



# - - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE  
SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Marv Knox, Feature Editor

### BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550  
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
WASHINGTON 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 8, 1990

90-18

Nine of 10 areas gain  
in 1989 SBC statistics

By Charles Willis

N-SSB

NASHVILLE (BP)--Increases in financial contributions and mission expenditures topped gains in nine of 10 key reporting areas for Southern Baptists in the 1989 church year.

Baptisms, church membership, the number of churches and enrollments for Sunday school, discipleship training, church music and Brotherhood all climbed slightly above 1988 totals. The Southern Baptist church year runs from Oct. 1 through the following Sept. 20.

The only decrease registered was in ongoing enrollment for Woman's Missionary Union. A net loss of 1,466 members, or 0.1 percent, brought 1989 enrollment to 1,202,463. An enrollment gain in 1988 was the third consecutive gain for WMU following losses in 1984 and 1985.

According to figures from 37,051 Southern Baptist Uniform Church Letter statistical surveys received in the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, total tithes, offerings and special gifts during the year increased 4.4 percent, or \$180,079,404, over the previous year, making the 1989 total \$4,309,338,984.

The 3.4 percent, or \$23,323,570, increase for mission expenditures lagged slightly behind the percentage increase for the year in total contributions. Mission expenditures for 1989 totaled \$712,921,790.

While the number of Southern Baptist churches increased by 218 to a total of 37,785 during 1989, the 0.6 percent gain is less than that of the previous year. In 1988, 281 churches were added, for a 0.8 percent increase.

Baptisms climbed 1.4 percent, adding 4,787 people above the previous year's total, for 351,107 baptisms in 1989. More than 8,000 churches did not report a baptism for the 1989 church year.

Church membership increased 0.6 percent, or 95,042, to a total of 14,913,538. The percentage gain was identical to that of 1988, making it the second-smallest increase in church membership since 1936. The 1988 numerical gain was 90,726.

Sunday school enrollment climbed in 1989 by 0.3 percent, or 24,642, to 7,936,015 after a decrease of 0.4 percent in 1988.

Church training, now called discipleship training, registered a 1.6 percent increase, or 32,403, for a total of 2,026,141. This was the second year of gains for the program, following an increase of 2.0 percent in 1988 after four years of losses.

Church music enrollment in Southern Baptist churches registered its 24th consecutive increase, with 15,850 more than the previous year, an 0.9 percent gain. Total enrollment was 1,789,868.

Brotherhood enrollment, which declined in 1988 by 8.3 percent, registered an increase of 1.0 percent, or 5,212, for a total of 530,723 participants in 1989.

--30--

BP chart mailed to state Baptist newspapers by SSB bureau of Baptist Press

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1988-1989

	<u>1988 Total</u>	<u>1988-89 % Change</u>	<u>1988-89 Numerical Change</u>	<u>1989 Total</u>
Churches	37,567	0.6	218	37,785
Baptisms	346,320	1.4	4,787	351,107
Church Membership	14,818,496	0.6	95,042	14,913,538
Ongoing Sunday School Enrollment	7,911,373	0.3	24,642	7,936,015
Church Training Enrollment	1,993,738	1.6	32,403	2,026,141
Ongoing Church Music Enrollment	1,774,018	0.9	15,850	1,789,868
Ongoing WMU Enrollment	1,203,929	-0.1	-1,466	1,202,463
Ongoing Brotherhood Enrollment	525,511	1.0	5,212	530,723
Mission Expenditures	\$689,598,220	3.4	\$23,323,570	\$712,921,790
Total Tithes, Offerings, and Special Gifts	\$4,129,259,580	4.4	\$180,079,404	\$4,309,338,984

Sunday School Board trustees  
affirm healing, reconciliation By Linda Lawson

N-SSB

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board affirmed a spirit of reconciliation and healing in their Feb. 5-7 meeting in Nashville and pledged to work with the administration in carrying out the tasks of the denomination's church programs and publishing agency.

A motion of support for President Lloyd Elder and a motion pledging joint efforts by the trustees and administration to "fulfillment of the great tasks entrusted to us by the people called Southern Baptists" were passed without opposition.

The meeting was the first gathering of the full board of trustees since August 1989 when, during a session at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, a motion to fire Elder was made and debated before being withdrawn.

Robert Cheek, interim pastor of North Hardin Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas, noted six months had passed since the Glorieta meeting and said the time is right for trustees to let Elder "know we love him, we will pray for him and give him our heartfelt affirmation."

Rick Forrester, an insurance company office manager from Norcross, Ga., urged support for Cheek's motion: "Our president does need to know we are committed to working together. The press needs to hear and see that. Our constituency needs to hear and see that."

Tommy Taylor, pastor of London Bridge Baptist Church of Virginia Beach, Va., presented a statement adopted by trustees describing the meeting as "marked by a spirit of reconciliation and healing."

The motion expressed appreciation for an informal discussion session on the role and responsibility of trustees convened by Warren Hultgren, chairman of trustees and pastor of First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla.

The session included a presentation by James P. Guenther, a Nashville attorney and general counsel to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Guenther described the ideal relationship between the president and trustees of a Southern Baptist agency as a partnership in which both are strong. He urged humility, commitment to the mission of the institution and finding proper balance between "being assertive and being restrained."

Elder said the presentation and dialogue "opened lines of communication and strengthened the work of the Sunday School Board. ... Southern Baptists are diverse, and Sunday School Board trustees are diverse. That can be our greatest strength."

Hultgren said the session made trustees "aware not only of their responsibility to the Southern Baptist Convention but also of their obligations and accountability to the Sunday School Board and its administration."

In reporting on development of an instrument for the annual performance evaluation of the president by the general administration committee, Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, said trustees should turn from discussions about the president to focus on the work of the board.

"We are part of a flat denomination," said Young. "Our challenge is tremendous. We have an excellent president. Let's get off the side tracks and get on with the kingdom."

A motion by Gene Swinson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church of Augusta, Ga., called for the 90-member board of trustees to meet the week after the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June for an informal, non-business session to focus on building relationships and setting goals. The motion was referred to the general administration committee.

In other business, trustees authorized an average price increase of 5.8 percent for church literature, effective April 1991. Sunday school literature will increase an additional 4.4 percent in October 1991 with the introduction of improvements involving increased pages for Bible content, art and teaching procedures and more color, for an average price increase of 7 percent to 7.5 percent for the 1991 calendar year.

The pricing recommendation stated the commitment of the board to provide "the finest possible literature for Southern Baptist churches at least 25 percent below the prices of the nearest major competitor." A comparative study showed a quarterly literature order for a church of 200 would cost \$389 if purchased from the Sunday School Board, compared to \$495, \$518, \$603 and \$1,565 from four other publishers.

In a financial report for October-December 1989, E.V. King, vice president for business and finance, said total revenue from operations was \$42 million, 2.3 percent below budget but 4.8 percent above 1988. Church literature sales of \$18.8 million were 1.2 percent above budget and 7.2 percent above 1988. Genevox Music sales of \$320,000 were 8.5 percent above budget and 29 percent above 1988.

The board operates completely through sales of products and services and does not receive Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget funds.

The administration was asked to study the possibility of producing an abstinence-based sex education curriculum for use in schools, churches and homes and report back to trustees at their August 1990 meeting. Materials for use in churches and homes currently are under development by the board's family ministry department.

Trustees authorized beginning a monthly newsletter for youth ministers in April 1990 and approved addition of a four-color cover for "Baptist Adults," a discipleship training periodical.

Also approved was a recommendation that the Sunday School Board communicate to the Southern Baptist Committee on Nominations that a person may be nominated as a local trustee who lives in the state of Tennessee or within a radius of 250 miles of Nashville and in a state contiguous to Tennessee. The present guideline specifies 150 miles.

Trustees heard a progress report on "The New American Commentary," learning that manuscripts for two volumes have been completed by the writers. An outside marketing firm has been employed and a marketing plan developed. The first volumes will be released in June 1991.

Elected as trustee officers were Bill Anderson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Clearwater, Fla., chairman; Gene Mims, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cleveland, Tenn., vice chairman and chairman of the executive committee; and J.B. Miller, pastor of Pleasant Heights Baptist Church of Columbia, Tenn., recording secretary.

--30--

BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by SSB bureau of Baptist Press

Trustees urged to balance  
assertiveness, restraint

By Marv Knox

N-10

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist trustees must balance assertiveness and restraint, a veteran adviser to trustee boards said.

"Find the golden mean between being assertive and being restrained," Nashville attorney James P. Guenther told trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"I urge you to assert yourself as a trustee. But I also want to urge you to restrain yourself as a trustee. The wisdom is in knowing when you ought to do which."

Guenther, general counsel for the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee since 1964, discussed the role, responsibilities and functions of trustees during the Sunday School Board's winter meeting in Nashville.

Although speaking to one trustee board, Guenther noted, "Southern Baptist trustee bodies share much in common." In addition to the SBC and the Executive Committee, he is counsel to several SBC agencies, Baptist state conventions and Baptist schools.

"Our Baptist polity of agency control in the hands of trustees is defeated by a trustee body which does not perform its role," he said, citing the crucial nature of trustee selection. In the SBC, that is done through a multi-step process that begins with presidential appointments and concludes with election of trustees by messengers to the convention's annual meetings.

"It is crucial that those persons nominated and elected for trustee positions evidence promise of having what it takes to be a good trustee," Guenther said. "There ought to be no place in the system for cronyism, for political considerations, for good-old-boy arrangements. Selection of trustees on the basis of anything less than what is best for the institution demeans the ministry, trivializes the institution and mocks our piety.

"Southern Baptists cannot afford anything but the best on our trustee boards. Southern Baptist institutions cannot afford trustees who will not do their job. Our boards need to be composed of persons with the best minds and the best hearts and the best spirits and the best intentions. ...

"We need trustees who are educable, who learn fast, who are willing to learn, who want to learn, who have the trust to learn. We need trustees who are skilled in their own lives, who have their own expertise, and who respect the expertise of others. We need trustees who are open-minded, who will think independently -- independently of the administration and independently of each other, independently of the folks back home and of denominational factions.

"We need trustees who are first and foremost committed to the institution which they serve, who mean to protect it and to support it and to champion it."

But trustees must be careful not to overstep their bounds, Guenther added, citing several "restraints" trustees should place on themselves:

-- Assignment. "Do your job; don't try to do somebody else's job," he urged. "The most common problem is that a trustee will want to do the job of the president, or of the staff, or of the faculty, or of a committee of the board, or that he will want to be the whole board. It's a poor first baseman who chases after pop flies into center field."

-- Respect for history. "Trustees who don't know the mistakes of their predecessors can't learn from those mistakes," he said.

--more--

-- Truth. "You may bristle at the implications of that advice," he said. "But let me tell you that I have seen trustee bodies vote to tell a lie when I knew that every single member of the trustee board was personally committed to truth telling. Some institutions, public and private, have been their own worst enemy by not telling their constituents all the truth."

-- Sensitivity. Even though unpopular decisions are inevitable, trustees should be concerned about "how the decision will play in Peoria and in Peoria's First Baptist Church," he said.

-- Process. "Establish procedures which are fair and reasonable, and insist ... on complying with those procedures," he advised. "In biblical terms, 'Let all things be done decently and in order.'"

-- Love. "When we consider how (Jesus) expects us to treat one another, the law's due process looks like the pillage of the barbarians," he said. "It was (former SBC president) R.G. Lee who liked to say, 'To give less under grace than under the law is a disgrace.'"

-- Accountability. "You are accountable to the convention," he reminded the trustees. "But you are also accountable in a real sense to the employees of this institution. You are accountable to government, to your neighborhoods, to those in need of the gospel."

-- Law. Trustees do well to follow two restraints courts have adopted, he said. First, courts realize "there is merit to settling controversies and once having settled them to not take them up again." Second is "the idea that decisions should stand as precedents for future guidance."

Guenther also urged trustees to approach their tasks with humility. "You are all laymen, that is, by definition of the word, one who is not expert," he said.

And while such a system of non-expert trustees "keeps bringing freshness to our boards," trustees need to "be on guard against thinking we know more than we do," he cautioned.

Trustees also must "keep on mission," Guenther admonished, exhorting trustees to understand both their role as trustees and the nature of the institution they serve.

Guenther challenged the trustees to adopt the characteristics common to the best trustees he has known -- "commitment, honesty, diligence, a willingness to think independently, a sweet spirit, a love for the institution they serve, a desire to do not only the right thing but also to do the right thing in the right way, humility and a sense of wanting to be in service to God."

--30--

Relationships determine future  
of SBC agencies, expert notes

By Marv Knox

N-CO

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Relationships determine the future of Southern Baptist agencies, the convention's attorney said.

James P. Guenther of Nashville spoke to trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board during their winter meeting in early February, outlining their role and responsibility to the board and Southern Baptists.

Guenther is general counsel for the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee, and his clients include several Baptist state conventions, colleges and SBC agencies. Although he was speaking to trustees of one agency, he noted the structure of Southern Baptist agencies causes them to share common conditions.

"It is in relationships that this institution will find its success or its failure, in the same way that it is in the relationships within our families and within our churches that these two institutions find their ultimate meaning," he said.

"As Christians, we should have no problem understanding the importance of relationships. The very faith we claim is in a relationship."

--more--

However, tension is an inevitable part of the relationships, Guenther acknowledged. He cited the "tripartite" organization that involves trustees, the president and employees and noted employer-employee issues such as conditions for employment and salary administration.

"It would be naive to expect that in these areas tension would be absent," he said. "In fact, if tension were absent totally in and between the parties to this tripartite organization, something would be amiss."

In response to a question, Guenther cited "a new militancy on the part of SBC boards, in large measure because of the transition in leadership." And a perception that current trustees passed "litmus tests" to get their posts, whether true or not, has "created a most unfortunate climate and tension in our boards," he said.

Regarding ongoing relationships, Guenther described three categories: trustee-trustee, trustee-president, trustee-employees.

"Within the board itself relationships should be based on respect and a shared commitment for the ultimate purposes of the institution," he said of the first category.

"Members should insist on their right to be informed and on their rights to a full discussion of each important issue; ... listen with open minds to those with whom they disagree; ... expect the president and staff to provide background information on all significant issues; ... bring their ideas and proposals up in a time frame sufficient" to allow staff to provide research and trustee committees to discuss the ideas.

"Members should place the larger interest of the board above their personal or factional concerns," he said. "Each member must be willing to support and champion the board as long as he remains a part of the board. ... When the board determines its position on an issue by majority vote, the minority simply disappears. The majority should avoid an attitude of victory over the enemy. The minority should accept the vote and move ahead in a spirit of unanimity."

The next category, trustee-president relationships, requires equal skill, Guenther added.

"While tension is not inappropriate, the relationship needs to be one of mutual respect, each defending the other's right to perform his role," he said.

"What is the board's realm and what is the president's? First, the board ought to try to stay at the level of generality, rather than specificity. The president, on the other hand, must deal with the immediate. ...

"The board should be engaged in an ongoing appraisal of the program to assure itself that objectives are being achieved. The president is the chief channel of information for the board, enabling the board to comprehend complex material in such a way that the board feels confident that they have the information upon which an intelligent policy decision can be made.

"The board should assure itself that fundamental legal, financial and ethical responsibilities are being fulfilled. Finally, the board should be honest in appraising its own performance and organization."

Turning to the trustee-employee category, Guenther said: "Individual board members should not deal with employees other than the president. If it becomes needful for a member of the board to work with an employee directly, the president should be made aware of that need, arrange the contact and be apprised of the discussion.

"To do otherwise is fraught with peril," he said, noting direct contact is unfair to the employee; to the president, who must supervise employees; and to other trustees who are not involved in the interaction.

HMB executive committee  
takes stand on abortion

By Mark Wingfield

N - HMB

ATLANTA (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted to "go on record supporting the sanctity of human life" during the Feb. 6 meeting of the board's executive committee.

The one-line resolution passed unanimously after being introduced by trustee Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Hixson, Tenn.

Phillips noted the resolution coincided closely with the Jan. 22 anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion.

Bob Banks, HMB executive vice president, informed the executive committee of the final figures for the 1989 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Southern Baptists gave \$32,993,022 in 1989, an increase of \$2.1 million or 6.93 percent from the previous year.

The \$32.99 million given in 1989 represents 85 percent of the offering goal of \$39 million.

The executive committee also approved appointment of nine missionaries, three missionary associates and 10 church planter apprentices.

In remarks to the executive committee, HMB President Larry Lewis said he was concerned that the total number of home missionaries under appointment at the end of 1989 did not exceed the number under appointment at the end of 1988. The HMB ended 1989 with 3,808 missionaries, down 19 from the 1988 year-end total of 3,827.

The missionary count fluctuates every month as new missionaries are appointed and current missionaries retire or move to different positions. Because of this fluctuation, the year-end count is only one of several mileposts used to gauge progress toward the Bold Mission Thrust evangelism/missions goal of 5,000 home missionaries under appointment by 2000 A.D.

--30--

Student project begins Southern Baptist  
mission involvement in Soviet Union

By Frank Wm. White

N - SSB

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Students from five states this summer will become the first Southern Baptists to conduct short-term missions work in the Soviet Union.

Teams of 12 students each will be selected from Texas, Tennessee and Mississippi, along with a joint team from Alabama and Kentucky, to accept the invitation extended by Soviet Baptists in late January.

The students will help renovate a Russian Orthodox church building for use by a Baptist church in Leningrad.

Brad Gray, student ministry consultant for world student missions at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said he hopes other states will have opportunities to participate in future projects.

The Leningrad project became available in January, several months after the usual August deadline for summer missions projects, and time would not permit opening it to everyone, Gray said, noting, the first five states contacted agreed to provide a team for the project.

The Tennessee team will travel to Leningrad in late May for a two and one-half-week assignment and will be followed by the other teams, with Mississippi students completing the project in August.

The students will do various renovation jobs on the building so it may be used as an inner-city church and a ministry to youth in downtown Leningrad, according to Gray, student ministry coordinator for the project.

--more--

The students also will have opportunities for singing, giving testimonies, some preaching and participating in worship services in Leningrad, Gray said.

They will stay in the homes of Soviet Baptists in Leningrad -- a break from usual Soviet policy that normally directs that foreign visitors stay in government-selected hotels, he said.

Soviet Baptists said the project will mark the first time outsiders have been permitted to work with them on such a basis.

"This is a significant project for Southern Baptists," Gray said. "The success of this project will greatly influence the future of Southern Baptist projects in the Soviet Union. We are pleased students have been selected to lead the way for Southern Baptists."

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, which received the invitation from Soviet Baptists, has designated \$150,000 to provide materials for the renovation.

Weaver McCracken, associate student ministry director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is liaison coordinator for the project. He will travel to Leningrad March 2-4 to prepare for the students' trips.

"We don't know a lot about what is needed. I hope to be able to find out much of that in March," McCracken said.

Student mission construction teams are not new to McCracken. As Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi College in Clinton, he led a construction team in 1986 to build a Chinese Baptist Church in San Jose, Calif., and in 1987 led a team to reconstruct a mission church in Mexico City following an earthquake.

Tony Gruben, a senior at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, said he believes the project in Leningrad may be part of what he first felt God calling him to do six years ago.

When he heard about the project, he immediately agreed to apply. Gruben, 23, said at age 17 he felt God was telling him to go behind the Iron Curtain for missions work. At the time, he didn't feel equipped, and opportunities were not available.

Now that the opportunity is available and he has previous summer missions experience, he would like the opportunity to go. He hopes to be one of the 12 selected from Texas.

Student ministry departments for the five states will select students who then must be approved for the project by the Foreign Mission Board.

Cost of the trip will be about \$1,700 per student. The cost for individual students will vary depending on how much funding each state convention provides.

Students will be asked to provide some of their own hand tools for the project.

--30--

Baptists pledge support  
for Bush's war on drugs

By Louis Moore

N- CO  
(CLC)

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

WASHINGTON (BP)--Twenty Southern Baptist pastors and denominational leaders pledged their support of President Bush's war on drugs during a Feb. 6 Washington meeting with U.S. drug czar William Bennett.

Bennett, in turn, endorsed the pastors' proposed national anti-drug effort, which will be announced officially June 11 at the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference in New Orleans.

After the Baptists briefed him on their plans, Bennett told them, "This looks very good, very promising, very welcome.

"Churches can be central to the resolution of the drug problems in this country."

--more--



Drug dependence often results from a spiritual deficiency, which the government cannot address, Bennett said.

After hearing about how the proposed anti-drug program will include individual counseling, group programs and citywide mega campaigns, Bennett suggested the Baptist pastors also consider staging "large public events and public marches," particularly in inner-city neighborhoods, to draw even more attention to the drug problem in the United States.

"Young people need to see that the good guys will stand up and fight," he said.

Bennett indicated he will accept the invitation to be the keynote speaker at the noon luncheon June 11 in New Orleans to help the pastors announce their anti-drug program. The pastors hope to launch the anti-drug program on a national scale on the eve of the start of the 1990 SBC annual meeting, also in New Orleans, June 12-14.

"We want to be a part of the president's 'helping hands to fight the war on drugs,'" said Dwight "Ike" Reighard, president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and one of the 20 pastors and leaders present.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., said the Southern Baptists at the meeting in Washington represented about 100 pastors who attended the "Southern Baptist Pastors' Congress on Drugs" last fall in Houston.

The new program will be called "Drug Free for Good." The group's purpose statement says it is designed "to equip the pastors with Christ-centered programs of prevention and recovery that will enable the local church to minister more effectively to those struggling with alcohol and drug abuse."

The project is being coordinated with Rapha, an alcohol and drug rehabilitation and treatment center with facilities in Texas, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said: "I commend Southern Baptists anywhere and everywhere who are seeking to address the drug problem and its victims. I especially commend programs such as Rapha that seem able to bring forth hundreds of testimonies of people having been ministered to and helped."

Wolfe said almost every one of more than 37,000 Southern Baptist churches in this country contains at least one member who either has overcome an addiction problem or presently is addicted.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, said: "Some of the finest families in our churches are being touched by drugs. It is devastating, even in Middle America."

Bennett urged the Southern Baptists at the meeting to attack addiction in any form, but he said his job as drug czar is to focus attention on illegal substances only. Alcohol is only illegal for underage people, he said.

A strong consensus exists in America today about waging war against illegal drugs such as crack and cocaine, he said. That consensus does not include alcoholic beverages, he added, noting, he encourages education against alcohol because it is illegal for young people.

"Drug Free for Good" is a three-phase effort that includes a recovery program, an educational and prevention phase and a citywide campaign against drugs.

In the recovery program, drug abusers are identified and treated using professional help and support groups in local churches led by recovered addicts. The educational phase includes training pastors, church staffs and families on how to deal with addictions. The citywide campaigns include using newspapers, television stations and billboards as well as literature distribution against substance abuse.

In the citywide phase, Southern Baptist churches will be encouraged to pool their resources with non-Southern Baptist churches to fight against substance abuse.

Southern names Garland  
to family ministry chair

N- (O)  
(SBTS)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Diana S. Richmond Garland has been named Gheens associate professor of Christian family ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Garland, 39, will succeed J. Michael Hester in the faculty position at the Louisville, Ky., school, effective Aug. 1. Hester recently announced his resignation to become director of a pastoral counseling center in Asheville, N.C. Garland also will be director of the seminary's Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry.

A native of Oklahoma and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Garland is associate professor of social work at Southern Seminary, where she has taught for 10 years. She also earned two degrees from the University of Louisville.

The Gheens chair of Christian family ministry was established in 1982 through a gift from the C.E. Gheens family of Louisville.

Garland's appointment, approved unanimously, was the only personnel action taken by the seminary's trustee executive committee at its Feb. 6 meeting in Louisville. Trustees also heard a preliminary assessment of the seminary's deferred maintenance needs, estimated at more than \$8 million.

--30--

Mississippi editors  
receive promotions

N- (O)  
(Miss.)

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Two longtime Mississippi Baptist Convention journalists have been promoted to new positions by the convention's board.

Tim Nicholas, associate editor of the Baptist Record, the convention's weekly newsjournal, was named director of the MBC office of communication. Anne McWilliams, assistant editor of the Baptist Record, was named associate editor.

Nicholas has been associate editor of the paper for more than 13 years. Previously, he was photo/feature editor for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and served in the U.S. Air Force.

He is a graduate of Georgia State University and the University of Southern Mississippi.

McWilliams has been on the Baptist Record staff since 1953. Earlier, she taught public school. She is a graduate of Judson College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Mississippi College.

She is the first woman to be associate editor of the paper.

The board also promoted William Maxwell, who has been supervisor of finance and accounting, to be director of accounting and personnel services.

Maxwell worked for the Kentucky Baptist Convention before he took the Mississippi position. He is a graduate of Georgia College and Southern Seminary and expects to earn a degree from Millsaps College this spring.

--30--

Southern Seminary pays  
tribute to Dobbins

By Pat Cole

N- (O)  
(SBTS)

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Christian education pioneer Gaines S. Dobbins was remembered during a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Founders' Day address as the person who brought a "life-centered" teaching approach to seminary classrooms and churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

In Feb. 6 convocation services opening the spring semester, Findley B. Edge, professor of Christian education emeritus at the Louisville, Ky., school, said Dobbins' primary concern was for students to "know how to function in a practical setting."

--more--

Dobbins, a native of Langsdale, Miss., entered seminary teaching during an era when "the focus was on getting the student to master knowledge," Edge said. While Dobbins recognized this as "one important and necessary emphasis," Edge said Dobbins, who taught at Southern Seminary from 1920 to 1956, believed education should be "integrally related to life."

In the classroom, Dobbins attempted to make sure the student not only understood the gospel but "was grasped by it," said Edge. Dobbins also sought to equip students to share the gospel with church members so that lay people would be "constantly transformed" by it and be motivated to minister to "the broken and hurting people and places of our world," he said.

As an administrator, Dobbins coupled his teaching duties with a stint as seminary treasurer from 1933 to 1942. Edge noted that Dobbins, who received no extra compensation for his services as treasurer, employed skillful management practices that helped save the seminary from potential financial ruin during the Great Depression years.

Dobbins assumed administrative responsibilities again in 1950 when he became interim president for several months following the death of President Ellis Fuller. In 1953, Dobbins was named founding dean of Southern's School of Religious Education. Many people have called his role in the establishment of the school Dobbins' "crowning achievement," Edge said.

Dobbins retired from Southern's faculty in 1956 at the age of 70. He taught 10 more years at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., as a "distinguished professor."

Noting that Dobbins remained active after leaving the Golden Gate faculty, Edge said Dobbins wrote his 33rd book, "Zest for Living," in 1977 at age 91. Dobbins died the following year in Birmingham, Ala.

--30--

Youth ministers urged to help  
teens develop global perspective

By Ken Camp

*N-Texas*

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

DALLAS (BP)--In a rapidly changing world, youth ministers must help young people develop a global perspective and see the need to stand in the gap of missionary support and missionary service, according to a Texas Baptist missions research consultant.

Carol Childress, research and program consultant with the BGCT spoke to Texas Baptist youth ministers who attended a "missions education think-tank" at the Baptist Building in Dallas Jan. 30. The "brain-storming" session was sponsored by the Texas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"We are poised on an era of unprecedented turmoil and upheaval. The world is in travail," Childress said. "The winds of change are sweeping across every continent. But the wind of the Spirit is also moving throughout the world, and we know this could be the greatest hour for the gospel since the days of the early church in the first century," Childress said.

She cited trends affecting missions education including global interdependence, increasing population growth, urbanization, economic disparity, environmental and political instability and the continued rise of non-Christian religions.

"The present generation of young people are needed to stand in the gap between the past generation of missionaries and the missionary leadership that is required for the year 2000 and beyond," Childress said.

She noted that the majority of missionaries who went to foreign fields of service between the end of World War II and the early 1960s "will either be retired or in heaven" by the end of the 1990s.

"Missionaries are not invented nor manufactured by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. They are grown and nurtured and called out from the local church," she said.

--more--

"And the new generation of missionaries who will be on the missions field in the year 2000 and beyond are in your youth group today."

Citing a recent book by Paul Borthwick, Childress said youth ministry should have three goals related to missions: to produce young people who think about a world beyond themselves, to produce servants and to produce world changers.

"As youth ministers, you are in a unique position to bridge the gap between the potential of young people and the mission needs of the world," she said. "You are, in effect, the gatekeepers to missions education for youth in your church.

--30--

'Look to the fields,'  
migrant workers told

By Ken Camp

N-Texas

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

WESLACO, Texas (BP)--Baptist migrant farm workers were challenged to "look to the fields" not only for their livelihood, but also for a potential harvest of lost souls during the Missionary Workshop for Baptist Migrants, Feb. 3 at Grace Hispanic Baptist Church in Weslaco, Texas.

Twelve migrant farm workers ultimately bound for California, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan and Arkansas were commissioned as lay missionaries at a service held in conjunction with the workshop, sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Rosendo Lopez, associate director of missions for Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association, said at least 85 migrant farm families belong to Southern Baptist churches in his association, and in several churches, half of the congregations' members are seasonal farm workers.

The workshop was designed to equip the migrant workers, most of whom now are non-resident church members six months out of every year, to become effective witnesses for Christ as they travel, according to Robert Sowell, Christian social missions consultant, for the Texas convention. Training seminars for the migrant workers were offered in personal evangelism, outreach Bible studies, and ministry to people in need.

Armando Ramos, mission director for Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, said one of the most important goals of the workshop was to introduce the farm workers to Baptist missionaries in the areas through which they will travel.

Southern Baptist home missionaries from 13 states attended the workshop, meeting Baptist migrant workers who will travel to or through their fields of service.

"When the migrants go out for the first time, they go with a lot of fear," Ramos said. "When they leave, most of them have enough food and supplies to carry them to their first stop along the way. It's when they get to that first stop that they start needing food, razor blades and other things. We want them to know we have out-of-state people ready to give them health kits, food, directions or whatever.

"And working with local churches along the way, they could have health kits that include evangelistic tracts ready for the migrants to distribute in their camps."

Spiritual preparation is one of the greatest needs among the migrant farm workers, Ramos added.

"They need to learn to keep healthy spiritually. They'll face a lot of problems -- pressure from bosses and crew leaders, accidents and adversity. We need to start helping them prepare," he explained.

"But this is really exciting. These are the people who can do the work, migrants reaching migrants. We've been preaching the priesthood of the believer, but this isn't just preaching or theory. This is a chance for them to practice their priesthood."

His comments were underscored by Richard Vera, ethnic evangelism associate with the Texas convention, who emphasized being prepared to share a personal testimony of how faith in Jesus makes a difference in daily experiences. He also reviewed tracts that are potentially useful in witnessing encounters.

--more--

About a dozen pastors of lower Rio Grande Valley churches participated in planning and promoting the workshop, said to Jerry Johnson, associational director of missions.

A seminar for pastors stressed the importance of laypeople in ministry and emphasized the pastor's role in equipping lay missionaries.

"Not everyone is called to be a pastor, but we are all called to be ministers," said Nathan Porter, Home Mission Board national consultant for migrant ministry.

"The work of the pastor is to equip, to train, to facilitate, to support, to plan and to trust the laity."

--30--

Rick Stanley urges teen-agers  
to be themselves, follow Christ

By Terri Lackey

F-SSB

Baptist Press  
2/8/90

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The contrast between Rick Stanley's present commitment to Christ and his past experience with drugs and fame gives the 36-year-old evangelist from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., a powerful message to youth.

Stanley is the step-brother of rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley. At age six, Stanley and his two brothers were taken from a Virginia orphanage to Graceland, Elvis Presley's home in Memphis. His mother had just married Elvis' father, Vernon Presley.

"This big ole' white limousine pulled up and picked up me and my brothers and took us to Graceland," Stanley told about 1,600 young people attending a Winter Weekend conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. "I looked around and said, 'Hey, I think I'm going to like this.'"

Elvis Presley was a young man when Stanley and his brothers arrived at Graceland. By the time the entertainer died as a result of an overdose of medications some 17 years later, Stanley had been exposed to drugs, sex and scandal.

A heroin, morphine and cocaine user, Stanley said he had reached life's lowest ebb when a girlfriend's constant claims of the goodness of God finally hit home.

"On October 16, 1977, I accepted Jesus as my savior," Stanley said. Robyn, the girlfriend, later became his wife, and Stanley gave his life to God's work.

Headphones hanging loosely about his neck, ragged-cuffed blue jeans covering Reebok tennis shoes and name-brand sweatshirts seem to attract the young people Stanley wants to reach with a message.

The message is: "You can be yourself and still be a Christian. Go through life, enjoy it, but don't miss out on Christ. Don't miss out on him.

"The main thing kids need to understand is that they don't have to be drunk or sexually active to enjoy their life. They've been sold the idea that to be accepted, they have to be on dope or drunk. That's just not true."

Stanley has a message for older people too -- parents and pastors.

Don't make tiny adults out of young people.

"We can't knock the things kids believe in. We are robbing these kids of their personhood, their personality. We are asking kids to be like us," continued Stanley.

"Lost teen-agers don't understand your imposed morality. They screw their face into a question mark and say, 'What is that person talking about?'"

Stanley said he believes when churches become more tolerant of young people, young people will become more tolerant of churches.

"The church has got to get past associating long hair with dope. Clothes and how we look are not important. Are we serious when we say we believe God looketh on the inside?"

--more--

"Kids come to these Winter Weekends because they know they can have a good time and enjoy Christianity in a setting that is relevant to them.

"A church kid feels good about bringing his lost buddies up here. If we want to reach young people, we're going to have to tear down this concept that Christianity is a drag."

About 200 youth made public spiritual decisions during the weekend conference sponsored by the youth section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship training department. Two other weekends will be held at Ridgecrest, Feb. 16-18 and March 16-18.

--30--

BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by SSB bureau of Baptist Press