



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE  
SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
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 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 9, 1989

89-21

SBC '89 to spotlight  
evangelism, missions

By Marv Knox

N-10

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--Evangelism and missions will share a spotlight when messengers to the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting convene in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15.

"Going, Weeping; Sowing, Reaping" -- a biblical metaphor for the task of telling the world about Jesus Christ -- will be the theme for the meeting in Las Vegas Convention Center, announced John B. Wright, chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

"We want to give evangelism and missions a new thrust," said Wright, pastor of First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark. "It is our desire to reverse the trend in the decline in baptisms across the convention as well as emphasize the necessity of becoming more involved in the mission enterprise of Southern Baptists.

"We desire to emphasize the need for penetrating the pagan pool with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our desire to lead churches to fulfill the Great Commission (Christ's command to spread the gospel among 'all nations') in our day."

The theme will be illustrated in Las Vegas the week before the annual meeting, as hundreds of Southern Baptists descend on the city for an evangelistic blitz. Las Vegas churches will conduct simultaneous revival services, and more than 1,100 non-resident Baptists have signed up to take part in door-to-door evangelistic visitation.

"The intent that is being made to witness to the people in Las Vegas is a unique feature of this convention," Wright said. "One of the justifications for choosing Las Vegas is the influence we might be able to assert on the unbelieving community. Our desire is to strengthen our work in the area through our presence."

Four speakers will interpret the evangelism theme during the meeting. They are Gray Allison, president of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.; Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla.; Bo Whittington, a homemaker from Marietta, Ga.; and Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

"We would like the theme of evangelism to be the thread that runs through the entire fabric of the program," Wright said, noting the three theme interpreters and Stanley will "speak generally to the theme at-large."

The missions half of the meeting's theme will be illustrated by the SBC agencies responsible for sending missionaries across the country and around the world, he added: "The highlight of the annual meeting, to me, is the Foreign Missions Night and the Home Missions Night. We're going to give to foreign missions and home missions the emphasis they deserve and the emphasis that traditionally has been placed on them.

"The heart of everything we do is missions."

SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., will preside over the annual meeting and will present the President's Address just before noon of the first day. Psalm 126:6, the Scripture verse from which the meeting's theme was taken, will be the text for his sermon, he said.

The evangelism/missions theme "has been an emphasis I've tried to make this year in my presidency -- a recommitment to our priority assignment to be personal witnesses," Vines said.

"The projections from the (SBC) Home Mission Board of a 2.8 percent increase in baptisms this past year is most encouraging. Although it's not where I hope we are going, at least we are moving in the right direction. I hope our convention will provide the impetus for a revival of personal evangelism throughout the warp and woof of our denomination."

The annual Convention Sermon will be delivered by Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, at noon on the second day.

As with recent SBC annual meetings, the Committee on Order of Business will provide a prayer room adjacent to the meeting hall.

"We intend to highlight that prayer room and the need for it to be used," Wright said. He quoted George Mueller, founder of an orphanage in Bristol, England, who financed his endeavor on faith, without appeals for money and supplies.

"Mueller said, 'God does nothing but in answer to prayer.' Based on his evaluation and assessment of prayer, I believe that the problems that face us and the opportunities ahead of us must be bathed in prayer."

Messengers to the Las Vegas meeting will conduct the business of the convention, such as electing SBC officers and trustees for denominational organizations, approving a convention budget, acting on motions that will affect the operation of the convention and voting on resolutions of opinion. They also will hear reports from more than 20 agencies or committees affiliated with the convention.

The decision to conduct the SBC annual meeting in Nevada's gambling capital has been controversial, Wright said. SBC messengers' 1983 decision to venture to Las Vegas has withstood several assaults, and many Southern Baptists have threatened not to attend the meeting hosted in the city, he added.

But Wright pleaded for full participation in the Las Vegas meeting: "I would encourage everyone, regardless of their attitudes toward the location, to agree now to become messengers and to be present. It's very important that we all be represented at the convention.

"We have a lot of people who reacted negatively about the site and have said that they would not go. I would encourage those who have been negative about the site not to stay home in protest. The very location of the convention makes it mandatory that we attend and present a positive witness.

"I want to encourage people to come in the Spirit of the Lord, to worship and exalt him and conduct business in a Christian manner. It is my desire that the Spirit of Christ prevail. I'm concerned that we present to the world out there the unity that is available to us in Christ."

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Baptist Press  
2/9/89

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
June 13-15, 1989  
Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

Theme: "Going, Weeping; Sowing, Reaping"  
Scripture: Psalm 126:6

Tuesday Morning, June 13, 1989

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Greg Buchanan, harpist, Overland Park, Kan.
- 8:50 Call to Order  
Congregational Singing, John McKay, Convention music director, Keller, Texas
- 8:55 Prayer, Rex Holt, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark.
- 9:00 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention, Lee Porter, registration secretary, design editor, Sunday School division, Sunday School Board, Nashville.
- 9:05 Committee on Order of Business, John B. Wright, chairman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.
- 9:10 Welcome, Mayor Ron Lurie, Las Vegas

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- 9:15 Response, Gerald Harris, pastor, Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
- 9:20 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions and Tellers
- 9:25 Theme Interpretation, Gray Allison, president, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.
- 9:45 Executive Committee Report (Part 1), Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville
- 10:45 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 11:15 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper, music evangelist, Greenville, S.C.
- 11:20 Music, John McKay
- 11:25 President's Address, C. Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 12:00 Benediction, Spencer R. Rogers, pastor, Delaware Valley Baptist Church, Willingboro, N.J.

Tuesday Afternoon, June 13, 1989

- 1:00 Evangelistic Singers, Pat Roper presiding
- 1:35 Seminary Vocal Ensemble, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Phillip Landgrave, director
- 2:00 Congregational Singing, Bill Keith, minister of music, First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.
- 2:05 Prayer, John Jenkins, pastor, Southcrest Baptist Church, Southhaven, Miss.
- 2:10 Messenger Information Survey
- 2:20 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:45 Committee on Nominations Report, Joe H. Reynolds, chairman, Houston
- 3:00 Congregational Singing, Bill Crawford, minister of music, Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
- 3:05 Executive Committee Report (Part 2), Harold C. Bennett
- 4:00 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper
- 4:05 Business -- Committee on Committees Report, Introduction of Business and Resolutions, Miscellaneous Business
- 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
- 5:00 Benediction, Larry Wynn, pastor, Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Ga.

Tuesday Evening, June 13, 1989

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, Squire Parsons, music evangelist, Asheville, N.C.
- 7:00 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 7:05 Prayer, John Yarbrough, pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cartersville, Ga.
- 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:20 Theme Interpretation, Bobby Boyles, pastor, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.
- 7:40 Sunday School Board Report, Lloyd Elder, president, Nashville
- 8:15 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 8:20 Foreign Mission Board Report, R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.
- 9:20 Benediction, Barry Barron, pastor, Broadway Baptist Church, Gainesville, Ga.

Wednesday Morning, June 14, 1989

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Old Time Gospel Hour Trio, Lynchburg, Va.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 8:55 Prayer, H. Gene Ray, pastor, Normandy Road Baptist Church, Royal Oak, Mich.
- 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:10 Radio and Television Commission Report, Jimmy R. Allen, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:20 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Milton Ferguson, president, Kansas City, Mo.
- 9:30 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Lewis A. Drummond, president, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 9:40 Stewardship Commission Report, A.R. Fagan, president, Nashville
- 9:50 Southern Baptist Foundation Report, Hollis E. Johnson III, president, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:00 Congregational Singing, John Lee, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas
- 10:05 Christian Life Commission Report, Richard Land, executive director, Nashville
- 10:15 Brotherhood Commission Report, James H. Smith, president, Memphis, Tenn.
- 10:25 Baptist World Alliance Report, Denton Lotz, general secretary-treasurer, Washington, and Billy Kim, Seoul, Korea
- 10:40 Committee on Denominational Calendar Report, James A. Green, Jr., chairman, Jal, N.M.
- 10:50 Public Affairs Committee Report, Samuel Currin, chairman, Raleigh, N.C.

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- 10:55 Congregational Singing, Sam Jones, minister of music, Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage, Alaska
- 11:05 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:15 Business -- Committee on Resolutions (First Report), Miscellaneous Business
- 11:50 Congregational Singing, Mickey Ewing, minister of worship, Northside Baptist Church, Victoria, Texas
- 11:55 Music, Chris Chapman, staff, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas
- 12:00 Convention Sermon, Morris Chapman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 12:30 Benediction, Phil Box, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening, June 14, 1989

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, Peachtree Corners Baptist Church Choir, Norcross, Ga., Monte Nichols, director
- 6:55 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 7:00 Prayer, Bill Merrell, pastor, Country Estates Baptist Church, Midwest City, Okla.
- 7:05 Theme Interpretation, Bo Whittington, homemaker, Marietta, Ga.
- 7:25 Business -- Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate, and Music Director, 1990
- 7:30 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
- 7:35 Presentation of Past Presidents
- 7:45 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 7:50 Bold Mission Thrust Report, Harold C. Bennett
- 8:00 Congregational Singing, Monte Nichols
- 8:05 Home Mission Board Report, Larry L. Lewis, president, Atlanta
- 9:05 Benediction, James W. Jones, evangelism director, Baptist State Convention of Michigan, Southfield, Mich.

Thursday Morning, June 15, 1989

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Alan Celoria Family, Jackson, Miss.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 8:55 Prayer, Steve Taylor, pastor, Sandia Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 9:00 Business -- Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:00 Education Commission Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 10:10 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report, William O. Crews, president, Mill Valley, Calif.
- 10:20 Annuity Board Report, Darold H. Morgan, president, Dallas
- 10:30 Congregational Singing, Jerry Ables, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 10:35 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans
- 10:45 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Louisville, Ky.
- 10:55 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Russell H. Dilday Jr., president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 11:05 Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr., secretary-treasurer, Nashville.
- 11:15 Historical Commission Report, Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 11:25 Report on Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group, Larry L. Lewis
- 11:35 Recognition of Outgoing Officers
- 11:45 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 11:50 Music, Jill Shirley, Shawnee, Okla., and David Phelps, Waco, Texas
- 12:00 Message, Charles Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
- 12:30 Benediction, Mark Brooks, pastor, Elmdale Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.

Thursday Afternoon, June 15, 1989

- 2:00 Music for Inspiration
- 2:25 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper
- 2:30 Prayer, Gary Smith, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Enid, Okla.
- 2:35 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 2:40 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report, James M. Dunn, executive director, Washington

- 2:50 Denominational Press Report, Alvin C. Shackelford, vice-president for public relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville
- 3:00 Woman's Missionary Union Report, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Birmingham, Ala.
- 3:10 American Bible Society Report, John D. Erickson, general secretary, New York
- 3:20 Benediction, Joe Finfrock, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gentry, Ark.
- Adjournment

Convention Officers:

President -- Jerry Vines, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.  
 First Vice President -- Darrell Robinson, Pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.  
 Second Vice President -- Rudy Hernandez, Pastor, Metro Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas  
 Secretary -- Martin Bradley, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.  
 Treasurer -- Harold C. Bennett, President, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.

Committee on Order of Business:

Jerry Vines -- President, Southern Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla.  
 John B. Wright, Chairman -- Pastor, First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.  
 Thomas D. Elliff -- Pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.  
 Dwight Reighard -- Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.  
 Reuel S. May Jr. -- Layman, Jackson, Miss.  
 Chris Tecmire -- Pastor, First Baptist Church, Drumright, Okla.  
 Ray Turner -- Layman, Bedford, Va.  
 John McKay -- Convention Music Director, Keller, Texas

Directors of missions  
 to examine 'frontier'

N-10

Baptist Press  
 2/9/89

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--Associational directors of missions from across the Southern Baptist Convention will examine the "frontiers" of their ministry when they gather for their annual meeting June 11-12 in Las Vegas, Nev.

"The Association on the Frontier" will be the theme for the 28th annual meeting of the SBC Directors of Missions Conference, to be held in the Riviera Hotel immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting.

Associations are local or regional organizations of Southern Baptist churches. The convention has 1,209 associations, whose work is coordinated by 961 directors of missions.

"The fact we're meeting in Las Vegas suggested our theme -- a city in the West, in one of Southern Baptists' new-work areas," said conference President Mack Smoke of Baytown, Texas, director of missions for San Jacinto Baptist Association.

"We're also thinking about defining the term," Smoke added. "What does 'frontier' mean? The front line; the area where you blaze new trails. For us, it's also the place where you find Baptists working together beyond the local church but still confronting the local church.

"And like the frontier, the ministry of Baptist associations is ever-changing. You have to be adaptable."

The conference program will include a discussion of Southern Baptist ministry in Las Vegas. Missions directors also will study ministry in sparsely populated areas, work with ethnics, ministry in the future, use of volunteers, fellowship among local churches and overseas ministry.

Speakers will include missions directors from Virginia to Hawaii; from Miami to Portland, Ore.; from inner cities to rural Montana, Smoke said, noting the discussions will involve the variety of challenges faced by associations.

"Our objective involves two or three elements," he said. "We want to help missions directors understand the key role the association plays out in the Christian faith and in Baptist life.

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"The association is right there bringing churches of different backgrounds and stances together, and you must develop fellowship if you are going to function effectively. On a larger scope, Baptist relationships are distant or occasional; but on the associational level, you're face to face regularly.

"And after Southern Baptist plans are made on any large-scale level, leaders anticipate those plans will be implemented at the associational level. From that perspective, associations are on the cutting edge, the frontier of ministry."

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Baptist Press  
2/9/89

Southern Baptist Convention Directors of Missions Conference  
June 11-12, 1989  
Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

Theme: "The Association on the Frontier"

Sunday Morning, June 11, 1989

10:00 Worship Service -- Glen Hickey, worship leader, director of missions, Pulaski Baptist Association, Little Rock, Ark.; Robert Schmeltekopf, preacher, director of missions, Hill Country Baptist Area, Fredericksburg, Texas; Neal Myers, music leader, director of missions, Sierra Baptist Association, Reno, Nev.  
An offering will be received to help begin a new work in Nevada.

Sunday Afternoon, June 11, 1989

Mack Smoke, director of missions, San Jacinto Baptist Association, Baytown, Texas, presiding

1:00 Registration -- Lawrence Clegg, director of missions, Chappapeela Baptist Association, Ponchatoula, La.

1:30 Call to Order -- Mack Smoke  
Hymn -- Neal Myers  
Prayer -- Darrell Evenson, director of missions, Interstate Baptist Association, Portland, Ore.  
Welcome -- David Meacham, director of missions, Southern Nevada Baptist Association, Las Vegas  
"The Las Vegas Frontier" -- David Meacham

1:45 Bible Study -- D.L. Lowrie, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood

2:15 Special Music -- Neal Myers

2:20 Directors of Missions Sharing:  
"Missions on the Wide Frontier" -- Dale Maddux, director of missions, Treasure State Baptist Association, Butte, Mont.  
"The Frontier of Ethnic Work" -- Doyle Wetherington, director of missions, Miami Baptist Association

2:45 National Convocation of Directors of Missions -- Carl Duck, director of missions, Nashville Baptist Association

2:50 Break

3:20 Business -- Mack Smoke  
Treasurer's Report -- Robert Wainwright, director of missions, Flat River Baptist Association, Oxford, N.C.  
Report of "Open Circuit"  
Recognitions

3:50 "The Association on the Frontier in Directions 2000" -- Joe Stacker, director, church administration department, Sunday School Board, Nashville  
"The Association on the Frontier Using Volunteers" -- B.C. McCoy, director of missions, Sabine-Neches Baptist Area, Kirbyville, Texas

4:10 Hymn and Special Music -- Neal Myers

4:20 "The Association on the Frontier Building Fellowship" -- Reginald McDonough, executive director, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond

5:00 Benediction -- Bob Duffer, director of missions, Island Baptist Association, Kihei, Hawaii

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Sunday Night, June 11, 1989

- 6:00 Banquet -- Riviera Hotel, hosted by Woman's Missionary Union, Russell Bennett, presiding, director of missions, Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville, Ky.
- 6:45 Invocation -- Stanley White, director of missions, Los Angeles Baptist Association  
Introductions and Announcements -- Russell Bennett
- 7:00 Woman's Missionary Union -- Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.  
Benediction -- Harold Monahan, director of missions, Eastern Nebraska Baptist Association, Omaha, Neb.

Monday Morning, June 12, 1989

Mack Smoke, presiding

- 8:00 Registration -- Lawrence Clegg
- 8:25 Hymn -- Neal Myers  
Prayer -- Walter Grindstaff, director of missions, River Valley Baptist Association, Lake Havasu, Ariz.
- 8:30 Bible Study -- D.L. Lowrie
- 9:10 Special Music -- Neal Myers
- 9:15 President's Address -- Mack Smoke
- 9:40 Business -- Mack Smoke  
Report of Nominating Committee -- Robert Schmeltekopf  
Presentations  
Presentation of New Constitution  
Survey of Membership
- 10:10 Break
- 10:40 Hymn -- Neal Myers
- 10:45 "The Association on the Frontier in Overseas Involvement" -- Allen and Delores Baugh, directors of missions, Severns Valley Baptist Association, Elizabethtown, Ky.
- 10:55 Special Music -- Neal Myers
- 11:00 Message -- Mark Short, executive director, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria
- 11:30 Benediction -- Richard Ashworth, director of missions, Color County Baptist Association, Moab, Utah
- 11:45 Lunch -- sponsored by property and casualty division, Southern Baptist Annuity Board  
Meeting of New Officers

Home Mission Board reports record  
missionary appointments during 1988

By Joe Westbury

*N-HMB*

Baptist Press  
2/9/89

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists appointed the largest number of home missionaries and endorsed the most chaplains in their 144-year history in 1988, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis reported.

Lewis announced the record figures during the board's February executive committee meeting of the Atlanta-based missions agency.

Lewis told the board a record 733 new missionaries were appointed or approved during the calendar year, up 8.5 percent from the 1987 total.

The new figure pushed the total to a record 3,827 missionaries serving across the United States and assigned territories, an increase of 81 missionaries, or 2.1 percent. Lewis tempered the announcement by saying 97 additional candidates who qualified for placement were unable to serve due to a lack of funding.

"We rejoice in this record number of missionaries sharing the gospel across the nation, but we need to appoint at least a hundred each year if we are going to reach our goal of 5,000 by A.D. 2000," he said.

Lewis also announced that a second record had been broken in the number of chaplains endorsed by the agency. A total of 568 endorsements pushed the total number serving to 2,014. That marked an increase of 67 endorsements, or 12 percent, from the previous year.

"I am pleased to report that these chaplains led more than 20,000 individuals to Christ in 1988," he said.

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The board has a goal of 3,000 chaplains nationwide by the turn of the century.

A total of 41,581 volunteers also ministered through the agency in 1988, an increase of 7,112 from the previous year. Although the number of volunteers surged by 17 percent, it was not a record year, since 1987 had registered a decline because of a change in the way volunteers are counted.

Nearly 900 groups of adults involving 13,500 volunteers nearly doubled the number of adults serving in the previous 12-month period. But applications for summer missionaries are down and may fall below the 1,500 requests for help from the field, he added.

Due to a surge of late-year catch-up contributions, the board received a record \$30.8 million from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Although Lewis expressed appreciation to Southern Baptists for their giving, he noted that the offering reached only 82 percent of its goal.

Gifts to the Home Mission Board through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program rose 5.9 percent, to \$26,198,000 -- an increase of \$189,795.

In looking to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., Lewis reported 80 churches will be participating in statewide revivals prior to the June 13-15 meeting. Eleven churches already have been established toward the goal of 25, and he said at least 20 would be operational by June.

In addition, 6,089 Southern Baptists have pledged to pray for residents of the city by name and have been assigned pages from the Las Vegas telephone directory, Lewis reported. A total of 1,160 Southern Baptists have volunteered to arrive early to participate in a door-to-door witnessing event.

In staff appointments, directors employed Benny Hugh Clark of Conyers, Ga., as associate director of the special ministries department.

For the past five years Clark, a native of Gideon, Mo., has been pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in the Atlanta suburb. He previously worked two years as resort minister/pastor in Park City, Utah.

The board also employed Harold Henry Hime, a national missionary with the board since 1987, as associate director of the church and community ministries department.

He was pastor at First Baptist Church of Anchorage, Alaska, from 1979 to 1987. He is a native of Kansas City, Mo.

Directors also approved loans totaling \$4.5 million to 33 churches.

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Women in Ministry  
elects officers

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Baptist Press  
2/9/89

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Women in Ministry steering committee met Feb. 4 and elected officers for 1989-90.

Betty McGary of Houston, was re-elected president. She is minister to adults at South Main Baptist Church in Houston.

Other officers are Nancy Cole, St. Louis, vice president; Carol Causey, Birmingham, Ala., recorder; Donna Charlton-Starkes, Las Vegas, Nev., treasurer; Carolyn Bucy, Waco, Texas, program coordinator; and Sheila Black, Charlotte, N.C., membership coordinator.

Two committees also were named to explore issues relating to the continuity of the work of the organization. One committee will study its constitution and bylaws. The other committee will study the relationship between the Center for Women in Ministry, located in Louisville, Ky., and Women in Ministry.

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"These two studies will help us establish long-range goals and ensure the continuity of the organization into the future," said Causey, current public relations coordinator.

The next steering committee meeting will be June 9 in Las Vegas, Nev., prior to the annual meeting of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry June 10-11.

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Duncan elected president of  
Baptist Nursing Fellowship

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Baptist Press  
2/9/89

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Joyce Duncan of Poplar Bluff, Mo., has been elected national president-elect of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship. She will assume the presidency in November.

The Fellowship is an organization that seeks to provide nurses with opportunities to exercise their career skills in missions settings. The organization also acts as a support group for Southern Baptist medical missionaries.

Duncan was elected by the fellowship's executive committee to fill the post vacated by Irene Branum of Arkadelphia, Ark., who resigned due to health problems.

A member of the fellowship since it was founded in 1983, Duncan is president of the Missouri Baptist Nursing Fellowship chapter.

She is employed by the John J. Pershing Veterans Administration Medical Center in Poplar Bluff as a registered nurse.

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Southern Baptist-related groups  
working overseas meet with FMB

By Marty Croll

N- FMB

Baptist Press  
2/9/89

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Representatives of Southern Baptist-related organizations that operate overseas -- but outside the denomination's Foreign Mission Board framework -- told board leaders their call is legitimate and their work is necessary.

About 30 representatives of such organizations were invited to the mission board's Richmond, Va., offices Feb. 7 for a dialogue with staff members. They voiced ideas about how they could fulfill their calling while avoiding a collision with the board's status as a convention agency or conflict with evangelism strategies developed by missionaries and overseas Baptists.

Several of the leaders publicly thanked board President R. Keith Parks, who presided during the meeting, for listening to their concerns and taking criticisms they leveled at the board for its perceived inflexibility.

Parks reminded them the board operates under different guidelines than independent organizations. The board is governed by trustees accountable to the Southern Baptist Convention and financially supported under policies set by the convention. Among these is the prohibition against directly raising funds through local churches or being connected to fundraising activities in churches, Parks said.

In contrast, the independent organizations, while led by Southern Baptists, primarily are accountable to constituencies in local churches and not to the convention as a whole.

Because they are not part of the convention structure, the independent organizations must go directly to Southern Baptists or others for their funding, said Jerry Byrd, a representative from World Evangelism Foundation. But he and others encourage donors to tithe to their local churches, Byrd added.

"There is a legend out there that we get our money from churches. The legend is a lie," Byrd said. "If we had to eat off what we get from churches, we'd die."

Byrd and other meeting participants told Parks their organizations can inspire Southern Baptists to give more sacrificially. "Giving begets giving," Byrd said.

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Chuck Conner of Christian Missions Unlimited recounted in an interview how he turned down offers from people who wanted to tithe to his organization. One prosperous couple grew disenchanted with their church and offered to give him their tithe -- at a time when his ministry was hurting for money. "I told them not to even talk about it anymore, that they should tithe to their church," he said. He even refused to take his mother's tithe, he added.

"When we do God's business God's way, God is obligated to do what he's commissioned us for," said Ben W. Mieth, president of International Crusades. "There's more money in the world this year than there was last year."

Others agreed Southern Baptists have plenty of money to get the job of evangelism done. "What we need is heaven-sent revival," said Tom Cox of Tom Cox Evangelistic Association. "When Baptists get their pocketbooks right, there will be plenty of money."

W.H. "Dub" Jackson Jr., president of World Evangelism Foundation, told Parks that on one occasion he had printed an appeal for funds on the back of a newsletter. On the front page he had written extensively about his organization's maturing relationship with the Foreign Mission Board. Some might have perceived the newsletter as using the Foreign Mission Board's name to raise money, Jackson admitted, but he said that was not his purpose.

Jackson and others stressed they are not rebels and that they love and want to support Southern Baptist missionaries. They asked mission board staff to help them understand how they could work overseas without undermining the board's work.

In response to a proposal from Howard Baldwin of Multi-Media Evangelism Inc., Parks asked the representatives to relate to the board through the office of Executive Vice President Bill O'Brien. Baldwin, a Foreign Mission Board trustee, suggested that board staff create an entity to "interface" with the independent organizations and help them as they develop work supporting mission needs.

Baldwin's suggestion came after Parks explained the difficulty missionaries and overseas Baptists experience when they decide on priority plans together, only to find an individual missionary or Baptist working with an independent evangelist outside of those priorities.

"There's no way we can function as an organization and work unilaterally too," Parks said.

FMB staff members also asked the independent organizations to involve all who ultimately will be affected as they plan their overseas projects. "If we're going to work together, all who are to be involved need to participate in the original decision as well as the planning and implementation," Parks said. "We must honor field initiative in all such projects."

The groups' representatives asked Parks to meet with them in Dallas May 18 to continue to build bridges of understanding with the board.

"I think we've heard (that) nobody is trying to restrain us at all," said Wayne Dehoney of Heritage Travel, a former Southern Baptist Convention president. "But it takes more than just nationals inviting us. We need to have the mission involved in our planning, too. If we want the Foreign Mission Board seal, there's a certain procedure we need to take."

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Musicians find challenge  
in small-church ministry

By Charles Willis

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Leading a music ministry in a small church can be both rewarding and frustrating, according to participants in a seminar at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

About 60 people attended the first "Music Leaders in the Small Church" seminar sponsored by the board's church music department.

Bobbie Norris, an elementary schoolteacher and volunteer music director at First Baptist Church of Wink, Texas, said the members appreciate the expanding music ministry for its contribution to worship but have been surprised at the cost of sheet music for the choir.

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Before Norris accepted her volunteer role, the annual music budget had been about \$50. A jump to \$1,200 was something of a shock to the members, she said.

In the choir, lack of men is a problem, a situation she said is common in smaller churches.

Judy and Kevin Boles made last-minute arrangements to drive from Lynn, Ala., to the Sunday School Board offices in Nashville after he discovered the seminar announcement in "Upbeat," a church music department newsletter, only one week before the event.

Boles works full time as minister of music and youth at Lynn Baptist Church, but for now is paid a part-time salary. Mrs. Boles is a volunteer children's choir director.

A recent graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., he has served several small congregations and said he works to lead churches to make music a part of worship.

"Some smaller churches seem to view music as a form of entertainment rather than an integrated part of the worship service," he said.

Mrs. Boles said she believes adults who do not sing at church set an example that their children follow.

"The men don't sing, and therefore the boys don't sing," she reflected. "I wish we could overcome that."

Steve McAnally, a volunteer music director for First Baptist Church of Belmont, Miss., left an associate in charge of his concrete business to attend the seminar. McAnally was "drafted from the choir" to become director when the church's full-time minister of music resigned two years ago.

"My biggest challenge has been my lack of formal musical training," he admitted. "But I have a good group of people in choir. Some are musically trained, and they are a very cooperative group. They've made up for a lot of my shortcomings."

Joel Oliver, minister of youth and music at Earle (Ark.) Baptist Church, said the adult choir he directs includes 12 to 15 members who did not have the advantage of music education through the public school. In contrast, the children's choir of 18 enthusiastic participants has the advantage of a band class in the local school.

Oliver, who said no one taught him "how to do a music program out in the real world," pronounced the seminar a success only halfway through the program. "I'm excited about going back home to put what I've learned into practice over the next several years," he said.

And Norris, who took all her "personal days" from the school system to attend, said she had no regrets: "This is the kind of teaching I needed. The conference leaders work in churches with small choirs. People who work with choirs that have more members than are in my church can't know what my problems are."

Boles said he learned "it's OK to do the things that will work. Music that doesn't help people worship does no good."

McAnally said directing church music "is probably the first thing, including making a living, I've immersed myself in and have enjoyed. I've seen the power of the Lord, in that I am least of all able to do what I have done. It's not without its discouraging times, but overall it's been a real blessing."

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