

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 9, 1990

90-19

Conservative candidate
now Chapman, not Wolfe

By Dan Martin

HOUSTON (BP)--Texas pastor Morris Chapman apparently will be the conservative candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, not Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, emerged as the proposed conservative candidate Feb. 8, after Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church of Mobile, Ala., who previously had been announced as the potential candidate, changed his mind and dropped out Feb. 5.

In a five-page announcement released to Baptist Press Feb. 8, John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, said he planned to nominate Chapman for the presidency at the 1990 annual meeting of the SBC, in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, June 12.

Bisagno, who in the past has attempted to be a mediator in the denomination's theological-political controversy, even attempting to get conservative and moderate candidates to step down in favor of a non-aligned candidate in 1986 and 1988, spent most of his statement saying the issue of the 11-year controversy "is still the nature of Scripture."

One conservative leader said the statement indicates Bisagno "is openly, unequivocally identifying himself with the current conservative movement."

Another, Atlanta evangelist Bailey Smith, former president of the SBC, said Bisagno's "strong statement" of support for the conservative movement means "John is saying he wishes he had gotten with this movement earlier."

Another former SBC president, James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, said Bisagno's nomination of Chapman represents a broadening of support among Southern Baptists for the conservative movement.

"Morris represents somebody who has been strongly identified as a conservative," Draper said. "Bisagno has been on the sidelines. ... His coming expresses his willingness to say the cause is right and that there is a broader circle that can be drawn to include more people.

"We recognize the need to include people who, for whatever reason, have not been identified with us in the past," he said, adding the conservative movement will embrace anybody who embraces the Bible. "We've said all along ... that 80-to-90 percent of Southern Baptists stand together on (the inerrancy of) Scripture."

Chapman told Baptist Press he has agreed to allow Bisagno to nominate him at the annual meeting.

The Texas pastor, who observes his 11th anniversary as pastor of the 7,776-member church Feb. 11, had been quoted in the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, in early February as saying he had "no word from the Lord that I should be nominated" as president.

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He said subsequent to the statement he "was contacted by brethren who began to say they believed I was God's man."

"I went to Washington for a meeting Feb. 5 and 6 thinking it had been settled. In my mind it was already settled. I was confident Fred would be the nominee," he said, adding when he arrived home Feb. 6, he was told Wolfe had described himself as "not God's man for this hour. In fact, Fred called me and told me that."

Chapman related that early Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 7, Bisagno "called and said he believed I was the man who could bring a unifying spirit to the SBC and asked if he could nominate me for the presidential position."

"I told him events had been moving very rapidly and I was stunned that it was taking this turn but that I was taking that (Bisagno's request) as a word from God that he had opened the door and I must walk through, trusting that this was his leadership in this matter," Chapman said.

A statement regarding his candidacy will be released soon, Chapman said, declining to discuss his plans for the SBC, should he be elected president.

Wolfe, who had agreed to be nominated for the presidency as early as late January, told Baptist Press that until Feb. 5 or 6 he "had been leaning that way (of allowing the nomination) but the closer we got to announcing the decision, the more troubled I got in my spirit."

He said the candidacy would have been announced during the annual Pastor's School and Bible Conference at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 12. Current SBC President Jerry Vines is pastor of the church.

"We had not crossed the Rubicon, and once it was announced, it would have been harder to withdraw," said Wolfe, adding, "If the Lord is not in this, I am not going to do it. I felt he (God) didn't want me to go (be nominated)."

Chapman's candidacy apparently will carry with it the endorsement of the five former presidents of the SBC, who have been leaders in the 11-year effort to turn the denomination to a more conservative direction.

Four of the five past presidents -- Vines, Adrian Rogers, Charles Stanley and Smith -- apparently discussed the potential candidates to carry the conservative standard during a Caribbean cruise Jan. 8-12.

Draper, the only one not to go on the cruise, said Wolfe emerged as "the consensus" of the former presidents and the 40-to-50 pastors who were on the January Bible study cruise, sponsored by Templeton Tours.

Smith, however, said the decision was not made until later in January when the past presidents met with Bisagno in Houston. Bisagno and fellow Houston pastor Ed Young, of Second Baptist Church, ruled themselves out, he said, adding both men will be candidates someday.

"Morris Chapman was very high on the list," Smith told the Florida Baptist Witness, but Wolfe was considered the best candidate because Mobile is only 150 miles from New Orleans and the Alabama pastor has had "more exposure nationally" than has Chapman.

Smith told the Witness he is confident the conservative candidate will win. It almost doesn't matter who the candidate is. If you say 'Candidate A' and 'Candidate B,' it wouldn't make a difference of 600 votes," he said.

The moderate candidate will be Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, who announced in September he would be nominated for office. Vestal also was nominated in the 1989 annual meeting, where he received 8,248 votes, against Vines' 10,754.

In his statement to the press, Bisagno said: "No one on either side of the issue would claim to have made no mistakes, to have uttered no regrettable statements, within the past 11 years. But sweep away all the secondary issues --- politics, control, women in ministry, pastoral authority, the priesthood of the believer, etc -- the bedrock issue has not changed. Does the Book (Bible) mean what it says, or not?"

He said the point at which sin entered the human race "was uncertainty about the word of God. ... Raise a doubt and destroy a faith. A lost man told me recently that he wasn't afraid of going to hell because many teachers and preachers in my own denomination did not even believe in hell. The Gospel dynamite turns to a firecracker when the triumphant trumpet charge deteriorates into a broken bugle sound.

"Eleven years ago, an effort working within the bounds prescribed by our constitution and bylaws began to bring a pendulum swinging much too far to the left back to its conservative roots. The time has come to refocus on the issue, and that issue is still the nature of Scripture. Today I appeal to Southern Baptists to unite around the living Word and the written word, each the flawless epitome of impeccable perfection to the minutest, microscopic detail.

"It is not unity at any cost that will save this denomination; it is unity around a perfect Lord Jesus and all that we know about him found in a perfect book. Doctrinal integrity is as essential to world evangelism as is an impeccable savior."

Bisagno, in writing of Chapman, said the Wichita Falls pastor is "a man of God and a man among men ... a man committed to the completion of the correction begun 11 years ago."

Chapman, 49, is a native of Kosciusko, Miss. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and has master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

According to the Uniform Church Letter, First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls recorded 86 baptisms in the 1988-89 church year. It received \$2,606,972 in undesignated offerings, of which it contributed \$389,681 through the denomination's unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program. It also contributed \$335,934 to other missions offerings.

Prior to becoming pastor in Wichita Falls, he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.; First Baptist Church of Woodway in Waco, Texas; and First Baptist Church, Rogers, Texas.

His wife, Jodi, was a member of the SBC Peace Committee and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. They have two children, Chris, a student at Southwestern Seminary, and Stephanie, a senior at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

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SSB revises organization,
elects personnel to new posts

By Jim Lowry

N-SSB

Baptist Press
2/9/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Personnel assignments and a revised organization structure to improve service by the Sunday School Board to Southern Baptists were approved by board trustees during their semiannual meeting in Nashville Feb. 5-7.

Fourteen recommendations were approved by trustees related to the organization of the agency, and 10 personnel recommendations from the administration were approved.

Board President Lloyd Elder made the recommendations to trustees as the second phase of an organization/structure study. The first phase was approved by trustees in August 1989.

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Elder said the new organization is designed to focus the corporate strategy of the board to more effectively meet the needs of customers in local churches and retail and wholesale customers.

Frederick M. Phanco, elected by trustees to direct a new marketing division, is the only one of the 10 personnel not currently employed at the board.

Phanco, 53, has been executive consultant of FMP Enterprises, a firm he founded in 1989 working in the areas of business planning and marketing of personnel consulting and career planning. Prior to that, Phanco was executive vice president and chief operating officer of Walk Thru the Bible Ministries for three years. Earlier, he was employed by Technicon Data Systems as director of marketing and vice president of sales. He is a member of Rehoboth Baptist Church in Atlanta.

James V. Lackey, acting director of the Sunday school growth and administration department, was elected director of the department. Lackey succeeds Don Trotter, who died in November 1989. Lackey, 61, a 24-year employee of the board, was senior specialist for denominational relations and planning in the Sunday school division before assuming his new position.

In the office of the executive vice president, board trustees approved the creation of a corporate planning and research department, which includes enlarging the current research services department.

Martin B. Bradley, director of the research services department, was reassigned as director of the new department. Bradley, a 36-year employee of the board, also has been recording secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention and a member of the SBC Executive Committee since 1977. The Missouri native is 62 years old.

Cliff Tharp, 47, planning research specialist in the research services department, was named by the administration as associate director of the corporate planning and research department to handle the day-to-day business management of the component.

Six recommendations related to the reorganization were in the office of general publishing. The position of publishing analysis director was created, and the present position of Broadman division director was deleted. Dessel Aderholt, 60, formerly director of the Broadman division, was reassigned to the executive staff position.

The Genevox music department and the position of director of that department were deleted to provide for reassignment of production and marketing components and related personnel. Fes Robertson, 55, former director of the Genevox music department, was reassigned as manager of the new Genevox music group in the office of general publishing.

Tom Clark, director of the Broadman products department since 1984, was reassigned as director of the new Bibles and books department in the office of general publishing. This department merges the production and editorial functions of personnel working on Broadman books and Holman Bibles. Clark, 51, has worked at the board for 21 years.

Mike Overcash, manager of the Church Information Systems section, was elected by trustees as director of the new CIS/church supplies department in the office of general publishing. This department includes the functions formerly in the CIS section and the Broadman church supplies unit. Overcash, 54, a native of North Carolina, has worked at the board since 1981.

Joe Denney, director of the telecommunications department since 1982, was reassigned as director of the BTN/audiovisual department in the office of general publishing. This department now includes the personnel and functions of the telecommunications department and the Broadman audiovisual unit. Denney, 51, an Alabama native, has been employed at the board for 27 years.

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In the office of marketing and distribution, Larry A. Skaggs, manager of the Holman sales section, was elected by trustees as director of the trade sales department, which now includes the Broadman trade sales, Holman trade sales and Genevox trade sales sections. Skaggs, 40, is a Kentucky native and an employee at the board since 1974, including six years as manager of the Mobile, Ala., Baptist Book Store.

Charles Livingstone, director of the CPS marketing department, was reassigned by trustees as director of the direct sales department in the office of marketing and distribution. This new department brings together sales personnel from the CPS marketing department, the Broadman consumer sales section and the direct sales section of the book store marketing department. Kansas native Livingstone, 60, has worked at the board for 25 years.

Harvey Brown, director of the book store marketing department, was reassigned by trustees as director of the marketing planning and promotion department in the office of marketing and distribution. This department merges the marketing planning, advertising and promotion functions from the book store, Broadman and Holman divisions and the CPS marketing department. Brown, 57, a Missouri native, has worked 18 years at the board.

Trustees also approved a recommendation for the organization of the distribution services division, directed by Andy Dodson. This division will include the customer service coordination section, the customer service section-wholesale, customer service section-retail, inventory management distribution systems section and the physical distribution group.

A revised structure of the book store division was approved to include four regions with the book store marketing department being merged into the marketing planning and promotion department in the marketing division. Bill Graham, 54, will continue to direct the book store division.

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

AB honors Morgan, picks Powell,
changes abortion-insurance plan

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(A. Bd.)

Baptist Press
2/9/90

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist Annuity Board trustees honored their retiring president, elected his successor and changed the board's abortion-insurance plan during their February meeting.

Trustees, employees and friends donated nearly \$27,000 to establish the Darold and Elizabeth Morgan Fund as a part of the board's Adopt an Annuitant program.

The fund, which honors the board's outgoing president and his wife, will perpetually provide an extra \$50 per month for life for three retired ministers or ministers' widows with inadequate retirement incomes.

Morgan established the board's endowment department in 1978 and founded the Adopt an Annuitant Fund in 1984. More than 600 annuitants are receiving financial assistance from the program.

Trustees elected Paul W. Powell as president and chief executive officer to succeed Morgan. They unanimously chose Powell as president-elect last October. He was pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, for 17 years. He will be installed as president March 15 in Dallas.

Powell pledged continuity with the past administration and said the board will "embrace flexibility to change with changing times."

"There are some things that change does not change," he said. "The member will come first."

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Quoting David Livingston, Powell added, "We will go anywhere so as long as it is forward."

The board's insurance committee approved benefit changes in the insurance plans. One change eliminates benefits for an elective termination of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger.

The previous policy would have considered benefits for an elective abortion when the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest.

Morgan said the policy change was more symbolic than real, noting, "Our participants simply don't file claims for elective terminations."

Insurance committee Chairman Bob R. Howard of Independence, Mo., reported stability in the group medical plan but noted that the church medical plan continues to suffer losses despite an increase of premiums Jan. 1.

"Church medical claims paid exceeded premiums collected by \$700,000 in the first month. We hope this is a first-month abnormality," Howard said.

The relief committee approved 19 grants for supplemental financial assistance and 31 new Adopt an Annuitant recipients.

Harold R. Richardson, treasurer and executive vice president, reported another record financial year. Total assets were \$2.7 billion, up \$400 million over 1988.

Retirement and relief benefits paid totaled \$83.8 million, a gain of \$12 million over 1988.

Contributions to retirement funds were up \$15 million in 1989 to \$170.4 million.

Investment income increased \$128 million. The total was \$356 million for 1989. Members in the retirement plan Fixed Fund earned 9 percent instead of the projected 8.75 percent. The Balanced Fund returned 17.6 percent. The Short-term Fund earned 8.6 percent, while the Variable Fund returned 23 percent.

The trustees re-elected B.J. Martin of Pasadena, Texas, as chairman and elected B. Earl Patrick of Waco, Texas, as vice chairman.

John R. Jones was promoted from vice president of investments to senior vice president of the investment division.

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CLC opposes Kennedy's
sex-education program

By Louis Moore

N-CD
(CLC)

Baptist Press
2/9/90

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has expressed opposition to Senate bill that would provide federal funds for school-based health clinics.

The Family Planning Amendments of 1989, S. 110, would modify Title X of the Public Health Services Act and provide \$10 million that could be used for school-based clinics.

Title X has been the major source of family-planning funding for about 20 years. S. 110 would increase funding for Title X from \$138.2 million in fiscal 1989 to \$179.5 million in fiscal 1992.

The bill also would allow the clinics to continue dispensing contraceptives to underage youth without parental consent. The bill also provides an additional \$10 million for research and development that could fund research for a new abortifacients, such as the "morning-after" abortion pill.

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CLC Executive Director Richard D. Land said in letters to U.S. senators: "We are disturbed by changes to Title X which Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. proposes in S. 110. While this legislation is being presented as a routine reauthorization of the Title X program, in fact, S. 110 would significantly rewrite the program."

Land included in the letter a copy of a 1988 Southern Baptist Convention resolution opposing the proliferation of school-based clinics and the 1989 SBC resolution opposing abortion. That 1988 resolution calls school-based clinics "the newest assault on parental authority and responsibility with respect to their adolescent children." The 1989 resolution outlines Southern Baptist support of federal legislation prohibiting abortion except to "prevent the imminent death of the mother."

The letters to the senators were co-signed by James A. Smith, the assistant director of the CLC's Washington office. Land and Smith said they are concerned that the "vague language" in the bill could allow the money to be spent on the abortifacients.

"We strongly believe actions which facilitate the taking of unborn human life should not be developed or approved by the federal government," they said.

Land and Smith said the commission further opposes the "committee report language accompanying S. 110 which objects to the regulation promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Services" which would restrict "the use of Title X funds for abortion referrals."

"Our final concern is that this legislation would continue the current practice of dispensing contraceptive materials to underage youth without requiring parental consent," they said. "We strongly believe that this is bad public policy and that any reauthorization of Title X must include parental-consent requirements."

In releasing the letter, Land said, "At a time of increasing teen-age pregnancy, Congress should not continue and expand upon the failed policies of the past that undermine the family."

Smith said, "Southern Baptists around the nation should call and write their senators and congressman, asking them to oppose S. 110."

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Churches praying, ordering
materials for revivals

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

Baptist Press
2/9/90

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists have begun praying and ordering products in preparation for the denomination's "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals March 18-April 29.

And some churches couldn't wait, so they started their "Here's Hope" revivals early.

Darrell Robinson, vice president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, preached for one of the nation's first "Here's Hope" revivals, held at First Baptist Church in Mableton, Ga., in January.

"The church had made excellent preparation using the 'Here's Hope' manual," Robinson said. "Their prayer emphasis was tremendously effective."

He reported attendance at the weeknight meetings was comparable to Sunday morning crowds.

"This tells me that anywhere people have prepared for revival, I believe they'll have two things happen: they'll have a great spirit of revival and they'll have a harvest," Robinson said. "The pastor called yesterday and said the revival is still going on. They are still having people make significant decisions as a result of revival."

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Meanwhile, churches and associations across the nation are holding prayer retreats for the simultaneous revivals. The retreats vary in length from two hours to two days, but all are designed with 45 minutes of actual praying for every 15 minutes of program.

Bill Mackey, evangelism director for South Carolina Baptists, said the associational prayer retreats are going well in his state. He reported hearing from one pastor who was thankful for the event's focus on prayer. "This is the first time we have ever come together as an association solely for the purpose of prayer," the pastor remarked.

The board also introduced a new element of personal prayer preparation for this year's simultaneous revivals, the Daniel Prayer Team. It is based upon a successful emphasis developed by Earl Peacock in Georgia during the 1985 "Good News America" revivals.

Peacock, associate director of evangelism for the Georgia Baptist Convention, said he realized the 1985 simultaneous revivals could not be successful without prayer. He was inspired by the biblical account of Daniel, who prayed three times a day despite threats to throw him in the lion's den.

"We determined to get a group of people together who -- like Daniel -- would pray regardless of what the opposition might be," he said.

Peacock believes the prayers of those 4,000 people during the 1985 revivals brought about a reversal in the number of baptisms in the state. "That was the year we turned baptisms around in the state of Georgia," he said. "I think it made a tremendous difference. Whenever you get several thousand people together to pray, it's going to make a difference."

For the 1990 revivals, the board has promoted the Daniel Prayer Team concept nationwide. Thus far, 7,500 people have returned commitment cards to the board, promising to pray daily for the revivals.

Those committed to pray have received copies of the "Sweet Hour of Prayer" spiritual preparation guide, a bookmark, certificate and a set of blue dots to stick on watches, mirrors or other obvious places as a reminder to pray.

Churches also are putting feet -- or at least fingers -- to their prayers as they dial the board's "Here's Hope" customer service center to order revival materials and promotional products.

"The response is exceeding anything we ever dreamed of," said Jerry Wolverton, director of marketing. "Our people are working longer and harder hours than anyone ever imagined."

Wolverton has added additional phone lines and workers to meet the demand. He has urged churches to place calls outside the peak ordering period of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Eastern time. The "Here's Hope" toll-free ordering line is open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Callers who cannot get through on the "Here's Hope" line -- (800) 346-1990 -- may use the board's regular customer service line: (800) 634-2462 or may submit orders by fax to (404) 898-7228.

Popular items thus far include the "Eternal Life" booklet for personal evangelism, the "Sweet Hour of Prayer" spiritual preparation guide and the "Here's Hope" doorknob hangers, Wolverton said.

Southern Baptists to get national media exposure with 'Here's Hope'

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

ATLANTA (BP)--Accompanied by gentle background music, the camera zooms in on a boy and his first birthday cake, with a numeral one candle still burning and the icing already splattered across the boy's face.

"Here's one big reason you should be in church next week," an unseen narrator says. "Your children. Whatever their ages, there's so much they can learn in church -- about positive life values, about faith and love that only God can give.

"So bring your children to church," the narrator continues as the camera draws back from the boy and his cake. "You might learn something, too."

It's not another ad from the Mormon church. This time, it's a message from Southern Baptists that will be seen in select television markets during the denomination's "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you." revivals March 18-April 29.

And where that or the six other "Here's Hope" television spots don't reach, an advertisement in Time magazine might.

"Divorce Isn't Pretty. No Matter Who's Involved," read the words reversed out of a photograph of an attractive woman resting her chin on her arm.

"Let's face it. Divorce hurts," the ad copy continues beneath the photograph. "That's why we work so hard to build strong marriages at our church. To help heal the rifts in relationships and overcome the scars left by broken promises."

The seven television spots, 15 print ads and seven radio spots are building blocks in the largest national media blitz ever attempted by Southern Baptists. It is a cooperative effort between the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, state conventions, associations and local churches.

Along with billboards, bumper stickers and door knockers, the advertisements will begin appearing nationwide in mid-March.

The board has purchased radio time with 1,157 stations across the country. The stations affiliated with the NBC and Mutual radio networks will air 10 ads per day, rotating between the seven "Here's Hope" spots produced by the board.

Radio spots alone will take the "Here's Hope" message to 23 million adults an average of four times each, said Tom McEachin, "Here's Hope" media coordinator for the board.

In addition, the board has purchased 1,500 time slots on Spanish-language radio stations in California, Florida, New Mexico and Texas to air the Spanish versions of the "Here's Hope" ads.

Television time already has been secured with local affiliates in some markets by individual churches, associations or state conventions, McEachin said. The three major networks will not accept national advertising from religious groups.

However, McEachin said the board hopes to be able to purchase time on some widely viewed cable stations.

For national print media exposure, the board has purchased six weeks of space in Time magazine and Better Homes and Gardens, he said.

The purpose of the national media blitz is to prepare a positive climate for Southern Baptist churches to draw upon during the simultaneous revivals, McEachin said.

"Media is a very efficient way of getting a message to people. We know what media can do in helping shape the opinions of people," he explained.

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That advantage will be lost, however, if churches don't identify themselves with the "Here's Hope" theme, McEachin said. "Our advertising will have little effect if people locally don't identify themselves as part of a 'Here's Hope' church."

For example, individuals doing door-to-door visitation could introduce themselves as part of a "Here's Hope" church and mention the ads, he said.

Churches can further draw upon the positive image of the national media campaign by incorporating the same materials into their local promotion efforts, McEachin explained. The same television spots, radio spots and print ads being used nationally are available to churches and associations from the board.

The board also has produced billboards, posters, banners, bumper stickers and other materials to accompany the ads.

McEachin encouraged churches to be creative in their use of the "Here's Hope" promotional materials. For example, print ads could be made into transparencies and placed in lighted directories at shopping malls, television spots could be shown as advertising at movie theaters, or print ads could be enlarged to poster size and displayed in settings appropriate to the ad theme such as fitness centers, day-care centers and counseling centers.

Also, churches with television ministries might incorporate the television ads into their own programs, he suggested.

Advertisements and other promotional materials are sold through the HMB's customer service center: (800) 346-1990. Orders are received between 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Ready-to-display billboard ads may be purchased from JDK Communications, 11078 Morrison Lane, Suite D, Dallas, Texas 75229.

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Art mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press

HMB offers phone number for reporting 'Here's Hope' victories

N- HMB

Baptist Press
2/9/90

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will open a "Here's Hope Victory Line" for callers to report results of the denomination's simultaneous revivals March 18-April 29.

The number is (404) 898-7589. Staff members from the board's mass evangelism department will take calls between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern time, Mondays through Fridays. The numbers is not toll-free.

Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism, said he hopes to hear from pastors, associational directors of missions and laypeople who experience victories in their churches through the "Here's Hope" revivals. Callers may give testimonies, report professions of faith, baptisms or other decisions, he explained.

Testimonies given by callers could reflect victories that statistical reports will not show, Harris added. Some of these testimonies will be incorporated into news articles distributed through the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

About 80 percent of Southern Baptists' 37,000 churches are planning to participate in the simultaneous revivals, Harris said.

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CORRECTION: Please change the third paragraph of the 2/8/90 BP story titled "Southern names Garland to family ministry chair" to read:

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

Thanks,
Baptist Press

'Telling the good news' is
focus of teleconference

By Susan Todd

N-CO
(WMC)

Baptist Press
2/9/90

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--"Telling the good news" wasn't just something Southern Baptists talked about during the 1990 Home Missions Teleconference. They did it.

During the teleconference, several Southern Baptist telephone operators shared their Christian faith with callers.

Among others, the Feb. 4 teleconference brought calls from two drug addicts, one professed Satan worshiper and one homeless woman.

Betty Jo Lewis, wife of Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, talked with a woman who called to say she lived in her car and needed help.

"She was very bitter about the way her parents had raised her and about her situation," Mrs. Lewis said. After exploring several options with the woman, Mrs. Lewis told her there is hope for her.

After what Mrs. Lewis described as a long, bitterness-filled conversation, the two prayed together. "I felt she softened," Mrs. Lewis said. "I just left her with the Lord."

While telephone operators were handling 198 calls that came from 30 states, host Jay Durham of the Home Mission Board and hostess Alanna Davis of New York City interviewed home missionaries.

Telling the good news in the Salt Lake City area is not always easy, said home missionary Kenneth Chadwick. The challenge of Mormonism always is present in his work.

"I don't get into being anti-Mormon," Chadwick said. "I prefer to be pro-Christ."

Chadwick, like every other missionary interviewed, stressed the importance of prayer.

"If we had all the money in the world and didn't have prayer support, we wouldn't make it," he said.

Franklin Beam, a home missionary in southern Florida, is a church extension consultant for five Baptist associations. "My personal goal is to start 1,000 churches in my lifetime," he said. "I'd rather start 1,000 churches than be pastor of a church with 1,000 members."

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Beam said he hopes to accomplish his goal by helping others in the area as new churches are started. Because the territory Beam covers is so vast, he often has to be away from home and his three young children.

"Please pray for my family," he asked viewers. "My children don't always understand why I can't be there for their ballgames and ballet lessons." He also asked viewers to pray specifically for his wife, Susan, because she often is left alone to take care of the children.

Another missionary asked viewers to pray for his family. Randy Foster who works in resort ministries in Jackson Hole, Wy., asked viewers to remember in prayer his four sons, ages 7, 10, 14 and 17.

Carol Reese, a home missionary working in Cook County Hospital in Chicago, explained how she faces illness and death every day.

Telling the good news to patients of the hospital -- many of whom have AIDS -- is her job. "Each one of us is worth taking time to listen to, to love, to hold. That's the crux of the gospel message," she said.

Another prayer request came from Don Ledbetter, home missionary and director of Baptist evangelism in Nevada. He asked viewers to pray for 1,000 people to become Christians and be baptized during upcoming simultaneous revivals in his state.

Tim Park, language missionary in Maryland and Delaware, asked viewers to pray for the strength and resources to start five new ethnic congregations in his area this year.

But home missionaries are not the only ones who can start churches, HMB President Larry Lewis said.

"No matter how large or how small, any church can and should be involved in starting a church," he said. He cited the need for churches in the South to help sponsor or co-sponsor churches in the North.

"A co-sponsoring church is one which will give \$1,000 a month for two years," he said. A sponsoring church bears more financial responsibility.

Lewis offered to help match any church interested in sponsoring or co-sponsoring a church with a congregation that needs the help.

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, told viewers about a call she received during the teleconference.

"The caller asked, 'If you can't give money, what can you do?'" she said.

"Pray" was O'Brien's immediate response.

Another caller told O'Brien she had been convicted to pray more for missions.

"If we've accomplished that, then we've done a lot," O'Brien said.

Teleconference hostess Davis reminded viewers, "We have the opportunity, the responsibility and also the obligation to tell the good news."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by WMU

Brotherhood approves new
associational strategy

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(B'hood)

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--A strategy to make Southern Baptist associational Brotherhood programs more responsive to churches and individuals was approved by state Brotherhood directors and associates during their annual leadership conference.

Kenny Rains, the new director of world missions conferences and associational relations for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, said a more practical associational Brotherhood organization will result from restructuring. Brotherhood is a missions organization for Southern Baptist men.

"We're taking a more back-to-the-basics approach where we can better meet the needs of associations of all sizes and locations," said Rains. "We realize that the way we organize Brotherhood in individual churches is not necessarily how we'd approach it on the associational level.

"It's something we feel associations and state Brotherhood leadership have been asking for.

The restructuring calls for an expansion from two complex organizational plans to five simpler organizational plans that associations can select and adapt to their own organizational structures.

Another change is an emphasis on helping churches involve men and boys in missions and involving men and boys in missions through projects and events sponsored by associational Brotherhood organizations.

"Successful Brotherhood units are project-oriented," said James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president. "This emphasis needs to be sounded at the associational level."

"We'll be more centered in helping our churches," Rains said.

The restructuring was approved at the Brotherhood Leadership Conference at the Brotherhood Commission offices in Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 31-Feb. 3.