

Crumpler's daughter, Molly Crumpler Miller, is a Spanish teacher in Cincinnati, where she lives with her husband, Kim. His youngest son, Tom Crumpler, is a high school band director in Trenton, Ohio.

The WMU staff has affectionately referred to Crumpler as "Mr. Weatherford," and his children have teased him about which one's last name will be used. But Weatherford made clear she will change her name to "Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler" and will not hyphenate it.

"This is an exciting time for WMU, and I feel good about leaving WMU at a time when it is at one of its crests," she said. "Even though we did not have a major gain in enrollment last year, the observance of our centennial year has helped to bring the public image and concept of WMU to its highest level, ever."

The timing could not be better to step aside, Weatherford said. Just last year, WMU paid the debt on its new \$8.6 million headquarters complex and observed a year-long celebration of a century of mission support, missions education, mission action and personal witnessing.

Too, events in her personal life made it difficult to consider marriage prior to now, Weatherford said. Her elderly mother, who lived with Weatherford's sister in Arcadia, Fla., required care. Her mother died in January 1988. Weatherford's sister, Eileen Hall, died of cancer in January this year.

"This is a good time to be making a transition," Weatherford said. "I could not have walked away three years ago. But now, our building is paid for, we have an able, capable staff, and we've gotten a good start on our second century."

Although she feels good about the timing, Weatherford admitted she will have difficulty leaving 31 years of professional WMU work. Prior to becoming national executive director, Weatherford worked on the state WMU staffs in Florida and Alabama.

"I'm not sure what will be left of me when you take WMU away," Weatherford said. But she is anxious to fulfill her new role of pastor's wife, and she anticipates continuing to speak and write, where appropriate.

"I can't be the official voice of WMU after I retire," she said, "but I do expect to continue speaking, particularly at missions conferences and conferences in the area of spiritual development." Becoming active in Ohio Baptist activities and entertaining members of the Mount Carmel congregation in her new home also are high on her list, she said.

"I'm excited, too," Crumpler said. "I know it will be an adjustment for both of us -- it will be a total adjustment for Carolyn, and it will be an adjustment for me, too, to marry again."

But the adjustment for Crumpler actually started years ago when he first started dating Weatherford. The two have courted in a "glass bowl existence," Crumpler said, with a laugh. "We've had a lot of chaperones. Everywhere we'd go, people would be watching us. But it's been fun."

Although Crumpler and Weatherford knew each other casually when they both were students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, they did not renew their acquaintance until October 1983 when Weatherford went to Ohio to speak at the state convention meeting.

Helen Allan, WMU executive director in Ohio, had asked Crumpler to host Weatherford for dinner one night during the state convention, thinking she might enjoy some male companionship, Weatherford recalled. "She asked me if it was all right for one of their pastors to take me to dinner, since she thought I might tire of having WMU women hover around me all the time," Weatherford recalled.

Crumpler treated her to a Mexican food dinner that night, and they talked for hours, Weatherford recalled. "It was immediate electricity!"

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Within the months following that meeting, the two had several occasions including a week-long visit to the New Orleans Seminary campus for an alumni officers' workshop. Both were alumni officers that year.

"During that week, I decided I was going to marry that man," Weatherford recalled. "I think it took him a little longer to decide the same thing."

But according to Crumpler, it was never a question of "if," but of "when" the two would marry: "It was not something that I planned. Our relationship was one that just grew. She became more and more important to me as time went by."

Crumpler predicted their future will include volunteer mission service for either the Southern Baptist Home or Foreign mission board, once he retires. "I think our days of service and work are not over," he said.

In the meantime, Weatherford is committed to fulfilling her role as national WMU executive director at a variety of national meetings between now and her wedding date.

She will officiate at the WMU summer leadership conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist conference centers, at the June WMU annual meeting in Las Vegas, at the National Asteens Convention in July in San Antonio, Texas, and she will represent the SBC at the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Yugoslavia in early August.

In fact, she said, "I don't know when I'm going to find time to get ready to get married."

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Woman's Missionary Union

SSB trustees contribute
to payoff of SBC Building

By Dan Martin & Linda Lawson

N-SSB
Baptist Press
2/17/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Sunday School Board trustees have voted to contribute \$400,000 toward eliminating indebtedness on the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville.

The action came during the Feb. 13-15 trustee meeting in Nashville in response to a proposal by board President Lloyd Elder and unanimous recommendation of the general administration and business and finance committees of the trustees.

The money will come from the board's contingency reserve fund, which the SBC requires of each agency to meet emergency needs.

The convention has a debt of about \$2.5 million on the building, which houses eight SBC entities, Elder explained. The debt is due Oct. 1, 1989, and Elder said estimates indicate contributions to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified funding plan, will not be sufficient to pay the debt.

When the building was approved in 1983, convention planners projected paying indebtedness through the capital needs section of the Cooperative Program allocation budget. Capital needs generally are for construction at SBC entities and are paid after the basic operating phase of the budget has been met.

However, contributions in recent years have lagged, and funding for the capital needs section has not been reached.

The problem was discussed during a January meeting of the SBC Inter-Agency Council, composed of executives of the 20 national agencies of the 14.8-million-member denomination, Elder said.

"My concern grew out of that meeting," he said. "We were asked to find a solution to a funding problem."

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The entire capital needs section is "about \$17.5 million behind," Elder said, noting the majority of that has not been spent. The only funds that have been spent are the expenses to build the SBC Building, resulting in the \$2.5 million debt.

The building, occupied in 1985, cost \$10.5 million, trustees were told.

"We (members of the IAC) felt the debt was due and payable," Elder said. "We also were told the anticipation is that contributions again will not be above operational expenses. Therefore, the debt will be due and payable Oct. 1, without the level of Cooperative Program funds to meet it."

The shortfall in capital needs funds "was presented to us (the IAC) as a crisis. We related to it throughout our whole meeting as a crisis," he added.

The IAC made a proposal to the SBC Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee "about how to deal with the capital needs budget that in recent years has not been met."

The plan includes:

-- Payoff of the building would be regarded as a "priority item" in the 1989-90 Cooperative Program allocation budget.

Under SBC terminology, a "priority item" is taken out of contributions before any other item is paid. Therefore, the payoff of the SBC Building would be deducted before any agency receives operating funds.

The plan calls for the \$2.5 million to be deducted in 12 equal payments and equally shared by all national agencies, according to the percentage of the budget they receive.

-- All other capital needs items would be rescheduled for 1990-2000.

-- Annual Cooperative Program allocation budgets would be planned with a basic budget goal no greater than receipts of the last fiscal year of record.

The program and budget subcommittee accepted the IAC plan and will present a proposed 1989-90 allocation budget that incorporates its proposals to the Executive Committee at its Feb. 20-22 meeting in Nashville.

The IAC "made no appeal to us (Sunday School Board) to share in paying off the building," Elder said. "They knew we already had given the land and had given the previous building. They did not even discuss our participation."

The Sunday School Board receives no Cooperative Program funds but operates, by convention mandate, entirely out of funds it generates through sale of products. The board, also by convention mandate, makes an annual contribution to the SBC, and in 1988 gave \$446,000 toward the work of the convention.

Trustees were told the contribution of \$400,000 would bring to about \$2 million the total amount given by the board for the SBC Building. In 1981, board trustees donated the land at Ninth and Commerce on which the building is located. The market value of the land is estimated at \$390,000 to \$400,000.

In 1960, the board paid \$1.2 million for land and construction of the previous SBC Building at 460 James Robertson Parkway. When the old building was sold, the \$1,994,762 received was applied toward construction of the new building.

Despite other contributions, Elder said he felt the board should share in the payoff.

"We consider it a burden of all Baptist people. We want to join the Baptist family in meeting a critical need. We are part of the family. We have been historically, and we are now. We want to do this together.

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"To go back and describe how we got here (in debt) is not my spirit. How we got here is history and that is not the agenda."

Elder praised leaders of the other SBC agencies who, he said, "were willing to lose operating revenues to meet a critical concern."

He also expressed his "profound appreciation for the attitude of the trustees of this board in addressing this. They demonstrated a Southern Baptist family attitude concerning it."

Trustee Don Mathis, chairman of the general administration committee and pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, Ky., brought the recommendation to the board. He noted the board "is joining with others to alleviate this debt."

Mathis said by making the \$400,000 contribution the board "would be lessening the amount of decrease (in operating budgets) for the other agencies and institutions of the SBC."

Mathis read from the recommendation:

"Although the Baptist Sunday School Board is now moving through its own transitional -- even difficult -- financial times, we can share this burden. Southern Baptists are a people that pull together. This action on the part of ... trustees represents the historic support this board has of the Cooperative Program and the missionary work it supports. We are one people; we can do this together and greatly strengthen the work of the total Baptist family."

During discussion, trustee Larry Holly, a medical doctor from Beaumont, Texas, questioned whether the funds could be used for other purposes, such as to "restore funds reduced in the 1989-90 (CP allocation) budget."

Holly said he did not want to see the contribution used to "restore the funds to the Baptist Joint Committee" on Public Affairs, and Elder said the \$400,000 can be used for no other purpose than to pay off the indebtedness.

Another trustee, Dean Mathis, pastor of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church in Hobbs, N.M., said other agencies do not have to take reductions in operating funds, but could take the funds out of their reserves.

Dan Collins, an attorney from Taylors, S.C., called the contribution "unmotivated generosity ... financial grace on the part of the Sunday School Board."

T.C. French, pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., pointed out that when Southern Baptists buy products from the board, "they participate in making possible such contributions to the denomination."

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Trustees approve commentary
title, construction start

By Jim Lowry

N-SSB
Baptist Press
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NASHVILLE (BP)--"A New American Commentary" has been approved unanimously by Southern Baptist Sunday School Board trustees as the title of the board's new 40-volume commentary.

Trustees also voted during their Feb. 13-15 meeting to begin construction on a nine-story office/conference tower at board headquarters in Nashville. They received information related to financial operations, Sunday School Board service to the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Telecommunication Network.

All six of the commentary's consulting editors were invited to attend the meeting to talk with trustees about the proposed title and answer questions concerning progress toward the June 1991 release of the first volume.

Paige Patterson, one of the consulting editors and president of Criswell College in Dallas, presented the title to trustees on behalf of the consulting editors with a rationale for the selection.

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"A New American Commentary" builds on the heritage of an out-of-print commentary, "The American Commentary," which is known among the academic community for its reverence for and high view of Scripture from the inerrancy position, Patterson said.

The earlier commentary was begun in 1876, Patterson said, as the first commentary to be produced for Baptists. The volume on Matthew, written by John A. Broadus, is still widely used today, he added.

By using the title, "A New American Commentary," with a frontline, "An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture," the new commentary "will be placed in the same historical stream as this earlier, scholarly and respected work," Patterson said.

Consulting Editor Russ Bush, philosophy professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, addressed a question raised earlier by several trustees about including "Baptist" or "Southern Baptist" in the title.

Baptist identity will be strong within the denomination because the board's Broadman Press is to be the publisher, said Bush, who has been nominated as academic dean at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. By not using "Baptist" in the title, the commentary volumes can be used widely by evangelical Christians of many denominations, he added.

Trustee John David Laida, chairman of the publishing and distribution subcommittee and a retired pastor from Clarksville, Tenn., also shared preliminary artwork with trustees that incorporates the Southern Baptist logo on the cover.

The nine-story office/conference tower was approved by trustees without opposition. The vote gave the go-ahead for construction to begin immediately on the building, which will be located on top of the board's Operations Building. Contracts were approved by trustees at total projected costs of \$15.5 million, which will be paid from the board's fixed-asset reserve fund.

Expected completion date for the project is September 1990. The building will have 147,000 square feet in the nine floors, but only five and three-quarters floors of office space will be completed initially, leaving room for future expansion.

A board income and expense report for the year ending Sept. 30, 1988, showed a total income of \$166.5 million. Total revenue was 0.5 percent below budget but 6.6 percent above the previous year.

The program of Holman Bible Publishing was one of the most encouraging sales areas. Board leadership noted a 65.2 percent gain was registered because of strong sales of new products from Holman, especially the UltraThin Bibles and the Disciple's Study Bible.

The board's teaching and training network, BTN, has made several changes in operations and programming, trustees were told, which have led to cost savings and an improved product for local churches. As of Jan. 31, the network included 1,503 subscribers.

Providing quality products and service for local churches was the focus of the opening-night session for trustees, who expressed concern and commitment that the Sunday School Board be responsive and flexible with churches to answer their requests.

Increased time for trustee input into planning and understanding Sunday School Board issues was discussed during a plenary session, in which a recommendation from the general administration committee was approved 44-18 to keep the number of trustee meetings at two per year.

Several trustees asked that the agenda be expanded during the semi-annual sessions to provide additional time for business and committee work.

An evening dinner with trustees and administration provided a time to honor James W. Clark for his 35 years of service to the board. Clark, senior vice president for publishing and distribution and former executive vice president, has announced he will retire May 31.

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In addition to a cash gift, trustees voted to give Clark the new commentary set as the volumes are released.

A nominating committee report also was approved, re-electing trustee officers for the second year. Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., was re-elected chairman; Roland Maddox, a real estate developer from Memphis, Tenn., vice-chairman; and William G. Wilson, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tenn., recording secretary.

The next meeting of trustees will be at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, Aug. 7-9.

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Pastor declines HMB position;
cites concerns with trustees

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

Baptist Press
2/17/89

ATLANTA (BP)--A Georgia pastor declined to accept employment with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board after some members of the agency's trustees questioned practices of the candidate's church and its support of the convention's budget.

Benny Clark was elected associate director of the special ministries department Feb. 7 by the trustee executive committee. However, Clark, in a Feb. 15 letter to HMB President Larry Lewis, declined to accept the position, citing differences with trustees.

Clark will remain pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Conyers, Ga. He was not scheduled to begin work with the HMB until March 1.

Trustee Ron Long, pastor of Glenwood Hills Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga., expressed concerns about Clark to Lewis soon after the executive committee unanimously elected Clark. Long was present at the meeting and said he voted. However, he did not voice disagreement with the action at the time.

Lewis said trustees did not raise concerns at the executive committee meeting because they said they assumed the questions had been disclosed and dealt with prior to Clark's presentation for election.

Long told Baptist Press, "At that time I was under the impression that Mr. Clark had been thoroughly screened and all of those problems had been worked through."

Lewis said he subsequently received telephone calls from "several directors across the nation" who expressed many of the same concerns Long had raised about Clark's election. Lewis said he discussed the concerns with each of the directors in an attempt to resolve the conflict.

"These issues were not surfaced during the employment screening process," Lewis said. "I will be personally reviewing that process to make sure potentially controversial issues are brought to my attention in the future."

Clark said none of the directors confronted him directly with the concerns. However, it became obvious that enough directors were concerned that the matter would be dealt with in their March meeting, Clark said.

Lewis said directors raised five concerns: "minimal" support by Clark's church of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, the convention's unified funding plan; Clark's affiliation with the Southern Baptist Alliance; the ordination of women as deacons in Clark's church; the lack of Sunday night worship at Clark's church; and Clark's role in a controversy in Stone Mountain Baptist Association.

The first issue was the amount of money Clark's church contributed to the Cooperative Program.

Published records of the Georgia Baptist Convention show Trinity Baptist Church contributed \$2,206.08 to the Cooperative Program and \$2,986.30 to designated missions causes in 1988, for a total of \$5,192.38. The church's total receipts last year were about \$175,000, Clark said.

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Clark reported church gave more than \$7,000 to all missions causes in the 1987-88 church year. He said the church had budgeted 10 percent of its receipts to the Cooperative Program but had been unable to meet that commitment for part of last year because of financial difficulties.

"There was a period when the church didn't give. We just didn't have the money. There were a lot of other things that went undone. We couldn't pay the light bill," he said. "We have not voted to discontinue support of the Cooperative Program."

The second concern was that Clark is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Alliance, a coalition of moderate Southern Baptists displeased with the recent course of the convention.

Clark told Baptist Press his church is not a member of the Alliance but that he had been, although he wasn't certain if his dues were current. Alliance Executive Director Stan Hastey confirmed Clark is a member in good standing.

The third concern was the practice of ordaining women as deacons in Clark's church. Lewis said directors were concerned that this controversial issue is more divisive than healing in the midst of the current denominational conflict.

Clark responded that his church does have two women deacons. "When we nominated our first deacons, 12 ladies were nominated," he said. "I did not tell the church they had to nominate women. I did not tell them they couldn't nominate women. That's the church's decision, not the Home Mission Board's."

Fourth, directors expressed concern that Clark's church does not have Sunday night services, Lewis said. Clark explained that although his church does not meet for worship on Sunday nights, they do have other ministry activities at that time every week.

Finally, Long reported that Clark had been "embroiled in some controversy" in Stone Mountain Baptist Association, where both men's churches are affiliated. Clark was chairman of the association's personnel committee last year. During that time, the director of missions resigned, citing personal concerns.

"We were dealing with a staff problem in the association, and we didn't deal with it the way Long thought we should," Clark explained.

Long said these concerns are not theological but relate to "a lack of commitment to missions" and a "direct and deliberate attempt to drive a wedge among Southern Baptists" by membership in the Alliance.

Clark responded: "What hurt more than anything, what stabbed me in the heart, was that this church was accused of not being missions-minded. That's simply not true."

Trinity Baptist Church performs multiple local missions ministries such as Bible clubs for children, a Fun Wagon in the summer and a food bank, and has participated in missions events out of the United States, said Clark, previously a resort missionary in Utah.

Clark said he received no pressure from Lewis or other HMB administrators to decline the position and that the decision is his own. "I feel good about my decision," he said. "All I care is for Southern Baptists to know this was not a theological battle. No one has challenged my theology. They challenged my church and the way we do church."

Lewis expressed concern that Clark had been inconvenienced by the event. "In the single pre-employment interview I had with him, I was impressed with his skills and Christian character," he said.

"I also regret that the concerns of consequence to the directors were not surfaced prior to the election of Mr. Clark," Lewis said. "I shall work to prevent a recurrence of this type thing again."

Evangelists to hear
Falwell, Hill, Blessitt

N-CO

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--Participants in the annual meeting of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will fan out across the streets of Las Vegas, June 14, after hearing speakers such as Jerry Falwell, E.V. Hill and Arthur Blessitt.

The conference will meet from 1:15 to 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Las Vegas Convention Center. COSBE is one of the meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 13-15 in the convention center.

Jay Strack, an evangelist from Dallas, and president of the conference, said the meeting will adjourn early enough so that participants can "go out and distribute about 10,000 New Testaments and 10,000 gospel tracts on the streets of Las Vegas."

"With evangelism down and baptisms down (in the SBC), it behooves us to be at the vanguard of anything that has to do with winning people to Christ. We encourage pastors, wives, messengers and anyone else to leave the convention hall with us that Wednesday afternoon and hand them (the testaments and tracts) out," he added.

COSBE officers "have had a hard time planning our conference," Strack said. "There was a time when the evangelists' conference was one of the highlights. But for the last 10 or 12 years, many of the speakers who have spoken at our conference were speakers in the Pastors' Conference, too."

"We wanted a program that would feature some men not on any other program. We wanted to bring in some people who would generate some curiosity.

"Our desire was to have men the evangelists and preachers would want to hear. Many times in the past, we have used non-Southern Baptists to challenge us, men such as Charles Swindoll and D. James Kennedy. We now seem to be in a place as a convention that we are willing to hear some other voices challenging us to do what we ought to do."

Falwell, an independent Baptist pastor and television evangelist, will speak on church planting, Strack said.

"Most of the men who pastor what we call mega churches sometimes have not had an emphasis on church planting. But Dr. Falwell has had a tremendous emphasis on planting churches. It has been a recurring theme (for Falwell) for about a year and a half," Strack said.

COSBE officers "feared there would be more emphasis on Dr. Falwell than on evangelism. We wanted to generate some curiosity and to hear a new, fresh voice," he said.

The Dallas evangelist said he had "heard the rumors Falwell was going to become a Southern Baptist," but said that was not the reason the Lynchburg, Va., pastor was invited. "We have no hidden agenda. Virtually all of our organization loves Dr. Falwell. We feel a lot of folks want to hear him and that he is going to bring a very positive message," Strack said.

Theme for the conference will be "The New Testament Way to Revival," he added.

In addition to Falwell, another speaker is Hill, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Los Angeles, a black Baptist. Hill, who has spoken at many Southern Baptist gatherings, will be "preaching and motivating us to get back to the main thing ... unashamedly proclaiming the gospel of Christ," Strack said.

Also to speak will be Rick Stanley, an evangelist from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., who will talk about youth evangelism. Stanley is the late Elvis Presley's stepbrother.

Robert McGee, president of RAPHA, a Christian drug and alcohol counseling organization with centers in several cities, including Houston, also will speak. He will give a testimony and show "there is a way through Christian counseling and the Bible to make people whole again," Strack said.

The final speaker will be Blessitt, an evangelist from Hollywood, Calif., who has dragged a cross across much of the nation and world.

"We have asked Arthur to bring his cross, and when he has spoken, to lead us out to witness to Las Vegas," Strack said.

In addition to the annual meeting, COSBE is planning two other events. First, the group is trying to get about 100 vocational evangelists into Las Vegas for a saturation evangelism effort Saturday, June 11, Strack said.

The second effort will be "Afterglow" sessions in the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel from 10 to 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 13-14. The Afterglows will feature mini-concerts by music evangelists.

In addition to Strack, COSBE officers are Delton Dees, St. Louis, vice president; Steve Hale, Evansville, Ind., secretary-treasurer; John Bos, Orlando, Fla., music director; Alan Celoria, Smithdale, Miss., assistant music director; Perry Neal, Montgomery, Ala., parliamentarian; Fred Lowery, Bossier City, La., pastor-advisor; and Tom McEachin, Atlanta, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board liaison.