



- - BAPTIST PRESS

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May 4, 1988

88-75

Lolley declines
V.P. nomination

By Marv Knox

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--W. Randall Lolley has declined to be a candidate for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, he told Baptist Press during interviews May 2 and 3.

Lolley, former president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and newly-elected pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., originally was announced as a candidate early this spring. The election will be during the SBC annual meeting this summer.

The original announcement was made by John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C., who told Baptist Press he planned to nominate his fellow pastor. At the time, Lolley was unavailable for comment.

Following two dozen unsuccessful attempts to reach Lolley, Baptist Press released the announcement, based on Hewett's report of a letter he received from Lolley. Hewett later disputed the announcement and described the letter he had cited as part of "very preliminary correspondences."

Lolley cleared the air May 2, when he contacted Baptist Press to announce, "I want to say unequivocally that I am not going to accept nomination for the vice presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention this year."

Several circumstances had changed since he initially wrote Hewett allowing his nomination, Lolley said. At that time, he still was president of Southeastern Seminary, although his resignation had been announced. And he had not been elected pastor of the Raleigh congregation.

He was president of the seminary for 14 years and announced his resignation in November 1987. That move followed action by the conservative majority of seminary trustees to change the school's faculty selection process to ensure that only people who profess biblical inerrancy can be named to the faculty.

Trustees voted March 14 to elect Lewis A. Drummond, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., as Lolley's successor. Lolley's last day in office was March 31. He was elected pastor of First Baptist of Raleigh April 6 and will assume his duties there July 1.

Lolley told Baptist Press two primary factors influenced him to decline the vice presidential nomination.

"First, I sincerely believe there are more exciting candidates than there have been in a long time, and I will support some of them," he said. "I intend to go to San Antonio and also encourage all others who can go to go and support these strong candidates."

He declined to say specifically whom he will support.

"Second, I have taken personal and professional responsibilities that are new to me, and I will require a period of adjustment," he added. "My church that I'll be accepting July 1 has not had a pastor for a year. For the first few months, I especially need to emphasize my care and concern for them. I want to get a good start."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
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The Raleigh church has not asked him to refrain from running for vice president, he said: "The church will want me to remain active in denominational affairs. But I have a pastoral concern to minister to my church."

Although Lolley did not mention the names of SBC vice presidential candidates, he said he endorses Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, for president.

"I intend to support him," Lolley said. "I want to make certain to anyone who asks that I believe Richard Jackson would be the kind of solid candidate we need as president."

San Antonio pastor George Harris has said he will nominate Jackson as president, and Jackson has said he will allow the nomination. Jackson was supported by SBC moderates last year in an unsuccessful attempt to unseat conservative President Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

The other announced presidential candidate is Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., who is being supported by conservatives. Vines' candidacy was announced by his co-pastor at the Jacksonville church, Homer Lindsay Jr., who told a Bible conference crowd, "My candidate is Jerry Vines." The candidacy also was promoted in a new conservative journal, SBC Cause.

The only announced vice presidential candidate is Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. Evangelist Freddie Gage said Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas, and current president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, will nominate Robinson for first vice president.

Although Coffey has been linked to the conservatives, Robinson does not have a party affiliation. He described himself as a "fundamental-conservative and an inerrantist, but not a Fundamentalist."

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Lolley looks for new
Model of cooperation

By Greg Warner

Baptist Press
5/4/88

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Southern Baptists have not seen the last of W. Randall Lolley, although some may wish they had.

In April Lolley accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., a mere 16 miles from the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where his presidency of 14 years came to a halt March 31 in a dispute with trustees over control of the school.

From his vantage point in the Raleigh pulpit, Lolley said, he will continue to be a leader in the fight of moderates to regain control of the Southern Baptist Convention and perhaps of Southeastern Seminary. In a recent interview with the Florida Baptist Witness, newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention, Lolley prescribed a new model of denominational involvement for moderates, who have lost their once-formidable influence in the SBC during a decade of struggle with more conservative Baptists.

"Responsible denominationalism" is Lolley's label for this new brand of involvement. But in many ways it sounds like the old brand of non-cooperation -- namely designated giving -- that critics say characterizes conservatives and their churches.

Lolley said if conservatives elect Jacksonville, Fla., pastor Jerry Vines as SBC president this year, he will suggest moderates divert their contributions from normal denominational channels.

"I'm not going to finance Jerry Vines' type of leadership if I have anything to do with it as a pastor of a local church," he said. "And if I have any influence in North Carolina, I'm going to see to it that the state of North Carolina doesn't do it either. That's not a threat, that's a promise."

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Lolley conceded moderates who follow that course will be guilty of the same lack of denominational cooperation they have accused conservatives of demonstrating: "The only person I know in human history who has not lowered himself to 'play on the level of his opposition is the Lord Jesus. It's reactionary, (but) this pendulum swing has necessitated it."

Recent actions by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and its conservative president, Larry Lewis, have "disenfranchised" churches that have pastors who are divorced, female or speak in tongues, Lolley said, and such actions also warrant withholding funds.

"That's the only way I know to send him a signal -- just keep the money -- because if you keep sending the money, he's going to keep assuming that you're supporting everything he's into," Lolley said.

He would find some way of supporting Southern Baptist missionaries, however, but he was not specific about how such a system might work, he said: "Responsible denominationalism. I don't know what that means, so don't ask me to outline it, but I think as a pastor of a Baptist church, that's my first priority. You can ask me in two years what it is, and I'll show you."

Lolley said he cannot continue to support "business as usual" in the SBC as long as conservatives control the SBC presidency. He listed five reasons why he cannot support Vines or other current leaders: unyielding insistence on biblical inerrancy; an authoritarian role model for pastors; opposition to women in ministry; disregard for the Baptist tradition of separation of church and state; and a pattern of "quasi-political connections" with the New Right.

Lolley admitted, however, that moderates who want to regain control of the SBC first will have to improve their own record of church leadership, particularly in evangelism, church growth and discipleship training.

Although Southeastern Seminary has been a focal point in the past decade of denominational struggle, Lolley said he made little or no attempt at first to respond to criticism the seminary was "liberal".

"I don't know that I deliberately didn't respond," he said, but added, "I certainly didn't initiate a great deal of action to make my school more fundamentalist."

Leaders of most SBC agencies needed four years to comprehend the changes taking place in the convention that began with the election of Adrian P. Rogers as SBC president in 1979, he said.

"I never saw this as a call from conservative Southern Baptists to make a major change in my school," he said. "I saw this as a call from the fundamentalists ... as a group of people with no credential.

"They have no credential to demand what they have demanded, except that they are a bunch of Baptists who happen to have a majority vote. I just have to believe that in a free-church tradition, one person with a conscience is a majority. I just don't respond to majority opinion when I think it is wrong. And that's probably why I'm fired."

Lolley said, however, that later attempts to respond to the conservative shift in the SBC were ignored and betrayed by the trustees at Southeastern.

In March of last year, he said, trustees adopted his plan to bring "top-drawer, non-political inerrantists" onto the faculty. But in October, after gaining a majority of votes on the trustee board, conservatives enacted new policies Lolley said they knew he would not enforce, thereby assuring his resignation.

"We were going together in a direction in March," he said. "In October they simply stopped, turned around in the road and were going a totally different direction."

Trustees blamed differences in management style for their dispute with Lolley, but the former president said those reasons were only "window dressing."

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Lolley's aborted plan of action was based on the Glorieta Statement, a covenant drafted by the presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries and presented to the SBC Peace Committee during its meeting at Glorieta, N.M., in October 1986. The statement commits the seminaries to teach that "the 66 books of the Bible are not errant in any area of reality."

"That phrase displeased everybody," Lolley said. "The fundamentalists saw it as being devious, and the moderates saw it as giving up too much ground. ... Very few people I talked to ever thought it was much good."

The language of the Glorieta Statement was an attempt to reach out to the SBC's inerrantists "and show them how close we come to using their catch phrase of 'inerrancy,'" he said. Inerrantist terminology was avoided however, because "I don't intend to grant them the right of theologically defining the nature of biblical revelation for every Baptist according to their point of view."

Although each of the six presidents had "a little different nuance" to the meaning of the "not errant" terminology, Lolley said, "I meant that the 66 books of the Bible do not have a single author, by my understanding of them, who deliberately and by design tried to mislead a reader in any area of reality."

Critics who say Southeastern and the other five seminaries should all teach the theological views of the majority of Baptists "don't know what they're saying," Lolley said.

"They're saying the schools of the SBC should not be reflective of the constituencies of the convention," he explained. "The conservatives simply do not realize there are some people like me in the SBC. They've forgotten that."

In the early 1980s, Lolley said, the SBC seminaries "had the finest delivery system of minister training in the world." But much of that system has been dismantled, and other parts are threatened by pressure from conservatives, he added.

"The problem the fundamentalists had was they didn't know what they wanted," he said. "They don't know when they've won."

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Women in Ministry
To focus on gifts

Baptist Press
5/4/88

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--"Differing Gifts According to Grace" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Women in Ministry annual meeting June 11-12 in San Antonio, Texas.

The meeting will be held in three locations: Manor Baptist Church, for morning and afternoon sessions beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 11; Plaza Nacional la Villita in downtown San Antonio, for a Spanish fiesta at 6 p.m. Saturday; and the Arneson Theater on the San Antonio River, for Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting will precede the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, which will be held in San Antonio June 14-16.

Women in Ministry's sixth annual meeting is expected to draw about 400 participants, said Karen Conn Mitcham of Johns Island, S.C., public relations chairperson for the organization.

"This year there will be variety, with traditional worship, small groups, a fiesta and an exciting Sunday service with lots of involvement," Mitcham said.

The meeting will feature a sermon by Jann Aldredge Clanton, a Southern Baptist who is assistant pastor and minister of family life at St. John's Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, and a "dialogue of gifts" by Carolyn Bucy, a homemaker from Waco; Ardelle Clemons, a homemaker from Lubbock, Texas; Barry McCarty, a child and family therapist from Houston; Libby Potts, associate director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission in Dallas; and Carmen Sharp, retired pastor from Louisville, Ky.

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Other features will include theme interpretations by St. Brigid's Liturgical Dancers from St. Brigid's Catholic Church in San Antonio; small-group discussions for participants; and musical performances by choirs from Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary, a women's ensemble from South Main Baptist Church in Houston and a Mariachi band.

The meeting's registration fee of \$20 includes a Saturday luncheon, and a ticket for the Saturday night fiesta is \$10 extra. Women in Ministry dues are \$30; \$20 for students and retirees.

For more information, write Southern Baptist Women in Ministry, 9210 Acorn Dr., Waco, Texas 76703.

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Southern Baptist Women In Ministry
June 11-12, 1988
Theme: "Differing Gifts According To Grace"
Scripture: Romans 12:6 and I Corinthians 12:4-7

Saturday Morning, June 11, 1988 -- Manor Baptist Church

10:00 Conference Song -- Barbara Clarke, composer and arranger, women's ensemble, South Main Baptist Church, Houston; education coordinator, Methodist Hospital, Houston
Welcome from SBWIM President -- Libby Bellinger, inner city ministries, Waco, Texas; assistant nursing home chaplain
Welcome from Manor Baptist Church -- Nathan Stone, pastor
Prelude
Invocation -- Karen Conn Mitcham, worship leader; homemaker, John's Island, S.C.
New Testament Reading -- Jann Aldredge Clanton, assistant pastor and minister of family life, St. John's United Methodist Church, Waco
Hymn of Praise
Theme Interpretation -- St. Brigid's Liturgical Dancers, St. Brigid's Catholic Church, San Antonio
Special Music
Responsive Reading
Hymn of Preparation
New Testament Reading -- Jann Aldredge Clanton
Sermon -- Jann Aldredge Clanton
Time of Reflection
Discipline of Silence
Hymn of Dedication
Benediction
Postlude
11:45 Lunch

Saturday Afternoon, June 11

1:00 Business Session
Introductions -- Libby Bellinger
Election of Steering Committee Members -- Isabel Austin, wife and mother, New Orleans Constitution Amendment -- Ann Rosser, associate pastor, Hampton Baptist Church, Hampton, Va.
Membership Report -- Pat Bailey, assistant professor of social work, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.
Financial Report -- Deborah Whisnand-Stinson, chaplain, clinical pastor, Houston
Other/New Business -- Libby Bellinger
Small-Group Sharing
Agape Singers -- Terrell Jackson, director; assistant professor of music, Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary, San Antonio
Introduction to Small-Group Discussion -- Isabel Austin
Small Groups Meet

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Sunday Morning, June 12 -- Arneson Theatre on the River (In case of rain: Baptist Memorial Hospital, Musselmann Chapel)

10:30 Call to Worship
 Invocation -- Deborah Whisnand-Stinson
 Hymn of Celebration
 A Celebration of Dance -- St. Brigid's Liturgical Dancers
 Scripture Litany -- Ann Rosser and Edgar Tanner, director, theological field education, Houston Baptist University
 A Musical Celebration -- Hispanic Choir, Peggy Portillo, chairperson, music division, Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary
 A Meditation of Gifts
 A Dialogue of Gifts -- Carolyn Bucy, homemaker, Waco; Ardelle Clemons, homemaker, Lubbock, Texas; Barry McCarty, child and family therapist, Houston; Libby Potts, associate director, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, Dallas; Carmen Sharp, retired pastor, Louisville, Ky.
 Call To Commitment
 Song of Celebration -- Barbara Clarke
 Benediction

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SBC Forum to emphasize
 'Contending for Faith'

Baptist Press
 5/4/88

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--Participants in the Southern Baptist Forum will focus on their Christian faith when they convene at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, June 12-13.

"The theme for our Forum this year is 'Contending for an Authentic Faith,'" announced Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, and a member of the Forum steering committee.

"Southern Baptists are engaged in a struggle to speak the truth and to bear witness to an authentic faith before our watching world," Wade said. "The Southern Baptist Forum will lift up Jesus Christ, who is the source of our faith and is our only hope."

The Forum will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, which will be in San Antonio June 14-16.

"The purpose of the Forum is to provide a gathering place for Baptists who want to hear a cross-section of all our Baptist people," Wade said. "We will hear from missionaries, seminary professors, a pastor and a national spokesman for the application of biblical truth to the hard issues facing American Christianity."

The missionaries are Libby Bellinger, an inner-city minister in Waco, Texas, and president of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry, and Mildred McWhorter, director of mission centers in Houston.

The professors are Bill Leonard, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Alan Neely, professor of missiology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and interim executive director of the Southern Baptist Alliance, an organization of moderates within the convention.

The pastor is W. Winfred Moore of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, and former SBC first vice president. And the spokesman for biblical truth is Tony Campolo, a professor at Eastern College in St. David's, Pa.

"A new feature of the Forum this year is the recognition of a Southern Baptist church which has made significant contributions to the life of our convention and to recognize a denominational statesman who has faithfully represented historic Baptist faith," Wade said.

Forum organizers expect at least 3,000 participants for the event, which will be held at 6:45 p.m. June 12 and 8:45 a.m. June 13.

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Southern Baptist Forum
 Trinity Baptist Church
 San Antonio, Texas
 June 12-13, 1988

Theme: Contending for an Authentic Faith
 Scripture: Jude 3

Sunday Evening, June 12, 1988

Gene Garrison, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, presiding
 6:45 Prelude -- Merle Hebrick, organist, Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas; Joy Steincross, pianist, Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Mo.
 7:00 Congregational Singing -- Tommy Lyons, minister of music, Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio
 Welcome -- Buckner Fanning, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio
 Bill Leonard, professor, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.
 Libby Bellinger, inner-city ministry, Waco, Texas; president, Southern Baptist Women in Ministry
 Announcements and Offering -- George Steincross, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Mo.
 Church of the Year Award
 Special Music -- Billy Crockett, Christian entertainer, Nashville
 Address -- Tony Campolo, professor, Eastern College, St. David's, Pa.
 Benediction
 Fellowship

Monday Morning, June 13

Gene Garrison, presiding
 8:45 Prelude -- Merle Hebrick, organist; Joy Steincross, pianist
 9:00 Congregational Singing -- Tommy Lyons
 Alan Neely, professor, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.
 Mildred McWhorter, director of mission centers, Houston, Texas
 Business Session and Offering -- George Steincross
 Denominational Statesman Award
 Special Music
 Winfred Moore, pastor, First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas
 Adjournment

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Tyre resigns from
 Bluefield College

By Julian H. Pentecost

Baptist Press
 5/4/88

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Charles L. Tyre resigned as president of Bluefield College, a Baptist school in Bluefield, Va., April 29, effective immediately.

A statement reportedly "from the board of trustees and Dr. Tyre" was released late that Friday afternoon by the public relations office of the college, affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

"After 16 years of devoted service to Bluefield College and to her students," the statement begins, "Dr. Charles L. Tyre and his wife, Ida Jean, have decided to relinquish the responsibilities of the presidency."

It notes that during Tyre's administration, Bluefield College "successfully made the transition from a two-year school to a four-year accredited college."

"During the current school year, however," the release continues, "differences in policy and direction arose between Dr. Tyre and a majority of the board of directors. After careful and prayerful consideration, Dr. Tyre has determined that it is in the long-term best interest of the college that the school not be run through a prolonged dispute and that the board be allowed to select a new president to carry out its new directives."

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In a subsequent statement released by Tyre to the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, he claims the college reported his resignation before it took place.

He said he received an official notice from "the committee asking for his resignation less than an hour after the announcement (was) made by the school's public relations office."

In the trustees' regularly scheduled meeting April 16, a majority had indicated they believed a change of leadership was needed by the college. The action was taken in response to the report and recommendation of a special committee of trustees which had been authorized to determine the present and future needs of the college as seen by faculty, administration, alumni, community leaders and Virginia Baptists.

In his statement, Tyre refers to the trustee meeting and the recommendation as "not negotiable," about which he was informed late that day, "that I was to resign immediately as the president of Bluefield College. ..."

"Prior to that meeting, I was given no official notice of any specific charges or 'terminal displeasure,' and I received no justifications or reasons for the actions taken," the statement says. "I received no hearing, heard no accusations and was given no opportunity to question facts or persons who might be making accusations."

In conjunction with the April 16 gathering of trustees, Gary N. Garner, dean of the college, was named chief executive officer, effective April 18.

Since that time, negotiations have continued between Tyre and trustees relative to his future relationship with the college.

By mutual consent, he will remain at Bluefield College through the current spring term in order to complete his classes. His area of specialty in which he has chosen to teach during his presidency is Old Testament and Hebrew.

"Dr. Tyre and his wife," the public relations statement concludes, "have developed strong ties to the Bluefield community and plan to stay in the area for the immediate future while he explores other opportunities."

Tyre, a native of Texas and an ordained Baptist minister, came to Bluefield College from Judson College in Marion, Ala., where he had been dean.

He is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

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Baptists provide hope
To forgotten subculture

By Leisa Hammett-Goad

Baptist Press
5/4/88

HOPE, Ark.(BP)--Southern Baptists from eight central states expressed their Christian concern for the 12 million migrants farm workers during the first national migrant ministries conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The 30 migrant ministers live in the coastal and heartland states -- where migrants work and travel.

They work with an overlooked group of people who pick the strawberries, tomatoes, potatoes, fruit and produce that fill the refrigerators and dinner tables of American families.

Entire migrant families caravan an average of 1,500 miles from Mexico and southern Texas to eastern, western and north central states, working from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week, harvesting crops.

Families usually include six to eight members; 12 is not uncommon. Children often are taken out of school or left behind with relatives. Infant mortality is high; life expectancy is low. For adults, life rarely surpasses age 49. Farm and road accidents are frequent. Death from pesticides, skin cancer and other diseases is common.

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The conference was held at Southern Baptists' migrant mission center in Hope, Ark. The center is the first organized Southern Baptist ministry most migrants find en route from Mexico and Texas to jobs in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana.

Southern Baptist missionaries Bob and Karen Gross welcome migrants to the center in Spanish, offer refreshments, recreation, worship services, free Spanish Bibles, toiletries and clothing.

In the 16 years Gross has directed the center, more than 5,000 families have come there for help. "Most have a hard time making it," he reported.

Helping these people make it, said language missionary Felipe Soto of Waverly, Mo., is what Jesus would have done: "Jesus had a compelling ministry. He always met the physical needs."

Since Soto began working with the 400 illegal Mexican workers who annually pick apples in central Missouri, 200 have become Christians. Most, he added, do not understand English or read.

"I take many to the dentist, doctor, the city courts, and sometimes (I) am called at 2 a.m. That is my job," he said. "We need to emphasize to churches these people need them. Their needs are great. Because they are Mexican, they don't have government supplements or food stamps."

Jerry Johnson, director of missions for Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association in Brownsville, Texas, said substandard living conditions and unemployment rates compel many Mexicans to swim the Rio Grande River and ride in closed railroad cars to find work in the United States.

Even when they do get jobs, they usually are not substantial, said Mrs. Gross. "These are people who live on the edge of poverty all the time." Her husband explained migrants are paid hourly wages -- chopping weeds or picking cotton, for example. "The problem is getting enough consecutive days' work," he said.

Armando Ramos, a Dallas-based Christian social ministries missionary, said churches should be helping migrants. But "a lot of big churches are not sending their resources into the community."

Language missionary Victor Orta of Tulsa, Okla., agreed churches "should be among these people." But, he added, "There are so many needs, Hispanic churches can't do it all."

Frank Medina, a Carpentersville, Ill., language missionary, noted: "As Southern Baptists have progressed, they have neglected the poor. If they (continue to) neglect the poor, they will have neglected much of the Hispanic community." More than 18 million Hispanics live in the United States, he said, noting they are the poorest of ethnic groups.

HMB President Larry Lewis told the migrant ministers the Christian message does not neglect the poor: "God reaches all types of people through home missionaries. Our witness has no ethnic, racial, cultural or economic barriers. The gospel of our Lord transcends (these barriers)."

"Some people think I spend too much time talking about church planting and evangelism. But ministry is what the church should do. Our Lord was a minister to the poor and needy. We really witness best when we minister most."

Nathan Porter, HMB national consultant for domestic hunger and migrant ministries, agreed with Lewis: "Migrants are likely to be missed and overlooked. ... They are a moving target."

The goal of migrant ministries is to establish a network along the paths migrants travel, said Porter, who led the conference. Central state migrant ministers need a strategy so migrants will see the same people each year and build fellowship with them, he added.

Forming that network is "part of our response to God -- taking what we have and sharing with those who do not, said Lester Meriwether, director of the Baptist Literacy Missions Center at Baylor University. The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act is a prime opportunity for Baptists to minister, he added. The act offers amnesty to people who have illegally resided in the United States prior to Jan. 1, 1982.

Southern Baptists and other denominations, especially Catholics, are assisting the undocumented in two ways: teaching English as a second language and becoming government-certified to assist them with the legalization process, he said.

Porter emphasized the importance of cooperating with government agencies: "If you minister to people in need, you have to work with those who are in constant contact with them. People in need are not coming to us (Southern Baptists); they go to the government." Avoiding duplication is another reason to become familiar with government programs, he said.

Churches that want to begin migrant ministries can receive hunger funds, Scripture portions and consultation on beginning medical programs, from the Home Mission Board, he said.

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Peace Committee report
Copies available at SBC

Baptist Press
5/4/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--Copies of the 1987 report of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee will be available to messengers at the SBC annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16. Copies will be sold for 10 cents each at the Baptist Book Store exhibit.

Publication of the report by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board came as the result of a motion from the 1987 annual meeting that was referred to the SBC Executive Committee. At its February 1988 meeting, the Executive Committee requested that the board publish the report and give it the widest possible distribution.

Beginning June 20, copies may be obtained at the same price by calling the board's toll-free corporate order number, 1-800-458-BSSB, or it may be purchased through Baptist Book Stores or mail order centers.

The report was published by the board's church media library department, which also publishes gospel tracts and "The Baptist Faith and Message" statement.

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WMU approaches \$1 million
In relocation contributions

By Susan Todd

Baptist Press
5/4/88

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Recently released figures from Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union indicate WMU is approaching the \$1 million mark in contributions toward retiring the debt of its headquarters facility in Birmingham, Ala.

WMU relocated in 1984 from downtown to a complex on a 25-acre site atop New Hope Mountain on the outskirts of the city. Cost of the property, building and furnishings totaled \$8.6 million.

The 137,280-square-foot building features a large auditorium, seven main conference rooms, a television studio, library and archives, and a warehouse designed for expansion. It also provides office space for more than 150 employees, with room for growth.

As of April 30, 1988, receipts totaled \$779,209.80 toward debt retirement, WMU officials announced.

Much of those contributions was made through the WMU "Centennial Thank Offering." The offering was established to help meet the goal of retiring the debt during WMU's centennial year in 1988 and to give contributors a means of expressing thanksgiving for missions leaders and organizations.

Individuals have been invited to include written expressions of thanks with their contributions. Those notes and letters are being preserved in a time capsule located in the WMU building. The time capsule will be sealed for 100 years after the final opportunity to contribute to the offering is given during WMU's Centennial Celebration May 14 in Richmond, Va.

Carolyn Weatherford, national executive director, and Marjorie J. McCullough, national president, recently placed the first thank-you letters into the capsule. Visitors to the national headquarters building are able to read many of the letters through the glass casing.

WMU expects to supplement relocation contributions to pay off the remaining debt by the end of 1988.

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