



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 13, 1989

89-131

N-FMB

Parks announces FMB shifts,
names O'Brien to new post

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will shift some key home office staff and functions "to focus more sharply on crucial needs in world missions," President R. Keith Parks announced Sept. 13.

Parks described the moves as a "fine-tuning process which will achieve more effective use of funds and people in high-priority areas." He said the process, based on an internal study by board staff, would free him and other key administrators to spend more time on creative thinking, strategic planning and leadership.

He projected the "fine-tuning" likely will result in reduction of 21 staff positions -- about 5 percent of the board's home office staff -- by the end of 1990. "We will utilize vacancies, attrition and transfers within staff to achieve most of the reductions," he said.

"Strategic planning for top priorities motivated the proposed changes, not budget concerns," Parks said. "When everything is in place we hope to do an even better job of using Southern Baptist resources effectively in the task of reaching the world for Christ."

Parks said he will propose that the office of the executive vice president assume direction of day-to-day operations of the board, which has an annual budget of about \$168 million, oversees some 3,800 missionaries in 116 countries and employs about 450 home office personnel. Top administrators would report to the executive vice president but have access to Parks.

Parks will recommend a candidate for election by the board trustees as the new executive vice president.

The board's current executive vice president, William R. O'Brien, asked to be relieved of the post when his wife, Dellanna, was named executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. The O'Briens have moved to Birmingham, where she assumed her new job Sept. 1.

Parks asked O'Brien, who steps down as executive vice president Dec. 31, to become a top special assistant to the president Jan. 1, 1990. "The expanded role of executive vice president would require a day-to-day presence in Richmond," Parks said. "But since Bill O'Brien's new role requires a lot of travel, I feel he will be effective even though he lives in Birmingham.

"I'm grateful Bill is willing to continue to work with us at this crucial time in our world missions efforts," Parks said. "He has unusual gifts in developing relationships, understanding of and commitment to foreign missions concepts, and ability to communicate and interpret our work."

O'Brien will continue to participate in the board's global strategy group. He also will continue to supervise denominational relations and serve as a liaison worldwide with other evangelical Christians in the board's effort to spark world evangelization. He will assume supervision of public relations responsibilities related to denominational affairs.

Johnni Johnson Scofield, a special assistant to the president, earlier requested retirement Dec. 31 after 39 years of service. The board will shift her responsibilities in missionary education, Southern Baptist interagency relationships and special projects to other staff members.

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The board's internal shifts grew out of a study conducted by a staff committee which Parks charged with the responsibility of finding more effective use of board resources. It followed a similar study Parks asked overseas missionaries to do in relation to their work.

Parks said details are not yet complete, but the preliminary plan calls for streamlining functions, shifting funds and functions between offices, and a stronger role for regional vice presidents in management of overseas affairs.

The changes include shifting coordination of missionary budgets and policies from the current office of mission management and personnel to the regional office group, headed by regional vice presidents. That group also includes area directors who oversee foreign mission work in nine geographic areas.

The current office of communications and public relations will be designated as the office of communications, with the shift of denomination-related public relations to O'Brien's new office.

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Annie offering meets HMB budget;
trustees approve record loan

By Joe Westbury

N-HMB

Baptist Press
9/13/89

ATLANTA (BP)--Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering have exceeded the 1989 budget for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and continue to outpace inflation.

During the September meeting of the agency's executive committee, HMB Executive Vice President Bob Banks reported that \$31,449,145 had been received through Sept. 8, which surpassed the projected budget of \$31 million.

The gifts represent an increase of \$2,151,352, or 7.34 percent more than received for the same eight-month period in 1988. Banks also said the total is 80.63 percent of the national goal of \$39 million and is 95.7 percent of the \$32.8 million the agency expects to receive this year.

In other business, board members approved a record \$1 million loan to First Baptist Church of Coral Park, Fla. In approving the amount, trustees made an exception to the \$750,000 limit which usually governs such transactions, explained church loans committee chairman Robert Latham from Indianapolis.

The growing Hispanic congregation is located in a suburb of Miami and has an annual budget of \$375,000, Latham said.

Trustees also appointed two members of the board's Atlanta staff as missionaries.

Ron Proctor, associate director in the personal evangelism department, was named to a national missionary position in the department, effective Sept. 16. He and his wife, Della, will serve in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Bill Gordon Jr., associate director in the interfaith witness department, was appointed a regional missionary for the department. He and his wife, Patricia, will remain in Atlanta.

Gordon's staff position was eliminated in cost-cutting moves announced by trustees in their August meeting.

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Catherine Allen leaves WMU;
joins Samford sesquicentennial

N-CO
(Ala.)

Baptist Press
9/13/89

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Catherine B. Allen, associate executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, will become executive director of the Samford University Sesquicentennial Commission Oct. 15.

In her new post Allen, who has been on the staff of WMU-SBC more than 25 years, will coordinate activities leading up to and through Samford's year-long celebration of its 150th anniversary during the 1991-92 academic year.

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The sesquicentennial will include measures aimed at institutional renewal, a major fund-raising campaign and a series of community events focusing on Samford's history. Samford, with about 4,000 graduate and undergraduate students, is affiliated with the Alabama Baptist Convention.

According to Samford President Thomas E. Corts, Allen will remain with Samford after the anniversary celebration.

Allen went to work for WMU when she was a 21-year-old senior at Samford, editing Sunbeam Band -- young children's -- materials. In a memo to staff members announcing her resignation and new post, Allen wrote:

"In 1960, I entered Samford as a poor scholarship student. Four years later, I had a degree, a husband, a wonderful job at WMU and money in the bank."

During her career at WMU, Allen has held a number of posts, from editor to public relations director, to personnel director to associate executive director. She worked with two executives: Carolyn Weatherford, who resigned Sept. 1 after 15 years on the job, and Alma Hunt, who preceded Weatherford.

Since Sept. 1, Allen has been briefing the newly-elected executive, Dellanna O'Brien, who was elected July 22.

"She (O'Brien) has my promise to help in any volunteer capacity in the future," Allen said, adding she wanted to see O'Brien "well established before moving."

O'Brien said: "Catherine's leaving is a real loss for us. I personally regret that she is leaving because of her significant knowledge of WMU through the years and her identification with WMU throughout the (Southern Baptist) convention. However, I am pleased that there is a challenging opportunity awaiting her at Samford."

"Both Samford and WMU are family to me," Allen said. "I owe both organizations great personal debts. It was a privilege to serve Woman's Missionary Union in a professional capacity for nearly 26 years. I will always love its people and its purposes.

"Samford is the most exciting institution in Southern Baptist life today," she added.

In her work at WMU, Allen scored a number of "firsts:" she created the first public relations department for the organization, as well as the first personnel office. She also was the first woman to be elected president of Baptist Public Relations Association, composed of public relations and journalism professionals in the denomination.

She also was the chairman of the Consultation on Women in Church-related Vocations, an inter-agency effort, in 1978.

In 1974, Allen took on the personnel responsibilities for the Birmingham, Ala.-based organization, and in 1983, assumed other business functions -- finance, property management, procurement, subscription services and literature distribution -- as associate executive director.

She also led in planning the organizations's new office site on Missionary Ridge in Birmingham, an \$11 million project. She was coordinator of the WMU Centennial celebration in 1988. She also has traveled worldwide and recently led in an educational and historical research tour program which took more than 600 people to China in the last two years.

Allen is author of four books, including a biography of Lottie Moon, the missionary to China for whom the Christmas offering for foreign missions is named. The most recent is a biography of nursing educator Ida V. Moffett, written jointly with her husband, Lee, dean of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences at Samford.

The Allens currently are involved in a biography of the Beeson family, longtime benefactors of Samford University.

Allen is a 1964 honors graduate of Samford and earned a MBA degree from Emory University in Atlanta. In 1980, she was named Samford Alumni of the Year.

She and her husband have two children, Leland, a first-year medical student and Leslie, a college sophomore.

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Court dismisses challenge
to Catholic tax exemption

By Kathy Palen

N- BJC

Baptist Press
9/13/89

WASHINGTON (BP)--A federal appeals panel has dismissed a lawsuit challenging the tax-exempt status of the U.S. Catholic Church.

A three-member panel of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled a group of abortion-rights advocates did not have legal standing to sue the Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department for failing to revoke the Catholic Church's tax exemption.

The nine-year legal battle began when Abortion Rights Mobilization, along with 20 other individuals and groups, challenged the tax-exempt status of the U.S. Catholic Conference and National Conference of Catholic Bishops. It claimed the church agencies violated a tax-code provision by campaigning against pro-choice candidates in the 1980 federal elections.

The church's refusal to comply with a district court's order that it produce internal church documents resulted in a contempt citation, including fines of \$100,000 a day.

The church agencies appealed to the 2nd Circuit, which stayed the fines pending appeal. But the appeals court held the church did not have standing to press the case.

That decision was reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court, which sent the case back to the 2nd Circuit for further proceedings.

In a 2-1 ruling, the appeals panel said the plaintiffs did not suffer a "particularized injury" by the alleged actions of the church agencies and thus could not bring a complaint.

Attorneys for ARM have said they will appeal to the full appeals court and, if necessary, to the Supreme Court.

Legal experts consider the case to be one of the most significant church-state disputes of recent times, citing the case's underlying question of whether a group such as ARM has legal standing to challenge the tax-exempt status of a religious body because the group disagrees with the church's stance on a public issue.

"It is hard to overstate the implications of this case," said Oliver S. Thomas, Baptist Joint Committee general counsel. "If ARM's standing had been upheld, the tax-exempt status of any church could have been attacked whenever groups disagreed with its position on controversial issues. Obviously, this could have become a key element in a group's overall strategy on a hotly contested issue."

A coalition of religious organizations, including the BJC, filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the Catholic Church's appeal of its contempt citation to the Supreme Court.

"We are pleased that the courts have once again provided a safeguard for churches to be involved in the political process in a constitutionally appropriate way," said James M. Dunn, BJC executive director.

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Centrifuge, Crosspoint missions
collection exceeds \$100,000

N-SSB

Baptist Press
9/13/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--Centrifuge and Crosspoint campers collected almost \$107,000 in missions money this summer to fund programs for youth experiencing crises and for underprivileged children in New York City.

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Registration for the combined summer church recreation camps exceeded 30,000, and spiritual decisions reached nearly 4,000, according to statistics compiled in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department, which sponsors both events.

Crosspoint is a Christian sports camp for girls and boys, grades four through eight. Centrifuge is a Christian youth camp for teens, seventh through twelfth grades.

An offering of \$104,830 was collected at 84 Centrifuge camps held in locations across the United States and in Korea, Taiwan, Japan and Switzerland, according to Scott Werner, consultant in the church recreation department and Centrifuge coordinator.

The money, which will be administered through the Home Mission Board, is going to support ministry programs for teenagers who find themselves in trouble, Werner said.

The Home Mission Board will dispense the missions money to high-need areas, Werner said, such as homes for unwed teenagers, substance abuse programs, suicide prevention counseling and inner-city ministries.

"This is the first time we've ever collected over \$100,000," said Werner, who noted the theme for Centrifuge this year was "Good News for Fast Times."

"I think the teens felt like this was a ministry that was needed, and they were willing to contribute to it," Werner added.

The \$1,750 collected at nine Crosspoint camps will go to "Graffiti," a program in New York City administered by Baptists in the area, according to Dean Hartzell, church recreation consultant and Crosspoint coordinator.

The money, also distributed through the Home Mission Board, will fund Bible study, tutoring sessions and a partners program sponsored by Graffiti, which ministers to children and youth, ages six through 14, Hartzell said.

"This was the first missions offering ever collected in the four years of Crosspoint camps," Hartzell said. "We wanted the kids to become aware of missions and let them see the different opportunities out there for missions. Plus, we wanted to support a program that does something for other kids."

Registration at Centrifuge camps was 29,958, Werner said. Week-long camps were held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers; Greenville, S.C.; Jackson, Tenn.; Mobile, Ala.; and Marshall, Texas, as well as in the overseas locations. Traveling teams of Centrifuge leaders led camps in the West, Pacific Northwest and the Northeast.

A total of 680 professions of faith in Jesus Christ were made during the 84 Centrifuge weeks -- 2,380 rededications; 349 church vocations; and 329, other, Werner said.

At Crosspoint camps, where total attendance was 1,360, 35 young people accepted Christ, 96 rededicated their lives; one pledged to enter a church vocation, one pledged to enter missions; and two made other types of decisions, Hartzell said.

The camps were held at colleges and universities in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee. The ninth camp was held at a community center in Grand Isle, La.

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Baptist businessman helps
Poles buy printing equipment

N-FMB

Baptist Press
9/13/89

WARSAW, Poland (BP)--Polish Baptists now have equipment to produce Christian literature as a result of a \$20,000 donation from Southern Baptist businessman J.M. (Jimmy) Shults of Pine Bluff, Ark.

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The equipment cost \$30,000. The additional \$10,000 came from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the European Baptist Federation, a fellowship of 26 Baptist unions from 22 European countries.

Polish Baptists needed the printing equipment, said Paul Thibodeaux, a Southern Baptist fraternal representative for Eastern Europe. For years they have hired other religious groups to set into type and print their literature, he explained.

The Baptists did not buy a printing press. They still must hire someone to print their material, but now they have a computer and software with word processing capability and they can set type themselves. They also bought equipment to produce a photographic negative of a printed page, used to produce a metal plate which goes on a printing press.

This will lessen the time between the writing and printing of literature. In the past, Polish Baptists usually had to wait a year or more. Now they can plan faster production of MasterLife discipleship materials, youth and Sunday School literature and Bibles. The equipment also has the capability of setting sheet music into type, and will help Polish Baptists produce tracts and a monthly newspaper.

"More materials will better equip Polish Baptists for outreach into Poland," Thibodeaux said. "We hope and pray this will increase church membership and church growth." Southern Baptists work with the 4,000 Baptists there.

Shults said he has wanted to do something for Poland for a long time. As a soldier in World War II, he was captured by German soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge in late 1944. During a march to prison, Shults sustained frostbite of the feet and the early stages of gangrene. In a German hospital, two Polish nurses stood by Shults "with a message of good news" that he was "going to be all right," he said.

Shults did recover, and for 45 years he has cherished the encouragement of the Polish nurses. When the real estate investor read a Foreign Mission Board brochure that said Polish Baptists needed money to buy printing equipment, he responded. The brochure provides information to those who want to give beyond normal contributions through their local church.

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Senate passes bill to prohibit
discrimination against disabled

By Kathy Palen

N-BIC

Baptist Press
9/13/89

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Senate has approved legislation that would extend broad anti-discrimination protections to the estimated 43 million Americans who have physical and mental disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, passed 76 to 8, would ban discrimination based on disability in employment, public accommodations and service, transportation and telecommunications.

The bill has garnered bipartisan support on Capitol Hill, as well as the endorsement of President Bush.

"This has been very much a good-faith effort on all sides because I believe that all of us -- Republican, Democrat, conservative, liberal, whatever stripes we may have or people tend to give us to wear -- we all believe very deeply," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, the bill's chief sponsor. "The time has come to extend broad civil rights coverage to people with disabilities in our society."

Harkin said individuals with disabilities have been excluded from the economic and social mainstream of American life.

"For people with disabilities, the ADA sends a clear message that they are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and that they can and will be judged as individuals on the basis of their abilities, not on the basis of ignorance, irrational fears or patronizing attitudes."

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Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, one of the bill's major co-sponsors, praised the legislation for recognizing the federal government's role in enforcing the rights of people with disabilities and in helping those individuals become independent and productive citizens.

"Persons with disabilities I have talked to stress that their entire desire is only to be given the same opportunity to work and fend for themselves like anyone else," Hatch said. "They are looking for what this bill provides -- equal opportunity, not equal results."

The ADA bill will end the "American apartheid" that has allowed disabled Americans to be treated as second-class citizens, said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. The legislation could become "one of the great civil rights laws of our generation," he predicted.

The legislation would protect people who have AIDS or the related HIV virus, but it would not include coverage for a wide variety of sexual practices, including homosexuality and transvestism. It also would not cover current users of illegal drugs or alcohol.

Although the ADA bill would apply to both public and private sectors, it would include exemptions for religious organizations.

In the area of employment, the legislation would allow religious organizations to exercise religious preference in hiring. It would allow a religious organization to require all applicants and employees to conform to the organization's religious tenets.

The bill also would exclude religious institutions or entities controlled by religious institutions from a list of categories of establishments -- such as restaurants and office buildings -- considered to be public accommodations.

The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives, which is expected to follow the Senate's lead in approving the measure.

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Seminary faculty requests
Penningtons' appointment

By Pat Cole

N- (CO
(SBTS)

Baptist Press
9/13/89

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Faculty members at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have called on Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees to pursue the appointment of missionary candidates Greg and Katrina Pennington of Oklahoma.

In an open letter to FMB trustees, faculty members at the Louisville, Ky., school expressed their "profound sorrow" that the Penningtons, graduates of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., were denied appointment as missionaries. The faculty approved the letter at its first meeting of the school year.

An FMB trustee subcommittee refused in June to recommend the couple for missionary appointment, charging the Penningtons, staff members at Northwest Baptist Church in Ardmore, Okla., acted inappropriately in their pursuit of ordination. The ordination had stirred controversy in Enon Baptist Association which a month prior to the Penningtons' ordination voted to automatically exclude from membership any church that ordains women.

At a meeting in early August, the trustee subcommittee issued a statement indicating it could reopen discussion on the Pennington case. The statement, approved unanimously by the entire trustee board, denied that Mrs. Pennington's ordination or pressure from Enon Association had affected the earlier vote.

The letter from Southern Seminary's faculty, however, urged FMB trustees to "be responsive to the candidates' congregation and not to a local association." Appointing the Penningtons, it added, would "affirm Southern Baptists' commitment to the authority of Scripture and the lordship of Christ."

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The letter reaffirmed the faculty's "calling" to prepare both women and men for ministry and renewed their commitment to "the church's mission to take the gospel to all nations and peoples." It also urged Southern Baptists "to avoid raising any artificial barriers which would keep spiritually qualified, God-ordained individuals from carrying the gospel to the world."

The faculty affirmed the "New Testament understanding that God calls women as well as men to ministry" and noted that "women have served with distinction in God's mission in the world."

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Cal Baptist gets
\$1 million pledge

N - (CO
(Calif.)

Baptist Press
9/13/89

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--California Baptist College has received the largest financial pledge in its 40-year history.

An anonymous donor has pledged \$1 million in a commitment toward the school's Partners in Progress Campaign, said President Russell Tuck.

The donor has pledged the \$1 million toward construction of a proposed science building, which will house classrooms, faculty offices and laboratories. The facility also will include a student center.

The pledge pushed the Partners in Progress Campaign closer to its \$5.2 million goal, with a campaign total of \$4.7 million in gifts and pledges.

The pledge is to be paid in three annual installments, the first installment, of \$300,000, has been received by the college.

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New breed of associational
missions director emerging

By Jim Newton

F - HMB

Baptist Press
9/13/89

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--A new breed of associational director of missions is emerging in the Southern Baptist Convention, giving renewed hope for the future among denominational leaders, according to observers of the trend.

The "new breed" of associational director of missions is younger, better trained, better educated, and more concerned about strategy planning and use of computer technology than the previous generation.

These are the characteristics described by more than two dozen associational directors of missions and denominational leaders interviewed during the National Convocation on the Baptist Association at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

In the past, explained one denominational leader, Baptist associations have tended to employ older pastors as their directors of missions. In such cases, the director's primary role was to be a pastor to other pastors in the association and to promote fellowship and denominational programs among the churches.

"The new breed see themselves as mission strategists and administrators, rather than as a pastor to other pastors," said Larry Rose, associate director of the metropolitan missions department at the SBC Home Mission Board.

The trend is stronger in larger associations in cities with more than 1 million population, where the demand is for strategy planners, motivators and catalysts, he added.

Smaller towns and rural areas also are reporting the trend, observed Leon Boyd, director of rural-urban missions department at the Home Mission Board.

"It is affecting the rural-urban associations as well as the metro associations, because state leaders see this (trend) as essential to state missions strategy," Boyd said.

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The new breed does not include many women, blacks and ethnics, denominational leaders said. The Home Mission Board does not keep records based on gender or ethnic background but identified about eight of the 978 directors of missions as women.

Rose and Boyd each listed two dozen "new breed" directors of missions who have come into the position during the 1980s.

Among rural-urban associations, the new breed is more apparent in new work areas where Southern Baptists are not very strong, Boyd said.

Glenn Igleheart, state missions director for the Baptist Convention of New York, agreed on the trend but expressed doubt that it is sweeping the nation.

"One of the things that has been obvious to me during this convocation is how white and middle-aged everyone is," said Igleheart.

The New York convention is an exception.

Associations in Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo are directed by men in their thirties who portray the characteristics typical of the "new breed," Igleheart said.

Such characteristics, he said, include perception of their role as a professional position and not as a stepping stone to another job; concern for continuing education and training for themselves and other church leaders; use of computers in strategy planning based on census data; concern for developing support systems to sustain personal, emotional and spiritual lives of pastors and their families; and a world view of missions.

Don Venosdale, director of the missions growth division for the California Southern Baptist Convention, said the new breed is emerging on the West Coast.

"They are more flexible than some of the older associational DOMs of my generation," Venosdale observed. "They are capable of dealing with diversity, because most of them come from that kind of culture and background."

Several denominational leaders cited the election of Jim Herrington as director of missions for Union Baptist Association in Texas as an example of the new breed. In April, Herrington, 36, became director of missions of the largest Baptist association in the nation, with 431 churches and missions. Previously, he was associate pastor of Willow Meadows Baptist Church in Houston.

In an interview, Herrington said he was surprised the association wanted him for the position, and cited two major reasons it turned to him:

"First, there was a keen sense of frustration that we are losing the ballgame in the city, and what we have been doing in the past is not working. They felt we needed someone who was innovative ... who would try something new.

"Second, I had a credible track record in the association as associational finance committee chairman when we faced a major crisis and had to cut \$200,000 from our \$1 million budget."

After Herrington's presentation on how to cut the budget, John Bisagno of First Baptist Church of Houston who led the search committee, told Herrington the association needed someone with his professionalism in the role.

"They wanted me," Herrington summarized, "because they felt I was articulate, because I was deeply committed to missions and because I understood and could speak the language of the information age."

Another example is Bill Tinsley, who at age 39 became missions director for Denton (Texas) Baptist Association. Tinsley moved to the position in one of the fastest-growing counties in the state from the staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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Tinsley said he went to the association as a "catalyst and strategy planner," feeling that he could lead the association in dealing with change, the challenge of growth and strategies to respond to the needs. Before joining the state convention staff, Tinsley had started a new church in Denton.

Rose pointed to Tinsley and to W. Daniel "Doc" Lindsey, who recently resigned from the Home Mission Board staff to become director of missions in Detroit, as individuals who are exchanging state conventions and national agencies for associations, which provide more direct contact with local churches.

"Some of our sharpest state convention staff and SBC agency staff members are accepting positions as directors of missions in some of the best associations," Rose said. In some associations, salaries are better than for state and national agency staff positions, he added.

Both Rose and Boyd agreed that staff members of state conventions and SBC agencies often strongly recommend new breed directors to associations when vacancies occur. It strengthens the partnership between state conventions and denominational agencies when the association is directed by someone who sees strategy planning as a priority, the said.

"The good ol' buddy system is changing," Boyd said. "Associations now want directors of missions who are qualified, committed and creative in planning for the future."

Rose added that this gives the denomination "a lot of hope" as the new breed moves into strategic places of responsibility in Baptist associations across the nation.

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Volunteer 'vacations'
at historical library

By Kim Alley

F- (O)
(H.C.)

Baptist Press
9/13/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--Summertime means vacationing at the beach for most folks.

But Lamar Brown prefers to spend a week of his vacation each summer doing volunteer work for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, operated by the convention's Historical Commission.

"To me this is like vacation because I come (to work) in casual clothes and I'm not interrupted by the phone," says the Columbia, S.C., native. "The people and the volunteers are some of the best people I've ever met in my life."

The Historical Commission staff is equally fond of Brown. His week with them each year yields both the completion of several work projects and many shared smiles.

During break times, Brown circulates through the commission offices relating humorous quips. He is fond of working with computers and telling stories about them. Of a friend, he says, "I taught him how to use his computer two years ago, and he hasn't needed a secretary since."

Brown's humor is coupled with a desire to serve. As a volunteer for Hary Dent's Laity: Alive and Serving ministry and Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship, he stays busy. He is clerk for First Baptist Church of Columbia and was placed on the church's history committee after he began to do his volunteer work with the Historical Commission. He also is a retired colonel of the Air National Guard.

Brown came to the attention of the Historical Commission five years ago.

He wrote a letter to Reginald McDonough, former executive vice-president of the Executive Committee, expressing interest in volunteering in some administrative capacity for the Southern Baptist Convention. In the letter, he noted that he had a week of vacation that he wished to use in some form of ministry. McDonough forwarded the letter to the commission, which contacted Brown. In the summer of 1985, he came to work in the library and archives for the first time.

Brown annually pays his own way to the commission's office in Nashville, and the commission and library staff assist with his food expenses. He likes to play tennis and usually finds a tennis partner for the week he is in Nashville.

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Librarian Pat Brown recalls Brown's first day at work: "The first day I met him he said, 'I'm Lamar Brown. I'm here to do what needs to be done. If you need the floor swept, hand me the broom.' He puts in a full week while he's here."

During his week this year, Brown inventoried associational annuals for Missouri and North Carolina and prepared letters to directors of missions in each association; helped another volunteer move about one-third of the Library of Congress book collection; removed all labels from old books waiting to be reprocessed; and shelved a backlog of associational annuals.

In addition to his volunteer work, Brown has contributed three books to the library and archives and provides a fellowship time each year, complete with cake, for the commission staff. This year's cake read, "It's great to be alive for Trip # 5!"

At home, Brown works for the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department as director of supplies and services. He enjoys computers and country music. He and his wife, Joan, have two adult daughters.

Brown is planning to return again next year to volunteer his time.

He advises other Southern Baptists to tour the SBC Building, noting, "Most Baptists are losing so much by not coming here and seeing how they (agency employees) function."

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Small church
'talk of the town'

F - CO
(Pa.)

Baptist Press
9/13/89

HAZLETON, Pa. (BP)--Crusade Baptist Church in Hazelton, Pa., is the talk of the town.

Its new church building under construction has drawn people by the site every night just to see what has been done since the day before.

Hazelton is a city of 50,000 and 85 percent Catholic. Three television stations and two local newspapers have covered the building project.

Why all this interest? Because more than 600 volunteers representing 15 Southern Baptist churches in six states poured in and out each week providing labor and doing the construction.

Steve Nerger is pastor of the church, which began from a crusade in August 1981. About 10 people, half of them the pastor's family comprised the initial group.

Today the church has around 175 in worship and ran out of space in its present building about three years ago. Purchased from another denomination, the current site has limited parking. The new site of seven acres is in a wooded area with ample room for parking.

The first volunteer construction group arrived June 7. Composed of 12 people from Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia, they have worked together for nine years and built nine churches.

Each week others came through August. The building is to be completed soon. Groups who gave their time and labor also provided transportation, food and lodging. Four groups did Backyard Bible Clubs.

States represented were Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, Florida, Louisiana, and Connecticut. The Connecticut group represented a church built the same way last summer.

At a point when trusses were needed and not ready, one group went to the truss factory and in three days built 180 trusses at a savings of \$2,700.

Nerger said the church has worked very hard, and his people are excited about the new building: "Our major job in this was to have the site ready when the construction people arrived. In all of these nine years, we are the only church that had the site completely ready when they came. That is why it is going up so fast."

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The church also set up a tent with eating space and a professional kitchen. Each group brought its own cooks.

Elvin "Mac" McClintic and his wife, Alice, have been in Hazelton since May. He is a Christian Service Corps volunteer who is site coordinator. Born in Philadelphia and raised in the suburb of Croydon, he spent 30 years as an engineer in the Navy. Most of his time now is spent helping build churches.

Cost of the building materials is \$425,000, which is being paid by the church. Upon completion, the value will be about \$800,000, excluding the property.

"It's more than I had ever expected," said Nerger. "After eight years, it's great. We ran out of space, and we have just been waiting. I believe very strongly in the fullness of time -- God's time. As a pastor, I could get out ahead, and have it all fall apart. But we waited. Our people were ready. Our finances were ready. We had a challenge to build. And we have baptized 17 people since January."

The first service is expected to be in early October.

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Pulpit plagiarism lowers
ministers' image, prof says

By Pat Cole

CO
(SBTS)

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Plagiarism from the pulpit lowers an already tarnished public perception of ministerial ethics, said a Southern Baptist preaching professor.

"There is such low credibility among ministers in the secular world" that the discovery of plagiarism "just confirms suspicions," said Raymond H. Bailey, professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Nevertheless, plagiarism is a common problem among preachers, he said. The issue received widespread attention recently when several Southern Baptist pastors were accused in newspaper articles of portraying material they borrowed from other people as their own.

Citing an article on "Ethics in Preaching" he has written for the fall issue of Southern Seminary's theological journal, "Review and Expositor," Bailey noted the meaning of words and phrases in today's language offers some insight into the public perception of ministers. "Ministerially speaking," he said, is synonymous with gross exaggeration and "preachy" and "preaching" are often deemed pejorative.

Churches often fail to hold ministers accountable for inappropriately borrowing material, he said, noting, "in the church we often dismiss it as amusing," he said.

Yet James W. Cox, the Victor and Louise Lester professor of Christian preaching at Southern Seminary, said that for some congregations plagiarism is not a laughing matter. Cox said he knows of one non-Southern Baptist minister who was dismissed from his congregation for plagiarism.

Cox and Bailey pointed out giving proper credit during sermons is not cumbersome. "Elaborate footnoting" is distracting in a sermon, Cox said, but both professors emphasized the need for general attributions.

"It takes little effort to say, 'I was reading recently' or 'I heard someone say,'" said Bailey.

Some stories and sayings are in "the common domain" and therefore need not be attributed, Cox said.

All preachers have information gathered from teachers and readings over the years that "comes out synthesized through us," Bailey said. Such material usually cannot be credited, he added.

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Yet he stressed: "If you quote someone directly without giving credit, it is theft. If you take an original idea or an original insight that is not part of the common thought, it needs to be credited."

In addition to plagiarizing illustrations and ideas, Cox and Bailey said, preachers do not commonly borrow entire sermons. Preachers may adapt other preachers' sermons as long as credit is given to the original author, they said, but added that preachers should not make that a common practice.

"Preachers can become too dependent on somebody else, and they won't explore their own resources and develop their own style and personality," Cox said.

A preacher's effectiveness also can be harmed by overdependence on outlines and illustrations found in preaching aids published to help pastors prepare sermons, Bailey pointed out. From an ethical standpoint, he said, preachers who subscribe to these sources are not obligated to credit them because they are purchasing ideas. Yet, he maintained, the use of such material "is not a good way to go about preaching."

Between them, Bailey and Cox have more than 40 years of experience in teaching preaching to seminary students, and both have written on the subject of preaching.

The professors said they emphasize the seriousness of plagiarism to their students and demand originality in assigned sermons. The use of "good literature and good theologians" in sermons is encouraged if sources are documented, Bailey said.

Plagiarism often is caused by "laziness, poor discipline or poor planning" on the part of the preacher, Bailey said. Congregations sometimes contribute to the problem by not allowing pastors the study time necessary to prepare two or three sermons weekly, he added.