kyle Yates. Yates frequently ordered Bibles from a Chicago bookstore to provide inexpensive copies of the Scriptures for his students.

Winters, who already had bought his Hebrew Bible a year earlier, "just took a dollar to buy the oldest-looking book I had ever seen."

The Bible remained an unidentified treasure until Winters contacted Southern Seminary Old Testament professor Page H. Kelley about two years ago. Kelley, with the aid of the American Bible Society, traced the origin of the Bible and then encouraged Winters to donate it to the seminary because of its value for research and teaching.

At the seminary's convocation opening the fall semester, Winters and his wife, Ginny, presented the 466-year-old Bible to the seminary in honor of Yates, who taught at the school from 1922-1942.

A 1939 graduate of the Louisville, Ky., seminary, Winters now is a part-time chaplain at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, where he and his wife are members of Colonial Heights Baptist Church.

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For 35 years, Winders headed state Baptist student work. He directed student work for the Virginia General Association of Baptists from 1944 to 1957 and for the Mississippi Baptist Convention from 1957-1979. He also has been pastor of Baptist churches in Kentucky and Virginia.

Winders' Bible, one of only six known copies of the 1521 version in the United States, will be housed in the rare-book section of the seminary's library, building on the James H. Haldman Collection of 200 rare Bibles donated to the seminary in 1981.

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Innovative Singles Programs
Needed To Claim Uncommitted

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press
9/16/87

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Many of America's 65 million single adults are looking for that common thread with which to weave their similar interests, and they often are found searching for it at church, a pastor and a researcher agree.

Churches which do not offer innovative and creative programs for single adults will see them once, maybe twice, and then will lose them to congregations that cater to the younger, more corporate-minded single, according to Jerry Hayner, pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., and Harold Ivan Smith, researcher, writer and lecturer in Kansas City, Mo.

"Singles are not necessarily hung up on denominations," Hayner says.

"Whatever church has the program, singles are going there," notes the pastor, who also is author of "Growing Together: Singles and Churches," a book to support the 1987-88 year-long emphasis on single adults sponsored by the family ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

According to Smith, churches should see an increase in attendance of the growing population of single adult yuppies -- young urban professionals -- and single-adult baby boomers.

While Smith says he believes many of the young professional single adults who may attend churches do not have high religious standards initially, they represent a significant opportunity for ministry through effective Christian programming.

"The churches are really in the driver's seat for what happens in this country in the future," adds Smith, who also is founder of TearCatchers, a firm that does advocacy research on Christian singleness.

Both Hayner and Smith agree that a church's single-adult ministry will not get far without full backing of its pastor.

Hayner says if pastors would just attend a Single Adult Labor Day Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) or Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center and witness "the most dynamic, electric weekend that I have ever been exposed to, they would go home and say, 'We need a single-adult program.'"

About 3,100 people attended this year's conference at Ridgecrest, while 2,200 people participated at Glorieta.

Hayner says pastors probably would be astounded at the number of single adults who attend the family ministry department-sponsored conferences and would come to realize their special ministry needs.

"Single-adult ministry will never rise above the commitment and interests of the senior pastor," Smith says. "If it is clearly visible this is a top priority of the senior pastor, then generally everybody follows along.

"But if a pastor sees the ministry as babysitting -- 'Just keep those single adults busy or preoccupied' -- then there is nothing the church can do," he adds.

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By 1990, Hayner believes, about 50 percent of the adult population will be single. Presently, 32 percent of adult Southern Baptists are single, according to an SSB research services department study.

"You just cannot ignore that sizable group of people," Hayner insists.

Meanwhile, Smith says if churches just would utilize the leadership potential of single adults throughout their church programs, they could strengthen their churches and also see growth in the number of singles who participate.

"There is a growing number of single adults who are in key positions of leadership in businesses, and they could channel some of their energy into the church," Smith notes. "What we see is that their singleness is not an issue in the corporate world, so they invest more and more of their time there, some of them becoming workaholics. If the church were more open to singleness, they could utilize great leadership skills."

He says churches sometimes may feel threatened by the creative and innovative leadership style singles can offer "because singles are ready to move in directions sometimes faster than the church is ready to move."

"Some of the best singles programs going on in the country are non-Baptist," Hayner says. "We kind of wait until trends develop and get established and then get in on it."

Ann Gardner, single adult consultant in the SSB family ministry department, said a key element in successful Southern Baptist church ministries with single adults is a solid spiritual foundation.

"We (family ministry department) believe a ministry that is going to be ongoing must have spiritual direction," says Gardner.

The single-adult section of the family ministry department is highlighting single adults this year in an effort to challenge churches in their programming for the unmarried adult.

Single Challenge '88, a national single-adult convention to be held at Opryland Hotel in Nashville on Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, is one of a slate of activities planned to highlight single adults in 1987-88.

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

Century-old Churches Unite
In Starting New Mission

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
9/16/87

DALLAS (BP)--Like a modern-day Abraham and Sarah bearing a child in old age, two century-old Texas Baptist churches gave birth to a new mission near Laredo, Texas.

Hebron Baptist Church, near Lewisville, and Primera Baptist Church in Laredo, the oldest Hispanic Baptist church in the United States, joined to build a mission in Rio Bravo, a low income area about 10 miles from downtown Laredo.

Primera Baptist Church of Laredo began working in the Rio Bravo area about two years ago, conducting home Bible studies and renting a house for worship services.

The church, which averages about 100 people in attendance, currently sponsors three missions and dedicates about 25 percent of its total budget to missions.

A five-person core group from Primera provided leadership for the young congregation at Rio Bravo but they found their potential for growth hampered by space limitations.

"They couldn't do much in the rented space that we had," said Fernando Amaya, pastor of Primera Baptist Church, Laredo, "so we offered to help the mission build."

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Amaya shared the mission's needs with Rex Harrell, a former member of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, who recently had moved to Hebron. Harrell, who had met Amaya through involvement in the River Ministry work of Green Acres, approached his new pastor at Hebron Church about the possibility of working with Primera Baptist.

"Rex and Judy Harrell have a heart for River Ministry," said Bob Craig, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church. After the Harrells shared their burden for the Rio Grande with Hebron Baptist, the church agreed to investigate possible places of service. Craig called Amaya, and the two churches made plans to work together in Vacation Bible School and construction at Rio Bravo.

"Our church prayed for an opportunity to serve. Primera had been praying for help with their mission in Rio Bravo. It turned out that we could be the answer to each other's prayers," said Craig.

In June, work crews arrived from Hebron to build and conduct Vacation Bible School. Together with volunteers from Primera and the mission itself, the builders erected a first unit building for Rio Bravo Mission which was dedicated on Aug. 16.

Currently, the mission averages about 27 people in Sunday school attendance and attracts others to worship services. Both Primera and Hebron have made a 3 to 5 year commitment to working in Rio Bravo. The mission also receives monthly support from Texas Baptists around the state through their gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions.

"Our people who have gone to Rio Bravo have come back electrified about how much can be done for so little and filled with a deep sense of appreciation for being able to be a part of it," said Craig. "The experience has heightened our missions awareness, our missions support and our missions involvement."

That heightened missions consciousness also is reflected in Hebron's missions giving. The proposed church budget for 1988 includes a one percent increase in missions giving through the Cooperative Program and four percent for direct, hands-on missions projects such as the one in Rio Bravo.

"We are thankful for the people of Hebron and grateful for the way God does things," said Amaya. "Even though Hebron and Laredo are 500 miles apart, God joined our hearts and our hands together."

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RTVC Names Four
Vice Presidents

By Dick McCartney

Baptist Press
9/16/87

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission approved an \$8.78 million operating budget for 1987-88, named four vice presidents and heard reports of ACTS network growth during their fall meeting Sept. 14-15.

The new budget is based on "experience rather than aspiration," officials said. Jimmy R. Allen, commission president, said, "With the adoption of this budget, we can say to Southern Baptists that the ACTS network is stabilized financially."

The four new vice presidents are present commission employees. Bob Thornton was named vice president for production and programming; Ed Malone, for radio, a new title; Michael Wright, affiliate relations; and Larry Johnson, engineering and operations, also a new office.

They will join controller Jerry Stamps; Charles Roden, vice president of support services; and Richard McCartney, executive vice president, to form the executive management group for the RTVC.

Wright replaces Bill Nichols, who resigned in July to become president of ACTSCOM, a subsidiary of Atkins Advertising of San Antonio. ACTSCOM will represent the ACTS network in national advertising sales. Thornton takes the post vacated by Bob Taylor, who left the commission in August. Malone and Johnson, who previously were directors of radio production and engineering, respectively, fill new vice presidential posts.

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In adopting the budget, trustees also affirmed the administration in the use of contingency reserves "in sensitivity, commitment and integrity." The action came after they were reminded reserves had been tapped periodically to bridge periods of low income. Administration officials said reserves were used rather than borrowing temporary operating funds, and reserves were restored as quickly as possible. The adopted budget includes \$50,000 to be added to reserves during the year, to bring total reserves to \$350,000 by October 1988.

Michael Hamlet of Spartanburg, S.C., chairman of the commission's affiliate relations committee, reported 500,000 on-line subscribers had been added to the network since the April trustee meeting. He called it "nothing short of miraculous," and reported that more than 6.9 million households now are able to receive ACTS programming.

Production and Programming Vice President Thornton reported that only about 10 percent of programming in the fall ACTS schedule would be reruns. Among new programs being produced, he said, are new "Invitation to Life" episodes, six college football games, new "Profiles" programs and a new southern gospel music series to begin in January.

Trustee committees reported both progress and needs during the session. Production and programming services committee Chairman LeRoy Stevens of Phoenix, Ariz., warned of a need to schedule replacement of some engineering and production equipment within the next three to five years.

Radio Vice President Malone predicted a 7 percent increase in circulation of radio programs during the coming year. He said a stronger marketing emphasis has begun that should help to open new markets for radio.

Development staff members reported more than \$869,000 in cash and pledges had been received in a capital fund drive in the Atlanta area. Included was a \$200,000 grant from an Atlanta-based foundation to be used to fund a central distribution system for ACTS. In addition, the staff reported, a \$350,000 deferred gift was received which was not included in the reported total. A goal of \$1.2 million was announced for the campaign.

LaVerne Butler, reporting for the development committee, encouraged trustees to get involved in fund-raising activities by hosting meetings of small groups of individuals capable of giving substantial gifts to worthy causes. He also reported the commission's direct-mail program is "back on track" and beginning to result in steady income for RTVC activities.

Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, was elected second vice chairman of the commission to fill a vacancy created when First Vice Chairman Len B. Turner moved from Florida to Georgia and was no longer eligible to serve on the commission. Second Vice Chairman Harold Brundige automatically became first vice chairman, and Hamlet was chosen to fill the vacancy.

The recent Southern Baptist Convention controversy surfaced briefly during trustee discussions. John Peper of Maryland took note of the conservative swing in SBC resolutions and said, "My prayer is that our commission is going in that direction."

In response Allen said he had resisted any tendency to "politicize" commission programming. He said, "We try to address our various publics with people who are preaching the gospel." Allen added he is trying to be certain that a broad range of viewpoints is represented on the network, but the emphasis is on preaching the gospel.

Allen also asked trustees to recommend future speakers for the two Baptist Hour television programs which schedule speakers on an annual rotation. Speakers now are Peter James Flammig, pastor of First Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., and Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church. He said two new speakers will be chosen to begin broadcasting in January when speakers are to be changed. He asked trustees to make recommendations and "pray with me" as the decision is made.

In other action, the commission named Price Waterhouse as auditors for 1986-87 and joined in prayer for "major decisions" to be made in the next few months regarding religious television on the nation's cable systems.

Seminary Honors 2
With Mullins Award

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A retired state Baptist convention executive and a late Southern Baptist foreign missionary have been honored by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with the school's highest award.

In convocation services opening the fall semester at the Louisville, Ky., campus, the E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award was presented to Franklin Owen, retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and posthumously to the late Libby Tarlton Senter, Southern Baptist missionary to Liberia who was murdered in November 1986.

Owen, a native of Missouri, served more than 37 years as pastor of Southern Baptist churches in Alabama, Kentucky and Missouri. In 1972 he left the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., to accept the Kentucky Baptist Convention post, a position he held until his retirement in 1983.

A 1939 graduate of Southern Seminary, Owen has served in various denominational offices, including president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, trustee of several Baptist colleges and a member of various Southern Baptist Convention boards and committees.

Senter, a native of North Carolina, was a graduate of Wake Forest University, Southern Seminary and the University of Louisville. In 1980 she and her husband, George, were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as missionaries to Liberia. Earlier, the Senters had served for nine years as Southern Baptist Home Mission Board missionaries in Indiana, where he was a director of missions and she was involved in social ministries.

On Nov. 26, 1986, Mrs. Senter and the Senters' 10-year-old daughter, Rachel, were murdered in their home in the northeastern Liberian town of Yekepa. A Liberian Baptist seminary graduate who had been befriended by the Senters later was convicted of the killings.

Mrs. Senter's death was the 11th murder of a Southern Baptist foreign missionary since the Foreign Mission Board was organized in 1845.

The award was accepted on behalf of the Senter family by John E. Mills, special assistant to the president at the Foreign Mission Board and former area director for West Africa.

The E.Y. Mullins award, the seminary's equivalent of an honorary doctorate, is named for the Southern Seminary president who led the school from 1899 until his death in 1928. The theologian also served terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance.

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Blue Collar Houston Church
Sponsors White Collar Mission

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
9/16/87

HOUSTON (BP)--Though pride and prejudice could have thwarted the birth of a church in Atascocita, Texas, East Houston Baptist Church crossed social and economic barriers to begin the new congregation.

Early this year, the 25-year-old, blue collar congregation made a commitment to start new work in response to the Mission Texas challenge. Texas Baptists are currently involved in the Mission Texas emphasis on strengthening missions, developing believers and reaching people by starting 2,000 new congregations by 1990.

When pastor James Taylor contacted Union Baptist Association, associate director of missions Billy Bob Moore pointed to Atascocita, a rapidly growing upper middle-class community between Humble and Lake Houston.

At the time, Atascocita had an estimated population of about 20,000 and no Southern Baptist church.

Although the need was evident, there were obstacles to overcome before East Houston Baptist Church could begin a new work in Atascocita.--more--

"Our people are mostly working class. Very few are professional people. When we talked to the association about starting a mission, our first thought was that it would be in an area like our own," said Taylor. "When Atascocita was mentioned, we were very hesitant."

However, when the need for a Baptist witness in the community was clearly presented, East Houston Baptist Church responded. The church provided initial economic support for the new work, and East Houston members participated in a neighborhood survey in Atascocita to help discover prospects for the mission.

"Some of our people weren't sure how well they would be able to associate with a group of people like that, but it's been a beautiful relationship," said Taylor.

On Mission Texas/Cooperative Program Sunday, April 12, First Baptist Church of Atascocita held its first service. Seventeen persons attended and there was one profession of faith.

The mission now averages about 20 in attendance; there have been four baptisms. Currently, the congregation meets in an elementary school and is supplying its own financial needs.

For nearly five months, Moore has been interim pastor while a pastor search committee has been working. Ironically, when a pastor is found for the new congregation, his starting salary will be more than the salary of the sponsoring church's pastor because of socio-economic differences in Atascocita and eastern Houston.

"I've kidded Billy Bob Moore about that quite a bit, but I really feel very good about it. It doesn't bother me at all," said Taylor.

Taylor also said neither he nor the church feels threatened by the probability that First Baptist Church, Atascocita, will grow considerably larger and will be much more wealthy than the mother church.

"The community has the best potential for growth of any area around here," Taylor said. He notes that in spite of the economy, it is projected to grow well into the 1990s.

"We're a fairly small church, averaging about 50 in Sunday school," Taylor continued. "Once Atascocita finds a pastor, within a year we figure they'll far outshine us in terms of finances and attendance.

"We believe the sooner that happens, the better. We want to get them settled, and then start another work. At least, that's what we'd like to do.

"We just hope that what we're doing will encourage other churches our size not to hesitate in starting new work. If the opportunity comes along, we need to trust the Lord, launch out and do mission work."

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Baptists In Houston
To Focus On Nurture

By Eric Miller

Baptist Press
9/16/87

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials will meet with Baptists in Houston, on Oct. 1 to launch a nurture campaign they hope will spread to every church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Nurturing is similar to a gardener caring for plants -- it takes place in a church when Christian role models help other Christians in their spiritual growth or guide them toward church work or mission work, said Joyce DeRidder, director of the board's nurture department.

If the conference is successful and the printed materials motivate people to move ahead with a nurture campaign, then the materials will be sent to every association in the Southern Baptist Convention, DeRidder said. The materials are designed to be duplicated easily on copy machines so that associations can send copies to churches.

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"Nurture is more than spiritual development, development of ministry skills or awareness of gifts," DeRidder said. "It's being willing to sit down with someone after their first missions trip or after they had a really bad experience trying to help someone and reflecting with them on what happened."

Nurture starts with pre-schoolers, DeRidder noted, and begins when the nurturer "lets people know, 'I am willing and able and wanting to help you in your growth process. I'll link you up to materials. I'll help you gain experiences. I'll help you reflect on the experience you have.'"

The result, DeRidder said, will be that Christians will help each other "find God's direction for their lives. It may be to foreign missions, home missions; it may be to some church vocation or to some secular position."

FMB President R. Keith Parks will speak during a special session for some 400 Houston area pastors. Others invited are Woman's Missionary Union directors, Brotherhood directors, chairmen of deacons and chairmen of missions committees.