



-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committ:
901 Commerce #7
Nashville, Tennessee 372
(615) 244-23
Alvin C. Shackelford, Direc:
Dan Martin, News Edi:
Marv Knox, Feature Edi:

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367

DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201

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

April 24, 1990

90-56

PAC's 4-3 vote supports
religious liberty plans

By Marv Knox

N-10

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee voted 4-3 to endorse proposed changes in how the SBC addresses religious liberty.

The vote also included three abstentions, and Chairman Albert Lee Smith did not vote. Seven of the Public Affairs Committee's 18 members were absent for the vote during its spring meeting in Washington April 19.

The changes have been proposed by the SBC Executive Committee and will be considered by messengers to the convention's annual meeting in New Orleans June 12-14.

The changes would revise the SBC Christian Life Commission program statement to allow the commission to address religious liberty issues as well as moral concerns. The changes also would delete the Public Affairs Committee program statement. The Executive Committee assigned it five less-formal "operational guidelines."

Historically, the SBC has addressed religious liberty through the nine-denomination Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The Public Affairs Committee comprises the SBC's membership on the Baptist Joint Committee.

Some Southern Baptists have criticized the Baptist Joint Committee for being too liberal and unresponsive to conservatives' concerns.

PAC member Roy R. Gean Jr., an attorney from Fort Smith, Ark., offered the statement endorsing the proposed changes. Combined with a budget proposal that would cut SBC funding of the BJC by 87.24 percent, hike the CLC budget by 40.70 percent and increase the PAC budget by 5.47 percent, the changes would make the CLC a primary Southern Baptist voice for religious liberty.

Before Gean made his motion, PAC members voted down a motion opposing the changes, suggested by J.I. Ginnings, an oil producer from Wichita Falls, Texas.

Ginnings noted the SBC's relationship to the BJC was revamped in 1987. The SBC membership on the 54-member committee was increased from 15 to 18, and at-large PAC membership was raised from five to 12. Also, the PAC was given expanded powers to take action on SBC motions and resolutions upon which the BJC does not act or cannot support.

Implementation of the new relationship "has not been given enough time," Ginnings charged. "Progress has been made. ... I don't want to see that changed."

But Gean defended the proposed changes, praising the work of the Executive Committee's subcommittee that studied the issue: "These fellows are not a bunch of jacklegs. They are intelligent people."

Claiming the proposed changes still provide operating room for the PAC, Gean added: "Let's support the Executive Committee in this matter. They know what they are doing. This is the best thing that has happened since we (the PAC) voted two years ago to sever ties with the Baptist Joint Committee."

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PAC Chairman Smith, an insurance executive from Birmingham, Ala., concurred with the idea that the proposals still allow a role for his committee. Under the proposals, the CLC would have "an assignment, not the assignment" for religious liberty, with the PAC also involved, he said.

Norris W. Sydnor Jr., a pastor from Mitchellville, Md., called the Executive Committee "wishy-washy," noting the proposed changes do not describe clear responsibilities, particularly for the PAC.

"Somebody has to make a decision about what the Public Affairs Committee will do," he said. "Otherwise, we'll be wasting our time. If this thing goes through, I don't see a need for the Public Affairs Committee."

Larry Lewis, president of the SBC Home Mission Board in Atlanta, said, "The sentiment of the Southern Baptist Convention is the program assignment of the CLC should be expanded, and they should be the major voice for Southern Baptists on religious liberty, and the PAC should have a supportive role."

The proposed changes offer "a way to disentangle us from the mess we've had with the Baptist Joint Committee," said Sam Currin, a judge from Raleigh, N.C. "I have no problem with the CLC getting the additional religious liberty issue for their work. So many moral and social issues have religious liberty issues associated with them. But I see the PAC still has a bright future to work on First Amendment issues."

"Don't tell stories about an expanded role of the PAC," countered Sydnor. "If you couldn't get the expanded money now, don't think you'll get it later. That's wishful thinking."

"I look at it as a multiplication," said Jay H. Strack, an evangelist from Dallas. "We're still going to be represented on the BJC; we're going to have the CLC; ... and the PAC is still not a stepchild."

Thomas E. Pratt, a pastor from Brighton, Colo., said he's not so sure. Noting the original Executive Committee plan included \$96,600 for the PAC instead of the proposed \$25,000, he said, "The manner it has come down to us is not one I am particularly happy with" and predicted the BJC would not continue to allow the PAC 18 seats on its board.

"Program statements are not effective without the money," he noted, adding that approval of the proposed changes means "this committee is accepting its own demise."

Richard D. Land, executive director of the CLC from Nashville and a non-voting ex officio PAC member, told the PAC: "The CLC has only responded to direct motions from the Executive Committee and has in no way sought to intrude itself. ... I have taken a pledge of neutrality."

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Helms receives PAC's 1st
religious liberty award

By Marv Knox

N- CO

Baptist Press
4/24/90

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., received the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee's Religious Liberty Award during its spring meeting June 19-20 in Washington.

The award was created by the PAC last October to honor citizens who have done an "outstanding job maintaining and promoting religious liberty in the United States," said Robbie Hughes, chairperson of the award committee from Jackson, Miss.

Helms, a lifelong Southern Baptist and senator for 18 years, was the only nominee for the first annual award, Hughes said, adding, "He has always stood strong for religious liberty" and has exhibited "unswerving, courageous dedication to God and country."

Helms particularly exhibited such leadership this past year, she noted.

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The senator has led a battle with the National Endowment for the Arts over public funding of obscenity and anti-evangelical themes, she said. The most notable issue was \$15,000 paid to artist Michael Serrano for an exhibit that featured a crucifix submerged in a bottle of urine.

Helms, a longtime member of Hayes-Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., sponsored a Senate bill that prohibited grants to artists who create "depictions of sadomasochism, homoeroticism, the sexual exploitation of children or individuals engaged in sex acts and which, when taken as a whole, do not have serious literary, artistic, political or scientific merit." The bill passed the Senate but did not gain House approval.

"Sen. Helms has been the leader ... battling time-honored principles we all believe in," said Sam Currin of Raleigh, who made the presentation. He cited Helms' legislative efforts supporting fair taxation for ministers' housing and religion in schools and against abortion and pornography.

Helms received praise from a longtime friend and a Senate colleague during an award luncheon.

"Jesse Helms has got as much courage, if not more, than anyone I've seen in public life," said Richard Halverson, chaplain of the Senate. "I've seen him take (unpopular) stands again and again. I love and admire him and wish we had 100 like him."

"He is our big gun," said Sen. Trent Lott, R.-Miss. "Those of us who are new in the Senate try to back him up. This is a man of great integrity, ethics and religious commitment. He fights for family values and moral concerns."

Lott praised Helms for his "lonely battle against pornography sponsored by the NEA" and told the PAC, "If we can't count on support of Southern Baptists, Christians and Jews who believe in moral values as we do, we should quit and go home."

Accepting his award, Helms noted that people ask, "How come I don't feel better about this country?" The reason is the nation's moral decline, he answered, noting: "It's like Sodom and Gomorrah coming back at us. ... I can't think of anything more ridiculous" than to spend tax money "for pornography described as art."

The PAC voted without dissent to give the award to Helms, but members received a word of caution from Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"I have a tremendous respect for Sen. Helms," Lewis said. "He has led the nation in many social and moral issues." But Lewis added that he was concerned that a subcommittee had determined to give Helms the award "without even polling the members" and that the issue was put to a vote after Helms had been invited to the award luncheon.

In addition, Lewis expressed concern that "the perception of Jesse Helms is he's a very strong right-wing conservative." The award "embroils us in volatile political issues that do not do us any good, fuel the controversy in our convention and do not help the credibility of our committee," he said.

Noting he had favored the "conservative resurgence" in the Southern Baptist Convention, Lewis said, "I'm concerned that we might win a battle and lose a war" during the SBC presidential election. "It doesn't take a lot to shift the trend," he cautioned. "Do we want to do something here that will cause a backlash out there in the grassroots of Southern Baptist life?"

Roy R. Gean Jr., an attorney from Fort Smith, Ark., countered: "Who else do we give it to? I don't know who to give it to but those who have stood with us."

In other segments of their April 19-20 meeting, the PAC heard reports designed to help them deal with issues of concern to their committee.

A White House briefing featured:

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-- Howard M. Schoenfeld, a special assistant for exempt-organization matters with the Internal Revenue Service.

-- Hanns Kuttner, the White House office of policy development's associate director for health and human services policy.

-- David Q. Bates Jr., assistant to President George Bush and secretary to the U.S. Cabinet.

-- Doug Wead, special assistant to President Bush and director of the White House office of public liaison.

An issues seminar featured:

-- Elizabeth Kepley, director of government relations for James Dobson's Family Research Council in Washington.

-- George R. Grange, partner in the Washington lawfirm of Gammon and Grange and an expert on legal liabilities of non-profit organizations.

-- Michael Woodruff, executive director of the Christian Legal Society in suburban Washington and a specialist in religion in the public schools.

-- Gary T. Amos, a professor at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va., who has written a book on the Christian foundation of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

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Missionary returns
to Liberian work

By Donald D. Martin

N- FMB

Baptist Press
4/24/90

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Margaret Fairburn of Tylertown, Miss., returned to her work in Zwedru, Liberia, April 18 after leaving her home there three weeks earlier because of increased fighting between government and rebel troops in neighboring Nimba County.

Fairburn had flown to Liberia's capital, Monrovia, because the main road to Zwedru often is cut off during heavier fighting. However, press reports from Zwedru say the city is safe and has remained fairly calm.

The fighting began last December when rebel troops invaded Liberia from Ivory Coast. The rebels are trying to overthrow President Samuel Doe, who seized power in a 1980 coup.

While in Monrovia, Fairburn was joined in late March by five other Southern Baptist personnel who had to leave their work in and around Yekepa, a city in northern Nimba County where some of the worst fighting has occurred.

Of the five Southern Baptist workers and one child of missionaries who had to leave Yekepa, only Journeyman Lynette Sneed of Liberty, Mo., remains in Monrovia. Career missionary Earl Williams of West Monroe, La., returned to Yekepa after accompanying his wife, Jane, and their 9-year-old son, Kenneth, to Monrovia, but also was forced to leave later because of fighting near Yekepa. The Williamses now have left Monrovia for a short vacation with family in the United States. Volunteers Cecil and Ellajane Sutley, who were near the end of their volunteer term in Yekepa, decided to return a few weeks early to their home in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Press reports April 18 said rumors of rebel activities in the capital city caused some people to panic, close businesses and flee parts of the city. But the rumors proved to be false. The panic prompted the Liberian government to warn its citizens that rumormongers will be arrested and severely punished.

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Fifty-three Southern Baptists still are working in Liberia, which was settled in the 1820s and founded in 1847 by freed American slaves. Southern Baptists began working in Liberia in 1846, but the effects of the American Civil War caused Southern Baptists to reduce their aid and eventually suspended work in 1875. Southern Baptist missionary work resumed in 1960.

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Religious communicators explore
power of communication at RCC 90

By Dan Martin

N-CO

Baptist Press
4/24/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Broadcaster Bill Moyers was honored by about 1,400 religious communicators from around the world during RCC 90, a once-in-a-decade gathering at Opryland Hotel in Nashville April 18-22.

Moyers, a former presidential press secretary, news analyst and now a public broadcaster, was named Communicator of the Decade, an award given for the first time at the meeting.

Monica McGinley, chair of RCC 90, said the award's crystal globe "represents the unity that far exceeds our diversities and the oneness of the world for which all communicators work and yearn."

Moyers was one of a number of communications leaders to appear at the conference, sponsored by 58 religious groups from around the world, including Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and Bahai faith groups, as well as a number of interdenominational and interfaith organizations.

Other speakers included entertainer Steve Allen, a comedian, composer, author, producer, director and writer; BBC correspondent Kate Adie, the last journalist to leave Tiananmen Square following the military breakup of the student demonstrations in Beijing, China.

Filipino Roman Catholic Cardinal Jaime Sin, a human rights advocate; Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International; Roman Catholic Bishop Joseph Francis, chairman of the U.S. Catholic Bishop's Committee that wrote the Pastoral Letter on Racism; and Dame Nita Barrow, recently appointed governor general of Barbados and former representative to the United Nations from the Barbados.

McGinley, national public relations director of the Medical Missions Sisters in Philadelphia, said of the congress: "I think we accomplished what we wanted with the gathering, which was to give people an opportunity to come together from many denominations, many parts of the country, many parts of the world.

"It has been an enriching experience to discover who is doing what in communications around the world."

Lloyd Householder, director of the office of communications for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, said the conference "was successful in providing a forum for people of all faith groups to come together and have an interchange of ideas, to hone their professional skills, and to come to know what is going on in other groups.

"Of special interest to me was that people from the varying faith groups were able to get a better understanding of their own faiths and to get to know each other a little better: Catholics understand Baptists, Baptists understand Methodists and others get to know one another," said Householder, who was coordinator of the meeting as well as chair of the local committee.

The conference, which featured annual meetings of eight religious communications organizations, was anchored by four plenary sessions on the theme "Communications Power." Intermixed with the plenary sessions and annual meetings of the cooperating groups were 102 special interest workshops which ranged from media for social justice to a discussion on the breaking down of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, to the changing of the electronic church to religion reporting in the daily press.

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RCC 90 is the third such meeting of religious communicators. The first was in Chicago in 1970 and the second in Nashville in 1980.

Moyers, keynote speaker at the opening session on "The Power of the Media to Shape Values," called on participants to be "philosophers at large" to impact society for good. "I honestly do not know how a democracy can survive unless citizens become philosophers at large," he said.

Moyers declared that millions of people look to the media to help them answer their deepest questions. "Any journalist worth his or her salt today knows the real story is to define what it means to be spiritual. This is the biggest story not only of the decade but of the century."

He added that television is the "seduction of our age," and cited a lack of "televisionaries" to make the medium work at its best. "What is urgent in society today is not an assessing of guilt for trivializing modern life, but to help turn that trend around. There has to be a medium to concern itself with the human side of society and not its commerce alone," he added.

Allen emphasized that while entertainment dates back to primitive times, its power to effect change and influence culture has increased dramatically with the advent of 20th century technology.

The noted humorist pointed specifically to ways in which the organized labor movement, the woman's movement and other movements for justice and freedom have been advanced through motion pictures, television, music and comedy.

"Humor is by no means something trivial," he said. "Comedy is not about the trivial, but about the fundamental. Comedy is about tragedy."

Adie said the Chinese government did not stop her from sending videotaped footage of the massacre in Tiananmen Square because "they did not care. They are a closed society and they didn't care if the rest of the world saw them commit murder. They didn't care what you thought."

A closed society, she said, remains untouched by world opinion and media coverage is not sufficient to create a climate of social change.

By contrast, Adie's fellow plenary session speaker, Cardinal Sin, said there were positive effects in the international media attention which led to the 1986 revolution which ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos and brought Corazon Aquino to power.

He credited radio, opposition papers, the international press and church leaders with the surge of "people power" which changed the Philippines.

Reich, who heads the anti-discrimination organization as well as other major Jewish groups, talked to participants of the upheaval in Eastern Europe and said:

"With our democratic values we have to educate and improve and reach out to peoples, knowing that there will be hatred and there will be bigotry and discrimination. We hope it will be eradicated, but it can only be removed from the scene with our help, with our assistance."

Dame Barrow noted women's roles, especially in undeveloped countries, are consistency devalued in the media and described women as the biggest sufferers today as a result "of the strategies which are employed to overcome the poverty."

She encouraged the media to support women who are struggling in order to give them the confidence to go forward.

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Communications groups participating by holding annual meetings included Associated Church Press, Baptist Public Relations Association, CAMCON (Computer Applications for Ministry); Catholic Press Association; Communication Advisory Group of the Seventh Day Adventists; Council on Church and Media (Mennonite); Episcopal Communicators; and the Religious Public Relations Council.

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(Contributing to this story were M. Garlinda Burton, United Methodist Communications; Mark Wingfield, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; Ken Camp, Baptist General Convention of Texas; Judith A. Saks, Jewish Federation of Nashville.)

Baptist communicators
give 1989 honors

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

Baptist Press
4/24/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist communicators honored their peers with 98 awards presented in the annual Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition of the Baptist Public Relations Association in Nashville April 18.

The awards were presented during the association's awards banquet, held in conjunction with the Religious Communication Congress 1990, a once-in-a-decade gathering of 1,400 religious communicators from around the world.

Five major awards were given. The communications group of Woman's Missionary Union received the Arthur S. Davenport Award for exceptional achievement in public relations and development for the National Acteens Convention.

Ron Lawson of the Home Mission Board received the M.E. Dodd Award for exceptional achievement in audiovisual production for the "Here's Hope" television spot series.

Greg Warner of the Florida Baptist Witness received the Frank Burkhalter Award for exceptional achievement in writing for articles about the Home Mission Board's budget crisis and the fight against abortion in Florida.

Joanna B. Pinneo of the Foreign Mission Board received the Fon H. Scofield Award for exceptional achievement in publication photography for her color photo series on Ireland.

Phyllis Thompson, Bill Bangham and Rachel Gill of the Home Mission Board received the Albert McClellan Award for exceptional achievement in print media design for In Their Own Words, a photo essay on homeless women.

Other winners, listed by agencies and institutions are:

Foreign Mission Board: Van Payne, audiovisual department, Laurie Hoen, Mark Ritter, Ray Fetty, Warren Johnson, Erich Bridges, Michael Chute, Lounette Templeton, Craig Bird, Martha Skelton, Joanna Pinneo, Leland Webb, Nancy Wogsland, Chip Tobey and The Commission staff.

Home Mission Board: Margaret Dempsey, Diane Ehle, Wolfgang Schumacher, Ben Sherman, Ron Lawson, Mark Wingfield, Joe Westbury, Jim Newton, Bill Bangham, Phyllis Thompson, Rachel Gill, Wayne Grinstead, Sylvia Boothe, Pat Cravens, Chris Lewis, Beth Van Dyke.

Sunday School Board: Linda Lawson, Jim Veneman, office of communications.

Woman's Missionary Union: Karen Benson, Susan Todd, D'Lesia Carroll, Contempo team, Lynn Yarbrough, Dick Bodenhamer, Colleen Walker, Cindy McClain.

Brotherhood Commission: Tim Seanor, Sharon Goodwin, Roy White, Jim Burton, Sowgand Sheikholeslami, James Hornsby, Susan DeGarmo, David Nester.

Annuity Board: Dutch Bickley, Thomas Miller, Tim Tune.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary: Scott Collins, Chip Alford.

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Southern Baptist Theological Seminary: David Wilkinson, John Bailey, Mary Royals Driskill.

Florida Baptist Convention: Greg Warner, Jack Brymer, Barbara Denman.

Missouri Baptist Convention: Bob Terry, Trennis Henderson, Shari Schubert, Word and Way staff.

Louisiana Baptist Convention: Lynn Clayton, Baptist Message staff.

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina: Stephen Mosely.

Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware: Robert Allen.

Baptist General Convention of Texas: Ken Camp, Looie Biffar.

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina: Norman Jameson, Deborah Aronson-Griffin, Michael Blackwell.

Baylor University: Lois Ferguson, Keith Randall, Eugene Baker.

Grand Canyon University: communications group.

Meredith College: admissions office, public relations office.

Baptist Foundation of Arizona: public relations department.

Council Road Baptist Church of Oklahoma City: Rick Boyd.

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Southern Baptists honored
RPRC elects Pat Pattillo

By Robert O'Brien

N-FMB

Baptist Press
4/24/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Religious Public Relations Council honored Southern Baptist communicators with 15 awards and elected a Southern Baptist as president at its annual meeting in Nashville.

In a separate meeting in Nashville, the Associated Church Press recognized the Word and Way, news journal of the Missouri Baptist Convention in Jefferson City, Mo., for excellence in three categories.

Both RPRC and ACP held annual meetings in conjunction with Religious Communication Congress 1990 (RCC 90), a once-in-a-decade gathering of religious communicators from around the world. More than 1,400 people registered for the congress.

Wesley M. (Pat) Pattillo, vice president for university relations at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., was elected president of the Religious Public Relations Council, an international, interfaith organization of religious communicators. Pattillo, RPRC's vice president for the past two years, succeeds Tom McAnally, a United Methodist communicator from Nashville.

Southern Baptists won the highest number of awards in RPRC's annual DeRose-Hinkhouse awards competition, finishing one ahead of Roman Catholics, who collected 14 of the 87 awards given.

Communicators from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., led Southern Baptist RPRC award winners, with nine. Four awards went to staff of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville and two to the Missouri Baptist Convention.

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The Associated Church Press, an interdenominational group of editors from the United States and Canada, presented 109 awards. The Word and Way won a top award of merit for graphics and honorable mention awards for a news article by editor Bobby Terry and for the newspaper's front page.

In the RPRC competition, first-place awards of excellence went to Mike Creswell of the Foreign Mission Board for news coverage of Gaza; Linda Andrus and Lou Ann Cave, jointly, of the Foreign Mission Board for a brochure; Linda Lawson of the Sunday School Board for The Circle newsletter; and Philip Poole for the Missouri Baptist Convention's annual meeting bulletin. Poole also won a certificate of special merit for a public relations campaign.

Writer Martha Skelton of the Foreign Mission Board won three RPRC awards -- a certificate of special merit for a poster produced jointly with artist Bruce Wright; a certificate of special merit for a feature series on Ireland; and a certificate of special merit jointly with Creswell and FMB writer Art Toalston for news coverage of Eastern Europe.

Other Sunday School Board staffers winning RPRC certificates of special merit were Frank Wm. White for the Mission 90 newspaper, Jim Lowry for the Facts and Trends newsletter and Jim Veneman for photography.

Other Foreign Mission Board staffers receiving RPRC certificates of special merit were Leland Webb for The Commission magazine; Van Payne for the motion picture "Enduring Faith;" Susan Longest and Bobby Box, jointly, for a brochure; and Mike Chute, Erich Bridges and missionary Lounette Templeton, jointly, for news coverage of China.

A certificate of special merit for a brochure also went to Floyd A. Craig, a Southern Baptist from Nashville who heads Craig & Associates, a private communications and marketing firm.

In other action, RPRC presented 24 Wilbur Awards to communicators who have made significant contributions to communication of religious values in public media; named Don Fearheiley, a retired communicator from the Sunday School Board, as a life member; and re-elected Robert O'Brien of the Foreign Mission Board to its board of governors.

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Zimmerman joins
HMB news staff

N - HMB

Baptist Press
4/24/90

ATLANTA (BP)--Sarah Zimmerman, assistant editor of Oklahoma's Baptist Messenger weekly newsjournal, will join the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's news and information staff May 21.

Zimmerman will become associate director of news and information, replacing Joe Westbury, who recently became public relations director for Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Zimmerman will produce nationwide feature coverage about home missions through the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press. She also will supervise the HMB's program of information services.

Zimmerman is a native Oklahoman and graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. She previously was a reporter for the Edmond (Okla.) Evening Sun and the Tyler (Texas) Morning Telegraph.

In other changes at the HMB, Mark Wingfield, formerly assistant director of news and information, has been promoted to associate director. He will have primary responsibility for day-to-day operation of the agency's news office.

Jim Newton, director of public relations, will remain the chief of the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press, a role he had for 10 years before becoming public relations director Jan. 1. Newton's former position as director of news and information is one of two positions in that office temporarily suspended due to budget constraints.

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Prayer leaders
meet in Atlanta

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

ATLANTA (BP)--Prayer leaders from six denominations and two parachurch groups met in Atlanta April 12 to compare notes on prayer movements that are gaining momentum across America.

The meeting, thought to be the first of its kind in the United States, was convened by Henry Blackaby of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Charles Crabtree of the Assemblies of God and Al Vander Griend of the Christian Reformed Church.

A larger group of prayer leaders is scheduled to meet in Atlanta Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Attendance at this initial meeting was hindered due to scheduling conflicts, Blackaby said.

"We saw that God is doing some tremendous things in each of the denominations that none of us was aware of," Blackaby said. "I think when we have the opportunity to hear from other denominations, we'll see that prayer also has a priority for them."

No controversy surfaced during the meeting, he said. "There was not even one hint of discord. When we began to talk, we discovered it was almost as if God had issued a simultaneous call to his people to pray. There was a deep oneness of heart and mind.

"It was a divine appointment that God is marshalling his people to pray for revival. A mark of revival is unified praying.

"In every significant move of God, God's people have found their hearts united on the level of prayer. This is a historical precedent for spiritual awakening."

The gathering of Christian groups should not be classified as an ecumenical meeting, he added: "This has a whole different dynamic, on a whole different level. It has nothing to do with abandoning your individual assignment.

"If there is anything we ought to be able to work together on, it's a call to prayer. We may well miss the move of God if we do not look for opportunities locally to unite our hearts with others in prayer."

By convening national prayer leaders, Christians might be encouraged to pray together on the local level, Blackaby said. "Many churches will not go around what they perceive to be the direction of the national leadership. Any meeting together of recognized leaders sends a signal of a new wind of cooperative spirit on the level of prayer."

In addition to Blackaby, Crabtree and Vander Griend, participants included Dave Bucks of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Brad Long of the Presbyterian Church USA, David Bryant and John Quam of Concerts of Prayer International, Alice Haynes with the Anglican Prayer Fellowship of the Episcopal Church, Charles Denton of the Assemblies of God, and Glenn Sheppard of International Prayer Ministries.

Each person reported witnessing a new emphasis upon prayer in the churches. For example, Crabtree said the Assemblies of God is enlisting 1 million people to pray daily for revival in America as part of a 10-year plan called "Decade of Harvest."

"There is a hunger for God being born all across this nation," he told the group. "I've never seen anything like it. God is trying to get our churches to a state of prayer."

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Alumni luncheon set
for New Orleans Seminary

N-(NOBTS)

Baptist Press
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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Four men representing effective, long-term pastoral leadership, missionary service, Southern Baptist Convention leadership, and professional service for the denomination will be honored as distinguished alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary during the annual alumni meeting held on the seminary campus Wednesday, June 13.

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The 1990 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are James R. Futral, of Jackson, Miss.; Alfonso Olmedo, from Argentina; Adrian Rogers, of Memphis, Tenn.; and Arthur L. Walker Jr., from Nashville, Tenn.

The awards, given annually by the seminary's faculty, will be presented during the alumni meeting in the Roland Q. Leavell Chapel of New Orleans Seminary from 1:30 to 3 p.m., during a break in the SBC annual meeting. The presentation ceremony will follow a barbecue luncheon for the seminary's alumni and friends, which will begin at noon in the open quadrangle in front of the chapel. Serving lines will be on the porch of the E.O. Sellers Music Building.

Futral, a native of Fort Smith, Ark., is the pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss. A pastor for over 25 years, he has served churches in Mississippi and Texas and has just completed two terms as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He received the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary in 1978 and 1980, respectively.

Olmedo is a former vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and a retired pastor who has been president of the Argentine Baptist Convention. After retiring in Argentina, Olmedo served a Hispanic congregation in Chicago for several years. He currently is the pastor of a Hispanic congregation in Hemet, Calif. Olmedo received his bachelor of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1945.

Rogers is the pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and was the first NOBTS alumnus to be elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Rogers received his bachelor of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1958.

Walker has been executive director-treasurer of the SBC Education Commission for 12 years, and has been recognized as an outstanding leader in Christian education for both Southern Baptists and Alabama Baptists. He received his doctor of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1956.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$5 per person, and are available by mailing that amount to The Office of Alumni, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La. 70126. Tickets purchased from the office after June 1 may be picked up at the seminary's booth at the SBC annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome. Other tickets will be on sale at the booth until 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 13, or until all tickets are sold.

A shuttle bus will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside the Superdome to transport alumni to the seminary, and will be available for return trips from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3291.

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Rural churches can
grow, pastors say

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

Baptist Press
4/24/90

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP)--Contrary to what they've been told, rural churches can grow, two pastors of rural churches said during a town and country missions conference.

The conference, "Reaching New People in the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains," was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's town and country missions department. It was held at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

"We've sold small rural congregations three bills of good," said Terry Kendrick, pastor of the 104-year-old Hopedale Baptist Church in Ozarks, Mo. The church has grown from 15 in attendance to 180 in the past seven years.

The first "bill of goods" is that "when Jesus said the church would be victorious he didn't include the rural church," Kendrick said. "But the rural church can have real victory. The numbers may not be the same, but the victory is real."

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The second myth is that rural churches cannot grow, he said, claiming members of rural churches, pastors and the denomination all have fostered this concept.

The third misunderstanding is that rural churches don't want to grow, Kendrick added. He said he knows this is not true because his church and others he has known do want to grow.

Hopedale Church began to grow when its members "came upon the idea that God had planted this church in this place for this time," the pastor said.

Although a small church in a rural area, the congregation found itself in the midst of rapid population growth. "We couldn't help but believe that God, in his foreknowledge, had planted this church 104 years ago for this time," Kendrick said. "We caught a new vision that we could grow."

This message was echoed by John Duncan, pastor of First Baptist Church in Cassville, Mo. The county-seat church has doubled its attendance to 320 in the past five years.

Duncan's family has lived in southern Missouri for 150 years, yet he has discovered that the rural church must change to grow.

"If we're going to reach new people, the message cannot change, but the methods must change," he said.

The first change First Baptist Church made was to concentrate on making Sunday morning worship its flagship event, Duncan said. People in the community "have just come from watching Robert Schuller on television and they're expecting the same from us."

To meet this need, Duncan encourages his congregation to do everything with enthusiasm, positively and with a practical application.

He also leads members to try to think like unchurched people to understand what keeps them from church. "Have you been in your local bar lately?" he asked. "I haven't. I don't even know what goes on in there."

"That's how unchurched people think about what goes on in your church. They don't understand it."

The conference was built around reaching five types of people found in rural communities: retirees, returners, remainers, come-heres and tourists. Returners are people who have roots in the rural communities, moved away and are now returning. Remainers are those who could have left the country for the city but chose not to. Come-heres are those who have fled the cities in pursuit of simpler lives.

Gary Newman, vice president of Cooper Communities, spoke about the growth of the retirement community industry in rural resort areas. His company developed Bella Vista Village and Hot Springs Village in Arkansas.

He said master-planned retirement communities will become more common in the United States as the population ages and continues to live longer. Nearly 22 percent of the U.S. population will be age 65 or older by the year 2050, and people will be living as much as 25 percent of their lives in retirement, he said.

Studies in Cooper developments reveal that while people think retirement will be heaven on earth, the dream quickly falls short, Newman said: "After about two months in heaven, they find out that's not all there is. They have a void."

Volunteer work in organizations such as churches often fills that void, he said. Cooper developments include allocated lots for churches. For example, Bella Vista Village has 15 churches, and Hot Springs Village has 11 churches.

Tim Reddin, pastor of Barcelona Road Baptist Church in Hot Springs Village, also spoke to the group. He became the church's first pastor nine years ago.

The congregation now averages 200 in attendance, has a \$241,000 annual budget and gives 23 percent of its receipts to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget.

Leading this congregation demands more than monthly potluck dinners and an annual foliage tour, Reddin said: "I don't feel like I'm working with older people. I play basketball and tennis with deacons who are in their seventies."

Retirees moving in are just one of the many changes occurring in rural areas like the Ozarks, said Bob Flanders, director of the Center for Ozark Studies at Southwest Missouri State University.

"The Ozarks are constantly changing," he said. "Perhaps it seems more dramatic than in other places because there is a residual of folk culture here."

These changes continually creates tensions that might keep the church from fulfilling its mission, he said. For example, natives accustomed to using rivers for fishing sometimes express disgust at tourists who float down their rivers in canoes for recreation.

But Bill Fuller, chaplain at Oklahoma's Lake Tenkiller, said the church must reach out to those with different ideas of how to use nature's resources.

"We have no choice," he said. "The Lord has given us the ministry. Unless we tell the multitudes of people who come, they'll never know."

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Teaching children values
requires basic tools

By Terri Lackey

N-SSB

Baptist Press
4/24/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Christian modeling, consistent discipline and clear guidelines are basic tools needed to teach children proper values and moral development, an author and a psychiatrist agree.

"Children need clear messages about what is right and what is wrong, what you will tolerate and what you will not," Grace Ketterman told a group of preschool/children's workers attending the Advanced Training for Preschool and Children's Workers Seminar at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Ketterman, a psychiatrist and medical director of the Crittenton Center in Kansas City, Mo., said the consequences of a child's wrongful acts should be "clearly defined and well spoken out even to the point of writing them down.

"And if the rules are broken, the consequences have to be enforced," she added.

When parents are too permissive and children are allowed to push the guidelines to get whatever they want, "these children grow to become the criminals and anarchists that terrorize our world," Ketterman said.

Carl Elder, author of several books on children, youth and values, said consistent discipline and Christian role modeling aid children in making proper value judgments as they grow older.

Elder, a consultant to smaller churches/missions for the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas, said it is important for parents and preschool leaders to consistently demonstrate love for their children and students so when discipline is due, the "little ones will know you still love them."

Elder recalled an incident when he and his brother, Lloyd, president of the Sunday School Board, were visiting their grandmother's house, and Lloyd popped the elastic band of a pebble thrower hanging around Carl's neck. Carl Elder responded by throwing Lloyd in a rose bush.

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Punishment was immediately doled out by their grandmother. But, Elder said, when the punishment was over, "she brought us inside and gave us a sugar cookie."

In disciplining children, Elder said it is important to get the facts, be fair, be consistently firm, be quick about the discipline, make the disciplinary act final and always forgive.

"If you do not model a good concept of discipline in the home, it will cause problems for children in making decisions for themselves," he said.

Elder said children's leaders and parents have the task of developing the spiritual as well as moral values of children.

Learned values come from society, the Scripture and adult role models, said Elder, who said children's leaders can actively influence values at the scriptural and modeling levels.

"We have an awesome responsibility to mold children's lives and help them learn a proper value system so that when they become of age, they can internalize these values as their own," he said. "They need to see in us what we say we believe."

Biblical guidelines for proper moral development include the Ten Commandments, Elder said.

"The first four deal with our religion through obedience and worship of God. The fifth is an important parental rule and tells us to uphold the honor and teaching of godly parents, and the last five relate to how we should treat one another."

Elder said to foster good values and morals and a high self esteem in children, parents must also:

- have realistic expectations of their children in keeping with their stages of development;
- respect children as persons of worth and dignity;
- try not to let children aggravate;
- set the right example;
- let children do for themselves what they can do;
- start early permitting children to make reasonable choices;
- avoid too many or too few restrictions;
- reward good behavior;
- be careful about comparing one child's misbehavior to another's good behavior; and
- love them.

About 175 workers attended the seminar sponsored by the preschool/children's section of the discipleship training department.

CORRECTION: In BP story titled "RTVC trustees hike budget by \$600,000," dated 4/12/90, please change the figure \$600,000 in the headline and in the first paragraph to \$400,000.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

CORRECTION: In BP story titled "Marketing is meeting needs: Fred Phanco," dated 4/19/90, please make the following correction:

In 6th graf, change "a graduate of Penn State University and Dallas Theological Seminary" to "a graduate of Penn State University who also attended Dallas (Texas) Theological Seminary."

Thanks
Baptist Press

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