



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #75
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Marv Knox, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550
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. Hestey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

January 15, 1988

88-7

Mexican Baptist Leaders Won't
Work With Genesis Commission

By Erich Bridges

MEXICO CITY (BP)--Mexican Baptist leaders say they will not support the work of the Genesis Commission, a church-starting organization launched by Southern Baptist conservatives in 1986.

The decision by the Coordinating Board of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico was made public in a statement released in January. The statement was scheduled for publication in the January issue of the convention's periodical, "La Luz Bautista," and was followed by a similar declaration from leaders of the Central Baptist Association of churches in the Mexico City area.

The association's board voted unanimously Jan. 9 "not to have any relationship of any kind with the Genesis Commission while the Genesis Commission refuses to integrate itself to the national convention or to this association."

The convention statement was signed by Program Coordinator Roberto Torres Liceaja. Three 1987 meetings of convention leaders with Genesis Commission Executive Director Bill Darnell and Manuel Martinez Garibay, the commission's representative in Mexico, yielded no agreement for cooperation, he said.

Contacted in Houston for his reaction, Darnell said he had not received a copy of the statement and expressed surprise at its content.

"I personally have spent a lot of time and a lot of money going down there attempting to coordinate our work with them and do everything possible to cooperate," he said.

Darnell, former pastor of Kirby Woods Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., started the Genesis Commission in late 1986 with John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Baptist Church in Houston, layman Randy Best of Houston and other conservative Southern Baptists.

Genesis Commission leaders hope eventually to start thousands of churches in several countries, but they decided to begin in Mexico, Darnell said shortly after the commission was created. He also pledged not to compete with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and its missionaries: "We're not in competition with the Foreign Mission Board. That's false. We just want to win people to Jesus. ... We're not wanting to run ahead of anyone or do something that is counterproductive. If there's a lack of cooperation, it will not be from our end."

The new statement issued by the Mexican convention said Genesis Commission leaders were invited "to work through the national program for missions in the convention in order to have only one missionary program." But in the final meeting, it said, "the Genesis Commission communicated ... its decision not to integrate its work with the National Baptist Convention of Mexico."

"Integration" is a term used by Mexican Baptists to describe joint mission planning, programs and budgeting. Southern Baptist missionary work and funding in Mexico have been merged with the national convention's program during the last two decades.

The Genesis Commission's plans for working directly with local churches to start and subsidize new churches "do not encourage unity among the Baptists in this country," the statement said. The "best way to advance in the mission field is working together, coordinating the efforts and the actions of both entities for the benefit of the extension of the gospel in Mexico. ..."

--more--

The statement said the Genesis Commission also "used the convention platform and three national events" to promote its activities among churches in 1987, while commission and convention leaders were still in a "period of negotiations." It also objected to the commission's publicity among Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

The statement concluded by saying the convention's offer of cooperation is "still valid, and the rest we leave in the hands of the Lord of the harvest."

Darnell described the meetings with convention leaders as warmhearted, and said the only disagreement that ever surfaced concerned use of Genesis Commission funds.

"They agreed that our church-planting strategy was fine," he said. "Matter of fact, they said, 'We would love to adopt this as the church-planting strategy of the national convention.' And I was delighted by that. ... Then they said, 'But that means you give all your money to us.' And I said, 'No, we cannot do that.'"

"Number one, we would not have any funds if we did that. Our donors are not going to give their money to the national convention of Mexico. We want to support local churches and help local churches start new missions, which is our goal. That's when they (the convention leaders) balked. None of those other allegations were even mentioned. There was no problem with anything until ... I refused to surrender our dollars and give them to the national convention."

When the commission was formed, its declared intention to channel donations directly to overseas churches and pastors drew criticism from several quarters, including Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks. Parks said the commission might compete with the Foreign Mission Board for donations.

He met with Darnell and Morgan last March, when they issued a joint statement indicating the mission board would continue in a "one-work" approach with the Mexico convention, while the commission would "move ahead immediately in enlisting national workers to help start churches in Mexico."

Darnell said the year-old commission is ahead of schedule in its plans for aiding churches in Mexico, primarily through cooperation with its Mexican representative, Manuel Martinez Garibay. Martinez has been pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, with some 3,000 members the largest evangelical church in Mexico City, according to a recent study. Bethel has launched numerous mission churches and an urban Baptist church association under Martinez' leadership. The church is a member of the Mexico Baptist convention but is not affiliated with Central Baptist Association.

Genesis Commission donors are subsidizing about 10 mission congregations through Martinez' work and through the First Baptist Church of Merida in Yucatan, Darnell said.

The support involves subsidies of about \$5,000 for each church, spread over three years in progressively declining amounts, designed to "bring a church to a point where she can be self-sufficient and on her own," he explained. "All we are is a subsidizing organization. We don't want to become an organization they're dependent upon, because that's not our purpose."

Martinez has recruited churches "all over Mexico" desiring to start new missions, Darnell said, predicting about 50 mission churches will be started this summer: "We're finding that at the local church level, the pastors are absolutely thrilled about an organization that would want to help their church start a new mission. We're being bombarded with requests from churches that want to. Maybe that statement from the convention is to discourage the churches from having anything to do with us."

Meanwhile, the Mexico convention enjoyed its best church-starting year ever in 1987. Mexican Baptists started 115 churches last year, culminating a nationwide expansion effort and surpassing an annual average of 35 church starts in recent years. Other 1987 statistics are not yet available, but at the end of 1986 Mexican Baptists included about 61,500 church members, 683 churches and some 2,000 mission congregations. Baptisms for 1986 totaled 7,707.

The Southern Baptist mission organization -- comprised of the 103 Southern Baptist missionaries in the country -- called the jump in church starts "a major turning point in Baptist work in Mexico, signifying an important change in the consciousness of Mexican Baptists from slow growth to visionary, results-oriented evangelism, discipleship and church planting."

Caught in the middle of the convention's dispute with the Genesis Commission are the Southern Baptist missionaries. Their representatives attended only one of the three meetings between Genesis Commission representatives and Mexican Baptist leaders, and were asked by the Mexican leaders not to attend one closed-door session in October. The leaders indicated they wanted to make it clear neither the missionaries in Mexico nor the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was influencing their dealings with the Genesis Commission.

Allen Alexander, chairman of the mission organization, said the missionaries would support the convention: "Our position will be the convention position because we have an agreement with the convention to work in an integrated program so there will be one program of work, trying to draw all the churches into unity. That's the position we have officially taken as a mission. We are going to work in harmony with the National Baptist Convention and its entities. ... We would be supportive of (the convention's) statement."

Don Kammerdiener, the Foreign Mission Board's vice president for the Americas, said the dispute boils down to a difference in mission philosophy: "The Baptist mission has been committed to the approach of working with and under the direction of the convention. I think the Genesis Commission approach is weaker because it does not build indigenous churches. We've tried it, and it doesn't work. When you subsidize a church with foreign funds, you have a weaker church."

Darnell said he "believes in our Foreign Mission Board work and what we are doing. I have no problem with that. What we would like to be is just a complementary arm that says, 'Here's a group of guys who are interested in starting churches in Mexico and ultimately all these will be Baptist churches.' I guess I wish it could be that simple. But for some reason -- I can't quite get my finger on the reason -- it's not that simple."

"Everywhere I've turned to have cooperation, people are just slapping me down. I don't know what to do at this point. I still want to be Christian about it. We feel like the Great Commission came from our Lord, not from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board or the Mexico Baptist Convention."

--30--

Baylor Researchers Discover
Process To Purify Blood Supply

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
1/15/88

DALLAS (BP)--Researchers at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, have developed a method of purifying donated blood that someday could protect the nation's blood supply from the deadly AIDS virus.

The process involves combining a donated blood sample with a dye and exposing the mixture to a high intensity, red-filtered light source, according to Alain Marengo-Rowe, director of special hematology and blood bank at Baylor University Medical Center and a member of the pioneering research team.

The exposure of the dye-suffused blood sample to the light creates a chemical reaction that kills enveloped viruses such as herpes simplex without harming blood cells and also is expected to be effective on other infectious agents including measles and the AIDS virus.

The technique has been tested on the Herpes Simplex 1 virus in human blood and been found effective. Experiments with other viruses, including AIDS and measles, have been conducted in tissue cultures and a liquid environment similar to blood.

Researchers should know by the end of the year whether the technique destroys the AIDS virus in blood.

"Whether it can be used on blood supplies as a whole will take longer to determine," Marengo Rowe said, noting that several intermediate steps in the scientific experimental process must be followed. However, he indicated that every finding to date makes the researchers hopeful.

--more--

"God willing, our good fortune will continue," he said.

AIDS is a fatal disease that destroys the body's ability to protect itself against infection. Because AIDS can be spread through tainted blood donations, blood-collection organizations now routinely screen donated blood for the AIDS antibody.

Research on the new blood purifying technique was conducted by an eight-member team from Baylor, Southern Methodist University in Dallas and the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio. It was funded in part by a grant from the Pentagon's Strategic Defense Initiative, the so-called "Star Wars" program.

The findings of the research team were published in the latest issue of "Transfusion," the journal of the American Association of Blood Banks.

"We salute the researchers for their dedication and their diligence and look forward to the potential this holds for making the blood supply safer," said Scott Allen, coordinator of the AIDS Interfaith Network in Dallas, and Mission Service Corps volunteer with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission. "It is encouraging, and we hope this will further alleviate the anxiety of persons receiving blood donations, who already are at very low risk."

Baylor University Medical Center is part of the Baylor Health Care System, one of seven hospitals owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

--30--

RTVC Board Votes
Trustee Fundraiser

Baptist Press
1/15/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television asked the commission staff to conduct a fund-raising event aimed at trustees and staffers.

The trustees, during their Jan. 12, meeting, heard a report from the development committee which indicated fund-raising efforts in December had exceeded projections, but still were below budget for the first quarter of the fiscal year.

The board requested the development staff to conduct a fund-raising dinner at the next trustee meeting in April "with a goal of 100 percent participation" by trustees and senior staffers. Preliminary plans call for a dinner based on the telemissions dinner format, in which prospective donors are presented facts about American Christian Television System (ACTS) and asked to donate to the network.

Trustee Laverne Butler, pastor of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., told fellow trustees it would greatly strengthen efforts to raise funds if the development staff could report to potential donors that every trustee and employee is supporting the commission's work with development gifts.

During the meeting, trustees were told December development efforts produced \$102,000, a gain of \$16,000 over the \$86,000 projected for the month. For the first quarter, however, budget projections called for \$216,000, but efforts generated only \$166,000.

In addition to deciding to tap trustee resources, the board also took another action designed to ease financial pressures on the agency, which has struggled financially since launching the ACTS network in the summer of 1984.

The board ratified action of the RTVC executive committee which authorized establishment of a line of credit to be used as an operating reserve. Establishment of the line of credit was arranged after members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in September 1987, expressed concern that the commission was using contingency reserve funds for operations when cash flow did not cover operational needs.

Under an agreement negotiated at the time the commission was allowed to borrow \$10 million, the Executive Committee had asked that the RTVC keep on hand a contingency reserve of \$300,000, but specified the reserve should be increased to \$500,000.

--more--

In September, when told the commission was borrowing against the contingency reserve in order to meet operational funds, members of the Executive Committee asked the RTVC to stop the practice, saying it was not in the "spirit" of the agreement to help the commission get out of financial difficulty.

During a Dec. 8, 1987, meeting, the RTVC executive committee authorized establishment of a line of credit with Central Bank of Walnut Creek, Calif., the same financial institution which loaned the RTVC \$10 million to consolidate debts.

Although the commission was authorized by the Executive Committee to borrow up to \$900,000 for short term needs, the RTVC executive committee asked only for a \$200,000 line of credit. The line of credit requires that any funds borrowed must be repaid fully for 30 days in any 12 month period.

RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen said, "We aren't going to borrow money unless we can see we can pay it back."

Allen also said that although the RTVC executive committee authorized borrowing \$200,000, it was necessary to draw down only \$150,000 in January. He said anticipated income should make it possible to repay the funds by the end of February.

Any future borrowing will require approval of the trustee executive committee, Allen said.

RTVC officials said a "shortfall" in Cooperative Program contributions made the borrowing necessary, pointing out for the 1987-88 fiscal year to date allocations to the RTVC are down \$90,000. In December, the RTVC allocation was down \$50,000.

For the contingency reserve, which showed a January balance of \$135,000, officials say they plan to gradually replace funds in the account until it reaches \$300,000, and they then plan to increase the reserve fund by \$50,000 a year until it reaches the recommended level of \$500,000.

Also during their January meeting, trustees heard a report from Allen and were told the ACTS network is accessible to more than 5.5 million cable households and is to an additional 1.36 million homes via full power and low power TV stations.

Allen called ACTS "the tool God has given us to accomplish the task of reaching our nation with the gospel." ACTS is a "faith and family" satellite network operated by the RTVC and carried by 351 cable systems and 10 full power and low power TV stations nationwide.

Allen said, "we are fighting for the soul of America," and added the gospel is being distorted and diluted as a result of images conveyed by TV. The challenge Baptists face, he said, "demands the best we have."

Allen told the trustees, "We're not where we ought to be yet, but we're farther down the line than we've ever been" toward getting the job done. He challenged board members to allow for some failures. "We're going to make some mistakes," he said. "Some of the things we attempt will fail," he concluded, "but if we can fail without becoming failures we ultimately will succeed."

The trustees discussed, but took no action, on the possibility of moving the ACTS network to another satellite in order to reach a larger number of cable systems.

Michael Wright, vice president of affiliate relations, reported that 32 new cable systems contacted in a six-week period last fall said they would begin carrying ACTS if a more accessible satellite could be obtained. The systems represent some 420,000 households. Wright also reported that a survey taken at the Western Cable Show in December revealed 28 additional systems serving 340,000 homes would be interested in accepting ACTS if another satellite is used.

ACTS currently is on Spacenet I which requires a separate antenna from that used to receive most other program services. Changing satellites would cost about \$120,000 per month, Wright said.

Audit sub-committee chairman Harold Brundige reported that the 1986-87 audit is complete and had been received "on time and within budget." Brundige, a Martin, Tenn., attorney and businessman, said it was the first time since he has served on the audit committee that the audit had been received "on a timely basis." The commission's audit is to be published along with other SBC agencies' in the convention Book of Reports and Annual.

The administrative subcommittee was asked to recommend to trustees at the next meeting an appropriate response to the SBC Peace Committee.

The next meeting of trustees is scheduled in Ft. Worth, April 11-12.

--30--

Report Documents National
Increase In Hate Crimes

By Kathy Palen

Baptist Press
1/15/88

WASHINGTON (BP)--Hate violence found at least one target per day in the United States during the last seven years, according to a recently released report on hate-motivated crimes.

"They Don't All Wear Sheets: A Chronology of Racist and Far Right Violence, 1980-1986" documents a nationwide increase in violent acts motivated by various forms of bigotry, including religious bigotry. The report, which on a state-by-state basis chronicles hate crimes committed during that seven-year period, cites racism, anti-semitism and other forms of bigotry as motivating harassment, vandalism, arson, assault and murder throughout the nation.

Such violence, according to the 95-page report, has been the product of both planned activity by organized groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi groups, and spontaneous action by unaffiliated individuals. Although Ku Klux Klan membership has declined since 1982, many of the nearly 3,000 documented acts of bigoted violence imitated Klan tactics and imagery, the report said.

The report also said an increasing involvement of young people in bigotry-motivated crimes

During a news conference to announce the report's release, spokesmen from religious, civil rights and political groups voiced support for the report, which was compiled by the Center for Democratic Renewal and published by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

"It is not simply blacks and Jews that are victims," said A. James Rudin, American Jewish Committee national interreligious affairs director. "The target community has been expanded."

Warning that increased hate violence could lead to a fragmentation of American society, Rudin said, "This is a testing of whether the American fabric will hold together."

Leonard Zeskind, research director for the Center for Democratic Renewal, said the first step in curtailing hate violence is accurate reporting of related crimes, which he said are now under-reported. He said a bigotry-motivated crime such as a cross burning often is simply recorded by law enforcement officials as arson.

Echoing Zeskind's comments, Kenyon C. Burke, associate general secretary for church and society for the National Council of Churches, emphasized the need for national documentation. "If you don't know what the problem is, you can't come up with a solution," he said.

In a prepared statement, Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., praised the report, saying until its release "there was no comprehensive data available on the national incidence of hate crimes.

"But while this report makes a substantial contribution to our understanding of the nature and scope of this problem, the information it contains is limited," Conyers added. "If more accurate and up-to-date information were available, it would be very useful to law enforcement agencies seeking to combat these offenses."

Conyers has introduced legislation that would require the U.S. attorney general to collect and publish statistics on crimes that "manifest prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity." The bill, the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, is pending floor action by the House of Representatives.

--30--

Nancie Wingo, Once In Beirut,
Now Copes With Gaza's Strife

By Art Toalston

GAZA CITY (BP)--Nancie Wingo is in a hot spot again. "When the shooting starts around here, the girls come over here and stay with me. They say, 'If you survived Beirut, I guess you'll survive this.'"

Wingo is a temporary mother figure for about 10 female nursing students unable to leave the School of Allied Health Sciences for the refugee camps where they live. Ten male students also are stranded at the Baptist-sponsored school.

Entrances to eight refugee camps, where most of Gaza's 600,000-plus Palestinians live, have been blocked by Israeli troops for nearly a week. When protests mount, troops have used gunfire to disperse crowds. At least 35 Arabs have been killed.

Wingo has been in Gaza since last April. She weathered much of Lebanon's ongoing civil war at the Beirut Baptist School in West Beirut, leaving the country only after the U.S. government suspended passport privileges for Americans there early last year.

Three other former Lebanon missionaries also are in Gaza: Karl and Thelma Weathers from Earle, Ark., and Mabel Summers from Bardstown, Ky., who retired in 1985. Summers is there as a volunteer.

Being in Gaza at a time of spiraling unrest gives her "a horrible feeling of, 'Oh, no, here we go again,'" she says.

"Things have deteriorated so badly in the last two weeks that you kind of wonder where it's all going to go," Wingo said in a telephone interview Jan. 15. "All the missionaries ask ourselves daily, 'Is this going to be another Beirut?' Is it going to go on and on or is it going to get better?"

Eighteen Southern Baptist missionaries in Gaza are staying close to home. Gaza's unrest caused the School of Allied Health Sciences to cancel classes the week of Jan. 11 and for six days before the Christmas holidays.

The school, with 58 Muslim students, most of them from the refugee camps, is adjacent to the Anglican-operated Ahli Arab Hospital. Many of the students assist there, and Southern Baptist physician Dean Fitzgerald is on the staff.

"I look out from my window to the emergency room," Wingo said. "We have had as many as 25 to 35 patients brought in ... several days in a row" -- on days when the British Broadcasting Corp. has reported that only "several" were injured. There are several hospitals in Gaza, but at the Anglican institution, the men's ward is full and the children's ward now is being used for other wounded men.

To the question, "Well, you're used to this, aren't you?" Wingo responds, "No, you don't really get used to any of this. The conditions here are a different kind of sadness and hopelessness than I found in Beirut. There's only one side here with arms. In other words, this is an occupied territory."

Most people in Gaza have been refugees since the Six-Day War of 1967. The unrest began in mid-December "and it just sort of started as a groundswell from the people," Wingo said. "People are just so hopeless here. They just don't see a future. They don't see how they're ever going to get control of their lives." There's no political solution on the horizon, she said, "because there are two very deadlocked sides here."

Like any other hot spot, Gaza affords "a lot of opportunities to minister to people who are in terrible conditions," Wingo said. It takes a long time to earn the trust of Muslim students, she added, "to show them that we are people who, because of our faith, are very caring and concerned for them and we want good for them ... because we know God wants that for them."

Southern Baptist Alliance
Pursues Seminary Study

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--The directors of the Southern Baptist Alliance, meeting in Charlotte, N.C., Jan. 11-12, have voted to proceed with a study which could result in the starting of a new seminary for Southern Baptists.

The SBA had created a task force on theological education after the announced resignations of President W. Randall Lolley, Dean Morris Ashcraft and three other key administrators of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., in the final months of 1987. The resignations came in reaction to changes at the seminary due to conservative control of the trustees.

At the SBA directors' meeting, the task force was changed to a standing committee and instructed to proceed in the following five areas:

- Clarification of the core values held by the SBA on theological education.
- Establishing a dialogue with other groups, notably universities in Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, who also are studying the possibility of starting a seminary.
- Exploration of possible innovations in theological education, with special attention to congregations.
- Production of literature to raise awareness about theological education.
- Promoting of models for a theological education.

Mahan Siler, pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., and chairman of the task force on theological education said in his report that "a window may be open for new directions in theological education."

Siler said the alliance will be supportive of those involved in theological education who reflect the concerns of the SBA. These concerns include values of inclusiveness (men and women), an open approach to Scripture while drawing on the best of scholarship, an understanding of the gospel as both personal and social transformation, and the servant role of leadership.

Siler said his group explored the possibility of financing a feasibility study, but after finding that it would cost up to \$85,000 decided to first explore what other groups were doing.

He said, "There exists, not just the continuance of the Southeastern vision, but there may be the unique opportunity of creating a new Baptist expression of theological education."

The board also changed its bylaws to restructure the alliance, creating a 33-member board and 11-member executive committee with representation determined by geography and number of members, as well as considering sex and clergy/laity ratios.

The literature committee announced the publication of a book, expected to be released at the Macon, Ga., convocation March 21-23 under the title "Being Baptist Means Freedom."

A budget of \$158,565 was adopted for 1988, including funds for an executive director and two office workers.

An executive director for the alliance, now reporting a membership of more than 15,000, will be elected by the board in its meeting just before the convocation. A new slate of officers also will be elected by all members attending the convocation.

The convocation will meet on the campus of Mercer University under the theme "Integrity of Missions." Keynote speaker will be Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity. The meeting also will include 14 workshops on such diverse subjects as: spirituality, conflict management, the servant as healer, preaching, and inclusive management.

SEBTS Search Committee
May Pick President Soon

By Dan Martin

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--There is the "very strong possibility" trustees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., will elect a new president when they meet March 14-15, making moot a new controversy over the tenure of President W. Randall Lolley.

"I think there is the very strong possibility we will elect a president when we meet in March," said trustee chairman Robert D. Crowley. "That depends on the meeting of the presidential search committee next week (Jan. 21-22). It is very possible at the conclusion of that meeting we will have narrowed the list to five and maybe even three candidates."

Crowley said the 12-member search committee will consider 17 and possibly 19 nominees.

The possibility a president will be named in March apparently neutralizes a renewed controversy which surfaced Jan. 14, when an exchange of letters between Crowley and Lolley were made public in an article by Todd Ackerman in the Raleigh (N.C.) News and Observer.

The article reports Crowley wrote to Lolley Dec. 15, and cited examples of what the chairman viewed as Lolley's "disruptive behavior on campus" and asked the president to step down early "for the good of the seminary."

It reports Lolley responded Dec. 19, saying he intends to stand by a trustee decision that he leave the presidency at the end of the school year -- July 31, 1988 -- or when a new president is elected.

Lolley, Dean Morris Ashcraft and three top administrators resigned during a special called meeting of seminary trustees Nov. 17. Lolley and Ashcraft were critical of trustee actions since conservatives gained a voting majority on the 31-member board and instituted new hiring policies.

Baptist Press attempted to obtain copies of the correspondence, but Ackerman declined to divulge his source. Crowley also declined to release a copy of his letter, saying he is "very dismayed it was released." Lolley was unavailable for comment.

In his report, Ackerman wrote:

"In his Dec. 15 letter, Crowley wrote: 'You continue to 1) use the term "fundamentalist," which you know to be untrue and incendiary; 2) give statistics which are the fruits of your self-fulfilling prophecy to see the seminary die instead of change; and 3) tell the most intimate details of our negotiations of the November 17 meeting. Is there any question why the trustees want an end to all of this?'

"Lolley responded on Dec. 19. 'It does not take any genius to detect that you are attempting to shift the responsibility for what has happened on this campus since October 12-14, 1987, from yourself and a new majority of the trustees, to me and others who have loved this school with our best service for a generation,' Lolley wrote."

Ackerman also wrote: "Crowley's letter said that 'because my own personal integrity is coming into question ... the time has come to set the record straight.'

"Crowley referred to two actions by Lolley that angered him. One was the Nov. 17 trustee meeting when Lolley told conservatives he would say he was fired if they voted to make his resignation effective Jan. 1 instead of the July 31 date set in an ad hoc meeting of Lolley, Crowley and three other trustees two weeks before. The other was a one-on-one conversation Dec. 8 in which Lolley rejected Crowley's plea that the resignation be moved up to March.

"'Much has been said about "raw power" in recent years,' wrote Crowley in the letter. 'In my opinion, what you did to us on the morning of November 17 and to me personally on December 8 was an exercise of RAW POWER. The efforts to intimidate your board of trustees since your convocation address are multitudinous.'

"In his response, Lolley said Crowley's letter established his side 'as a participant in these traumatic days.'

"Lolley accused Crowley of succumbing to pressure 'to get Lolley out early' and said he was 'committed to keeping documented agreements.' His letter ended with 'there is no point at all in any further conversation to break those agreements.'," the article says.

Although declining to make a copy of the letter available to Baptist Press, Crowley said the five-page letter was "not written in a mean spirit, but to try to clarify some things. The letter was a chronology of events. The purpose was not to get Lolley out quicker but to set the record straight."

He said the search committee "is getting very close" to naming a replacement for Lolley. "At the present time, we have 17 nominees," he said. The search committee had three requirements to consider someone a nominee, he said. They are that someone had to nominate the person and be willing to be named, a resume had to be presented and the nominee had to give his permission.

Crowley said the committee "will very carefully and prayerfully consider each nominee. We want someone who will lead us in the great tradition of Southeastern Seminary. We need someone with maturity, who is in the mainstream of Baptist life and who has the highest academic credentials."

When asked if the committee will pick a controversial person to head the seminary, Crowley responded: "A requirement is that the person be able to bring peace to the school and the convention. We would be very foolish to do something what would bring further division. ..."

During their Jan. 21-22 meeting, the search committee will meet with the seminary advisory task force and receive the group's presidential profile. "We will listen to them very carefully," the chairman said.

Crowley made public the names of the persons to be considered by the search committee after a partial list was printed in a secular newspaper.

Those who have given permission to be considered by the search committee are:

Clint Ashley, president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, Calgary, Alberta; William Bennett, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark., now in a conference ministry; Don Berry, chairman of the biblical studies and philosophy department at Palm Beach Atlantic College, Palm Beach, Fla.;

L. Russ Bush III, associate professor of the philosophy of religion, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Charles Chaney, dean of the Redford School of Theology and Church Vocations, Southwestern Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.; Abda Johnson Conyers III, chairman of the religion department, Baptist College of Charleston (S.C.);

Lewis A. Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism and director of the Billy Graham Center for World Evangelization, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; James Franklin Eaves, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Seminary; John D. Floyd, vice president of development and public relations, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.

Timothy George, associate professor of church history and historical theology, Southern Seminary; Richard D. Land, administrative assistant to the governor of Texas and former administrator at Criswell College, Dallas; Richard Melick Jr., professor of New Testament and Greek, Mid-America Seminary; Jimmy A. Millikin, professor of theology, Mid-America Seminary;

Thomas Nettles, chairman of the department of church history, Mid-America Seminary; Charles M. O'Neal, pastor of First Baptist Church, Searcy, Ark., and doctor of ministries candidate at Southwestern Seminary; Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, and Gene Miller Williams, president, Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.;

Two other persons likely to be considered are Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., and chairman of the SBC Peace Committee, and Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and former professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary.