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April 12, 1990

RIVC trustees hike
budget by \$600,000

By Toby Druin

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N ← (Texas Std.) 90 52

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Buoyed by an optimistic financial report and the observation from interim President Richard T. McCartney that "the patient is now healthy," Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission trustees voted to increase the agency's budget by more than \$600,000 for the last half of the current fiscal year.

The increase will boost the 1989-90 budget, which runs through September 1990, from \$7,756,000 to \$8,173,000 and will provide funds for marketing, return of four employees to the payroll who have been working on a contract basis, reopening of at least one regional office and promotion funds for the ACTS network and a 5 percent salary increase for employees -- their first in two years.

The trustees also were informed by trustee Chairman Michael S. Hamlet that the search committee, which has been seeking a successor to President Jimmy R. Allen, who resigned last April, expects to summon the trustees back to Fort Worth, Texas, soon to hear a recommendation from the committee.

Hamlet, who apprised the trustees of the committee's efforts during a 35-minute closed-door session, told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, he expects to ask for the called session of the trustees "probably in two or three weeks."

Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., said the schedules of other members of the search committee had prohibited the committee from being able to bring a recommendation at the regular meeting.

McCartney, former executive vice president who has been as interim president since Allen's resignation, reported to the trustees that during the year the commission's short-term debt of \$625,000 had been paid off; the long-term debt, which was \$8.4 million last April, had been reduced to \$7.5 million; and the commission's reserves had been increased to \$400,000. The goal is to build the reserves to \$500,000 by the end of 1992.

"Over the past months we have had to be extremely pragmatic in confronting financial realities," McCartney told the trustees. "Now we can begin to dream again. We can replace the problems of the past with the possibilities of the future."

The improved financial picture was achieved through "tightening our belts until we could hardly breathe," he said, and also through greatly increased revenues from advertising and from syndication fees for films and programs the commission owns.

Projected advertising and syndication revenue for the first six months was \$485,000, but already has totaled almost \$800,000, and is expected to continue at the increased level.

The contract with the San Antonio, Texas, firm that has sold spot advertising and spot announcements on the ACTS network is under review, McCartney noted.

Michael S. Wright, vice president of ACTS for affiliate relations, reported that during the last year of "hold ur wn" activities, the ACTS network had done just that -- losing about 750,000 subscribers, but also gaining about the same number.

His report showed the network is now in 438 systems with a total potential viewing audience of almost 25 million.

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The trustees approved a preliminary study to be made by Cargill and Associates of Fort Worth to determine the feasibility of a capital-funds campaign in Fort Worth.

Hamlet was elected to a second term as chairman of the trustees. Other officers elected were Leroy Stevens, retired layman from Phoenix, Ariz., first vice chairman; James M. "Mickey" Castleberry, pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., second vice chairman; and Steven A. Huffman, layman from Papillon, Neb., secretary.

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Religious Liberty Council
supports Joint Committee

By Ken Camp

N- Texds

Baptist Press
4/12/90

DALLAS (BP)--Citing an "attack" on church-state separation, soul liberty and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Abner McCall announced formation of the Religious Liberty Council during an April 6 press conference in Dallas.

McCall, president emeritus of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, will be co-president of the council, along with Grady Cothen of Coral Springs, Fla., and Gardner Taylor of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The 215-member council is "a national body to undergird all forms of support needed to continue the vital work and witness of the Baptist Joint Committee," according to its printed statement of purpose.

The council will work with the BJC to "develop, cultivate and nurture Baptists in an understanding of religious freedom and its corollary, the separation of church and state," and it will seek "to build a constituency for the concept of a free church in a free state" through educational means.

"Adequate funding for the Baptist Joint Committee is one of the purposes of the Religious Liberty Council," according to the statement of purpose.

The BJC represents nine Baptist denominations -- including the Southern Baptist Convention -- in the nation's capital on issues regarding religious liberty and church-state separation. At their annual meeting in New Orleans in June, Southern Baptists will vote on a proposed 87.24 percent reduction in Southern Baptist contributions to the BJC.

"We will try at least to maintain the current level of appropriations to the Baptist Joint Committee at the Southern Baptist Convention. If not there, then at the state conventions. If not there, then from local churches," McCall said.

In addition to seeking "adequate endowment for the Baptist Joint Committee to guarantee its continued ministry," members of the council also will be called upon to write and speak on behalf of the BJC.

"The RLC will function in conjunction with the elected board as a mediating structure between the many and diverse Baptist publics and the always small staff of the Baptist Joint Committee," according to the council's statement of purpose.

"It will provide a sympathetic commitment to historic Baptist principles and expand the contacts, influence and stature of the Baptist Joint Committee. The RLC will link the committee and its larger support base.

"In that context, the RLC will be a sounding board. It will afford a breadth and depth of expertise that would never be possible with a smaller, less representative body."

About a dozen of the council members -- including McCall and broadcast journalist Bill Moyers -- met May 22, 1989, to discuss formation of a broad-based support group for the BJC. McCall said he expects the council ultimately to consist of about 300 members.

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Although Jimmy Allen of Fort Worth, Texas, chairman of Baptists Committed to the SBC, and Baptists Committed leaders John F. Baugh of Houston and W. Winfred Moore of Waco are members of the council, McCall said "no organizational connection" exists between the RLC and Baptists Committed.

The council has its own bank account, and McCall said members will meet "once or twice a year."

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BJCPA's Dunn questions CLC
'coalition building' ability

By Ken Camp & Louis Moore

N- TEXAS

Baptist Press
4/12/90

DALLAS (BP)--Recent actions by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission indicate the agency may lack the coalition-building skills needed to work in the nation's capital, said James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Pointing to recent differences between the BJC and the CLC over child-care legislation, Dunn questioned whether the commission could function effectively as both a church-state watchdog agency and as a prophetic voice for social justice.

Dunn presented an update on religious liberty issues and the work of the BJC during an April 5 meeting near Dallas of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and its board of consultants.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the CLC, in an interview in Nashville, said he was surprised, concerned, and disappointed over Dunn's allegations.

"I found Dunn's concerns over the CLC's ability to fulfill a church-state, religious liberty role in addition to its social issue assignment puzzling since he served previously as executive director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, which has performed both roles for many years, as have other state Christian life commissions in states such as North Carolina and Mississippi."

The Baptist Joint Committee represents nine Baptist denominations in Washington, D.C., on issues regarding religious liberty and church-state separation. The CLC is the moral concerns and public policy agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. The CLC, based in Nashville, opened an office in Washington, D.C., in 1987.

At its annual meeting in New Orleans in June, the Southern Baptist Convention will decide whether to maintain its current arrangement with the BJC or enlarge the program statement of the CLC to give it a religious liberty assignment. Messengers will vote on a proposed allocation budget that includes a 40.7 percent increase to the CLC budget and an 87.24 percent reduction in Southern Baptist contributions to the BJC.

Dunn said he questioned the CLC's ability and willingness to work with people of different views on issues of common concern. He specifically pointed to a March 2 vote by the commission's trustees urging staff not to invite speakers to participate in CLC-sponsored events if they support a pro-choice position on abortion.

"The Christian Life Commission recently -- against the pleadings of its executive director Richard Land -- proposed a litmus test for anyone on its programs," Dunn said.

"It's amazing to me to think that they believe they can do the necessary kind of coalitional, cooperative networking with interfaith groups and people of no faith when they have that kind of litmus test of who they will work with."

The CLC vote was precipitated by the inclusion of Glen Stassen, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., on the program of the commission's recent annual seminar. Stassen had signed a statement in 1977 supporting freedom in Catholic teachings on the issue of abortion.

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Land said: "I am surprised that James Dunn would question whether the Christian Life Commission possesses the required coalition-building skills needed to work in the nation's capital. We have been working as part of several broad coalitions in Washington for some time now. For example, we recently have been helping to lead the effort to raise the federal excise tax on alcoholic beverages in coalition with groups as diverse as the National Association of Evangelicals, Evangelicals for Social Action, the National Council of Churches and the Mormons.

"In relation to Dunn's comments on the CLC's March 2 'request' that the staff not invite pro-choice proponents as seminar and conference speakers, Dunn has failed to note that the commissioners made a clear distinction in their action between coalition-building and speakers. Jim Wood, the commissioner who presented the request, explained this at the time. He was quoted in Baptist Press on March 5, 1990, as saying, 'We do not wish to hinder (Land's) efforts at building coalitions and relationships with those who make common cause with us on particular issues.'"

Dunn also criticized the CLC's "qualified support" for the Stenholm-Shaw child-care bill that recently was considered in the U.S. House of Representatives. The House defeated the White House-backed bill by Reps. Charles Stenholm, R-Texas, and E. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., approving instead a compromise between proposals by House Democrats on the Education and Labor Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

The BJC, on church-state grounds, had opposed any version of the bill establishing a system of child-care vouchers that would be used with sectarian preschools.

"To work hard for a social justice agenda sometimes is not compatible with being a church-state watchdog because legislation may have conflicting goals," Dunn said.

Land said: "As I said at the time of our 'qualified' endorsement of the Stenholm-Shaw Child-Care Bill, I am aware that Stenholm-Shaw contains provisions concerning religiously based child care and vouchers which are of grave concern to many Southern Baptists. I am not unaware of those concerns or of the resolutions those concerns have produced at the state convention level. However, I am not supposed to address those concerns.

"If the Christian Life Commission had the convention's authority to address the religious liberty and church-state aspects of child-care legislation, we certainly would have done so, and it would have caused us to approach the Stenholm-Shaw bill in a very different manner."

Dunn pointed to the influence and respect the BJC commands in the nation's capital and urged Southern Baptist support for his agency. Dunn rejected the arguments of people who say other Baptist bodies are not sufficiently supporting the BJC financially.

Land noted the BJC's long history in Washington and said, "If the convention approves the Executive Committee's budget recommendation in June, the Southern Baptist Convention will still be providing almost as much support for the Baptist Joint Committee as the other eight participating Baptist bodies combined provide."

Dunn also charged, "There is a thinly veiled racism behind what is said about 'those other Baptists who don't do their share.'"

While members of the predominantly black Baptist conventions affiliated with the BJC minister effectively to hungry and hurting people on the local church level, their "mission dollars seldom get beyond the local church," he said.

Most of the black Baptist conventions have few, if any, paid denominational staff employees, he said.

Land said he regretted that the charge of racism had been interjected into the debate.

"I would be as concerned as anyone about racism, but I have not observed it, veiled or otherwise, in this debate," he said.

"My experience, as a member of the Joint Committee for the past three years, has been that those expressing concern over the funding levels of the Joint Committee have not been motivated in the least by racism."

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Media campaign moves Baptists
into new era of witness

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

Baptist Press
4/12/90

ATLANTA (BP)--The old-fashioned revival meeting has a new-fangled twist.

With this spring's nationwide simultaneous revivals, Southern Baptists have moved from pitching dusty old tents to pitching carefully placed advertisements.

Southern Baptists, along with other evangelical groups, have a long tradition of pitching tents for extended meetings. Especially in smaller towns, the tents attracted attention and drew a crowd for the visiting evangelist.

Pitching ads, however, is a new idea for the 145-year-old denomination.

During the "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals being held across the nation this month, some churches will still put up tents. But the denomination's major efforts in drawing a crowd have moved from tents to high-tech.

The image of the hellfire and brimstone preacher is being reshaped by a series of soft-sell print and broadcast ads claiming, "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you."

The ads are part of a comprehensive media campaign developed by the SB Home Mission Board for the Here's Hope revivals. The same ads that have run in Time magazine also are being used locally by the denomination's smallest churches.

During the six weeks of revivals, a Here's Hope message will be broadcast somewhere in America every minute of every day. Working with JDK, a Dallas-based public relations firm, the board placed 55,300 radio and TV spots nationally, in addition to thousands of additional spots placed by state conventions, associations and local churches.

Every person watching the NCAA Final Four basketball games on a South Carolina television station saw one of the Here's Hope ads. In Tulsa, Okla., viewers of the annual Academy Awards were introduced to Here's Hope. And in Oklahoma City, the message from Southern Baptists was revealed between Vanna White's turn of the letters on "Wheel of Fortune."

Creating a positive image was the primary purpose of the ad campaign, explained Tom McEachin, HMB associate director of mass evangelism. He supervised production of the seven television spots, 15 print ads and seven radio spots that are being used in small towns and large cities from coast to coast during the six weeks of simultaneous revivals.

McEachin said the HMB's evangelism section has realized that media can shape the public's opinion of churches and make people more receptive to hear the gospel. Advertising does not replace a personal presentation of the gospel, but paves the way for that presentation, he said.

"In terms of positive imaging, this is the finest thing Southern Baptists have ever done," said Cade Garrison, media director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

"I think most pastors would agree that television is not the best witnessing tool. But it is a means toward an end. It is a tool that can be used effectively in softening the hearts of people who need to hear the gospel."

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Mark Jeffcoat, public relations director for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said the ads create a "table-top agenda" for Baptists to share their faith with co-workers and neighbors. "It provides an opportunity for Southern Baptists to mention, 'Did you see the ad that's running on TV?' and then give a testimony."

Nathan Pillow, evangelism director for Arizona Baptists, said he has seen the softening effect work. "I went into a home to witness to a lady and was wearing my Here's Hope lapel pin. She looked at the pin and said, 'I've been seeing your ads on TV,'" he reported.

"I had a chance to win that lady to the Lord. I'm sure the ads opened the door."

Even ads not designed to elicit an evangelistic response are creating inquiries about the gospel, McEachin said. For six weeks, a Here's Hope ad has appeared nationally in Time magazine and Better Homes and Gardens.

These ads do not ask for a response, but include a small tag at the bottom with the HMB's address. Since the ads started appearing, McEachin has received 15-20 letters a day in response.

He has heard from people struggling with divorce, from Christians who have fallen away from the faith, from prisoners, from people who need someone to listen and from people curious about Southern Baptist doctrine. The letters have come from as far away as Kuwait.

"A lot of these letters -- at least half -- are from people who say they are interested in finding the hope we're talking about," McEachin said. He responds to each letter, including tracts and personal commitment guides where appropriate. Those who request a follow-up are referred to state evangelism directors.

This response illustrates the effectiveness of the Here's Hope theme, McEachin said. "Here's Hope has been a theme everybody feels good about. It reaches the lost, and our people like it because it involves ministry and evangelism. It's a theme that hits the pulse out on the street."

Ed Gilman, director of missions for Florida's Suncoast Baptist Association, said his association adopted the Here's Hope theme for that reason. "We need better public relations about Southern Baptists in Southern Florida," he said. "We're not in the Bible Belt."

"I feel like the message of Here's Hope was so simple and relational that people couldn't help but feel positive about it. We were saying: 'Here's Hope. God cares for you even if nobody else does.'"

The ads also have generated excitement among Southern Baptists.

"People are proud that we've put so much time and effort into something of this quality," Garrison said. "We've had the most positive feedback on this of anything we've ever done."

"We've had people call our office and comment about the television spots. Most of them were saying, 'I thought the Mormons were running another series and was delighted to see Southern Baptists were doing it.'"

W.C. Garland, evangelism director for Hawaii Baptists, said Baptists from the islands who have visited the mainland in recent weeks were surprised to see the same ads that they had been seeing at home. "Some of our people who were on the mainland came back saying, 'Hey, this thing is big.'"

"So often we're in our own world here. This has helped our people see that Southern Baptists are about a worldwide mission."

Golden Gate trustees
postpone spring meeting

N- CO
(GGBTS)

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary have voted to postpone their annual meeting, set for April 23-25, until Oct. 8-10.

Citing Financial pressures, aggravated by a delay in the planned sale of a portion of seminary property and a limited agenda of essential business, President William O. Crews recommended the scheduled meeting be postponed. By mail ballot, the board of trustees accepted the recommendation.

"We regret the necessity of postponing the meeting," commented Herman Wooten, board of trustees chairman from Elk Grove, Calif. "However, the \$25,000 savings in expenses will be extremely helpful with the seminary's current cash flow needs," he said.

Trustees will meet briefly June 13 during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans to hear reports from the president and transact limited business.

"I am grateful for the support of our board in this matter," Crews said. "We believe current plans of budget reductions and growth in endowment through the sale of the property subdivision will result in a more stable financial base for our ministry here at Golden Gate," he added.

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Midwestern trustees
OK new faculty

N- CO
(MWBTS)

Baptist Press
4/12/90

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Trustees at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. approved a new religious education faculty member and elected new officers during their annual board meeting, April 9-10.

James F. Hines, associate professor of religion at Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, unanimously was elected as associate professor of religious education and church administration. He will assume his new teaching position July 1.

Hines will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Bob I. Johnson, who is leaving Midwestern's religious education faculty in June to become dean of the Boyce Bible School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He will assume Johnson's previous responsibilities as the Baptist Sunday School Board liaison professor at Midwestern Seminary.

Trustees elected Richard Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Festus-Crystal City, Mo., chairman of the board. He succeeds J. Truett Gannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Ga., who completed three terms as chairman.

Also elected were first vice chairman Doyle Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Great Bend, Kan., and second vice chairman James W. Jones, evangelism and Brotherhood director for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. Lowell E. Socolofsky, a layman from Bellevue, Neb., was elected to a second term as secretary-treasurer.

Following the election of officers, trustee James B. Dobbs, a Columbus, Ohio, attorney, made a motion asking the board's executive committee to study the process of electing trustee officers. Currently, officers are nominated from the floor during the spring meeting.

Dobbs said it would be helpful if a slate of officers, selected by a nominating committee, be made available for consideration by trustees prior to the annual meeting. This would not preclude nominations from the floor during the meeting, he added, but would make the election process "more organized" and would allow trustees time to prayerfully consider nominees.

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With few dissenting votes, trustees approved the motion and instructed the executive committee to report their findings to the full board at the October 15-16 semi-annual meeting.

Upon recommendation of the board's finance committee, trustees approved a current fund revenue budget of \$3.3 million for the 1990-91 fiscal year. The seminary's administrative staff will complete expense budget planning for trustee consideration by the end of June.

In other business, the board:

--Approved the election of J. Craig Kubic as seminary librarian with faculty status. He has been employed as Midwestern's librarian since July 1988, serving on a two-year contractual basis by administrative appointment.

--Elected Larry E. McKinney to the faculty as assistant professor of biblical archaeology and curator of the Morton Collection, a collection of biblical artifacts made available to the seminary by the late William H. Morton. McKinney has been instructor of biblical studies at Midwestern since 1985.

--Approved an advancement in rank for two faculty members. J. Thomas Meigs was advanced from associate professor to professor of pastoral care and counseling, and F. William Ratliff was advanced from associate professor to professor of philosophy of religion and theology.

--Granted a one-year study leave for Ratliff, to be taken during the 1990-91 academic year.

--Voted to increase the student matriculation fee from \$400 to \$425 per semester.

Trustees also attended a leadership appreciation dinner on April 9. They honored outgoing trustee chairman Gannon and board members Philip Lykes, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla., and Marvin Roush, a layman from Takoma Park, Md. All three have been Midwestern trustees since 1980.

During the dinner, trustees were informed that a scholarship for Midwestern students has been established by members of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in honor of pastor Gannon. The "J Truett Gannon Scholarship" was endowed by the congregation with contributions totaling more than \$54,000--making this the largest endowed scholarship in Midwestern's history.

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8 U.S. religious leaders
push alcohol excise tax hike

By Louis Moore

N- (CO)
(CLC)

Baptist Press
4/12/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Eight national religious leaders have signed a letter to U.S. Senators and representatives urging them to raise the federal excise tax on alcoholic beverages as a dual means of cutting alcohol consumption and raising federal revenues.

"Historically, our nation has used excise taxes as a mechanism to promote societal goals," the eight say in their letter. "We need to do so again to curb the terrible toll alcohol is taking, a toll which far exceeds the destruction of all illegal drugs combined."

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission initiated the letter and secured signatures from Robert P. Dugan, Jr., director of the office of public affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals; Melva Jimerson, acting director of the Washington office of the Church of the Brethren; Ronald J. Sider, executive director of Evangelicals for Social Action; Mary Cooper, acting director of the Washington office of the National Council of Churches;

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Thom White Wolf Fassett, general secretary of the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church; Bruce L. Olson, managing director of the Public Communications Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons); and Donald J. Wilson, associate director of the Social Justice and Peacemaking Unit of the Presbyterian Church (USA). CLC Executive Director Richard Land also signed the letter.

The religious bodies represented by the eight signers have combined memberships of more than 60 million people.

The letter says federal excise taxes on beer and wine have not been raised since 1951, when President Harry Truman was in the White House. "The result has been that the real price of beer and wine has decreased compared to other commodities. Today, consumers may buy a six-pack of beer for less than a six-pack of soda," the letter notes.

"An increase in the federal excise tax on alcoholic beverages would provide much-needed revenue to reduce the federal budget deficit."

The letter cites a report by former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop that said an increase in the federal excise tax on alcoholic beverages would result in \$20.6 billion in new revenue, compared to the \$5.7 billion currently collected.

"We believe that the additional revenue could go toward paying back the government for the \$23 billion spent each year on alcohol-related problems," the letter says. "Alcohol problems increase government expenditures on public health, safety and welfare.

"The government's alcohol tab contributes to the budget deficit, and more of the costs of the alcohol problems ought to be borne by alcohol consumers."

The letter cites an Associated Press/Media General poll that showed 80 percent of people surveyed supported higher federal taxes on alcohol beverages to pay for a bigger federal anti-drug program.

In separate statements accompanying the release of the letter to Congress, the religious leaders say alcoholism, alcohol-related traffic crashes and associated problems led them to seek congressional action.

Land said: "The diversity of the signatories provides concrete evidence that broad-based support for an increase in the federal excise tax on alcoholic beverages is spread across the nation. It's deep and Congress needs to hear it."

Jimerson said: "We need to somehow stop the killing of people in alcohol-related accidents. I feel very strongly that this is a good move."

Dugan said, "I am philosophically opposed to increasing the tax burden on individuals, but in the case of alcohol, no increase could be more justified because alcohol is such a menace to our society."

Wilson said: "Our (Presbyterian Church) policy indicates that one of the most effective controls on alcohol consumption is obtained through the regulation of its price. Our sense is that diminishing the consumption of alcohol is a good thing."

Olson said: "Because alcohol and its abuse negatively impacts virtually every level of our society, including children, families and communities, alcohol remains an urgent moral issue. We in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints heartily endorse appropriate efforts to encourage a reduction in alcohol consumption."

Fassett said: "The United Methodist Church has historically taken a strong position with respect to the use of alcohol and other drugs. We at the General Board of Church and Society are working with the new bishops' initiative on alcohol and drugs, and this action fits in that perspective."

Cooper said, "The National Council of Churches is working on a new statement on alcohol beverages, setting forth our concerns about how destructive alcoholic beverages can be to family life and to society."

Sider was out of the country and unable to comment further on the letter.

Land said, "I think this letter is an excellent example of how many within the American religious community share a great deal of common ground on many public policy issues."

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Stevens: leaders will
catch RTVC's 'vision

By Toby Druin

N- (O
(Texas Std.)

Baptist Press
4/12/90

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The man who shepherded the Southern Baptist Commission Radio and Television Commission from its infancy to a place of prominence in religious broadcasting predicts that "the vision" of what the agency can truly be eventually will be caught by denominational leaders.

Paul M. Stevens made the prediction in a devotional message to the RTVC trustees at their spring meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, April 10.

Stevens was president of the commission from 1953 until he retired in 1979. When he took over the reins of the agency it had three employees and a budget of \$69,000. He directed its move from Atlanta to Fort Worth in 1955, and when he stepped down it was in new facilities and had a budget in excess of \$5 million.

In spite of the growth, however, Stevens said other denominational leaders, protecting their own areas of work, fought him "for every dollar."

He came to the commission, he said, under the conviction that it was a missions opportunity, but other leaders refused to see it that way.

"They wanted to quarter up" the areas of ministry, he said, and knew that any money that went to the RTVC would mean it wouldn't be going to them.

"They never saw us as a mission agency," he said. "They never caught the vision."

Nevertheless, he said: "There will come a day when the vision will be caught. Someone will say there needs to be one great thrust to present the gospel, and this is the agency to do it."

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Southern Seminary honors
four distinguished alumni

N- (O
(SBTS)

Baptist Press
4/12/90

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Four people representing Southern Baptist missions, missions education, the pastorate and theological education have been named distinguished alumni by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Louisville, Ky.

The 1990 award recipients, elected by the school's Alumni Advisory Council, are Marjorie J. McCullough of Alexandria, La., president, of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; James L. Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, in Dallas; Grover F. Tyner of Stone Mountain, Ga., retired missionary to the Philippines; and John P. Newport, vice president for academic affairs and provost at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The awards, given annually by the seminary's national Alumni Association, are among the seminary's highest honors. The awards will be presented at the Southern Seminary Alumni and Friends Reunion Banquet June 13 in New Orleans during the Southern Baptist Convention, annual meeting.

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McCullough, elected in 1986, is the 14th national WMU president. The Louisiana native was a Southern Baptist missionary for nearly 20 years in Nigeria, Ghana and Brazil. She also has held numerous positions in WMU. She is a graduate of Louisiana College in Pineville, and received the master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary in 1949.

Fleitz has been pastor of Park Cities for more than 12 years. He earlier was pastor of churches in Florida and Arkansas. He has been president of the Florida Baptist Convention, president of the SBC Pastors' Conference and a trustee of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southern Seminary. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and received the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Seminary in 1953.

Tyner was as a missionary to the Philippines from 1963 to 1987, including 23 years as president of the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary. Earlier, was pastor of Baptist churches in Kentucky and Georgia. A graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., received the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Seminary in 1949 and 1955, respectively.

Newport was associate professor and professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern Seminary from 1953 until 1976. After teaching religious studies at Rice University in Houston, Texas, for three years, he returned to Southwestern as vice president for academic affairs and provost. Newport earlier taught at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and at Baylor University. He holds degrees from William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.; Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas; University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He earned the master of the theology and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Seminary in 1941 and 1946, respectively.

Tickets for the reunion banquet are \$16 each if purchased prior to May 15 and are available from the seminary's office of alumni relations. After May 15, tickets are \$20 each.

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New Hispanic seminary head
cites Hispanic challenge

By Orville Scott

N-TEXAS

Baptist Press
4/12/90

SAN ANTONIO (BP)--The greatest challenge to Southern Baptists in Texas is reaching the fast-growing Hispanic population with the gospel, Joshua Grijalva warned at his recent inauguration as president of Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary, in San Antonio.

Grijalva, the school's fourth president since it was founded by San Antonio Baptist Association in 1946, was dean at the seminary before serving eight years with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as a national consultant for ethnic leadership development.

The seminary remained in San Antonio but was a component of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, for six years before returning last year to the Baptist General Convention of Texas State Missions Commission.

In his inaugural message at Castle Hills First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Grijalva said the Hispanic population in the United States is growing five times faster than the rest of the population and is expected to reach 47 million by the year 2020. Texas is expected to have 10 million Hispanics by the year 2020.

"We will need 1,500 new Hispanic congregations," he said, "but where will new Hispanic leaders come from, and where will they be trained?"

One third of nearly 1,000 Hispanic Baptist congregations in Texas have no pastor.

"Since 1947, about 500 students have graduated from Hispanic Seminary, about 10 per year," said Grijalva. "At this rate, pastors for the 300 pastorless churches will not soon be found."

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Grijalva said "there is some light at the end of the tunnel" thanks to the efforts of Texas Baptists, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Southwestern Seminary, which have made possible 20 ethnic leadership development centers with more than 300 students enrolled for Christian ministry.

The greatest need of Hispanics, said Grijalva, is not for homes, medicine or money, but Christian faith.

"Millions are lost, trapped by their ritualistic traditions and superstitions. Many more live in the garments of religiosity, but with empty hearts. Still, there is a younger generation of Hispanics ... claiming to be atheistic," he said.

Noting that the baptismal ratio among ethnics is one to 14 compared to one to 42 among Anglo Southern Baptists, Grijalva said the greatest concern for the future growth may not be theological but how Southern Baptists will deal with the growing ethnic congregations.

Grijalva and two other Texas Baptist leaders, Executive Director William M. Pinson Jr. and Ethnic Missions Coordinator Jimmy Garcia, shared their goals for the seminary.

Pinson said he envisioned the present student enrollment of about 90 increasing to hundreds and even thousands as Texas Baptists move forward to meet the goals of their Mission Texas evangelism/church-starting campaign.

Grijalva said his goals include increasing the enrollment; providing a sound financial basis for the school; establishing the H.B. Ramsour scholarship fund in honor of a former president of the seminary; making the Bible the center of teaching and theology; involving students in evangelism and church starting; increasing faculty; and establishing a chair of evangelism.

Garcia said his vision is for the seminary to give students an education that will help them develop their leadership skills effectively.

"It is my vision that HBTS teach the students not only the professional and ministerial skills they will need but also skills that will help them adapt to change, to think about problems and to be flexible enough to avoid obsolescence in thought and in spiritual lifestyle," he said.