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August 16, 1989

N-CO

89-120

Elder 'felt abandoned,'
as firing discussed

By Al Shackelford

NASHVILLE (BP)--Lloyd Elder "felt abandoned" after trustees spent more than an hour discussing whether to fire him from his post as president of the Southern Baptist Sunday Board.

"I have not felt so abandoned since our daughter died in an automobile accident," Elder told SSB employees during an assembly Aug. 11.

During an Aug. 7-9 meeting, trustees spent more than an hour discussing a motion to dismiss the president and declare the post vacant. The motion subsequently was withdrawn.

Elder said he is resolved to do God's will in his life and "to rally with energy and his grace, which is sufficient, to stay and endure with high purpose for the long term in service as president of the Sunday School Board and to depend upon the Lord, upon Southern Baptists and upon you as fellow employees to do that with effectiveness."

Following his practice of reporting to employees about trustee meetings, Elder reviewed reorganization and personnel actions taken by trustees and then discussed their actions concerning him.

The general administration committee had presented recommendations that instructed Elder to refrain from perceived political activity and to seek a balance in denominational viewpoints in speakers, writers and authors. The recommendations also asked that a committee be appointed to draft an instrument to evaluate the performance of the president.

During discussion, the motion to dismiss Elder was presented.

Elder told the assembly audience of about 1,000 employees, retirees and visitors, "This has been a tremendously difficult time for Lloyd and Sue Elder.

"After the motion was withdrawn -- which I consider the depth of cowardice on the part of the trustee who withdrew it -- I felt as if I had been laid out on a table for surgery and cut wide open, and left there to see if I would live."

It was personally painful for his dismissal to be discussed for an hour and never voted on, he said, and asked, "How do we know how many trustees would have voted for it?"

"The trustee body can deal with the president. It is their will that has to be determined and all the allegations made, whether true or false, are not really the basis," Elder said.

"It is the will of the body that prevails as far as the election or the disposition of the president," he added.

After the motion to dismiss the president was withdrawn, the trustees passed the committee's recommendations, adding an amendment which stated "in this context" support for Elder and pledged their efforts to work for the success of his presidency.

At the assembly, Elder discussed the impact of the approved recommendations.

"Eighteen able, fine trustees have the perception that I have engaged in political activity and I must take that very seriously. I will not ignore it," he said, adding that he operates under two principles: "never, never be involved in political activity" and "never, never be quiet when the environment has a direct effect on the well being of the Baptist Sunday School Board."

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He continued, "Strong, good representatives of the board of trustees have instructed me to seek balance in our speakers, writers and authors. It is our instruction. There is absolutely no way I can carry that out without your help.

"That is what I thought we were doing," he added.

Concerning the recommendation to have a committee revise the president's evaluation instrument, Elder said, "I never knew there was a problem with that document until this was reported to the trustees." The committee was in executive session without Elder's presence when the recommendations were formulated.

"When I came, there was no annual evaluation. I requested such a document and the general administration committee adopted the document which the committee uses."

Elder said that in spite of the withdrawn motion and the approved recommendations, he feels support. "The administration made 45 recommendations to the trustees, all of which were passed overwhelmingly," he observed.

He said he also felt corrected. "No one of us is above accountability, and I will not run from it."

At the conclusion of his address, Elder received a standing ovation and about a dozen large sheets of paper with written support from employees. Sue Elder was presented a bouquet of roses.

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CORRECTION: Please make the following correction in the 8/11/89 Baptist Press story titled "Sunday School Board trustees turn aside try to fire Elder:"

In paragraph 15 beginning "The gift was approved ...," please note that Elder was not chairman of the SBC inter-agency council as reported. He is a member of the council.

We apologize for the error.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Powell declines
Annuity Board post

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

N-CD
(Ann. Bd.) Baptist Press
8/16/89

DALLAS (BP)--Paul W. Powell has given a final "no" to his July 25 election as president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, told his congregation Sunday morning, Aug. 13, "It's my feeling and my conviction that I shall remain the pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church."

According to the Tyler Morning Telegraph, Powell received a standing ovation from the congregation when he made the statement.

On Monday there were conversations with Martin and search committee Chairman George H. Balentine Jr. of Greenville, S.C.

"Until Tuesday morning we thought Paul still might be available," said Balentine, "but in mid-morning he called me to give a firm and final 'no.'"

"We deeply regret Paul's decision," said Martin, "but all along we have wanted him to follow what he determined to be God's will as he understands it."

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Powell, an Annuity Board trustee five years, was the unanimous choice of a seven-member search committee to become chief executive officer to succeed Darold H. Morgan, who has asked to retire March 1, 1990, after 18 years in the position.

When he was nominated, Powell asked for more time to consider the decision. He earlier had declined the nomination, but agreed to reconsider after trustees voted unanimously to elect him.

Martin said the search committee will be asked to get back to work promptly. "At this point," said Martin, "we have no firm time schedule. Dr. Morgan has requested retirement on March 1, 1990. But he has agreed to serve until his replacement is elected and is ready to assume the office."

"Our time is God's time. We will proceed in an orderly way to discover and elect God's man," said Martin.

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N-FMB

Belgian evangelical
school reorganizes

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press
8/16/89

HEVERLEE, Belgium (BP)--The Belgian Center for Biblical Education, an evangelical school Criswell College in Dallas unsuccessfully tried to buy, has merged two programs, cut staff, resumed efforts to sell its property and begun steps to strengthen its evangelical identity.

Efforts by Criswell College President Paige Patterson to buy the financially-troubled school's property ended in June when Patterson said he could not raise enough funds to buy the facility, renovate it and endow its operation.

Patterson's attempt to buy the school drew criticism from European Baptist leaders and R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Patterson is a trustee of the mission board. When the matter was discussed by board trustees earlier this year, Patterson maintained the potential purchase was a local church matter since Criswell College is operated by First Baptist Church of Dallas.

The Belgian school's reorganization will reduce this year's budget deficit -- earlier expected to be about \$219,000 -- to about \$75,000 by next year, said Jef De Vriese, administrative director-designate. De Vriese will be general coordinator in a new administrative system replacing six separate departments with a system more akin to that of Belgian universities. An academic director has not yet been named.

The school includes a conference center, counseling center, French-language Bible institute, Dutch-language Bible institute and the Evangelical Theological Faculty, a university-level seminary accredited by the Belgian government to offer degrees.

About 160 students attend the institution. Most are members of the Evangelical Free Churches or Dutch Reformed churches. Many students come from the Netherlands, and about one-third of the Baptist pastors in that nation are graduates of the school, said Robert Johnson, European director of Greater Europe Mission, a U.S.-based mission organization which sponsors 10 Bible schools and three seminaries in Europe, including the Belgian school.

The school is not formally affiliated with Baptists, although at least eight workers in Belgian Baptist churches and missions have attended the school. Thirteen Baptist churches and six missions or preaching points are affiliated with the Union of Baptists in Belgium.

Changes at the school focus on merging its three-year, Dutch-language Bible school program into its five-year seminary program. Degree standards will continue to be met, so the school will continue offering degrees accredited by the Belgian government. The French-language Bible school will be unchanged, Johnson said.

Five teachers -- three from the Bible school and two from the seminary -- will be dismissed, De Vriese said. Some of the dismissals came because the new program will require fewer teachers, but several were because the school's administrative council intends the school to be more closely identified with evangelical churches in Belgium.

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One professor, a Reformed Church member, was dismissed from the seminary's faculty to reduce Reformed influence, although he will continue to work with doctoral students, De Vriese said. The issue, he explained, is one of church identity, not whether Scripture interpretation is conservative or liberal.

"We've always been an evangelical school," De Vriese said. But in recent years, "traditional Protestant" professors have joined the faculty and changed the school's identity, he said. Some students lost their evangelical identity, he added, and were unable to function well in their home churches. The changes, he said, are intended to correct that.

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Creswell is overseas correspondent for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Senate confirms Melady
as ambassador to Vatican

By Kathy Palen

Baptist Press
8/16/89

N-BJC

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Senate has confirmed Thomas P. Melady, a former diplomat and an active Catholic layman, as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

Melady, president of the Connecticut Public Expenditure Council, is the third person to hold the post since the United States restored formal diplomatic ties to the Holy See in 1984. He succeeds Frank Shakespeare.

During the Nixon administration, Melady was ambassador to Burundi and Uganda. He also has been president of Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, Conn., and assistant secretary for post-secondary education in the U.S. Education Department.

Melady, 62, belongs to the Knights of Malta, a Catholic chivalric order with fewer than 2,000 members in the United States. He also is a board member of the Puebla Institute, a lay Catholic organization that monitors international human rights.

Several religious and church-state organizations, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, opposed the appointment of a new ambassador to the Vatican.

In a statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which held a hearing on Melady's nomination, the Baptist Joint Committee said: "This action violates perhaps the most fundamental guarantee of the establishment clause -- that government cannot act in a way that prefers one religion over another.

"As a result of this 'unholy alliance' between church and state, the Roman Catholic Church will enjoy a preferred position in this administration while other churches and religious organizations are made the objects of official governmental discrimination."

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Ministry to adults more important
in the 1990s, Texas leader says

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
8/16/89

N-CO
(SWBTS)

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--To meet the needs of an aging population, religious educators in the 1990s must place more emphasis on ministry to median and senior adults, a Texas Baptist leader told religious educators at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bernard Spooner, director of the Sunday school division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, spoke to members of the Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association at its 70th annual meeting Aug. 8-10.

He said the U.S. population is expected to increase by 20 million people by the year 2000, and added 18 million of that growth is expected to occur in the adult age groups. While young adults (18-34) are expected to drop by 8.2 million, median adults (35-64) are predicted to increase by 22.3 million and senior adults (65-up) by 3.9 million.

"We must improve our ability to reach and minister to median and senior adults," Spooner said. "At the same time, we must keep a balance and provide effectively for all age groups."

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People trends will change the American societal and business environment in the 1990s and will require religious educators to be more flexible and management-minded than ever before, he said.

Time will be a valuable commodity for the public, Spooner said, requiring ministers of education to become efficient time managers. "Special attention must be given to the time workers and participants will make available for church service and attendance. This will put pressure on leaders to streamline programs and use 'fast-track' approaches," he said.

Spoooner also reported on a recent survey he conducted of Southern Baptist leaders concerning the expectations of the next decade. Questionnaires were sent to 599 leaders in all phases of church work in every region of the country plus Canada and Puerto Rico.

Of the 279 respondents to the survey, 56 percent said church programs and organizations will be "less important or about the same" in the 1990s, while only 45 percent felt they would be "more important" or "very important." In general, the Sunday school and music programs were viewed with more positive expectations than the missionary organizations.

Ninety percent of the respondents expect "an increased tendency for churches to experiment with diverse approaches to programming," Spooner said, adding more than 71 percent expect "a tendency to decrease/streamline" church training, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood.

Spoooner, who has lamented the lack of a clear, defined purpose of Southern Baptists' basic church organizations, said the survey results did nothing to alleviate his complaint. Concerning the "primary role" of Sunday school in the 1990s, for example, 57 percent of the respondents expect it to be "outreach and Bible teaching," while 31 percent checked "Bible-teaching and nurture," and 12 percent indicated "small group fellowship."

Although 51 percent of the respondents expect the use of Baptist Sunday School Board materials to remain about the same, 27 percent predicted a decrease in use, he said.

"We must be more flexible in methodology, yet firm and clear in purpose," Spooner said. He urged religious educators to build confidence in church workers and teachers.

"With the fallout we have experienced in recent times with television evangelists, pastors and staff leaders, our people have questions about their own faith and ability to measure up," he said. "As leaders we must find reassurance for ourselves and our workers. We must be affirmers and encouragers, and our integrity must be unquestioned."

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Youth finds Jericho
fun and informative

By Tim Yarbrough

Baptist Press
8/16/89

F-~~CO~~
(B'hood)

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Passersby may have thought New Mexico Hall at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center was being picketed Aug. 2. About 10 young people were on the parking lot with signs hoisted above their heads.

But shouts from the youth revealed a different purpose.

"We're walking, running and jumping for world missions," a teen-ager yelled.

"Send me," said another, as he waved a sign in front of a gathering crowd.

The walking soon turned to running as youth alternated carrying signs around the parking lot.

The event ended with participants jumping rope, sometimes two or three at a time. They clapped and continued to shout encouragement for renewed missions involvement to the crowd.

The walk, run and jump for missions was one of a variety events for youth during Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival, July 31-Aug. 4.

Youth participating in the walk, run and jump raised \$220 and hoped to raise the consciousness of those who stopped to watch, said to Kenny Rains, a Jericho youth staff member.

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"It was an opportunity for the youth of Jericho, through their involvement, to drive home that missions support takes effort," Rains said.

Crystal Hoff of Grandview Baptist Church in Anchorage, Alaska, said the walk, run and jump helped her to realize the need for missions involvement by all Christians.

"It helped me to be more mature in Christ," Hoff said. "It inspires you, and others who you ask, to give to missions."

Jericho youth events included interest conferences, ranging in subject from dating and personal witnessing to discovering God's will. Conferences were taught by youth ministers and denominational youth leaders.

Greg Blankenship of Richardson Heights Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas, said he liked learning about missions efforts by Southern Baptists in other countries: "I've always wondered what the reaction is to somebody from another culture coming into your country and telling you about Jesus Christ," Blankenship said.

Coming here ... I've gotten a strong and firm foundation of the mission work I need to go back and do in my own city."

Kalyn Garrett, of Grandview Baptist Church in Anchorage, said Jericho music provided by other youth was special: "It was amazing to me. We come all together to worship the Lord in harmony. The people are so open, they desire to get closer to God. I've seen so much commitment."

Garrett said she made a commitment to deeper missions involvement during Jericho: "I was shocked at the number of churches that are not growing and that are not being reached. Then it dawned on me that we can't sit back in our pews ... we've got to get involved," she said. "If youth get on fire for Christ there's no telling what will happen."

Mike Day, chairman of the Jericho youth committee, said youth were divided into "community groups" representing different ages. The groups also were subdivided into "family groups," where youth could develop friendships.

"It gave them the opportunity to know a few people very well and to possibly develop some long-term relationships," Day said. "It gave people in a church group the chance to get outside their group and meet a variety of people."

Bible study leaders were able to direct teaching to a particular age group by using the community concept, he said.

Each morning youth gathered for "morning celebration," where they listened to music presented by other youth and prayed for missionaries. Home and foreign missionaries and Southern Baptist agency leaders spoke each day.

"It was an educational time, but most of all it was an inspiring time," Day said. "The missionaries talked about what youth were like in the country in which they serve which surprised many of the youth."

The best part of the entire week was the commitment to missions that many youth made, Day said: "We had one girl who came uninterested. By the end of the week, she realized that she was there because she needed to commit her life to missions."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Brotherhood Commission

Senate confirms
FCC appointments

By Kathy Palen

N-BJC

WASHINGTON (BP)--Despite protests from several evangelical leaders, the Senate has confirmed President Bush's three nominees to the Federal Communications Commission.

By voice vote, the Senate approved the nominations of Alfred C. Sikes, who has headed the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration since 1986; Andrew Barrett, an Illinois commerce commissioner; and Sherrie Marshall, an attorney and former FCC official. Sikes has been designated by Bush as FCC chairman.

Following the announcement of the president's nominees, several leaders within the evangelical "pro-family" movement lodged complaints with the White House. They voiced disappointment that John Price, an Indianapolis lawyer who chairs a group called Decency in Broadcasting, was not selected as FCC chairman.

Ed McAteer of the Religious Roundtable, James Dobson of Focus on the Family and Donald Wildmon of American Family Association accused the Bush administration of turning its back on the nation's evangelical community.

"It is clear that even collectively, we have little or no influence with the administration," Dobson wrote in a letter to White House Chief of Staff John Sununu. "At least 10 organizations were united behind John Price as potential chairman of the FCC, yet the president totally ignored our combined appeal. We were not even offered the courtesy of an explanation of the appointment process."

Wildmon accused the Bush administration of wanting nothing from evangelicals except their votes. "Come election time, we will suggest they find a good conservative Democrat to support or simply stay home," he added in his letter to Bush.

The leaders said Bush should have nominated individuals with track records showing a commitment to restoring common sense and decency to the public airwaves.

In testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee -- which held a hearing on the FCC nominees -- McAteer, a Southern Baptist, said he does not believe Sikes will address the decency issue at the FCC.

"There is a current deep suspicion among pro-family groups that the FCC under Sikes will continue in the same direction as under the Fowler-Patrick tenure (the two most recent FCC chairmen), that Sikes, if not a protege of the Fowler-Patrick 'deregulation dynasty,' at least, is of the same mind set," McAteer said. "Mr. Sikes' failure to take any public positions on the decency issue, while being vocal on other FCC-related matters, may indicate an innate reluctance to deal with this matter at all."

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N-SSB

Student ministry head pledges
to implement trustee action

By Linda Lawson & Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press
8/16/89

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Action by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board trustees instructing publication of an addition to the Baptist Student Ministry Guidebook will be carried out faithfully and with integrity, according to Charles Johnson, director of the student ministry department.

The department "will be faithful to their action and carry it out with integrity," Johnson said Aug. 13 in a prepared statement to campus and church ministers and state directors of student ministry attending the Student Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. The statement also was presented by Jimmy Edwards, vice president for church programs and services, to directors attending a simultaneous conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"We will move immediately to develop materials and take the necessary administrative actions," the statement continued.

Trustees Aug. 9 adopted a four-point proposal from Floyd E. Hughes, a trustee and pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Caledonia, Mich., stipulating:

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-- "The student ministry department be directed to publish an addition consisting of the Barnett team approach to the present guidebook;"

-- Max Barnett, director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Oklahoma, serve as managing editor, approve any writers and be given "adequate pages to develop the addition;"

-- That Barnett approve a field consultant, to be paid by the student ministry department, "to implement the new approach;"

-- That work begin immediately on the process "to bring about this addition."

The Baptist Student Ministry Guidebook, 1988 edition, includes, according to information on its cover, "strategic plans, programs and projects needed to develop and strengthen student ministry on college campuses and in churches."

Johnson said he wanted student ministry directors to have information about the action and the initial response of the student ministry department. He asked directors to share questions and concerns in the meeting. He pledged to respond personally to each one when he has more information about how and when the addition will be prepared.

"I give you my word, when answers become available I will share them with you," said Johnson.

Barnett, an employee of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma who has held his present position for 22 years, was present in the Glorieta session and indicated he plans to accept the assignment to prepare the guidebook addition.

"What I want is that there be another option for the organizational structure (of Baptist Student Union). That's all I've ever wanted," said Barnett.

The Barnett team approach emphasizes Bible studies and discipleship groups, according to Larry Woods, director of student ministry at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., and a Ridgecrest conference participant. Leaders from the discipleship groups form ministry teams and a leadership team is selected to function as a BSU council, said Woods who described the approach during the campus ministers meeting at Ridgecrest.

Barnett said Hughes telephoned him twice, once several months ago and once after the trustee action. He said Hughes had mailed him a copy of his proposed recommendation about a week before the trustee meeting, but because of a mailing mixup it did not reach him until a day after the meeting.

Barnett said he was surprised the proposal included the stipulation he would approve a field consultant. "I told him (Hughes) I don't want to hire somebody for the student ministry department," he said.

He said the focus of his efforts will be to "see that we have different organizational approaches." The addition will be based on the input of many, said Barnett.

In Johnson's statement he outlined other student evangelism and discipleship materials produced by his department, such as the "Share Seminar Workbook Revised" and other materials produced by the Home Mission Board. Also, he said the board's Sunday school division is preparing a collegiate edition of Outreach Bible Study, evangelistic Bible study groups generally conducted in non-church settings.

"These materials, along with those that will result from the recent trustee action, will give Southern Baptist student ministry abundant and comprehensive approaches and materials. These can be used for evangelizing and discipling students in different settings."

He also appealed that "all student workers move together as colleagues. I am asking for a unity that is greater than at any time in the history of this program. ...

"This is the time for the entire student ministry community to move together to enrich the program so that the maximum number of students can be reached both here and around the world," the statement concluded.

After the session at Ridgecrest, Jim Fugate, director of student ministries for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists told Baptist Press the guidebook "presents material in a way that offers options. We use the student ministry guidebook in West Virginia, but we don't feel limited by it. We see it as a source of ideas. I would recommend it to others."

Gene Briscoe, director of student ministries for the Georgia Baptist Convention and former president of the association of state directors of student ministries, provides copies of the guidebook for church ministers to college students as well as campus directors and BSU presidents.

"The guidebook provides us with a cafeteria of information for officer training. It's almost like a library of resource materials for students and staff members," Briscoe said.

Responses of directors at Glorieta and Ridgecrest included the following:

-- Question as to how the guidebook addition will impact local campus ministries with satisfactory structures already in place;

-- Support for the addition of an alternative approach to the organizational structure of BSU;

-- Concern that the tone of the trustee action suggests nothing has been happening in evangelism and discipleship through BSU;

-- Question as to whether directors will continue to be free to use any structure that works well in their situations;

-- Suggestion that directors be surveyed on their opinions of evangelism and discipleship emphasis in the present guidebook;

-- Concern that directors continue working together for the welfare of students.

Johnson appealed to directors to register their concerns with him and give priority attention at Glorieta to helping students have life-changing experiences in the conference.

"We have 2,400 students here seeking God's will for their lives. We want to do all we can to support and encourage them."

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HMB begins recruitment for 1990
New Orleans evangelistic thrust

By Joe Westbury

Baptist Press
8/16/89

ATLANTA (BP)--Letters to pastors of 500 strongly evangelistic churches have been mailed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to recruit trainers for a 1990 evangelistic emphasis in New Orleans.

A one-day neighborhood visitation has been scheduled Saturday, June 9, prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 12-14 in the Louisiana Superdome.

Howard Ramsey, director of the board's personal evangelism department, said the letters seek to enlist 250 pastors to conduct one-day soul-winning workshops in area churches.

The pastors will be paired with a like number of congregations being recruited by the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The Home Mission Board will not issue a broad appeal for volunteers as it did for a similar effort in Las Vegas in 1989. As pastors are enlisted, they will be urged to bring as many volunteers from their community as possible.

However, any pastors or lay individuals who desire to participate in the emphasis can contact Ramsey, who will assign them to witnessing teams being coordinated with the Louisiana convention.

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Ramsey said pastors selected for the mailing represent a broad spectrum of Southern Baptist congregations. "We were looking for churches of all sizes, rural and urban, who are making serious inroads in evangelizing their communities. Size alone was not a determining factor."

The Home Mission Board and Louisiana convention, working cooperatively, have set a date of Feb. 1, 1990, to have the 250 churches paired with the pastor/trainers.

The evangelistic thrust will be the second consecutive year Southern Baptists have set aside a day for door-to-door witnessing in conjunction with a convention session.

In Las Vegas in June, 2,025 volunteers knocked on 120,000 doors to register 471 professions of faith. Another 5,000 individuals were identified as prospects for the city's Southern Baptist churches and missions, Ramsey said.

Rather than repeating the one-city approach, Louisiana Baptists have opted to disperse volunteers throughout a 13-association area from Baton Rouge to New Orleans.

The area comprises the major population center of the state with more than 2.5 million residents, said Charles Harvey, director of evangelism for the Louisiana convention.

"This has the potential for being the greatest one-day soul-winning effort we've ever had in the greater New Orleans area. I believe it will far exceed the turnout we had for the 1986 Good News America revivals," he added.

The emphasis, called "Sharing Hope With Greater New Orleans," will concentrate on follow-up contact with prospects located through the 1990 Here's Hope simultaneous revivals. The revivals scheduled for late April in Louisiana.

Harvey said volunteers will be assigned to churches in the metropolitan area, which in turn will supply them with the names and address of individuals in each community.

Although all volunteers will be recruited exclusively through the Home Mission Board, the Louisiana convention will coordinate the placement of volunteers with the local churches, Harvey said. Volunteers will be responsible for all their lodging and meal costs.

Preliminary plans call for a June 8 training session at 3 p.m. for out-of-state volunteers, followed by a central evangelistic rally at 4:30 p.m. At the conclusion, volunteers will be transported back to their host churches for a potluck dinner emphasizing Cajun cooking.

At 8 a.m. the following morning, local volunteers will be taught how to use the witnessing booklet and the eight-point spiritual opinion poll. The material will be similar to that used in Las Vegas, said Ramsey, who also coordinated the Nevada evangelistic emphasis.

Door-to-door visitation has been scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 9. Afterward, teams will report back to the churches.

On Sunday, June 10, each of the sponsoring churches will have a unified Sunday school for older children, youth and adults and will use the pastor/trainer who had been assigned to the church as the guest speaker. The Bible study period will be followed by a special worship service.

A final program for the evangelistic thrust, which has been in the planning stages for more than a year, will be announced Sept. 29 at a meeting at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Harvey said.

Bobby Sunderland, director of the direct evangelism division at the board, said home mission personnel are already laying groundwork for future convention sessions for 1991 in Atlanta and 1992 in Indianapolis.