

**(BP)****-- BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE  
SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #756  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Mary 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. Hasley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 22, 1988

88-187

Faith, time, concern help  
missionaries handle tragedy

By Toby Druin

ROCKWALL, Texas (BP)--Their faith, time and Southern Baptist's concern have borne James and Martha Parrish through pain and grief since a July 4 gasoline explosion took the life of one of their sons and badly burned another.

They expect to resume their calling as Southern Baptist missionaries in January.

Hundreds of people have written or otherwise communicated with the Parrishes following the tragic accident in Esmeraldas, Ecuador, when the explosion at a service station killed their three-year-old son, John Martin, and severely burned seven-year-old Stephen. Parrish also was burned on his face and arms as he pulled Stephen from their burning automobile.

Parrish and Stephen were flown to Dallas July 8 for treatment at Methodist Medical Center. Mrs. Parrish and their son Micah, 6, who were not involved in the accident, accompanied them.

News of their ordeal brought a flood of cards and letters and other expressions that have helped them get through the last few months, the Parrishes said at their new home at 810 Stimson, Rockwall, Texas, 75087, a missionary residence provided by First Baptist Church of Rockwall. They lived from July through October at the missionary residence of Fairview Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas.

"We were overwhelmed," at the response, Mrs. Parrish said. "We received some of the most comforting letters that made us realize we were not alone, that we were part of a great fellowship of sufferers, a 'commonness.' There are an awful lot of people who have lost a child."

"I have been humbled by the concern, the care, the love that people in Texas and around the Southern Baptist Convention have shown."

They said they were struck by the sense expressed by so many of the writers that the Parrishes were "their" missionaries. "There was the feeling that we belonged to everybody and that our loss was their loss," she said.

"We have received a lot of attention and met lots of people we wouldn't normally have had an opportunity to know," he said. "Those relationships have really helped us and encouraged us. Of course, we would trade it all to have our son back."

They are now realizing more of the grief process over the loss of John -- a process they had to postpone in the days following the accident due to the critical nature of Stephen's condition that demanded all of their attention.

Time is helping, though, they said, and recently they were able to put together a collage of photos of John, including one taken only two days before the accident.

Parrish also has begun to preach again. He spoke Nov. 20 at Cliff Baptist Temple Church in Dallas and has several speaking engagements scheduled in December.

"We don't understand why it happened," Mrs. Parrish said, "and we may never know why. But we have begun to see some positive results -- people whose lives have been touched." Some people have come to know Christ as savior because of the tragedy, she said.

"We are realizing the hurt will always be there," she said. "But it gets better with the passing of time. We don't have the depths of emotion we had at first."

--more--

"Right now we are still learning to trust the Lord and not lean on our own understanding. He is directing our paths."

Stephen, who was severely burned on his face, arms and legs, has responded well to treatment. The doctor who has treated him has praised his attitude and the progress he has made. His mother said that one day a nurse in the room said his progress "must be because of this good hospital food."

"Stephen corrected her," Mrs. Parrish said. "He said, 'It's because of all those people out there praying for me.'"

But he is badly scarred and continues to have therapy twice weekly. He and his dad wear garments over the burned areas to protect them and to reduce the thickening of the scars. Stephen also wears a plastic mask during much of the day and a cloth one at night to protect his face.

They have been sensitive to his appearance, the Parrishes said, but Stephen seems to be taking it in stride. Recently, Parrish said, he noticed Stephen looking at himself in the mirror.

"What do you see, Stephen?" he said he asked.

"A little boy," Stephen replied.

He rough-houses with his brother and plays guns with the other boys in the neighborhood, just like any other 7-year-old, and proudly shows his rock collection to anyone interested. He still sees the doctor every two weeks in addition to therapy sessions, but he should only require minimal treatment after they return to Ecuador, the doctor has advised them.

However, Stephen is extremely sensitive to heat, the Parrishes said, and they have asked for the option of moving into the cooler mountainous region of Ecuador when they return if that becomes necessary.

They will return to Esmeraldas on the coast for at least a while, Parrish said.

They praised the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for the concern showed them through the ordeal. The board has paid virtually all of their expenses and put no pressure on them to get back to Ecuador. They were on medical leave for the first four months following the accident and are now on medical "furlough." When they return they will start a new four-year term.

"The Foreign Mission Board has shown us its first priority is to take care of us," said Mrs. Parrish, "and we want to thank the people, Southern Baptists everywhere, who have made that possible through their support of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program" unified budget.

--30--

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

Oklahoma Baptists OK  
zero-growth budget

Baptist Press  
11/22/88

BETHANY, Okla. (BP)--Oklahoma Baptists approved a zero-growth budget for 1989 but kept their gifts to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget at 44 percent of their own budget during their annual meeting Nov. 14-16 in Bethany.

The state's budget for 1989 is \$16.5 million, the same as this year's goal. If the goal is reached, \$7.26 million will be channeled to Southern Baptist Convention ministries through the Cooperative Program.

In addition, messengers approved resolutions on the priesthood of the believer and support of church staff members who have been terminated.

--more--

The original resolution on the priesthood of the believer noted that the belief was a "fundamental Baptist distinctive." It was amended to say the belief is a "fundamental and historic Baptist distinctive." The resolution affirmed the preamble of the Baptist Faith and Message, which emphasizes the soul's competency before God.

Another resolution concerned churches in conflict. The resolution stated that an average of one Oklahoma pastor per Sunday is fired or forced to leave his church. The resolution affirmed unconditional love for staff members while resolving to "seek peaceful solutions to all conflicts in the church without compromising the authority of God's word or relaxing the biblical standards for church leadership."

Gerald Peters, immediate past president of the Oklahoma Pastors' Conference and pastor of First Baptist Church of Carnegie, wrote the resolution. It was "intended to neither condemn or condone the pastor or the church," he said, adding churches need to handle conflict without "destroying their witness in the community."

Elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma was Hoyt Aduddell, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Tulsa. First vice president is Anthony Jordan, pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Second vice president is Bryan Glass, layman from Stillwater and a retired zoology professor at Oklahoma State University.

Messengers registering for the 83rd annual meeting totaled 1,367. Next year's annual meeting will be Nov. 13-15 at Eastwood Baptist Church in Tulsa.

--30--

Florida Baptists cut CP,  
recognize Stringer's retirement

By Barbara Denman

Baptist Press  
11/22/88

LAKELAND, Fla. (BP)--Florida Baptists focused on two hallmarks of Southern Baptist life -- evangelism and the Cooperative Program -- and honored their retiring executive director during the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention Nov. 14-16 in Lakeland.

Under the umbrella theme of "Evangelize," laypeople and pastors admonished the messengers for being uninvolved in personally telling people about Christ.

The 2,256 registered messengers also were faced with decision to reduce the percentage of Cooperative Program unified budget funds sent from the state to the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1985, Florida was the first state convention to divide Cooperative Program funds evenly between state convention needs and SBC causes. Currently, only two states -- Florida and Georgia -- divide Cooperative Program gifts equally between state and SBC concerns.

But Florida Baptists voted to send 47.65 percent of their \$23,353,188 budget for 1989 to the SBC and keep the remaining 52.35 percent for missions and ministries within the state.

For the past few years, the state convention had been caught in the middle, as fixed costs escalated and gifts from the churches decreased, Florida leaders explained. In past years, program budgets of the state convention were cut. In 1988, agencies and institutions of the state received a downward adjustment in the percentage they receive from budget funds.

The reduction in SBC funding will provide a difference of about \$340,000, which will be used to fund the state convention's increased operational expenses, increased insurance costs and expanded annuity supplements for church staff members. Also included is a 3 percent cost-of-living salary adjustment for convention employees.

Although the decision to reduce the SBC percentage was approved overwhelmingly, program speakers and messengers from the floor decried the decision and encouraged churches and individuals to increase giving to get back to the 50-50 stance.

--more--

Messengers also recognized the retirement of Dan C. Stringer, who has been executive director-treasurer of the convention since 1979 and will retire in early 1989. Stringer received a lap-top computer, a 1989 four-wheel-drive vehicle of his choice, two books of letters and a resolution of appreciation inscribed on a plaque.

Al Shackelford, vice-president for public relations for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, presented Stringer with a resolution signed by Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Executive Committee and Stringer's predecessor in Florida.

Messengers chose Bill Billingsley, pastor of Sheridan Hills Baptist Church in Hollywood, as convention president. Billingsley considered himself the "peace candidate," he said, since he was not identified with either side of the political/theological controversy.

Other officers are Al Townsend, a layman from Niceville, first vice president; Carolyn Anderson, a laywoman from Lakeland, second vice president; and Joseph Folmar, a chaplain from Jacksonville, recording secretary.

In other business, the messengers:

-- Approved a constitutional change that will prevent any employee or staff member of an association from serving as an officer of the state convention meeting. The constitution already prohibits employees or staff members of the convention, its agencies and institutions, or other agencies or institutions that receive Cooperative Program funds from serving as officers.

-- Referred back to the state board of missions a proposed bylaw revision that would have added associational employees to a similar list of people ineligible to serve on the elected boards, agencies and institutions of the convention.

-- Approved a policy to remove elected officials for reasons of misconduct or unethical behavior.

-- OK'd a change in ownership of the Florida Baptist Retirement Center from the state convention to the Florida Baptist Children's Homes.

-- Changed the corporate name of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes to Florida Baptist Family Ministries.

-- Renamed Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville to Florida Baptist Theological College.

-- Passed a resolution against pornography, with particular emphasis on sexually explicit movies in hotel and motel rooms.

-- Established Florida Baptist Bold Mission Thrust priorities and goals for 1990-95.

The next convention meeting will be Nov. 13-15 in Orlando.

--30--

Tennesseans pass resolutions,  
pick Metcalf, honor Madden

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Baptist Press  
11/22/88

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--Messengers to the 114th annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved resolutions on pari-mutuel betting, priesthood of the believer and support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; elected Calvin Metcalf president; and honored Tom J Madden, retiring executive secretary-treasurer.

The convention, meeting in Jackson Nov. 15-17, also approved a mission partnership with the Philippines and voted to begin a Baptist residential care ministry to developmentally disabled adults.

Registration for the three-day meeting was 1,757.

--more--

Messengers also approved a 1988-89 budget of \$25,281,000. After subtracting a \$1,088,240 "preferred item" to help fund the new expanded annuity plan for the state's ministers, Tennessee Baptists will give 37.5 percent of their budget, or \$9,072,285, of their budget to support the worldwide causes of the Southern Baptist Convention. That percentage is a 0.25 percent increase over the previous budget.

Dillard Mynatt, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Oak Ridge, moved to alter the budget so that \$500 per month would be sent from the Tennessee Baptist Convention to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The motion was defeated, but messengers later passed a resolution supporting the BJCPA.

Metcalf, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City in Knoxville, was nominated by another Knoxville pastor, James McCluskey of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, a former TBC president. Metcalf has been pastor at Central for 13 years.

Metcalf defeated Charles Sullivan, 586-524. Pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, since 1982, Sullivan was nominated by Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis and three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Sullivan is chairman of the SBC Executive Committee.

Other officers are Fred Isaacs, a layman from Cosby, first vice president; Bennie Creel, director of missions, Sweetwater Association, second vice president; Wallace Anderson of Brentwood, recording secretary; and Pat Porter of Brentwood, registration secretary.

Madden, who will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 in April, and his wife were honored during an evening program and reception. He has been executive secretary-treasurer for 10 years.

The Tennessee Baptist Executive Board elected D.L. Lowrie to succeed him and changed the title to executive director, treasurer. Lowrie, a Tennessee native now serving as director of the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission, will join the executive board staff Jan. 1, and will succeed Madden May 1. Lowrie spoke to TBC messengers Nov. 17.

The vote to begin residential care ministry for mentally disabled adults came as a result of a year's study by a committee appointed at the 1987 annual meeting. Funding for the operation of each home will come from a combination of family contributions, resident contributions, endowment and the Cooperative Program unified budget.

Approved resolutions commended bivocational pastors and disassociated the Tennessee Baptist Convention from racial remarks made by a member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission at a September meeting in Nashville.

The resolution on priesthood of the believer, some messengers believed, spoke to a resolution passed at the SBC annual meeting in June, which they thought weakened the Baptist doctrine. The TBC statement emphasized "the priesthood of the believer is one of the most fundamental of Baptist distinctives," and it "is deeply rooted in Baptist history from John Smyth and early 17th century English Baptists to E.Y. Mullins and George Truett." The resolution noted Tennessee Baptists "vigorously undergird the biblical teaching of the priesthood of the believer in Baptist life."

Tennesseans disassociated themselves from such language as Christian Life Commission member Curtis W. Caine Sr.'s remarks that Martin Luther King Jr. was "a fraud," "peace means anything that promotes communism," references to apartheid as being beneficial and the "first communist cell in the U.S. was in the U.S. Department of Agriculture." Their resolution "reaffirms TBC commitment" to biblical teachings that God "is no respecter of persons."

Another resolution spoke against pari-mutuel betting at horse racetracks and the potential of legalizing lotteries and other gambling games. The statement urged legislative action against related referenda. The resolution in support of the Baptist Joint Committee opposed "any and all efforts to weaken the work and witness of the Baptist Joint Committee through the withdrawal of funds" and recognized the "strong voice for free exercise of religion."

--more--

Jimmy Stroud, pastor of Third Creek Baptist Church in Knoxville, made a motion during miscellaneous business that would allow the convention president to nominate people for membership on the Tennessee Baptist Committee on Committees. The motion was referred.

In other action, messengers approved a Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommendation that members rotating off the executive board, Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees would not be eligible again for four years.

Other recommendations adopted included a program statement for the convention's newly established family ministry department and a change in the status of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation from agency to institution.

The 1989 convention will meet at the Knoxville Civic Center Nov. 14-16.

--30--

Alabama, black Baptists  
hold historic session

Baptist Press  
11/22/88

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Alabama Baptists elected a new president, celebrated the state Woman's Missionary Union's 100th anniversary and held a historic joint session with four predominantly black Baptist conventions at their 166th annual meeting in Birmingham Nov. 15-16.

In a gesture of support for downtown churches, the convention met at Central Park Baptist Church and elected Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, president by acclamation.

Carter, who was expected to be nominated but who did not decide to accept the nomination until the weekend before the convention, became one of the few first-time presidents in Alabama Baptist history to be elected by acclamation.

After his election, Carter said he is a "centrist" and "bridge-builder" whose appointees would be "balanced and representative of the best of Alabama Baptist life."

Other officers are Hugh Chambliss, recently retired director of missions in Madison Baptist Association, first vice president; Ralph Jones, pastor of Concord Baptist Church in Chilton County, second vice president; and Janice Brassell, a layperson from Montgomery, secretary.

Earlier in the session, state WMU representatives, led by Executive Director Beverly Sutton, responded to the question, "Why WMU?" with a procession of black flags, symbolizing the 67 nations either closed or overtly hostile to the presence of Christian missionaries.

Sutton called for "a concert of prayer for these silent nations," and challenged messengers "to lead your church to effectiveness in praying and giving for missions."

Lamenting Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board budget cuts of 12 percent, Virgil Cooper, missionary to Korea and now on furlough in Montgomery, encouraged messengers "not to retreat, but to advance" in supporting missions causes.

The highlight of the convention was the historic joint session between black Baptist denominations and the predominantly white Alabama Baptist Convention, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The session drew more than 1,500 worshippers to the state fair arena, where they listened to pledges of cooperation from denominational representatives and heard sermons by Carter and by Julius Scruggs of Huntsville.

Scruggs, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, said the service "shows that we are trying to foster brotherhood and sisterhood."

A. Earl Potts, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alabama Baptist Convention, said, "We have established a climate of openness, of trust and of readiness to come together."

--more--

Earlier in the day, Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington praised racial progress in "this changing and growing city," reminding conventioners, "There is no facet of life in the city of Birmingham that is not touched by this convention."

In business matters, 2,187 messengers from 824 churches approved items of business and resolutions with little debate.

Two major items -- a new set of convention bylaws and a \$25 million budget -- were passed in short order.

The amendment replaced language inserted into the document at last year's meeting, which gave the convention the authority to remove "at will" the trustees of its institutions and agencies.

The new amendment reads, "The convention has the right to remove from office a director or trustee for cause and after the opportunity to be heard by the convention."

Although the rest of the bylaws will go into effect because of convention approval, the amendment must be approved a second time by next year's convention.

The budget represents a 4 percent increase over 1988's budget and maintains the same division between Alabama Baptist and Southern Baptist causes, 57 percent to 43 percent. However, messengers approved a priority item of about \$670,000 to fund the new expanded annuity plan for ministers' retirement. After that amount is subtracted from the budget total, the 43 percent that will go to SBC causes will be about \$10,461,900.

Potts said he had hoped to add a 0.5 percent increase to SBC causes but cited two factors in holding to the same percentage: the acceleration of membership in the expanded church annuity plan and a smaller-than-expected increase in Cooperative Program unified budget giving.

In other business, messengers questioned Sutton and state board of missions members about the lease of convention property at Shocco Springs Assembly to the WMU for a resort camp. But messengers voted to endorse a feasibility study of the project.

The only resolution to prompt debate referred indirectly to an appearance by Sarah Weddington, chief counsel in the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision on abortion, at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.

After meeting with Samford President Thomas Corts, the resolution committee changed the language of the original resolution, requesting that Alabama Baptist institutions "be sensitive" to convention positions on abortion and other issues.

An amendment to the resolution, adding that a leading opponent of abortion also had spoken at the law school, passed by a 14-vote margin.

Samford's Divinity School, opened this fall with an enrollment of 32 graduate students, received praise from the messengers, who passed a resolution expressing appreciation to the school and Dean Timothy George.

Other resolutions affirmed the belief in the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer, affirmed Baptist opposition to a state lottery and rejected "all forms of racial prejudice."

Next year's convention will meet at Huntsville's First Baptist Church Nov. 14-15.

Vines clarifies statements  
about joining non-SBC church

By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines clarified statements he made in October about joining the independent Thomas Road Baptist Church of Jerry Falwell.

During a press conference following a chapel address at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Nov. 18, Vines was asked about a recent comment he made at Thomas Road Church in Lynchburg, Va. Vines reportedly said that if he lived within 100 miles of the church he would join it.

When asked why he would not join a Southern Baptist church, Vines said: "I might. I was just so happy with the service that we were having, and I was grateful for their winning people to Christ. I would try to find the best church I could find, and my understanding is we have some very fine Southern Baptist (churches)."

Vines is happy with his son's experience at Liberty Baptist University, which is affiliated with Thomas Road Church, he said.

His reference was not about whether the church was an independent church or a Southern Baptist church, he said: "My gratitude was that it is a gospel-preaching church. They're winning people to Christ, which is the kind of church I want to be a part of."

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., also affirmed a controversial resolution passed at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June regarding the priesthood of the believer.

He said he supports the resolution for three reasons: First, the resolution affirms the "cherished doctrine of the priesthood of the believer" Southern Baptists have supported for years. Second, the resolution affirms the role of the pastor. Third, the resolution "points out that the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer cannot be understood as an excuse for an 'anything goes' theology."

The resolution drew criticism from SBC moderates when it was passed in June, and several state conventions this fall have countered the SBC statement.

In response to a report adopted by the Baptist General Association of Virginia on the convention controversy, Vines said: "I've got to take a good look at it and to see those orders that are specifically addressed to me. My initial reaction is that there are a number of questions that I would probably like to ask about the report."

Among those questions is whether the committee that drew up the report "is a committee representative of the theological diversity which evidently exists in Virginia."

The report was passed by messengers to the BGAV annual meeting Nov. 15-16. As it addresses the SBC, it asks that the SBC "maintain its historic relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and continue to fund its ministries"; that the SBC allow "negative designation" of church gifts away from convention agencies; that the SBC foster serious, open and responsible theological education; and that "a new style of relating be developed on the partnership principle."

Virginia Baptists also recommended two people from their state for appointment to the Southern Baptist Committee on Committees. Vines said he already has sent to Southern Baptists through Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, an "open letter inviting them to send me any recommendations they have for any committee which is my responsibility to appoint. I would welcome any recommendations from anyone; from Virginia or anywhere else."

Asked if he would appoint Richard Jackson -- pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church who lost the SBC presidency to Vines in June -- to a committee, Vines said he made two commitments for his appointment process.

--more--



"Number one, I will appoint the best Southern Baptists that I can find. Number two, I have said that I would not knowingly appoint anyone to any committee who has any questions about the accuracy or authority of the Bible," he said. "Within that parameter, I am open to the Lord to appoint anyone that he wants me to appoint."

Healing is coming in the SBC, Vines predicted, citing personal contacts he has made with people who "would not be in the particular position I would be in the whole (of) Southern Baptist" life have pleased him.

He said he does not believe the SBC is disintegrating, despite drops in giving to the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget and other statistical decreases. He urged attendance at upcoming state evangelism conferences "to see Southern Baptists at their best."

The greatest strength of Southern Baptists is that people on both sides of the controversy recognize that the denomination's top priority should be winning people to faith in Christ, he said. One of the encouraging signs he has noted since becoming SBC president is seeing Southern Baptists express a "desire to get on with sharing the gospel," he added.

The greatest weakness in the SBC is the division caused by the controversy, he said.

On other issues, Vines said:

-- He hopes the George Bush administration will "give serious consideration to several concerns we have had in the Reagan Administration," such as voluntary prayer in schools and abortion. Vines hopes Bush appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court will bring those changes.

-- He would not be averse to "some kind of representation in Washington in regard to Southern Baptists beyond what we have." Southern Baptists should work through the trustee process and trust those decisions regarding the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Public Affairs Committee, he noted.

-- He is "personally very pleased with what I saw here at Southwestern" while serving on the Southern Baptist Peace Committee's subcommittee investigating the six seminaries. "All indications to me are that Southwestern is a strong evangelical seminary on target by what Southern Baptists are all about and I believe that people feel very good about Southwestern," he added.

-- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., is "more and more a focus of concern in our denomination." Vines expressed disappointment with the negative reaction of students and faculty during the inauguration of Lewis Drummond as the new president at Southeastern.

At one point, Vines and his host, Southwestern President Russell Dilday, almost turned the press conference into a debate over what the issues have been in the SBC during the last 10 years of controversy -- Vines contending it has grown out of theological concerns and Dilday saying it has been more about whether Baptists would continue to follow a convention concept of doing things or move toward more independent Baptist ways.

During his chapel address, Vines told Southwestern students the good news of Christ's resurrection is the message Southern Baptists must take to the "highways and hedges."

He reminded his audience of the "essentials of the gospel," that Christ died for humanity's sins, that Jesus was buried and "put away our sins" and that Christ arose from the dead and defeated death.

--30--

Also contributing to this story was Toby Druin, associate editor of the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly newsjournal.

Northwest Bapt s set  
move; observe anniversary

HAYDEN ISLAND, Ore. (BP)--Northwest Baptists observed their 40th anniversary Nov. 15-17 by launching an ambitious mission plan and planning a move of state offices from downtown Portland, Ore.

Meeting in Hayden Island, Ore., messengers to the annual meeting of the Northwest Baptist Convention adopted a plan which will attempt to begin a new work "within 30 miles or 30 minutes" of every congregation affiliated with the convention during the next four years.

By a 57-43 percent vote, messengers approved a plan to move offices of the convention from downtown Portland to a suburban area on the Washington side of the city.

The current site of the convention offices is expected to be hemmed in by new development brought about by the Oregon Convention Center, the Coliseum and Lloyd Center, making it difficult to expand the facility.

The current site also houses the Northwest Center of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, which brings about 60 students to the convention building twice a week.

Although some messengers expressed a need for more information, the convention authorized the executive board to proceed with obtaining a site with borrowed money. Cost of the proposed location is expected to be about \$100,000.

Part of the plan presented by Executive Board Chairman Bill Phillips, pastor of Kenniwick (Wash.) Baptist Church, is the loan will be repaid with funds from the state mission offering.

In a miscellaneous business session, messengers approved a motion by Don Porter, pastor of Scenic View Baptist Church in Yakima, Wash., that the first \$30,000 of the mission offering will go to new work and the remainder to the relocation. The mission offering generates about \$100,000 each year.

Messengers also took two actions to ease financial pressures on the convention, which is expected to end this year about \$20,000 in the red.

Convention observers said the financial situation has eased somewhat this fall, but earlier in the year projections had called for a shortfall of about \$90,000.

The first action reduces the 1989 budget by \$295,520 below the 1988 budget. Messengers approved a basic operating budget of \$2,875,311 down from \$3,170,831.

Of the budget, the 360 congregations affiliated with the convention are expected to contribute \$1,395,746, down from \$1,650,173 projected in the 1988 budget.

Officials said greater than anticipated participation in a new church annuity plan had cut into revenues available to the state offices.

Messengers also reduced by three percent the amount Northwest Baptists share to support the worldwide ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention. The 1989 budget calls for 30 percent of undesignated contributions -- \$418,724 -- to be sent to the SBC, down from 33 percent in 1988.

Also approved was a proposal whereby the salaries of staff members are to be reduced by a total of 5 percent. Staffers took a 2 percent cut in July, and will take another 3 percent decrease at the start of the new budget year Jan. 1, 1989.

Messengers also voted to end a three-year experiment of holding the annual evangelism conference in September and to return to a mid-winter date in 1990.

Lawton Griffith, pastor of Eastmont Baptist Church in Wenatchee, Wash., was elected president. Other officers are Danny Dickson, pastor of Terrace Heights Baptist Church in Yakima, Wash., first vice president, and Claude Kinard, a layman from Sunrise Baptist Church, Puyallup, Wash., second vice president.

The 1989 annual meeting will be Nov. 15-16 in the Seattle-Tacoma, Wash., area.