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April 25, 1990

90-57

Executive Committee, board
nominees are recommended

N-10

NASHVILLE (BP)--People to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the four denominational boards -- Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board and Annuity Board -- have been nominated by the 1990 Committee on Nominations.

To serve, the nominees must be elected by messengers to the 1990 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 12-14 in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

Three of the boards -- Foreign, Home and Sunday School -- each received an additional member from Texas. The Baptist General Convention of Texas moved past the 2.5 million member level, entitling it to 10 representatives on the boards.

The Annuity Board received an addition member from New York. The Baptist Convention of New York moved past the 25,000 member level, thus entitling it to representation on the Annuity Board and the commissions and institutions of the convention.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (77 members): 19 nominations considered; 6 new members; 13 renominations.

Nominees, with terms to expire in 1994, replacing members ineligible for reelection, include:

Lee Roberts, a businessman and member of Eastside church, Marietta, Ga., replacing Hazel Eubanks of Atlanta; Larry K. Otis, a businessman and member of Calvary church, Tupelo, Miss., replacing Ingram L. Foster Jr. of Prentiss;

Steve Choplin, a power company executive and member of Long Leaf church, Wilmington, N.C., replacing Ann Smith of Greensboro; James L. Oliver, pastor of Bethlehem church, Moore, S.C., replacing Ira Q. Craft of Columbia; and Joe H. Reynolds, an attorney and member of Second church, Houston, replacing Ed Drake of Dallas.

J.C. Mitchell, pastor of First church, Winter Park, Fla., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1992 -- of Jerry Passmore of Pensacola, who resigned.

Nominated to second terms are J. Sidney Sample, Mobile, Ala.; William D. Powell III, Birmingham, Ala.; Judson D. Owen, Palmer, Alaska; Ronnie W. Floyd, Springdale, Ark.; James M. Morton Jr., Livermore, Calif.; Guy S. Sanders III, Lake Wales, Fla.; William F. Harrell, Martinez, Ga.; Dewey R. Keys Sr., Elizabethtown, Ky.;

David E. Hankins, Lake Charles, La.; Don Whitt, Milan, Tenn.; Gordon C. Graham, New Braunfels, Texas; W. Andy Hornbaker Sr., Salt Lake City, Utah; and Scott C. Humphrey, Alexandria, Va.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD (90 members): 27 nominations considered; 18 new members, including a new representative from Texas; 9 renominations.

The new member from Texas is Bill Sutton, pastor of First church, McAllen.

Nominees, with terms to expire in 1994, replacing members ineligible for new terms, include:

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Ronnie Marshall, minister of music at Parkview church, Eufaula, Ala., replacing Hollis Rice of Florence; Roy Scarborough, an attorney and member of Curtis church, Augusta, Ga., replacing Frank A. Norman Jr. of West Point; Randy Charles Davis, pastor of First church, Vancleave, Miss., replacing Larry Wells Kennedy of Laurel;

J. Mike Minnix, pastor of First church, Cherryville, N.C., replacing C. Mark Corts of Winston-Salem; John Allen Hays, pastor of Jersey church, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, replacing Virgil D. Barnett of Parma; Virginia (Mrs. Alton) Brant, a teacher and member of First church, Spartanburg, S.C., replacing Patsy (Mrs. Gilbert) Waters of Camden;

William M. Blanchard Jr., pastor of First church, Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., replacing Fred A. Steelman of Chattanooga; Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue church, Fort Worth, Texas, replacing Kenny Lynn Lewis of Brownsville; Terry J. Horton, a homebuilder and member of First church, Euless, Texas, replacing Barbara (Mrs. Milton) Cunningham of Houston;

Nominated to terms expiring in 1994 replacing members who declined second terms are Patrick W. Bullock Sr., pastor of Annville church, Corpus Christi, Texas, replacing David C. Walker of San Antonio; and Omar Pachecano, director of missions for the El Paso Baptist Association and member of Eastside church, El Paso, replacing Hal Browning Boone of Friendswood.

James T. Garland, pastor of Hazel (Ky.) church, was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1991 -- of Harold R. England of Winchester, who resigned.

N. Rob Martin, a professor at Auburn University and member of Lakeview church, Auburn, Ala., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1992 -- of Mary Hunter of Lakeview, who died.

Robert Reed Lynn, pastor of Rock Creek church, Shawnee, Okla., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1993 -- of William H. Cook of Bartlesville, who moved.

Local members nominated to terms ending in 1994 replacing members ineligible for renomination are Ethel (Mrs. Thomas W.) Sullivan, a homemaker and member of First church, Woodstock, Va., replacing Nora M. Stephenson of Alexandria; and Franklin Hall, pastor of Bethel church, Tabb, Va., replacing Robert F. Cochran of Richmond.

Paula (Mrs. Ken) Hemphill, a pastor's wife and member of First church, Norfolk, Va., was nominated as a local member to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1992 -- of George W. Hamm Jr., of Richmond, who resigned.

Nominated to second terms are Jack J. Bledsoe, Fordyce, Ark.; Ron E. Wilson, Thousand Oaks, Calif.; John P. Greene, Lake Worth, Fla.; A. Ben Hatfield, Alpharetta, Ga.; James W. Hall, Danville, Ky.; Hoyt A. Savage, Las Vegas, Nev.; Charles A. Fink, Las Cruces, N.M.; and Gary A. Smith, Enid, Okla.

Eloise (Mrs. H.L.) Bryant Jr., of Portsmouth, Va., was nominated to a second term as a local member.

HOME MISSION BOARD (90 members): 23 nominations considered; 12 new members, including a new representative from Texas; 11 renominations.

The subcommittee of the Committee on Nominations will nominate a new member from Texas June 10 in New Orleans.

Nominees, with terms expiring in 1994, replacing members ineligible for reelection, include:

Melva June (Mrs. Burney) Tate, a homemaker and member of First Southern church, Fountain Valley, Calif., replacing Dorothy (Mrs. T.L.) Kirkpatrick of Salinas; Clome (Mrs. Sidney) Odom, a homemaker and member of Chamlee Memorial church, Fort Valley, Ga., replacing Valerie B. Albertson of Marietta; Emma (Mrs. David) Day, a nurse and member of Severns Valley church, Elizabethtown, Ky., replacing R. W. Hodge of Princeton;

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Kenneth Wayne Pollard, an employee of Western Piedmont Community College, and member of First church, Glen Alpine, N.C., replacing Carolyn (Mrs. Henry) Byrd of Matthews; Charles Rhodes, a labor relations manager and member of Rising Star church, Youngstown, Ohio, replacing Arthur Patterson of Mason;

Troy M. Gregg, pastor of First church, Chesnee, S.C., replacing John P. Faris of Laurens; Guy M. Milam, pastor of North Knoxville (Tenn.) church, replacing Jerry L. Glisson of Memphis;

Manuel A. Galindo, a government employee and member off Primera Iglesia, Harlingen, Texas, replacing Clifford E. Hogue of Midland; Wencelago Rangel, a plumbing company owner and member of Emmanuel church, Mission, Texas, replacing Ronnie Yarber of Mesquite; and Bass Redd, an aerospace engineer and member of Bayshore church, LaPorte, Texas, replacing Hal Buckner Boone of Friendswood.

Ronald Steven Hammack, pastor of Clarkston (Ga.) church, was nominated to a four year term as a local member replacing Searcy S. Garrison of Atlanta, who was ineligible for reelection.

Nominated to second terms are Troy Morrison, Montgomery, Ala; Richard Jackson, Phoenix, Ariz.; Rex Holt Jr., Jonesboro, Ark.; Orris R. Bullock, Silver Spring, Md.; Harold C. Epperson, Kissimmee, Fla.; Linda (Mrs. Benedict) Principe, Brandenburg, Ky.;

Jerry N. Barlow, Franklinton, La.; Liston L. Morris, Columbia, Miss.; Brad Allen, Duncan, Okla.; and Llwyn (Mrs. Jerry) Walker, Lubbock, Texas.

Rachel (Mrs. Edwin) Howard of Norcross, Ga., was nominated to a second term as a local member.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD (90 members): 23 nominations considered; 11 new members, including a new representative from Texas; 12 renominations.

The new representative from Texas will be nominated by the Committee on Nominations in New Orleans June 10.

Nominees, with terms expiring in 1994, replacing members ineligible for reelection include:

Jack Kreider, director of an agricultural extension station and member of Parkview church, Alexandria, La., replacing Shirley (Mrs. Adrian L.) Decker of Zachary; Frank Zamaro, pastor of First church, Farmington, N.M., replacing Harold Dean Mathis of Hobbs; Robert Tenery, pastor of Burkemont church, Morgantown, N.C., replacing Ned Mathews of Gastonia;

W.C. "Nick" Garland Jr., pastor of First church, Broken Arrow, Okla., replacing Warren C. Hultgren of Tulsa; William L. Bennett, pastor of Northwest Memorial church, Spring, Texas, replacing Donald Dilday of Conroe; Sharon (Mrs. William C.) Morris III, a part-time office manager and member of First church, Houston, replacing Jodie (Mrs. Morris) Chapman of Wichita Falls; and

Joshua Grijalva, president of the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary and member of Metro Park church, San Antonio, Texas, replacing John C. Hatfield Sr. of Houston.

Robert C. Pittman, pastor of Kirby Woods church of Cordova, Tenn., was nominated to a four year term replacing Sam Simmons Jr., of Memphis, who moved.

George H. Kinchen Jr., pastor of First church, Ceredo, W. Va., was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1991 -- of Sherion (Mrs. Robert) Babb, of Huntington, who moved.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers church, Nashville, was nominated to a four year term as a local member replacing Raymond Langlois of Nashville, who was ineligible for reelection.

Nominated to second terms are Douglas Sager, Birmingham, Ala.; Donald R. Dunavant, Wynne, Ark.; Nolan Kennedy, Seaside, Calif.; Bobby Welch, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Rick Forrester, Tucker, Ga.; Allen F. Harrod, Bellevue, Ky.; J. Gerald Harris, Jackson, Miss.;

Glen R. Stern, Grove City, Ohio; Charles A. Wilson, Cherry Hill, N.J.; Daniel A. Collins, Taylors, S.C.; and Charlene (Mrs. Oakley) Slotter, Stephenville, Texas.

O. Eugene Mims, Cleveland, Tenn., was nominated to a second term as a local member.

ANNUITY BOARD (49 members): 15 nominations considered; 7 new members, including a new representative from New York; 8 renominated.

Luis E. Nieto, treasurer of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, and member of First Spanish church, Manhattan, was nominated as the new representative from New York.

Nominated to terms expiring in 1994 replacing members ineligible for reelection include:

Richard Dwyer, pastor of Narbonne Avenue church, Redondo Beach, Calif., replacing Joseph G. Davis of Westminster; and G.R. Rush, a certified public accountant and member of Central church, Chattanooga, Tenn., replacing Ronald D. Earl of Chattanooga.

Tom Shaw, pastor of Red Fork church, Tulsa, was nominated to a four year term replacing David C. Hall of Tulsa, who moved.

Richard Moody, pastor of Tabernacle church, Ennis, Texas, was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1991 -- of Bob Ecklund of Euless, who moved.

Ray Taylor, a businessman and member of Travis Avenue church, Fort Worth, Texas, was nominated to fill the unexpired term -- to end in 1992 -- of Paul Powell of Tyler, who resigned after being elected president of the Annuity Board.

Herman Jared Smith, a real estate developer and member of Richland Hills church, Hurst, Texas, was nominated to a four year term as a local member, replacing Robert McBurney of Waco, who was ineligible for reelection.

Nominated to second terms are John A. Caddell, Montgomery, Ala.; William A. Willis, Little Rock, Ark.; William G. Beshears, McDonough, Ga.; Daniel R. Taylor, Baltimore; Bob R. Howard, Independence, Mo.; and Patrick L. Baughman Sr., Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Nominated to second terms as local members are Owen H. Goff, Irving, Texas; and R. Earl Allen, Fort Worth, Texas.

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Nominating committee
releases 1990 report

By Dan Martin

N-10

Baptist Press
4/25/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--The report of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations has been released by Chairman Roland Lopez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in McAllen, Texas.

The report includes 261 people nominated to serve on the boards of trust of the 24 entities related to the 14.9-million member denomination. Of them, 129 were nominated to second terms while there are 132 new trustees.

The Committee on Nominations, composed of a layperson and a member who is clergy or denominationally-related from the 33 state or regional conventions qualified for representation, met March 15 and 16 in Nashville to nominate trustees.

Under convention bylaws, the report must be released through Baptist Press, the denominational news service, at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting, scheduled June 12-14 in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

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In order for the nominees to serve, they must be elected by messengers at the annual meeting.

The committee each year considers about a quarter of the trustees of the convention-related entities. In 1990, the committee considered 261 positions; there are 980 trustees serving on all of the entities.

Under the SBC's staggered system of representation, trustees may serve two consecutive terms. The majority of trustees serve four-year terms. Trustees serve five-year terms on the six SBC-related seminaries and on the Baptist World Alliance and North American Baptist Fellowship.

Lopez described the meeting of the committee as "overall a good meeting, a very positive meeting. The majority was in harmony as to the nominations we made."

The chairman noted he became ill during the March meeting and returned home before the work was completed, but said he had been informed one of the committee members -- David Montoya, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gravette, Ark. -- plans to introduce a minority report challenging about half of the nominees.

"The committee did not vote to have a minority report," Lopez said. "But, of course, anyone from the floor (of the convention) has the prerogative and privilege of challenging in the Committee on Nominations report."

If Montoya attempts to introduce the minority report, Lopez said, "then what I will probably do is refer the matter to the president (SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.)"

"Personally, I would not recognize it (the minority report) because the committee voted not to do this, but what we do will be up to the president. I think the convention will back up the committee, but if they want to hear it and do our work all over again, that is their prerogative," he added.

"I think the convention will vote to approve what we have done ... they will take a strong lead from what we have done."

The last time a member of the nominating committee attempted to introduce a minority report was in 1988, when Raymond Boswell, a Shreveport, La., insurance executive, attempted to introduce a report suggesting replacements for 17 of the committee nominees.

At the 1988 annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, Boswell attempted to introduce his minority report, but then-President Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., ruled the messengers must decide whether they wanted to hear such a report.

After a hand vote was inconclusive, Rogers ordered a ballot vote. Messengers voted 14,978 (53.2 percent) to 13,175 (46.8 percent) not to hear Boswell's challenge. The report of the 1988 committee was adopted by messengers without hearing Boswell's challenge.

Although Vines has not indicated what he will do in reference to Montoya's planned challenges, it is likely he will follow the previous president's precedent.

Lopez also told Baptist Press he has heard no comment about two actions of the committee: the nomination of Robert M. Tenery to the Baptist Sunday School Board, and the nomination of Curtis Caine to a second term on the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Tenery, editor of the conservative publication, Southern Baptist Advocate, and pastor of Burkemont Baptist Church in Morganton, N.C., was nominated to a new term on the SSB even though he rotated off in 1989 after having served eight years as a SSB trustee.

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Caine, a medical doctor from Jackson, Miss., raised protests -- including a call for his removal made in a motion from the floor at the 1989 annual meeting -- with remarks he made during a meeting of the CLC which were perceived as racist.

The SBC motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee which said the question "is moot ... " since Caine was to complete a first term of service in 1990 and "consideration of his renomination for another four-year term is a decision to be made by the commissioner and the SBC Committee on Nominations."

Traditionally, the Committee on Nominations renominates persons eligible for second terms unless there is good and sufficient reason for their removal.

"At this point, I have not received any calls or letters mentioning any challenge," Lopez said, adding the nomination of Caine to a second term during the committee meeting "drew no discussion as far as I know."

While Caine was nominated to a second term, the former governor of Kentucky, Martha Layne Collins, from Versailles, was ruled ineligible for service as a trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., because she missed three annual trustee meetings in a row.

Southern Seminary is the only SBC entity which has a provision in its bylaws to declare a trustee ineligible for service because of excessive absenteeism.

Two members of the Baptist World Alliance General Counsel also were not reappointed even though they were eligible. The SBC bylaws do not establish a limit on the number of terms a person may serve on the BWA.

Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, recently retired executive director of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, was eligible for renomination even though she has served 10 years as an at-large member of the BWA. The nominating committee replaced her with the current WMU executive, Dellanna O'Brien.

Crumpler also is an announced candidate for the first vice presidency of the SBC, running with moderate candidate Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta.

Another long-time BWA trustee, Jack R. Jones of Arlington, Va., was not renominated. Jones, who went on the BWA in 1980, was replaced by Erle Cocke, a management consultant from Washington, D.C.

In other business, the committee approved eight members to be a subcommittee which will meet June 10 in New Orleans to fill vacancies in the report.

In addition to Lopez, members are Barrett Duke of Denver, the vice chairman; Tommy Huff of Eufaula, Ala.; Edward Litton Jr., of Tucson, Ariz.; Donald Perkins of Forrest City, Ark.; Kathy (Mrs. Jim) Wolfe of Archibald, La.; Todd Morris of Vale, N.C.; and Garnet Cole of Tulsa, Okla.

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Growth begins 1-on-1,
Elder says of churches

N-CD

Baptist Press
4/25/90

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Church growth begins with individuals and continues through their personal growth, Lloyd Elder told students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, focused on "growing people, growing churches" during the seminary's spring conference on Christian education.

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Elder cited the example of the first-century Christians and their comprehensive approach to growth. Pointing to their record in the biblical book of Acts, he said their approach was "not focused only on the front end of the Christian faith, but rather on the full dimension of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ."

However, growing people and growing churches begin with personal conversion, he said, noting, "Church growth and people growth begin in the power of sharing the gospel one by one."

Those single conversions add up, and the church should neither be ashamed of nor consumed by counting the number of new converts, Elder said. As an example, he noted that the earliest accounts of the church include documentation of its numerical increase.

Today's church also ought to follow the first Christians' pattern of "geographical expansion, congregational extension, organizational development, behavioral and ethical transformations, gospel proclamation and spiritual power," he urged.

Ultimately, Elder said, the world depends upon Christians "to know what the (Great) Commission says, to know how it was played out as recorded in the book of Acts and know what it will take in our day to be our best at growing people, growing churches."

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Russian immigrant's son will be
first to work full time in USSR

By Art Toalston

N-FMB

Baptist Press
4/25/90

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists are assigning veteran missionaries George and Veda Rae Lozuk as their first full-time workers to the Soviet Union. He is the son of a Russian immigrant.

The Lozuks, of Fort Worth and Corpus Christi, Texas, respectively, are among some 25 full-time workers who have been selected or are being sought by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for full-time positions in Eastern Europe. The board's Eastern Europe mission has worked with Baptists there for some 20 years; ten career missionaries and two other full-time workers now are assigned to the area.

Deploying additional personnel is one of the many ways Southern Baptists are working to undergird Eastern European Baptists in the wake of monumental events that have given the region hope for freedom.

Altogether, the Foreign Mission Board has earmarked more than \$2.5 million for the region. A total of \$1 million is being used for Bibles, gospel films and other resources to help Eastern European Baptists evangelize their nations and strengthen their churches. Another \$1 million, from Southern Baptist hunger relief donations, is buying seeds and related supplies for needy Romanian farmers. More than \$500,000 from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions will bolster such projects as the first Baptist seminary in Moscow and Albanian gospel broadcasts.

Southern Baptist volunteers already are lining up to assist in the region. Four teams of college students will help renovate a Baptist church in Leningrad. Several Southern Baptist churches are forming "sister" relationships with Eastern European congregations. And a California woman is leading in a food drive for 2,000 needy Romanian families.

"It's encouraging that Southern Baptists are translating world events into spiritual and mission challenges," commented R. Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president. Organizing Southern Baptist efforts in the still-unstable countries of Eastern Europe is a formidable task, Parks said. "Baptist leaders there and our missionaries are functioning in sort of a constant overload.

"People are praying, people are giving, and I expect us to see some significant results in the weeks and months ahead," he said. But he cautioned that "we need to move wisely in order to accomplish something that is lasting and will be a foundation for future growth."

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The Lozuks will begin work in Moscow after wrapping up their duties in South America, where they have worked 34 years, and after three months of intensive Russian language study. Lozuk currently is associate to the director of Southern Baptist work in Spanish-speaking South America.

His father, Sylvester Nicholas Lozuk, came to the United States to work for several years before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and never was able to return to his Russian homeland.

The elder Lozuk had lived in Fort Worth 10 years before he was invited to a Slavic Baptist mission. The Russian Orthodox immigrant began attending services at the mission, professed his faith in Christ and later was called by the congregation to be its pastor. He married a Polish Roman Catholic immigrant, Jennie, who also had made a profession of faith at the church.

Growing up, missionary Lozuk recounted, "Mother would speak Polish, I might answer in English and Dad might answer in Russian." At church, sermons and Sunday School were in either English or Russian; Polish also was used in singing. His father led the 100-member congregation for 30 years until his death in 1957. His mother still lives in Fort Worth.

The Foreign Mission Board is working to fill several other career missionary positions for Eastern Europe: an evangelism and church development worker to assist Polish Baptists; a couple to teach English in Poland; a coordinator of Bible correspondence courses and religious education in Hungary; a New Testament and Greek teacher for the Baptist seminary in Hungary; and a printer to teach Hungarian Baptists to operate offset printing equipment. In February, the board appointed a missionary to focus on Romanian-language radio ministry.

"We are discussing other career positions with Eastern European Baptist leaders," said Isam Ballenger, Foreign Mission Board vice president for Southern Baptist work in Europe. He anticipates requests for additional workers to assist in evangelism and the training of church leaders in the region.

The board also is enlisting Baptists for Eastern European assignments ranging from six months to two years under its International Service Corps volunteer program. Anticipated needs include English language teachers for Poland and Hungary and an agriculturist and physician for Romania. One recently filled position will entail youth and student work in Hungary.

In short-term volunteer work, four teams of 10 or 11 college students and two or more adult leaders will help renovate a Baptist church in Leningrad. The structure was built as a Russian Orthodox church around 1900. The Foreign Mission Board and Sunday School Board are co-sponsoring the project, the first such venture with Soviet Baptists.

"The response has been overwhelming," said Brad Gray, Sunday School Board consultant for world student missions. All team members have strong construction experience; several speak Russian. Students will stay with Baptist families or in a dormitory near the church.

"The awesomeness hasn't really sunk in yet," said volunteer Allan Lovelace, a builder's son and a junior at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. Lovelace will be on the first team going in May.

North Carolina Baptists have sent the first construction teams in a partnership to help Polish Baptists construct a new seminary building. The three-year project will involve some 500 North Carolina volunteers. California Baptists have plans to aid Ukrainian Baptists with computer and office equipment and leadership training. Georgia Baptists' executive committee has laid the groundwork for a three-year partnership with Germany. With German reunification, it would include churches in former East Germany.

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For the third consecutive year, the Foreign Mission Board has enlisted several teams of eight volunteers each to continue construction of a new seminary building in Hungary. James Wood, director of a church-state studies institute at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, will travel to Romania, Hungary and one or two other countries in June to confer with Baptist leaders and perhaps government officials about principles in church-state relations.

Four professors from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth will be in Romania from May 22 to June 12 to lead seminars for church leaders. Three professors and a senior English student from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee will be in Hungary from June 28 to Aug. 11 to teach English at the International Baptist Lay Academy, an institute opening this summer for training church leaders throughout Eastern Europe.

In another development, Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va., and Moscow Baptist Church in the Soviet Union have entered into a sister-church relationship. The two churches plan to focus their relationship on six areas: worship, discipleship, evangelism, education, deacon ministry and social ministry.

Jim Perdew, Columbia Baptist's single adult minister and mission director, said the church started to explore developing a sister-church relationship about a year ago. The relationship officially was to begin April 29, as both pastors were to play exchanged tape recorded greetings to their congregations during Sunday services. A large portion of the Columbia Baptist service was to focus on the Moscow church, along with a special prayer time, Perdew said.

First Baptist Church in Denton, Texas, also is linking up with a church in the Soviet Union.

Jim Gayle, minister of missions at Denton First Baptist, said the church's mission committee will supply up to 5,000 pieces of Christian literature, primarily Russian New Testaments, to Kishinev Baptist Church. The city of Kishinev is in the Moldavian region of the Soviet Union, less than 40 miles from the Romanian border.

First Baptist also plans to develop a sister-church relationship, but has not decided if that relationship will be with Kishinev Baptist. The mission committee is considering other Baptist churches in the Soviet Union that may have greater needs that the Denton church could help meet, Gayle said.

The Foreign Mission Board will develop guidelines for such relationships so that "both churches know what they can expect from one another," Ballenger noted, but will not be directly involved in these sister-church relationships.

"Hopefully it can be two-way, with the Soviet church also sending people over here," Ballenger said.

Another type of ministry is under way in California, where Mary Froese, a member of North Vista Baptist Church in Vista is organizing a food drive for 2,000 Romanian Christian families in and around Piatra-Neamt, a city north of Bucharest that has received relatively little outside assistance.

About 20 churches in Vista, a city 35 miles north of San Diego, plan to send 2,000 boxes of food to Piatra-Neamt. The boxes will not only contain needed staples -- like flour, sugar and rice -- but also special foods meant to convey a Christian greeting and hospitality.

Froese said the idea occurred to her when she read an article about a Romanian woman. The woman was welcoming a small group of Westerners to her village after the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu and his oppressive dictatorship. Food was so scarce in her village that the woman could offer only small cubes of lard on toothpicks to her guests.

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"The Lord spoke to my heart about this," Froese said. "There are certainly needs all over the world, but I just felt that the believers in Romania needed to know of the Christian concern for them here in America. I saw this as a way for the church here to reach out and tell the Romanian church we love them and we are praying for them."

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Mary Speidel and Donald D. Martin of Richmond bureau of Baptist Press also contributed to this story.

BP graphs and BP photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

CORRECTION: In BP story titled "5 Baptists to teach in Vietnam project," dated 4/17/90, please make the following correction in the sixth paragraph, first line: "Frances Petersen and Hazel Garner" should be "Frances Garner and Hazel Petersen"

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Compassionate hearts urged
by Fuller for BSSB employees

N-SSB

Baptist Press
4/25/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Encouragement toward discipleship, outreach and compassion for the lost highlighted worship services led by Charles Fuller for the annual Spiritual Emphasis Days observance at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board April 18-20.

Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., said he hoped to encourage employees of the denomination's education and publishing agency to match their commitment to Christ to the worth of their work.

In the opening service of the three-day emphasis, Fuller, who chaired the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee 1985-88, told employees that Jesus wanted people to follow him "completely in principle, style, spirit and attitude."

"Emotional, intentional, or conditional discipleship is not enough if you are going to follow Jesus," Fuller continued. "Being a disciple will affect your relationships, ambitions and your control of your future."

Fuller asked employees to remember that "for every book, every hymn, every Sunday school lesson this agency publishes, the goal is people, because the goal of the gospel is people."

In an interview, Fuller said the Sunday School Board is "not terribly different from the local church setting. There is a certain atmosphere, a call to certain jobs. We need to keep the atmosphere charged and refreshed with the idea that everything we do ultimately is to reach people for Christ."

"Sometimes we forget that people who work for institutions have sorrow, hurt and disappointment, and these people need to be ministered to as much as anyone else," he said. "There is a tendency to believe that people who work in Christian establishments can take care of themselves. I think we need to bolster and encourage people in these settings."

Fuller urged SSB employees to adopt ministries of outreach and compassion based on the example Jesus gave us in the New Testament. He said "follow me" is used 77 times in the New Testament, and the meaning from Jesus is, "Do what I do, and do it the way I do it."

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Christians have three indispensable things available to them as they seek to lead people to Christ, Fuller said. Those are the name of Jesus, the love of Jesus and the Word of God.

"Compassion for the lost is born out of prayer and concern from Christians with a mentality and a sense for ministry," he added. "Compassion does not just suddenly overwhelm us. How we react to lost people has everything to do with our willingness and our effectiveness in leading them to Christ. Jesus was moved to compassion because he saw people with no sense of hope, no sense of direction and no sense of belonging."

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

Crosses, computers and coupons
contribute to Here's Hope campaign By Mark Wingfield

FB-HMB

Baptist Press
4/25/90

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists have employed everything from crosses to coupons to support their evangelistic efforts during nationwide simultaneous revivals this spring.

In addition to a nationwide media blitz coordinated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, individual state Baptist conventions and associations have created their own strategies for getting the message of the church to the masses.

The catalyst for this activity has been a six-week period of simultaneous revivals sponsored by the Home Mission Board. Between March 18 and April 29, Southern Baptist churches nationwide hosted revivals with the theme "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you."

The Here's Hope theme was central to unique outreach efforts developed by Southern Baptists in Illinois, Indiana, Arizona and Virginia.

The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention worked with Apache and Central Baptist associations to place a two-page ad in "Yellow Pages To Go," an independent telephone directory that offers a "talking phone book."

The publisher offers advertisers space on a computerized system of recorded messages that readers can hear by calling a central number. After dialing the main number, callers enter a four-digit code to hear a specific message.

Arizona Baptists placed an ad with a headline that reads "Altar Your Future" followed by the Here's Hope logo. Callers may select from 15 pre-recorded messages on topics such as "Does God really care about me?" or "How do I become a Christian?" Other selections allow callers to hear messages placed by individual churches in their area.

"The response has been overwhelming," said state evangelism director Nathan Pillow. "We've had a lot of response to the question 'Does God really care about me?' There are a lot of lonely people out there."

During March, before the directories had been distributed throughout the metropolitan Phoenix area, the Baptist numbers received 824 calls. Pillow anticipates receiving 1,000 calls per month once the directory is completely distributed.

Virginia Baptists also took a high-tech approach to Here's Hope publicity by placing a coupon in a commercial packet mailed to 1.4 million homes across the state. The coupon offered a toll-free "Hope Line" and a free Here's Hope New Testament. Similar ads were placed in local newspapers.

In the initial weeks, the coupon and ads generated 400 calls, said state evangelism director Dan Agee. Every name was taken down and sent to associational offices, where local church members were enlisted to personally deliver the New Testaments.

Volunteers manning the phones also were trained to handle crisis calls. When a Korean woman called and said she had been attempting suicide, the volunteers dispatched a Korean pastor and layperson who arrived at the caller's home within 30 minutes.

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Illinois and Indiana Baptists took a simpler approach. They carried a wooden cross.

Indiana Baptists carried their 10-foot cross more than 300 miles, from one corner of the state to the other.

Volunteers carried the cross in a relay along major highways and city streets for 16 days, generating publicity everywhere they went. Local newspapers carried front-page articles and photographs, some with a complete listing of churches that were holding revivals. The story was picked up by the Associated Press and USA Today.

"This was probably the one best thing we've done in preparation for the Here's Hope revivals," said Alvin Reid, associate director of evangelism for Indiana Baptists. "It went far better than we ever dreamed."

One associational director of missions interviewed for television was able to give a testimony about how Jesus Christ had changed his life, Reid said.

In Illinois, seven Southern Baptists carried a wooden cross for six days, from Marion to the state capitol steps in Springfield. Their goal was to call young people to participate in Here's Hope revivals across the state.

"This was definitely not to call attention to ourselves but to Christ and the work he did on the cross for all mankind," said Mike Copen, evangelism services consultant for Illinois Baptists. Along the journey, the seven-member team held youth rallies at five sites.

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Victories reported as churches
enter final week of revivals

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

Baptist Press
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ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist churches nationwide entered the final week of simultaneous revivals April 22 amid reports of successful meetings from earlier weeks.

During the six-week period between March 18 and April 29, about 80 percent of the denomination's 37,000 churches were to participate in the simultaneous revival effort sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The revivals and an accompanying media blitz were based on the theme "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you."

Greenhills Baptist Church in Collierville, Tenn., surpassed its goal for 25 professions of faith by recording 171 commitments during its Here's Hope revival. Pastor Terry Stewart said church members had been skeptical of setting a goal of 25 decisions because they had never seen that many people make decisions during one week.

At the opening service of the church's revival, 15 people committed their lives to Jesus Christ. Within two days, the church was host to 350 teenagers at a "pizza blast" where 72 people professed their faith.

"We hadn't had a revival where we pulled out all the stops and went for broke," Stewart said. "But we decided this time we were going to take the Here's Hope packet and go with it."

The church followed the Here's Hope guide produced by the Home Mission Board, which led to setting what they thought was an ambitious goal for decisions during the revival.

"We thought we had faith in asking for 25," the pastor explained. "We realize now that God answers prayer. God will do far beyond what we would ever hope or ask."

As excitement built during the week, people began to bring their unsaved friends and family members to the revival, hoping they would make commitments, Stewart said. Also, the evangelist spoke in local schools with an anti-drug message.

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The church, which averages 140 in Sunday school attendance, has learned that size has no bearing on what God can do, Stewart reported. "This has helped us realize we're not limited by what we don't have. The only limits we have are the ones we put on ourselves.

"We don't have a gymnasium. We don't have a big activities center. We don't even have a big fellowship hall and the facilities that larger churches have. What's been revealed to us is that you don't have to have those things if you'll let God be creative with you."

A small church in southwest Illinois also made a big impact with its Here's Hope revival. Steeleville Baptist Church in Steeleville, Ill., averages 195 in worship, but attracted 419 people on the final night of revival.

In all, 121 people made public decisions for Jesus Christ.

"In the last services, chairs were added everywhere, even in the altar area, to accommodate the crowd," said pastor Richard Newcom. "The revival was the talk of the whole town."

The Steeleville revival also had an emphasis on youth, with 83 teenagers making professions of faith in one night. "They could not even stand at the altar," the pastor said. "They stood halfway down the side aisles as they were recognized.

"I have never experienced a revival like this in my life."

In Indiana, Central Baptist Church of Richmond nearly doubled its attendance during the Here's Hope revival and is still baptizing people in every service, pastor LeRoy Wagner said.

The church previously averaged 270 in worship attendance, but ended the revival with 480 in attendance. During the week-long meeting, 56 people committed their lives to Christ.

"Our people really prayed and got a burden," the pastor said. "God gave them a burden for lost people. I believe the key is participation."

Lay participation also led to a successful revival at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Riverton, Wyo., where Paul Carter has been pastor for only four months.

The church had not done the suggested full year of revival preparation because they were without a pastor. But once Carter arrived, the congregation began making plans for revival.

They cleaned up the church grounds, painted buildings, sent out a direct-mail piece, placed Here's Hope ads on the local radio station and began to pray. A Here's Hope banner was hung over Main Street at the point where two major highways intersect.

Although Hillcrest Baptist had started 18 missions in Wyoming in the past 36 years, it had encountered difficult times due to a split two years ago, the pastor said.

The revival "has taken our focus off the split two years ago," he said. "It's exciting now to be in church."

The church, which previously averaged 65 in worship attendance, saw a high attendance during revival of 105. Four people made commitments to Christ during visitation leading up to revival. Another 11 people made commitments during the revival, and yet another eight made decisions during follow-up.

"We've been baptizing every week for five weeks," the pastor said.

Similar stories were reported across the nation, even under adverse circumstances. First Baptist Church of Hobart, Okla., had planned and publicized its Here's Hope revival weeks in advance, only to discover the day before the first service that its auditorium could not be used because of a falling ceiling.

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Revival services were moved to the church gym, which is not air conditioned. Metal folding chairs were set up in place of the auditorium's padded pews.

Despite fears that attendance would decline, the church set a record for Sunday school attendance the first day of revival with 472 people. Eight people trusted Christ during the meeting.

"It seemed going into it that this would be disastrous," said pastor Brent Fields. "Instead, it helped our people take our eyes off the facilities and place our focus on the spiritual things happening around us."

The Home Mission Board has established a "Here's Hope Victory Line" to receive reports of revivals nationwide. The number is (404) 898-7589. Calls are received between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern time, Mondays through Fridays.

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(Ferrell Foster of the Illinois Baptist newsjournal contributed to this story.)

RTVC trustees call
special meeting

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission have been called to a special meeting May 3 to consider a recommendation they elect Jack Johnson as president.

"I have sent a notification to all trustees to meet at 2 p.m. May 3 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the DFW Airport to hear a recommendation from the search committee," said Mike Hamlett, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., and chairman of RTVC trustees.

Hamlett said the search committee will recommend Johnson to succeed Jimmy R. Allen, who resigned as president in April 1989 after trustees voted not to sell the American Christian Television System to a group of Texas investors.

Allen, who became president of the agency in January, 1980, had announced nearly a year earlier his plans to negotiate the sale of ACTS and to accompany the network. ACTS has been a financial drain on the SBC entity since it was launched in 1984.

Hamlett said he could not comment on the called meeting "much beyond the announcement because the board has not acted."

Johnson, 55, has been executive director of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention since 1979. Previously, he was pastor of churches in California, Oklahoma and Texas.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee; received a master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and a doctor of philosophy degree from the California Graduate School of Theology, Glendale.

Johnson was a trustee of the RTVC from 1980-85, when he resigned, citing the pressure of his responsibilities as a state convention executive director.

Since Allen's resignation, RTVC Executive Vice President Richard T. McCartney has been interim president.

In addition to Hamlett, members of the search committee include Jewel Morris, a shopping center developer from Fort Smith, Ark.; Harold Brundige, an attorney and radio station owner from Martin, Tenn.; and Ernie Helton, an engineer from Columbus, Ohio.

Also serving with the search committee was T.W. Terral, director of Baptist associational missions in Baton Rouge, La. Terral went off the board in 1989, but was asked to continue to work with the search committee.

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