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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
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. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

March 20, 1989

N-FMB

89-44

Patterson says decision due on Belgian school purchase

By Mike Creswell

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP)--A final decision on whether Criswell College in Dallas will buy an evangelical school complex in Belgium should be announced by the end of April, according to Criswell President Paige Patterson.

Patterson was in Brussels in mid-March to lead a Bible study at International Baptist Church and to consult with leaders of the financially troubled Belgian Center for Biblical Education at nearby Louvain about purchasing the 10-acre complex.

Pledges of funds to help with the purchase have come in well, Patterson said March 17, "especially in the past two weeks," but he cautioned that the transaction still is not a "done deal."

He has been "pleasantly surprised" at the interest shown by evangelicals and "a good number of Baptists" in eight or nine European countries, he said. He also has found some interest "from European sources" in helping renovate the complex, he added.

The Belgian Center for Biblical Education is the umbrella title for five divisions that have functioned on the site, including a French language Bible institute, a Dutch-language Bible institute, a conference center, a counseling center and the Evangelical Theological Faculty. The last entity is considered important because it is accredited by the Belgian government to offer degrees equal to university-level degrees.

Baptists are included among about 160 students and some faculty members, but most are members of the Evangelical Free Churches or the Dutch Reformed Church. Many students come from the Netherlands. One Southern Baptist missionary, William Wagner, on his own initiative has taught courses at the school. Wagner is church growth consultant for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

During the week of March 19, Patterson was scheduled to travel from Brussels to Ruschlikon, Switzerland. He hoped to discuss the school transaction with John David Hopper, a Southern Baptist missionary who is president of International Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon. Patterson also planned to meet with Baptist leaders and professors in West Germany. Later, he said, he plans to talk by telephone with other Baptist leaders in Europe, including Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, the representative body of 26 Baptist unions and conventions in Europe.

Wumpelmann earlier said the Belgian school's possible affiliation with Criswell College "could create divisions" among European Baptists by emphasizing their differences. Wumpelmann also criticized Patterson for not discussing the purchase with European Baptist leaders before pursuing negotiations.

The possible purchase also has been criticized by R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, as being contrary to the spirit of cooperation Southern Baptists have forged with European Baptists through the Foreign Mission Board. Parks also said Patterson, currently a Foreign Mission Board trustee, should have discussed the move with board officials and European Baptist leaders.

In Brussels, Patterson said earlier public discussion of the transaction would have been "presumptuous and premature," and that in any case such a move would have been the Belgian school's responsibility, not his.

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Patterson met ch 18 with Henri Bens, president of the Union of Baptists in Belgium, to discuss the school purchase.

"We had a good conversation," Patterson said. "I urged him to take advantage of the opportunity, any time he has a question or complaint, to take my phone number and call me. I would hear him gladly."

Patterson also met informally with several Southern Baptist missionaries in Belgium to discuss the possible school purchase. He opened the session at International Baptist Church by specifying, "as I promised Keith Parks I would," that the purchase has nothing to do with the Foreign Mission Board but is being undertaken solely by First Baptist Church of Dallas, sponsor of Criswell College.

Patterson said he does not feel his involvement with the school purchase is a conflict of interest with his role as a Foreign Mission Board trustee. Rather, he said, it has "a lot to do with the autonomy of the local church and the priesthood of believers."

Acknowledging that mission board President Parks has reservations about the unilateral acquisition, Patterson said, "I don't agree with him, but I understand his reservations."

Patterson outlined his dreams for the school, including a funding package underwritten by an endowment; a renovated building complex; students drawn from throughout Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa; and an approach to learning dedicated to evangelism and starting Baptist churches.

Patterson said he is seeking not only funds to buy the school but also enough money to endow its operation. "There's no use taking (the school) unless we can help," he said. "I really don't have a target figure, but we must have a sufficient amount so that I feel we will not be imperiling the work either here or in Dallas."

Criswell College's annual budget is \$4.5 million, Patterson said, and he and his staff must raise all of it. The Belgian school's structure, he said, already is much the same as that of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, an umbrella organization including Criswell College, the Criswell Radio Network and Criswell Publications.

Patterson said he expects students to come from throughout Western and Eastern Europe, as well as from the Middle East. He also envisions students coming from Africa because of historical ties with Belgium. Belgium has maintained close ties with its former African colony, Zaire, earlier known as the Belgian Congo.

Asked "how Baptist" the school would be if purchased, Patterson said: "I am, as you know, a Baptist in the totality of my being. We want to be of assistance to any evangelicals, and we will try not to make them feel ill at ease, but our first love and first commitment would naturally be helping the Baptist churches of Europe." Non-Baptist evangelicals would be welcome to attend the school, he said, just as they are welcome to attend Criswell College.

Patterson said he does not plan to bring an American method of evangelism and church planting to Belgium, but rather biblical methods. Students and faculty members would be required to be involved in personal evangelism and expected to be involved in a local church.

Exchange programs for faculty and students would be devised between the Belgian school and Criswell College, Patterson said. Although he expects to be closely involved with the school in the early days, he said he would turn operations over to a Belgium-based staff while he concentrates on administration and public relations in the United States. The school's name would remain unchanged for the time being, he said.

Belgian law governing the granting of degrees requires that 60 percent of the school's 12-member governing body be Belgian residents, he said, although no such requirements exist for the administrative council, faculty or student body. Patterson said he envisions enlarging the school's administrative council, comparable to a board of trustees in an American institution, to include a wider representation from Europe.

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As to cooperating with European Baptists, Belgian Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries in Belgium, Patterson pledged an open-door policy: "If there's something you'd like us to do, say something to us. Our doors are open."

Patterson stressed that the potential purchase should not be viewed as a reaction to recent events at the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon. He said Criswell College was approached by the Belgian school's leaders about buying the institution more than three years ago -- long before the time last year when the Ruschlikon seminary, faced with its own financial problems, considered buying the Belgian campus and moving there.

Instead, Foreign Mission Board trustees voted last October to turn over ownership of the seminary to the European Baptist Federation and pledged long-term support of the school, which will remain at Ruschlikon. Patterson was one of eight trustees voting against the decision.

"We will not come in and mount a polemic against (the seminary at) Ruschlikon," Patterson said. "If we do get involved in the school purchase, it will be because we're interested in evangelism and church planting. Wherever Ruschlikon's concern is winning people to Christ and starting churches, we can certainly cooperate with them in that. We are not a threat to them. We do not want to force ourselves on anyone, but serve in a servant capacity."

Patterson indicated one of his concerns is improving public understanding about the proposed purchase: "We are coming into this with bad public relations. We have a public relations hill to climb. I'm painfully aware of that."

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Note to editors: Mike Creswell, Baptist Press overseas correspondent for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, is based in Brussels.

Jackson considers
'going independent'

By Toby Druin & Greg Warner

N-10
Baptist Press
3/20/89

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--Concerned that Southern Baptist Convention leaders are "more interested in establishing a lobby in Washington than reaching people for Christ," Richard Jackson said he is considering leading his church to go "independent" or possibly to cut its support of the SBC budget to the level given by churches of the denomination's presidents of the last decade.

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., for the last 25 years, told the Florida Baptist Witness, Florida Baptists' weekly newsjournal, he is considering the "independent" route.

Jackson noted the presence of independent Baptist Jerry Falwell on the program of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in Las Vegas, Nev., in June and added some SBC leaders had approached him (Jackson) about welcoming Falwell into the convention.

"I said, 'Not until he becomes a cooperating Southern Baptist,'" Jackson said, noting Falwell has spent much of his time criticizing Southern Baptists.

"Who would have thought in 1980 that in 1989 Jerry Falwell would be preaching at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting and Richard Jackson would be considering being an independent Baptist?" Jackson said.

Every Baptist church is independent and autonomous in the strict sense of the word "independent." The difference between Southern Baptist and "Independent" -- capital "I" -- churches is that Southern Baptist churches support the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget, and Independent Baptist churches do not and often are critical of the Cooperative Program.

Jackson's church has contributed more than \$1 million each year for the last three years -- more than \$7 million this decade -- in support of the CP and has baptized almost 12,000 new converts in the last 10 years -- 1,106 in 1988.

"By independent, I meant just what I said," Jackson told the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly newsjournal "that is, not affiliated with the convention as we have always been.

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"Now understand this is me, Richard Jackson, talking and not North Phoenix Baptist Church. I see the convention moving where I am not. We hear a lot of talk about reaching people for Christ, but I see a lot more emphasis on establishing a lobby in Washington.

"Down that road I can't go. If the convention goes down the road of church interference with the state or over-concern about Washington, D.C., I am not going. I am a died-in-the-wool church/state separationist.

"I am pressured all the time to turn my church into an anti-abortion stage. I am against abortion, but that is not my main issue. I am going to preach Jesus, against sin and for salvation. I am going to try to get people right with God.

"The ironic thing is that when this (controversy) started, people were saying our seminaries were getting so liberal we weren't going to win anyone to Jesus. Now we have the attention of the seminaries, and we are getting so interested in running the government we are not going to win anyone to Jesus."

Jackson's mention of a Washington lobby was a reference to the proposed establishment by the SBC of a new Religious Liberty Commission in Washington to represent the denomination in church/state affairs. Jackson opposed the proposal while attending the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville.

It broke his heart, he said, to see the Executive Committee approve the Religious Liberty Commission proposal after SBC Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks had told them it would hurt the SBC missions program.

"They not only didn't agree with him, they didn't even listen to him," Jackson said. "They showed him no respect. That was the sense I got."

The Phoenix pastor said he has led his church to trim its budget to the bone to maintain its Cooperative Program support, but in light of the direction the denomination is taking, he can "no longer look my people in the face and ask them to sacrifice the way they do and neglect local programs."

The church was a Southern Baptist congregation when he became its pastor in 1971, he said, but noted most of its 20,000 members became Southern Baptists for the first time when they joined the church and had no knowledge of the denomination beforehand.

"My people are Southern Baptists because I am," he said, "because North Phoenix Baptist Church is Southern Baptist and they joined it. They have supported the Cooperative Program because I have asked them to do it, and they have done it gladly. But it costs us to do it. And considering what has been happening, I don't know if I can continue to ask them to make the sacrifice."

Jackson said he had mentioned his concern at his church's annual deacons' retreat March 10-11 and asked the 200 men there to pray about it and any decision to be made by the church.

"My problem is I feel so bad about calling myself a Southern Baptist and even talking about cutting support of the Cooperative Program," he said.

"These other guys (SBC presidents over the last decade) talk about not cutting back on the Cooperative Program or continuing support, and it's easy for them to say because they never have supported it much in the first place.

"They criticize people in the Southern Baptist Alliance for withholding funds, when they (recent presidents' churches) have never given much. If you have never given much, you can brag and say, 'I don't withhold anything.'

"I have the option of trying to adjust our support. I have been accused of being a liberal when the only thing I am liberal about is Cooperative Program support. I have also been accused of not being conservative, so I guess I could consider cutting our budget back to match the conservatives so we could be conservative."

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Whatever North Phoenix does, he said, "any decision will take a long time and a lot of prayer, and I hope the decision can be that we can stay as Southern Baptists and continue full cooperation and full support."

"I don't say these things lightly, but with an aching heart," he said. "This is not an idle threat, but it is not something I am going to do overnight. I pray I will never have to do it."

Jackson again raised the question of the Cooperative Program support of conservative leader Paul Pressler of Houston, with whom he broached the issue during a confrontation at the Executive Committee meeting in Nashville in February.

At the Executive Committee meeting and again in mid-March, Jackson questioned if Pressler had supported Southern Baptist causes during a nine-year period while he was a member and deacon of Second Baptist Church of Houston. Jackson said he knew Pressler did not support SBC causes through Second Church during the period.

Pressler, contacted by the Baptist Standard, said he didn't know what he "did or didn't do 20 years ago" and said he wondered why it "would have any bearing on whether Richard Jackson supports the Cooperative Program."

If Jackson had been willing to sit down with him and discuss their differences as he suggested in their Nashville dialogue, Pressler said, he could have explained it to him. He could not explain it for a news story, Pressler added.

Pressler, now a member of First Baptist Church of Houston, did say, however, that during the period questioned by Jackson, he was an interim pastor of a church for a period of time and was leading Bible studies and "seeing a very great response by some young people."

He did make contributions to the Cooperative Program and to Cooperative Program institutions, he said, but he did not indicate if the contributions were through Second Church, where he was a member.

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N-(TEXAS std.)

Jackson to Pressler:
'I'll quit if you will'

By Toby Druin

Baptist Press
3/20/89

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--If Paul Pressler will get off the denominational stage, Richard Jackson will move aside, too, and try to lead his church to continue or even increase its Cooperative Program support, Jackson said in mid-March.

Pressler is a Houston layman, generally considered the architect of the conservative movement that has taken control of the Southern Baptist Convention over the last decade. He is a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Jackson is pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., and outspoken opponent of the changes in the denomination. He has been unsuccessfully nominated for president of the SBC four times, including 1988.

In a telephone interview with the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly newsjournal, Jackson said he made his offer to step aside from further denominational involvement recently through a second party to Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines.

"I told a friend of Jerry Vines that if Vines could get a pledge from Pressler that he would resign from the Executive Committee, promise never to hold office among Southern Baptists again and not to politic or voice his opinions, not pressure anybody -- just go back to Houston, to his church -- then I would made a pledge to never nominate anyone for office or be nominated or hold any trusteeship in Southern Baptist life," Jackson said.

"And I would try to lead my church to keep its giving level (more than \$1 million yearly) as it is now and try to increase it."

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His offer, Jackson said, was communicated to Vines who, Jackson was told, asked if Jackson were serious about it.

"The guy told Vines, 'I have never known Richard Jackson to say anything in his life he didn't really mean,'" Jackson said.

He has received no response to the offer, Jackson said, "but it still stands."

Pressler, contacted by the Baptist Standard, said that he has a telephone, and if Jackson wants to talk to him, Jackson can call him.

"I have tried to communicate with Richard Jackson so he could know my heart, so we could understand each other," Pressler said. "To communicate through the media is not promoting good will or proclamation of the gospel."

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Leavell outlines challenges
facing New Orleans seminary

By C. Lacy Thompson

N-10
(L.A.)

Baptist Press
3/20/89

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Three key challenges facing New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary -- a declining pool of ministerial students, a decrease in investment income and decline in support from the Southern Baptist Convention -- were outlined during the annual board meeting March 14-15 by President Landrum P. Leavell II.

New Orleans Seminary has continued to grow despite the shrinking pool of students, Leavell said. The school's enrollment dipped last fall but now reflects an increase and is one of the four largest theological seminaries in the world.

However, attracting students is more difficult now because of the presence of non-convention-related schools and new in-house theological programs at Baptist universities, he said.

"Where it's going to stop is anyone's guess," he noted. However, the situation "took a turn for the worse" when the Southern Baptist Executive Committee granted annual convention exhibit space to Criswell College in Dallas, Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla., and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., Leavell said.

"It gives the appearance of saying, 'All these are the same.' This is roughly equivalent to putting Wycliffe Bible Translators and World Vision on either side of the (SBC) Foreign Mission Board and letting them compete for Southern Baptist missionaries.

"The point is the six Southern Baptist seminaries are no longer competing in the family for students." Now they must compete with schools that have no accountability to Southern Baptists, Leavell noted.

In addition, Southern Baptist seminaries are bound by convention policy to solicit funds only from individuals, corporations and foundations, while the non-SBC schools have no such restrictions and can approach churches for funds, he said.

Nevertheless, Leavell said, he expects New Orleans Seminary to continue to have drawing power across the nation. He added that the school will look to "beef up" its recruiting efforts.

Leavell also cited concern with Southern Baptist financial support of the seminary. "It's been soft at best for several years, and that has had a great impact on us, he said.

Several capital needs projects have not been undertaken because of lack of promised funds from the convention. The SBC Executive Committee recently addressed that problem by adopting a new process for the SBC Cooperative Program allocation plan.

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The Cooperative Program is the unified giving plan by which Southern Baptists fund missionary, evangelistic and educational work around the world. The SBC Executive Committee recently proposed a "performance-oriented" rather than "goal-oriented" budget in which budgets will be based on receipts in the last year of record.

Under the proposal, the 1989-90 allocation budget to be voted on at the 1989 annual meeting will represent a 2.05 percent decrease for most of the national agencies of the convention, including New Orleans Seminary.

Statistics indicate that Cooperative Program support of New Orleans Seminary increased from \$2.3 million in 1980 to \$4 million in 1985. Since then, however, the support has increased only to about \$4.7 million.

In addition, the seminary has been hit by the faltering Louisiana economy and increases in health and medical benefits and city utility costs, Leavell said.

Despite the concerns, trustees approved a new budget that represents a 1.5 percent increase from the current year. Budget documents noted the "careful, conservative projection of income" in a "no-frills, basic needs budget that deals realistically with the reason we are here -- theological education."

The approved 1989-90 budget stands at \$6,759,091. More than \$4.6 million of that is expected to come from the SBC Cooperative Program. Because of strong enrollment at New Orleans, the seminary's reduction is less than \$20,000, Leavell said.

During his president's report, he urged trustees to commit themselves to safeguarding the purposes of the seminary and praised the school's conservative heritage.

"We're not seeing New Orleans Seminary catch step with the Southern Baptist Convention," Leavell said. "We're seeing the Southern Baptist Convention catch step with New Orleans Seminary. We've been conservative all along."

He urged trustees to make a commitment of time and energy to "safeguard the purposes for which this situation was founded" and to respond to unwarranted criticism against the six seminaries affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Anyone who criticizes the seminaries as a group is speaking from "ignorance at best and malice at worst," he said.

During the annual meeting, trustees passed a resolution commending Leavell for his "leadership skill, forthright demeanor, love for God's word and outstanding role model."

Near the close of the meeting, trustees went into closed session to approve the resolution of commendation without Leavell's knowledge. As the 14-year president returned to the meeting room, trustees rose to their feet in applause.

In his report to the board, Leavell shared two witnessing experiences. Last month, SBC President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., challenged convention agency heads to share a soul-winning testimony during their reports to the annual meeting this summer.

Leavell said that idea "doesn't fit me; that's too big a crowd." Instead, he said he wanted to share the experiences with the trustees and told of leading a middle-aged golf pro and a service station attendant to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and savior.

"I want you to know I just don't teach evangelism. I practice evangelism," Leavell said, adding that the same is true of the seminary faculty.

"I want you to know I'm not in it by myself. These (faculty) are people not just talking about ministry. They are involved in ministry day-in and day-out," he said, and praised the faculty as "mainstream, mainline, conservative Southern Baptists."

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In other activities, trustees:

-- Approved rental and fee increases to bring the seminary in line with the other Southern Baptist schools.

-- Made degree program changes recommended after a two-year study. The changes put the seminary "on par" with other Southern Baptist schools, said Joe Cothen, vice president for academic affairs.

-- Approved a plan to increase trustee involvement in the school. The plan schedules separate visits of the three trustee committees to the campus during the year. The visits will correspond with the trustee's executive committee meetings. The full board still would meet only in March. Trustees rejected a substitute motion to schedule a second full board meeting during the year before approving the original plan without opposition.

-- Re-elected Ernest L. Carswell Jr., pastor at First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., chairman. Other officers are Paul Moak, an automobile dealer from Jackson, Miss., vice chair; Rueben Thomas, an oil company executive from Metairie, La., secretary; and Charles Wood, pastor of University Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., treasurer.

-- Promoted four faculty members and granted tenure to five members.

-- Named Charles S. Kelly Jr. to fill the Roland Q. Leavell Chair of Evangelism; and Harold T. Bryson to fill the J.D. Grey Chair of Preaching.

-- Approved Charles Edward Graham as professor emeritus of Old Testament in the School of Christian Training, upon his retirement.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) article "HMB elects evangelism vp; announces gains, budget cuts" mailed 3/17/89, please replace the 6th paragraph with the following paragraph.

"This conversion ratio of 13 won to Christ per missionary is far below the denominational average of one conversion for each 43 Southern Baptists," he noted.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Foreign board moving to include
'tentmakers' in its strategy

By Marty Croll

N-FMB

Baptist Press
3/20/89

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists who choose to work in secular professions overseas to help spread the gospel could play a vital role in mission strategy if a proposed new program is approved by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Foreign Mission Board staff members are developing a new personnel category known as "tentmakers." The program could be ready for consideration by board trustees in April.

The "tentmaker" label dates back to the Apostle Paul, who supported himself by making tents. Throughout Christian history, people employing their trades in distant areas have played key roles in missions. The first Baptist efforts in Norway, for example, were carried out by a trio of laymen -- a Swedish blacksmith and two sailors, a Norwegian and a Dane converted in the United States.

Modern-day tentmakers have special strategic value in limited-access or "closed" countries where traditional missionaries are unable to work, said Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission management and personnel.

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Tentmakers could be teamed up with the board's new nonresidential missionaries, who explore ways of evangelizing populations inside limited-access countries. In other regions not yet targeted by nonresidential missionaries, tentmakers might even take the lead in beginning Christian work, Spurgeon said.

"They might be employed by schools, health-care institutions, relief organizations or in industry," said Spurgeon. "They might go out as entrepreneurs to start businesses or engage in trade."

Since 1972, the Foreign Mission Board has corresponded with thousands of Southern Baptists interested in doing mission work while working overseas. Many have assisted in lay ministry alongside missionaries or worked on their own with Bible study groups. The board will continue to work with such people.

But unlike Southern Baptists who happen to be living outside the United States because of their work, tentmakers are motivated to work abroad by their commitment to missions and evangelism, said Tom Prevost, director of the international lay missions department. Prevost's department would screen applicants and match them to needs.

While a tentmaker would receive no financial support from the Foreign Mission Board, the two would enter into a formal agreement to cooperate with each other.

"This program holds the promise of being in step with the biblical and historical march of effective tentmaking on mission frontiers," said Prevost. "It appears that the Lord is prompting action along these lines, as indicated by what other evangelistic organizations are doing."

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MISSION 90 conference to challenge
students for missions involvement

By Frank Wm. White

N-SSB

Baptist Press
3/20/89

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Backyard Bible clubs, street witnessing and work with inner-city missions are only a few of the missions opportunities Southern Baptist college and seminary students will have during MISSION 90, a national student missions conference to be held Dec. 27-31 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Lifelong involvement in missions will be the focus of the conference to be held at the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Convention Center. As many as 6,000 students are expected to attend.

Highlights of the conference, in addition to hands-on missions involvement, include a commissioning service for Southern Baptist home and foreign missionaries, more than 80,000 square feet of exhibits related to Southern Baptist missions, choices from as many as 40 missions seminars during each of the nine different seminar times and a concert by gospel recording artist Cynthia Clawson.

Featured speakers include R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; Bill O'Brien, executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board; Esther Burroughs, consultant for women at the Home Mission Board; Nathan Porter, consultant for hunger, disaster relief and migrant ministries at the Home Mission Board; and Dwight and Mary Nortstrom, Cooperative Services International volunteers in China. CSI is an arm of the Foreign Mission Board involving volunteers in countries where missionaries are not allowed.

The conference is coordinated by the student ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and also sponsored by the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, six Southern Baptist seminaries, Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

"Our total concept for the meeting is to lead all students to a life of commitment to missions," explained Brad Gray, chairman of the MISSION 90 steering committee and missions consultant in the Sunday School Board's student ministry department.

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In addition to encouraging consideration of career missions, the conference will present ways students can be involved in bivocational and short-term missions and support Southern Baptist mission efforts.

"This conference gives Southern Baptist agencies an opportunity to influence a generation of students who can impact the world," Gray said. "These students will be the ones who lead Southern Baptists into the next century."

By arriving a day early to attend special sessions, students may earn college or seminary credit. The seminaries are developing plans for the course credit option, Gray said. The "marketplace" exhibit area will feature a high-tech view of the world using video material from Cable News Network and other sources with a bank of 30 television monitors, said Art Herron, consultant for student ministries and chairman of the marketplace subcommittee.

A personal life profile test will help students evaluate their abilities and how they can be involved in missions, Herron said.

Specific ministries will be demonstrated in the ministries exhibit area, with missionaries available to talk about their work. For students who want to discuss missions possibilities with a missionary, a counseling area will be centrally located in the exhibit area, Herron said.

About 35 to 40 seminar options during each of the nine seminar times will be related to missions, said Nell Magee, consultant in the student ministry department and chairman of the seminar subcommittee.

Included in the range of seminar topics will be a series on world religions, sessions on various careers for Christian service overseas, mission trends and missions opportunities.

Students will spend seven hours during the conference in "family" groups of about 50 students, where they will participate in Bible studies and case studies on missions situations.

Information about students who make public decisions during the conference will be provided to local campus ministers and church pastors for follow-up. Students also will be provided information about what their next step might be to carry out their decision, explained Joyce DeRidder, director of the missionary nurture department at the Foreign Mission Board.

Registration for the conference will be \$40. Registration forms are available from MISSION 90, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn., 37203. Hotel registration is available for three downtown Fort Worth hotels at a reduced cost through the MISSION 90 registration office.

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