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89-66

SBC 1989 nominations
released by committee

By Dan Martin

N-CO

NASHVILLE (BP)--The report of the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations has been released to Baptist Press by the chairman, Joe Reynolds, an attorney from Houston.

The committee nominates trustees to serve on the 24 entities related to the SBC, including the Executive Committee, boards, commissions, seminaries, standing committees and affiliated organizations.

Under convention bylaws, the report must be released through Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 13-15 in the Las Vegas (Nev.), Convention Center.

In order for the nominees to serve on the entities of the convention, they must be elected by messengers to the annual meeting.

The committee, which includes a layperson and a person who is clergy or denominationally related from the 33 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on the various entities of the convention, met in Nashville March 16-17 in order to make the nominations.

Under the SBC's system of staggered representation, trustees can serve two terms before becoming ineligible. The majority of the boards trustees serve four year terms. On the six convention-related seminaries, trustees serve five-year terms.

The Committee on Nominations each year considers about 25 percent of the 1,000 trustees serving SBC entities. This year, the committee considered 238 new nominations and nominations to second terms.

In releasing the report, Reynolds described the committee session as "a wonderful meeting; very harmonious. If the spirit of this meeting could catch on in Las Vegas (at the annual meeting) it would be one of the most wonderful things that could happen to us (the SBC)."

According to Reynolds, this year's committee meeting did not feature the same rancor over the work of the committee as did the 1988 committee. Then, several committee members complained the committee was more interested in denominational politics than in Jesus Christ.

This year, he said, representatives from each state convention "basically made their recommendations and had the supporting information. We (the committee) took the position it was the state's responsibility to present the nominations, and unless there was some legal or policy reason, they were accepted."

Reynolds also named a seven-member subcommittee to meet in Las Vegas prior to the convention to fill any gaps in the report. The committee will nominate trustees to fill vacancies left on the report or to replace people who have declined to serve, died, moved or become ineligible for various other reasons since the March meeting.

Members of the subcommittee are Reynolds; Johnny Hunt, a pastor from Woodstock, Ga.; Ron Meyer, a layman from Springfield, Ill.; John Click, a pastor from Wichita, Kan.; L.E. Funk, a layman from Winchester, Ore.; Jimmy Lehew, a pastor from Lawton, Okla.; and Vander Warner, a pastor from Richmond, Va.

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"In the committee, we tried to cover the country. If vacancies do occur, we have asked each state to send recommendations," Reynolds said.

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Nominees recommended for
Executive Committee, boards

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4/26/89

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Persons to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and four boards -- Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board and Annuity Board -- have been nominated by the 1989 SBC Committee on Nominations.

In order to serve, the nominees must be elected by messengers to the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 13-15, in Las Vegas, Nev.

The report, released to Baptist Press by Joe Reynolds, an attorney from Houston and chairman of the 1989 committee, includes an additional representative from Oklahoma on the Executive Committee and each of the four boards. Oklahoma topped 750,000 members during 1987-88, entitling the state convention to additional representation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (77 members): 21 nominations considered; 14 new members; 7 renominations.

The new member from Oklahoma is Johnnie Curtsinger, pastor of Immanuel church, Tulsa.

Nominees, with terms to expire in 1993, replacing persons ineligible for reelection include:

Richard M. Cagle, pastor of First church, Gadsden, Ala., replacing Jimmy E. Jackson of Huntsville; Miriam (Mrs. James) Kibelbek, a teacher and member of First church, Port Charlotte, Fla., replacing Lois H. Wenger of Orlando; John N. Boman, a dentist and member of Ingleside church, Macon, replacing Harmon M. Born of Atlanta;

Harold L. Finch, a businessman and member of Messiah church, Leawood, Kansas, replacing Gordon D. Dorian of Wichita; Terry L. Norris, a dentist and member of Pleasant Grove church, Owensboro, Ky., replacing John R. Christian of Hopkinsville;

Charles B. Murray, pastor of First church, Ellisville, Mo., replacing G. Nelson Duke of Jefferson City; Bill B. Horton, a retired accountant and member of West Asheville (N.C.) church, replacing Conrad Bost of Salisbury; Doug Westmoreland, pastor of Tusculum Hills church, Nashville, replacing Frank Ingraham of Franklin;

James Hillyer Cooley, a clothing store owner and member of East Lake church, Chattanooga, Tenn., replacing William F. Collins Jr., of Memphis; and Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto church, Amarillo, Texas, replacing W. LeRay Fowler of Houston.

J. Sidney Sample, pastor of Moffett Road church, Mobile, was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1990 -- of Darrell W. Robinson of Mobile, who moved.

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee will name replacements for Rich Liner of Hendersonville, N.C., who declined to serve a second term, and for George M. Kissinger of Newport News, Va., who is ineligible for another term.

Nominated to second terms are Kenneth R. Barnett, Denver; C. Ray Fuller, Joliet, Ill.; Paul R. House, Portland, Ind.; James F. Yates, Yazoo City, Miss.; James C. Wideman, Portsmouth, N.H.; David T. Button, Canton, N.Y.; and J. Stephen Brumbelow, Cross Lanes, W. Va.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD (90 members): 24 nominations considered; 14 new members; 10 renominations.

Nominee from Oklahoma is Michael McGee, a medical doctor and former medical missionary and member of Northwest church, Oklahoma City.

Nominees, with terms expiring 1993, replacing members ineligible for reelection, include:

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William H. Mikner Jr., pastor of Westside church, Titusville, Fla., replacing Lewis A. Miller of Tequesta; Ted Moody, pastor of Central church, Warner Robins, Ga., replacing Robert Marsh of Atlanta; Beverly (Mrs. Harold) Cathey, a homemaker and member of Unity church, Ashland, Ky., replacing Judith Carolyn Fitch of Paducah;

Ann (Mrs. Ernest) Rowland, a homemaker and member of Antioch church, Roseville, Mich., replacing Richard Sample of Flint; Michael D. Smith, a businessman and member of Merrimon Avenue church, Asheville, N.C., replacing Henderson Belk of Charlotte, N.C.;

Bobbie (Mrs. L.C.) Jackson, a homemaker and member of First church, Millington, Tenn., replacing Lloyd H. Hansen of Memphis; and LeRoy Spencer Smith, pastor of Calvary North Channel church, Houston, replacing R.C. Callan of Amarillo.

Nominated to four-year terms to expire in 1992 are Robert J. Oxford, an engineer and member of Applewood church, Wheat Ridge, Colo., replacing William Michael Wilson of Aurora, who moved, and Roger D. Roberts, pastor of Metropolitan church, Wichita, Kansas, replacing Mark R. Patton of Topeka, who declined to serve a second term.

Donald C. Purvis, pastor of Lakeview church, Hartsville, S.C., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1992 -- of Ronell L. Owensby of Cowpens, who moved.

Local members nominated to replace members ineligible for renomination are Terry L. Harper, pastor of Colonial Heights church, Colonial Heights, Va., replacing Charles H. Jones of Virginia Beach, and J. Larry Holland, pastor of Franklin Heights church, Rocky Mount, Va., replacing Howard A. Baldwin Jr. of Richmond.

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee will nominate a replacement for James Harwood Cochrane of Richmond, a local member ineligible for renomination.

Nominated to second terms are William D. Richardson, Troy, Ill.; L.H. McCullough, Bastrop, La.; Elizabeth Swadley, Springfield, Mo; Horace A. Hamm, Fuquay-Varina, N.C.; Harry L. Hannah, Sumner, Wash.; William H. Cook, Bartlesville, Okla.; Karol S. Wise, St. Marys, Pa.; Morris H. Mills, Memphis, Tenn.; Bonnie B. Westbrook Jr., Beaumont, Texas; and John M. Simms, Roanoke, Va.

HOME MISSION BOARD (90 members): 24 nominations considered; 13 new members; 11 renominations.

A new member from Oklahoma will be announced at the Las Vegas annual meeting.

Nominees, with terms expiring in 1993, replacing members ineligible for reelection, include:

Randy Phillip Evers, pastor of First church, Piedmont, Ala., replacing James F. Walters of Mobile; Wayne B. Goff, a general contractor and member of First church, Punta Gorda, Fla., replacing O.S. Hawkins of Fort Lauderdale; Dana Walter Collett, pastor of Covenant church, Columbia, Md., replacing William J. Viel Jr. of Essex;

Marti (Mrs. James) Hefley, a drama teacher at Hannibal-LaGrange College, and member of Immanuel church, Hannibal, Mo., replacing Paulina Marie Brown of Shelbina; Alfred R. Wright, pastor of Adamsville church, Goldsboro, N.C., replacing M.O. Owens of Gastonia;

Tina Rene (Mrs. S.R.) Brewer, a homemaker and member of Glendale (Ore.) church, replacing Lu Walker of Beaverton; and Tom Madden, retired executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and member of Mount Pleasant church, Rockvale, Tenn., replacing Hershel R. Chevallier of Knoxville.

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee will nominate a replacement for William W. Durr of Clinton, Miss., who is ineligible for nomination. The term will end in 1993.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term -- to end in 1991 -- is Edward R. (Tommy) Futrell, pastor of Southside church, Johnson City, Tenn., replacing Jack D. Moore of Eads, who moved.

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Floyd Lee B. Bittles Sr., pastor of Pleasant Valley South church, Silver Creek, Ga., was nominated as a local member replacing Mrs. Robert D. Landers of Jonesboro, who is ineligible for renomination.

Betty (Mrs. John) Haynes, a homemaker and member of Pell City (Ala.) First church, was nominated to a full term expiring in 1993, replacing Frank Wells of Atlanta, who moved.

The Committee on Nominations subcommittee will nominate a local member to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1991 -- of Ronald J. Henning of Colquitt, Ga., who resigned.

Nominated to second terms are Michael R. Grebenik, Colorado Springs, Colo.; William F. Tanner, Tallahassee, Fla.; Nelson L. Price, Marietta, Ga.; Jon F. Meek Jr., Aberdeen, N.J.; Billy C. Sellers, Matthews, N.C.; Keith Russell, Anadarko, Okla.; Alice W. Sanders, Bamberg, S.C.; Ron Phillips, Hixon, Tenn.; George Harris, San Antonio, Texas; Rudy A. Hernandez, San Antonio, Texas; and Ralph M. Smith, Austin, Texas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD (90 members): 29 nominations considered; 19 new members; 10 renominations.

The nominee from Oklahoma is Gary A. MacManamy, pastor of Calvary church, Lawton.

Nominees with terms to expire in 1993, replacing members ineligible for reelection, include:

Mark W. Brooks, pastor of Elmdale church, Springdale, Ark., replacing Ferrell D. Morgan of Fort Smith; Sheldon W. Benz, a retired government worker and member of First Sweetwater church, Longwood, Fla., replacing Robert W. Rowell of Merritt Island; Talmadge S. Chandler, pastor of First church, Franklin, Ga., replacing Tommy Jones of Macon;

Larry W. Wynn, pastor of Hebron church, Dacula, Ga., replacing B. Hugh Little Jr., of Marietta; Zach T. Hederman Jr., a businessman and member of First church, Jackson, Miss., replacing Jerry S. Lee of Jackson; John L. Gilbert, pastor of First church, Poplar Bluff, Mo., replacing S. Craig Tally of Joplin; Joe B. Brown, pastor of Hickory Grove church, Charlotte, N.C., replacing Robert Tenery of Morganton;

Leon L. Bolton, a dentist and member of Highland Heights church, Memphis, replacing Harold L. Jennings of Memphis; William J. Morris Jr., an accountant and member of First church, Denton, Texas, replacing BO Baker of Irving; and Russell Naron, pastor of Euclid Avenue church, Bristol, Va., replacing Joseph B. Flowers of Hampton.

Thomas R. Gulledege, an insurance executive and member of First church, Fort Mill, S.C., was nominated to a term to expire in 1993, replacing Samuel George Lovell Jr., of Conway, who resigned.

Donald R. Dunavant, pastor of Wynne (Ark.) church, was nominated to a term to expire in 1990, replacing Gerald M. Taylor of El Dorado, who resigned.

Judy (Mrs. Larry) Beeler, a homemaker and member of First Fountain City church, Knoxville, Tenn., was nominated to a term to expire in 1991, replacing Cynthia Phillips of Nashville, who moved.

Robert W. Payne, an evangelist and member of Sycamore Hills church, Independence, Mo., was nominated to a term to expire in 1992, replacing Gary W. Bearce of Springfield, who moved.

Local members, with terms to expire in 1993, nominated to replace members ineligible for reelection include:

Dennis P. Lunsford, pastor of Antioch church, Humboldt, Tenn., replacing John David Laida of Clarksville; Burgess F. Guinn, a state government employee and member of First church, Pulaski, Tenn., replacing William Lynn Moench of Nashville; Roy E. Miller, a businessman and member of First church, Lexington, Tenn., replacing Robert H. Bible of Morristown; and Raymond Davis, pastor of Ewtonville church, Dunlap, Tenn., replacing Pat L. Landrum of Brighton.

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Nominated for second terms are Sidney W. Nichols, Elmore, Ala.; Edward E. Wolfe, Soldatna, Alaska; E. H. Peery Jr., LaHambra, Calif; Jerry W. Brown, Bayfield, Colo.; William E. Anderson, Clearwater, Fla.; John C. Wilson, Lexington, Ky.; W. Eugene Henderson, Brandon, Miss.; Bruce C. Little, Durham, N.C.; and Floyd E. Williams, Memphis, Tenn.

Nominated for a second term as a local member is William G. Wilson, Brentwood, Tenn.

ANNUITY BOARD (49 members): 11 nominations considered; 1 new member; 10 renominations.

Everett W. Gasaway, pastor of Eagle Creek mission of Five Points church, Mooresville, Ind., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1991 -- of James C. Ehrlich of Evansville, who moved.

Nominated to second terms are F. Ray Turner, Jacksonville, Fla.; Erik W. Daniels, Marieta, Ga.; Harold A. Stephens, Fort Thomas, Ky.; Thomas L. Martin, Essexville, Michl; John E. Owen, Cape Girardeau, Mo.; C. Neal Johnson, Artesia, N.M.; J.T. Knott Jr., Knightdale, N.C.; James L. Bunch, Newtown, Ohio; and Alvie L. Edwards, Fairlea, W. Va.

Nominated to a second term as a local member is Richard C. Scott, Waco, Texas.

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Historical Commission OKs
long-range plans, budget

By Marv Knox

N-CO

Baptist Press
4/26/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Historical Commission adopted a long-range plan and revised its next budget during its annual meeting April 24 in Nashville.

The 1989-95 long-range plan reflects "an effort to give direction to the agency" and was developed in keeping with the commission's convention-assigned program statement, said Executive Director Lynn E. May Jr.

The plan divides priorities into three categories: library and archives, publications and communications, and administration.

Library and archives priorities include conducting the new "Documenting the Spirit" local-church history project; increasing automation of library functions; securing adequate staffing; increasing funds for acquisitions and for a study grant program; and conducting a history preservation survey.

Publications and communications guidelines include producing Volume 5 of the "Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists"; preparing 25 historical vignettes for the Southern Baptist sesquicentennial celebration in 1995 and distributing guidelines for celebrating the event; publishing "The Southern Baptist Story" pamphlet series; and enlarging the promotion of Baptist Heritage Month.

Administrative goals include maintaining "objectivity and balance in the preservation, interpretation and communication of Baptist history"; supporting the convention's Bold Mission Thrust global evangelization campaign by providing appropriate historical materials; and making "every reasonable effort to secure financial resources, personnel and equipment needed to achieve the plans and projects set forth in these guidelines."

"This is a flexible plan," May said. "It is designed to be updated continually, always keeping five years ahead.

"The Lord has been good, and Southern Baptists have been good to make available the resources we have. ... Whether or not we are able to accomplish many of these goals depends on the availability of funds."

Commissioners highlighted those funds during discussion of the agency's revised 1989-90 budget, to begin Oct. 1.

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That budget will be \$578,600 -- a drop of \$48,946, or 7.8 percent, from the current budget. It will be a drop of \$70,600, or almost 10.9 percent, from the original 1989-90 budget, approved a year ago.

The budget had to be revised because the convention's Executive Committee reduced the 1989-90 Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget goal by 2.05 percent from its current goal, said finance subcommittee Chairman David McDaniel, a businessman from Brentwood, Tenn.

The commission's 1989-90 Cooperative Program allocation is to be \$492,585. That compares to the current budget's \$502,900 and the original 1989-90 budget's \$566,285.

The change in Cooperative Program allocations provided the main difference between the two 1989-90 budgets. The other difference between the current budget and next year's final budget involves this year's income from pamphlet sales and program reserves, both related to publication and distribution of the new "Foundations of Baptist Heritage" pamphlet series this year.

Commissioners expressed frustration with the necessity of reducing the budget. Fred Rolater, a university professor from Murfreesboro, Tenn., blamed the Executive Committee, which has recommended that payment of the note on the 4-year-old Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville be an off-the-top "priority item" for the 1989-90 Cooperative Program.

Noting commission employees will not get a pay raise, Rolater said payment of the building will come "out of the hides of the personnel of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Commissioners did not down-scale their proposal for the agency's 1990-91 budget, however. They approved a \$633,420 target, which will seek \$554,420 from the Cooperative Program -- a 12.5 percent hike.

"This budget reflects the needs of the commission," McDaniel said. "We do not feel bashful about asking for money to fund these needs."

The budget includes addition of one staff member, a technical processing clerk, said May, who noted the Cooperative Program request will be presented to the Executive Committee next January.

Commissioner Jon F. Caudle, a director of associational missions from Richwood, W.Va., pleaded for "realism" in the budget, in light of the convention's financial crunch.

"The convention wants us to express our needs, as long as they are genuine," May responded. "We feel the needs must be made known, so that they will be funded when funds become available."

In other business, the commission:

-- Re-elected Ronald F. Deering, librarian at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., as chairman. Other officers are Ray Granade, librarian at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., vice chairman; Marlene Hunt Rikard, history professor at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., recording secretary; and May, treasurer.

-- Commended the SBC Sunday School Board for the "significant attention" its church training program has provided to Baptist heritage and stressed the need for developing an age-graded series of study course books on Baptist heritage.

-- Expressed "sincere thanks and gratitude" to the Jarman Foundation of Nashville for its \$5,000 gift to finance the pilot project for the "Developing the Spirit" program.

-- Presented its 1989 Distinguished Service Award to H. Leon McBeth, church history professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. The award recognizes "outstanding contributions to the cause of Baptist history."

-- Gave its annual Norman W. Cox Award to Slayden Yarbrough, religion professor at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. The award goes to the author of the best article published by the commission in the previous year.

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-- Joined with the Southern Baptist Historical Society to approve a resolution honoring the Japan Baptist Mission as it marks the 100th anniversary of Southern Baptist mission activity in Japan.

During a simultaneous meeting, the Historical Society elected its officers: G. Thomas Halbrooks, church history professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., president; Adrian Lamkin, director of the William Partee Center for Baptist Historical Studies at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., vice president; and May, secretary-treasurer.

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Small-church pastors
honored by convention

By Jim Lowry

N-SSB

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Long-time Missouri pastor Burton Hunt and Dick Mangham of Orlando, Fla., have been named the Southern Baptist Convention's outstanding small-church pastors for 1989.

The two were selected for outstanding and unique ministry contributions as part of a denominational effort to honor the efforts of small-church pastors, said Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Hunt, pastor of Cave Springs Baptist Church in Neosho, Mo., for 32 years, was a bivocational pastor until his recent retirement from the body shop of a local automobile dealership.

Under Hunt's leadership, Cave Springs Church has been a model for missions giving in the state, with 43 percent of undesignated receipts given to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget in 1988.

In his 32 years, Hunt has baptized 356 people, while undesignated receipts have grown from just over \$4,000 to almost \$50,000. Mission gifts have increased from less than \$500 to almost \$26,000.

Hunt became a Christian as an adult in Cave Springs Church, and he surrendered to preach and was licensed to the ministry there. He became pastor of the church in 1957.

Mangham, pastor of Holden Heights Baptist Church in Orlando, has led his church to reach out with ministries that have resulted in growth from an average attendance of 25 two years ago to about 140 this year.

Holden Heights Church is surrounded by small industrial shops, topless bars and a low-income community. In response to needs, Hunt has led in establishing community ministries that include emergency food service, a children's day camp program, a Haitian mission and counseling for families.

The Orlando Police Department also has set up a community relations office in a church classroom that has an outside entrance.

The church has baptized 32 people this year and has had 75 additions. People who have heard the gospel include children, motorcycle gang members, prostitutes and elderly community residents.

As part of their recognition, Hunt and Mangham will be honored at Bible-preaching/administration conferences this summer at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers. Hunt will receive an all-expense paid trip to Glorieta, and Mangham will be a guest at the Ridgecrest week. Each pastor will receive a plaque, a Bible and other study helps during recognition services at the conference centers.

Stacker, who leads the board's program for pastoral ministries, said nominations were received from associational directors of missions in more than 20 state conventions. The outstanding pastor nominations are part of the board's effort to respond to a request from messengers to the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in St. Louis.

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The program to honor small-church pastors is expected to grow, Stacker said, to include nominations from all 50 states and eventually honors for the outstanding small-church pastor in every state convention. To be eligible for the honor, the pastor must be in a church with fewer than 300 members.

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Gaza missionaries emphasize
co-workers' 'call of love'

By Mark Wingfield

F-HMB

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4/26/89

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--Missionaries Carl and Penny Allen say their Southern Baptist co-workers in Gaza have gone above the call of duty to fulfill Christ's call of love.

The Allens, medical missionaries to Gaza appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, are furloughing in Albuquerque, N.M.

"Every one of the missionaries in Gaza has gone above the call of duty," says Mrs. Allen, a medical technologist. "They're living at the edge of that challenge of Jesus' call of love."

Southern Baptists in Gaza work through the Baptist School of Allied Health Sciences, Gaza Baptist Church and the Center of Culture and Light, a lending library. Their work is done against a backdrop of rock-throwing, bombings and deaths stemming from the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

"The situation is so difficult and so stressful that without the hand of the Lord, it would not be possible for missionaries to live there," Mrs. Allen says.

The Allens brought back a small rock, about one inch by one-half inch, with "Gaza 5-19-88" written in black ink on it. It was propelled toward their car by a Palestinian youth's slingshot.

It is one of dozens of rocks thrown at the Allens' car and house. Rock-throwing is common in Gaza, they say. Yet neither the Allens nor any other Southern Baptist missionaries have been injured by rocks.

During labor strikes and military-enforced curfews, missionaries often remain in their homes for days at a time, they say. During the last 18 months before furlough, the Allens estimate, they stayed indoors for the equivalent of three months.

Frustration such events create finds no outlet, Allen, a nurse, says: "There's no complaint department in Gaza. There's no one you can go scream and shake your first at. The enemy is faceless."

"Our missionaries struggle and they hurt and they cry and they sometimes wonder what they're doing there," Mrs. Allen says. "We struggled every day."

Cards and letters from Christians in the United States kept them going, she says: "I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the prayers of Southern Baptists make it possible for missionaries to be there.

"We often have a misconception that missionaries are spiritual giants. But it's not the missionaries that are special; it's God that's special."

Living under these conditions "drives you to the Lord," she says. "You must depend on him every day for everything.

"There was an abiding assurance daily that I was where God wanted me to be. The work God has done in Penny Allen is incredible, life-changing."

Despite the difficult situation, missionaries must work in Gaza, she notes: "Without Christians there, Gaza would be in utter darkness. But as long as there are Christians there, there is a glimmer of hope.

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"I may never see it with my own eyes, but I believe things are different there because of the missionaries who have gone. Wherever Christians have walked, Jesus has walked."

The Allens admit they sometimes got depressed or angry when they received newsletters from other missionaries reporting hundreds of professions of faith. "We see very little results of anything we do," Allen explains.

Allen says he was able to formally disciple only one person and that lasted just one month, until the man's family discovered he was going to the house of a Christian.

But beyond that, the Baptist missionaries influence the medical students and patients through their lifestyle, he says, noting, "Lifestyle is our strongest witness there."

This influence is illustrated in a series of events that happened at the medical complex, Mrs. Allen points out.

One of the missionaries had used Valentine's Day as a means to teach the medical students about love. Although Valentine's Day isn't observed in the Middle East, the students got so excited they made Valentines with verses from 1 Corinthians 13 and hung them all over the hospital, she recounts.

Soon afterward, a man accused of being a spy was beaten and cut up and thrown over the 15-foot wall of the hospital compound, left for dead.

Because of a tremendous hatred for spies and intense fear of being seen as a spy-supporter, none of the students wanted to go near the man, even though he was grasping for life.

Finally, some of the missionaries got a gurney, put the man on it and wheeled him into the hospital. Students stood awestruck, begging the missionaries not to help a man they considered a traitor, she says.

The missionary who had taught the lesson on Valentine's Day quickly drew a parallel between the love of 1 Corinthians 13 and the situation. "I do not like what this man has done. I detest what this man has done," the missionary said. "But we must help him because God loves this man."

With that lesson, the injured man was stabilized at the hospital and sent elsewhere for further treatment.

Career missionaries and volunteers are the key to keeping the Gaza ministry going, the Allens say. Currently, needs exist for a general evangelist, a teacher of missionary children, and clinical, medical-surgical and obstetric nurse educators.

"Just because Gaza is in turmoil doesn't mean God can't call people there," Mrs. Allen says. "Living in Gaza, even though it is difficult, is far better than living somewhere else in disobedience to God."

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RPRC re-elects Pattillo,
honors Southern Baptists

N-FMB

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4/26/89

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Religious Public Relations Council honored Southern Baptist communicators with the top number of awards in its annual DeRose-Hinkhouse Award competition and re-elected a Southern Baptist as vice president.

RPRC re-elected Wesley M. (Pat) Pattillo of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., to a second one-year term as vice president. Tom McAnally, director of United Methodist News Service in Nashville, was re-elected president at RPRC's 60th anniversary meeting.

In other action, RPRC elected Gomer Lesch, retired staff member of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, to its board of governors and named him an RPRC life member. Terry Barone of the Baptist General Convention of Texas was elected to RPRC's Wilbur Awards Committee, which honors public media for excellence in religion coverage.

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Southern Baptists, led by the denomination's Foreign Mission Board, won 27 of 110 awards granted by the International Interfaith Organization of Religious Communicators.

Foreign Mission Board communicators won 18 awards and Sunday School Board communicators won nine. Other top award winners included Roman Catholics with 18; Lutherans, 16; and United Methodists, 12.

Southern Baptists won three best-of-class grand prizes: Leland Webb, Foreign Mission Board, magazine and newspaper class, for The Commission magazine; Martha Skelton, Foreign Mission Board, writing class, for coverage in The Commission magazine of the Soviet Union; and Philip Poole, other print media class, for a booklet, Sunday School Board Information Guide. Poole, now public relations director for Missouri Baptists, produced the booklet while employed by the Sunday School Board.

Webb, Skelton and Poole also won first-place awards of excellence in the magazine, feature series and booklet categories, respectively.

Jim Veneman of the Sunday School Board was top individual Southern Baptist winner, with six awards. He won two firsts and three runners-up in photography and shared a runner-up award with Jim Lowry and Frank Wm. White in the booklet category. Lowry also won a runner-up award in the newsletter category for Facts and Trends.

Other first-place awards went to Foreign Mission Board staffers Erich Bridges in both the news and feature story categories; Marty Croll and Bruce Wright, newspaper category for Focus; and Wright, exhibits and displays category. Wright also collected a runner-up award in the special-print category.

Other runner-up awards went to Foreign Mission Board staffers Linda Andrus in both the special-print and illustrations categories; Art Toalston and Eric Miller, each for a feature series; Don Dahler, motion picture category; and Gunther Friedrichs, Ray Fetty and Van Payne, each in the video, tape and disk category. The Foreign Mission Board also was runner-up in the TV series category for Foreign Missions Update.

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Clowns use makeup
as banner of witness

By Terri Lackey

N-SSB

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Christian clowns use their makeup and costumes as a banner of witness, not as a mask to shield their Christianity, said two ministers who direct clown troupes in their churches.

"We use our makeup to bring out what's inside of us, not as a mask to hide behind," said Buddy Lamb, associate pastor for youth ministry at Edgewood Baptist Church in Columbus, Ga.

Lamb, whose alter-ego clown is Budzo, said: "Christian clowning is a heart form, not an art form. We use it to minister to others and to glorify God. That's our purpose as a Christian clown. If we do anything else, we've missed it."

Lamb, who has been a clown for about 13 years, led conferences at the National Clowning Seminar, sponsored April 17-21 by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department.

Christian clowns should express love, joy, compassion, humor, understanding and enthusiasm. They should be teachers and entertainers, Lamb said.

Christian clowning is an "expression of Jesus Christ," he added. "It may be exaggerated, but it's still an expression of him."

Christian clowns should allow their costumes, wigs and makeup to become an extension of that expression, he said.

Tom Rives, associate pastor of Bay Area Baptist Church of Tampa, Fla., said even the application of makeup in clowning can symbolize Christianity.

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Step-by-step, as Rives transformed before the group into his clown character, Kokomo, he explained how each level of makeup application reminded him of the basic truths of Christianity.

Rives said when he powders or seals his face after applying the white clown makeup, he is reminded how a Christian's relationship with God is sealed once he makes the decision to serve God.

Painting on a smile or creating a happy clown, Rives said, is indicative "of the way Christian life should be. It is something we are happy about and look forward to all the time."

Likewise, the high-arching eyebrows that transform him into a wide-eyed Kokomo, create a "change in my appearance," he said. "Changes also take place in the Christian life. We open our eyes and see the opportunities of ministry God gives to us.

"Many times we tackle the world with closed eyes, and we don't see the unique mission opportunities God offers right in front of us."

Highlighting his makeup with facial lines only Kokomo possesses reminds Rives how "God uses each of us for our individual talents and abilities, and each of us is different in different ways."

Rives said every time he attaches Kokomo's big, red nose to an "already large snout," he is reminded how "God can take a person's liabilities or shortcomings and use them for his glory."

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