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January 26, 1988

88-12

Southeastern Search Committee Extends Nominations Deadline

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Instead of narrowing the list of candidates to succeed W. Randall Lolley as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, the trustee presidential search committee announced Jan. 22 it has expanded its list of candidates to 24 and extended the nomination deadline until early February.

"We have not narrowed down the list (of nominees), but we have done a great deal of work on it," said Robert D. Crowley, chairman of the presidential search committee and also president of the seminary's board of trustees. Crowley, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church of Rockville, Md., made the announcement following adjournment of the committee's latest private meeting.

The 12-member search committee is seeking a successor to Lolley who on Nov. 17 announced his resignation as president of the seminary, effective July 31. At the time, Lolley, who had been president of the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary 14 years, said new directions taken by conservative trustees left him no choice other than to resign.

Crowley told Baptist Press he hoped the search committee could narrow the list of prospective presidents to three to five during the Jan. 21-22 meeting but announced following that meeting the committee decided to extend the deadline for nominations until Friday, Feb. 5. The committee will then meet again Feb. 11-12 in St. Louis. Following that meeting, Crowley said, he hopes to release a list of three to five leading candidates.

St. Louis was chosen as the meeting site because "that is a much more central location for all the members of the committee," Crowley explained.

The search committee chairman said the group is "very pleased" with the nominations received thus far: "We have some superior candidates. These are very, very excellent candidates.

"I predict that the trustee vote that will elect a president -- hopefully at the March 14-15 meeting -- will be something like 30 to nothing or maybe even 28-2. That would be to me a maximum negative vote."

With the exception of Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, Crowley said all of the most recent nominees have indicated to him their willingness to be considered for the seminary presidency.

In addition to Gregory, the latest candidates include Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va., and chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee; Walter Shurden, chairman of the department of Christianity at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.; Robert Cate, dean of academic affairs and professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.;

William Rogers, dean of the School of Christian Education and professor of history and philosophy of education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Delos Miles, professor of evangelism at Southeastern Seminary; and Thurmon Earl Bryant, area director for eastern South America, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

Previously named candidates 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.;

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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, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.; Abda Johnson Conyers III, chairman of the religion department, Baptist College at 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 Lancaster Road Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., and doctor of ministries student at Southwestern Seminary; Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, Dallas; and Gene Miller Williams, president, Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

(Note to Editors: In the list of candidates published Jan. 15, 1988, O'Neal was identified incorrectly as pastor of First Baptist Church, Searcy, Ark.)

Following the search committee's Jan. 22 session, Crowley released the group's presidential profile -- a listing of qualifications for the next seminary president. The profile is taken largely from a report submitted Jan. 21 by the seminary's Advisory Task Force. The task force includes representatives of Southeastern's alumni, students, faculty and administration. (Note to Editors: See BP dated 1/22/88, 'Don't Change Direction, Seminarians Tell Committee.')

The search committee is the trustee executive committee, which is made up of trustee officers, committee chairmen and three at-large members. Trustee officers are Crowley, chairman; James DeLoach of Houston, vice chairman; Ralph Holt of Wilmington, N.C., secretary; and Arlie McDaniel of Moscow, Idaho, treasurer.

Committee chairmen are James Bryant of Fort Smith, Ark., instruction; William D. Delahoyde of Raleigh, N.C., student development; Ollie Key of Augusta, Ga., campus planning; Jack May of Memphis, Tenn., communications; and Eddie Sellers of Morganton, N.C., audit.

At-large members are Roger Elsworth of Fairfield, Ill.; Don Wheat of Clovis, N.M.; and Jesse Chapman of Asheville, N.C., immediate past trustee president.

Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., and chairman of the gifts and endowments committee, declined to serve on the search committee.

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(Contributing to this article were Larry E. High of the Biblical Recorder, newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and Dan Martin, news editor, Baptist Press.)

Southern Baptists To Focus
On Biblical Interpretation

By David R. Wilkinson

Baptist Press
1/26/88

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--After a decade of controversy that often has focused on what the Bible is, Southern Baptists will gather in North Carolina in April to discuss what the Bible says.

The Conference on Biblical Interpretation, to be held April 25-27 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, is the second of three national conferences convened by the presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries. Last year's Conference on Biblical Inerrancy, also held at Ridgecrest, attracted a capacity crowd of more than 1,000 participants.

The conferences were proposed by the seminary presidents in their 1986 "Glorieta Statement" to the SBC Peace Committee as one means to help resolve the denomination's ongoing political and theological controversy.

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Dates for the 1988 meeting, originally scheduled for May, were moved to April to provide for more accommodations at the conference center. Sessions begin Monday evening and conclude Wednesday night.

As with the 1987 conference, the seminary presidents have gone outside the denomination to invite as major speakers scholars from the nation's conservative evangelical community.

J.I. Packer, professor of historical and systematic theology at Regent College in Vancouver, Canada, will deliver three addresses. Packer, a keynote speaker at last year's conference, will deal with issues of biblical interpretation in three areas -- creation, women in ministry and eschatology. Two of his addresses will be followed by responses from two Southern Baptist leaders representing differing perspectives on the subject.

Joining Packer as major speakers will be Robert Johnston, dean, North Park College and Theological Seminary, Chicago; Walter Kaiser, dean and professor of Old Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill.; and Grant Osborne, professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

In the conference's final session, all four speakers will participate in a panel discussion moderated by John Newport, vice president for academic affairs at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and conference program chairman, said the purpose of the meeting is "to build on the foundation laid last year on the nature of Scripture with discussions about why and how Scripture should be interpreted."

While the format bears similarities to last year's meeting, Honeycutt said, the subject nature called for some modifications. Speakers have been asked to give "lecture/demonstrations," dealing with interpretations of specific biblical texts, he noted, explaining, "We wanted every session to be characterized by extensive use of Scripture, not simply a presentation of various theories about interpreting Scripture."

Four of the presentations will be followed by 90-minute workshops where participants will meet in small groups to discuss the interpretation of biblical passages. The workshops, Honeycutt said, will be "in-depth working sessions" that will deal with some of the same themes and texts addressed by the plenary speakers. Professors from the six SBC seminaries again will lead these discussion groups.

The conference also will include a series of worship services featuring the preaching of five Southern Baptist pastors: Ken Hemphill, First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.; Richard Jackson, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Jon Stubblefield, recently called to First Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., from Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; Daniel Vestal, First Baptist Church, Midland, Texas; and Jerry Vines, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Music at the worship services will be led by Phillip Landgrave, professor of church music at Southern Seminary.

One of the six seminary presidents will preside at each session.

Conference rates per person are \$154/single, \$114.25/double, \$106/triple and \$101.95/four. Cost includes three night's lodging, all meals and conference fees.

A deposit of \$38.50 should be sent to Conference on Biblical Interpretation, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770.

The final conference in 1989 will deal with the theme of biblical imperatives.

Baptists, Mennonites Send
Commentaries To U.S.S.R.

By David Bramley and John M. Wilkes

WASHINGTON (BP)--A shipment of 75,000 volumes of Bible study material in the Russian language has arrived at the Moscow offices of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the U.S.S.R.

The 5,000 sets of William Barclay's "Commentary on the New Testament," each containing 15 volumes translated into the Russian language with special permission of Barclay's widow, were provided as a joint project of the Baptist World Alliance and the Mennonite Central Committee of the U.S.A. and Canada.

The books were shipped to Moscow by arrangement with the United Bible Societies, whose international headquarters currently are located in Stuttgart, West Germany.

This concerted effort means virtually every pastor of an All-Union Council-related congregation in the Soviet Union will, for the first time, have a complete Bible reference work upon which to base study, teaching and preaching. Many pastors had almost no study books.

The safe arrival of the shipment was confirmed in a telegram to the UBS offices in Stuttgart. "Praise the Lord," the telegram read. "All Barclay books reached Baptist Union. Many thanks. May God bless you all."

The telegram was signed by All-Union Council President Vasily E. Logvineko and General Secretary Alexei M. Bichkov.

The All-Union Council made an import application for the volumes in early 1986 after the translation, begun more than a decade ago and in intensive preparation for the last five years, was almost completed. The application was approved by Chairman Konstantin M. Kharchev of the U.S.S.R. Council of Religious Affairs. Kharchev's negotiations through various governmental and legal levels resulted in the delivery.

The 75,000 volumes were printed by the Mennonite-related Herald Press, then shipped to Leningrad. From there, they were taken by train to Moscow.

An All-Union Council spokesperson told the Baptist World Alliance staff, "We were praying for the safe delivery of the Barclay commentaries right up to the very moment of arrival."

Almost immediately, the 60 All-Union Council regional superintendents began leaving for Moscow to pick up the commentaries designated for their area pastors. Each area's share is determined by the numbers of pastors and churches.

Most of the superintendents were expected to travel to Moscow by train. They will carry the books as accompanied baggage back to their respective locations, then sort them for distribution to church pastors.

A number of commentary sets also will be available to students at the All-Union Council Bible correspondence school in Moscow, at theological academies operated by the Russian Orthodox Church and other churches in the Soviet Union, as well as at selected research libraries.

The project cost of more than \$55,000 is being shared equally by the Baptist World Alliance division of Baptist World Aid and the Mennonite Central Committee, through designated gifts.

Now that the commentaries are in the process of distribution, Soviet Baptists are urging prayer for another Baptist World Alliance/United Bible Societies project during 1988, when 100,000 Bibles will be sent to the Soviet Union.

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(Bramley is information secretary for the United Bible Societies; Wilkes is communications director for the Baptist World Alliance.)

WMU Accepts HMB's
Marriage Proposal

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union has accepted the marriage proposal extended last week by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

But it's not the first marriage for either, noted WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford: "We really eloped 100 years ago. The Home Mission Board has been just one of several enduring, close relationships we have enjoyed."

Lewis' remarks came Jan. 11 in his first address to WMU's national executive board. He said he was not proposing a structural merger of the two agencies, but rather a partnership "so close, so committed, so inseparable that it is like unto the marriage partnership."

Weatherford responded, "For us, this is really just a renewing of vows made many years ago to partner with the Home Mission Board in the cause of missions."

WMU is fortunate in that it has enjoyed that same type of partnership role with 20 other Southern Baptist agencies, Weatherford said, particularly the Foreign Mission Board: "There aren't many women who can accept such a marriage proposal and still keep partnering relationships with 19 other suitors. But that is what WMU is all about -- supporting and encouraging the cause of missions throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. It is to the inclusion of everyone, not to the exclusion of any."

"We realize this is a conditional marriage. But we know the Home Mission Board understands this and supports us in our role."

The test of time has already proven that WMU does not take its relationships lightly, she said: "Rallying the cause of missions and coordinating those efforts through partnering relationships with other Southern Baptist agencies has remained important to WMU throughout its 100 years. We look forward, as we begin our second 100 years, to an even closer and more committed relationship with the Home Mission Board."

"But as WMU faces our second century, and as the Home Mission Board faces reorganization and adjustments in new leadership, I realize that every day won't be a honeymoon for us. Making it through the rough times will take the mutual love, commitment, trust, equality and respect that Larry Lewis pledged."

"All marriages face problems. But as long as we keep the relationship based on our common goal of sharing the gospel with every person, and as long as we uphold our pledge of mutual love, commitment, trust, equality and respect, the marriage will continue to withstand the test of time."

"We've been partners with them for 100 years. We're not about to love 'em and leave 'em now."

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CORRECTION: Please substitute the following for the second graf of the 1/22/88 Baptist Press story titled "Stan Moore Joins Southwestern Faculty As Music Missionary":

Moore, recently elected to the music faculty at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been a music missionary to Brazil since 1978.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Hopper Installed At
Ruschlikon Seminary

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--John David Hopper was installed Jan. 14 as the eighth president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Because the faculty wanted the installation to be a "family worship occasion" rather than a formal academic affair, Buckner Fanning, pastor of Hopper's home church, Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, was asked to speak. One of Hopper's personal friends from the church, Joseph Brake, sang during the service. Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, presided.

Hopper, who was elected to the presidency in October last year, has been a Southern Baptist missionary in Europe since 1965.

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Ruschlikon Seminary Expands
Applied Theology Courses

Baptist Press
1/26/88

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--Courses in practical, or applied, theology are being upgraded and strengthened at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

"Historically, classical scholarship has been the focus of studies here at Ruschlikon," said Harry Moore, professor of psychology and pastoral care who joined the seminary's faculty last year. Although this focus has merit, he said, the lack of consistent, long-term leadership in practical theology has slowed the development of a more extensive applied curriculum.

Evangelism, worship, homiletics, pastoral care, Christian education, missiology and world religions are a few of the areas covered by practical theology, Moore said. "It is the responsibility of our department to give people the best possible tools for understanding and sharing the gospel." Moore is a missionary with the International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

"Language differences and the way community services are structured limit the possibilities for hands-on training experiences here in Switzerland," said Earl Martin, professor of missions and evangelism who also joined the faculty last year to head a new Institute of World Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth. But the faculty must develop new ways for the students to get practical experience, he said. Martin is a Southern Baptist missionary.

"One student commented to me, 'We have gone from fasting to feasting (in practical theology) in one semester,'" said Moore.

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Mrs. J.N. Barnette
Dies In Nashville

Baptist Press
1/26/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--Edna Hamrick Hawkins Barnette, widow of Sunday school leader J.N. Barnette, died Friday, Jan. 22. She was 96.

Her husband was secretary of the Sunday school department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board from 1943 until his retirement in 1957. Before moving to the Sunday School Board in 1927, Barnette was an associate Sunday school director for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He died in 1965.

She was a long-time member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville, where she taught a sixth grade Sunday school class for more than 40 years.

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