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91-27

Exec Committee debates cooperation,
approves PAC-CLC merger, elects VPs By Greg Warner

N-CO

NASHVILLE (BP)--The SBC Executive Committee decided Feb. 19 how to spend the money Southern Baptist churches contribute to their cooperative budget next year but failed to decide what makes a church cooperative.

Committee members also:

-- Approved a merger of the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee into the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission -- two of the three organizations authorized to represent Southern Baptists on religious liberty issues, and

-- Approved the earlier election of three vice presidents to serve on the Executive Committee's Nashville-based staff: Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr., vice president for business and finance; Mark T. Coppenger, vice president for public relations; and Herbert V. Hollinger, vice president for Baptist Press.

The committee adopted with no debate the proposed 1991-92 Cooperative Program allocation budget, which plans to spend more than \$140 million to support the work of Southern Baptist agencies and institutions.

But the committee could not decide if support of the Cooperative Program should become the basis for a church's participation in the annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings.

Participation has been open to any church that contributes "to the Convention's work." That phrase in the Southern Baptist Convention constitution has been interpreted to include contributions to any SBC cause -- the Cooperative Program, annual missions offerings or even designated gifts to specific agencies or institutions.

But last week the Executive Committee proposed a constitutional amendment to limit participation in annual conventions to those churches that contribute to the Cooperative Program at both the state and national levels. That action would exclude from messenger participation in the annual meeting of the SBC those churches that give all their contribution to alternate missions-funding plans or designate that their contributions be used for certain SBC causes or withheld from others.

During their Feb. 18-19 meeting in Nashville, committee members debated the proposal at length before referring it back to their bylaws committee for further work. Several committee members expressed disapproval with various aspects of the proposal and others admitted they were confused about its ramifications.

The issue originated during last June's annual convention, when messenger Craig F. Stout of Missouri asked the Executive Committee to study the constitutional terminology related to "cooperation."

Although Stout's motion asked for the study to be completed by the 1991 convention, the committee's decision to postpone action will make it unlikely that a proposal will be ready by June. And a constitutional amendment must be approved by two successive conventions.

During the 12-year controversy in the SBC, some churches on both sides of the conflict have designated funds away from various SBC causes that they find objectionable.

Under the convention's current constitution, however, those churches have not been denied participation in the annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings. Any church that contributes some money to any Southern Baptist cause currently is eligible to send at least one messenger to the annual meeting.

The proposed change would have limited participation in the SBC to churches that contribute at least some money to both state and national causes through the Cooperative Program. Only "undesignated" or unrestricted contributions to the CP would have counted as contributions "to the Convention's work."

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It is not known how many churches would be affected by the proposed change. Most Southern Baptist churches give at least some financial support to the Cooperative Program, thus qualifying as a cooperating church.

The issue is critical, however, because membership in cooperating churches also is a prerequisite for service as an SBC missionary, convention officer, committee member or trustee.

In the early years of the current SBC controversy, conservatives were criticized for designating gifts away from certain SBC causes. However, as conservatives have gained control of the denomination's agencies, some moderates have led their churches to begin designating funds.

Last August some who have been on the losing side since 1979 formed an alternative missions-funding program that takes those contributions out of the hands of the Executive Committee, which drafts the Cooperative Program budget. Two Baptist state conventions -- in Virginia and North Carolina -- have enacted their own plans for diverting funds.

The constitutional amendment proposed by the Executive Committee would have affected both moderates who are using the new alternate-funding plans to bypass the SBC CP allocation budget and conservatives in Virginia, North Carolina and elsewhere who are displeased with budget actions on the state level.

Bill Horton of Asheville, N.C., tried to change the proposal by basing SBC participation only on contributions to the national portion of the Cooperative Program in order not to infringe on the autonomy of local churches by requiring them to participate in the state-level Cooperative Program.

Insisting that SBC churches support the state convention is "a form of connectionalism," argued Robert Jackson from Galax, Va. "I don't feel we should be in a position of telling churches to give to the state convention."

Opponents of Horton's amendment said it endorsed designated giving at the state level, since churches would not be required to participate in the state-level Cooperative Program. James Wideman of Portsmouth, N.H., who described the amendment as "a total political decision," adding that in the proposal, "We are saying it's OK to designate one way but not OK to designate another way."

Executive Committee President/Treasurer Harold C. Bennett said the state and national Cooperative Program "is a unit." Under the CP system, enacted in 1925, church contributions are sent first to the state convention, which funds its ministries out of a percentage of the total contributions and sends the balance to the Executive Committee for SBC ministries.

Bennett warned that bypassing the state portion would threaten the Cooperative Program itself. If Horton's amendment is approved, he said, "we've taken the first step to dividing our great process."

Horton's amendment was defeated easily, with only four affirmative votes. But then committee members were reluctant to approve the original proposal as well. Paul Pressler of Houston, vice chairman of the committee, lamented that the original proposal would label churches uncooperative if "by conscience" they bypass the state convention with their contributions.

Stephen Brumbelow of Poca, W.V., argued against changing the constitution to tie participation to CP support. "We've heard for years that money is the test of fellowship," he said.

"This (proposal) almost confirms that fear."

Kenneth Barnett of Lakewood, Colo., admitted he was confused by the whole issue and suggested the proposal be studied further. A motion to refer the amendment back to the committee's bylaws workgroup passed with little opposition.

No such debate developed on the question of how to spend Cooperative Program money, however. The 1991-92 budget, drafted in January by the program and budget subcommittee, was approved unanimously by the full Executive Committee.

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The \$140,710,282 spending plan, which represents a 2.46 percent increase over the current budget, must be approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in June. The three largest percentage increases went to the Christian Life Commission, Public Affairs Committee and the SBC convention operating budget which funds the Executive Committee.

The SBC operating budget of \$3.24 million carries an increase of 13.0 percent, which committee members said is necessary to pay the rising costs of the annual convention, to fund an expanded public relations program for the SBC, and to provide funds for the Baptist World Alliance, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and the Public Affairs Committee.

The largest percentage increase -- 30 percent -- will go to the Public Affairs Committee, even though Executive Committee members later voted to dissolve the group. The entire PAC budget of \$32,500 would be assigned to the Christian Life Commission if the proposal to merge the two organizations is approved in June.

The CLC also will receive a 6.3 percent increase of its own, bringing its CP allocation to \$1.3 million. The increase is provided to fund the CLC's expanded program statement, which now includes religious liberty.

The Home Mission Board received a 2.51 percent increase while the Foreign Mission Board and Baptist World Alliance each received a 2.46 percent increase in CP allocations. All other SBC-related entities received increases of 2 percent or less.

Before presenting the budget to the full committee for approval, the program and budget subcommittee eliminated a \$12,500 allocation for Religion in American Life, a national organization that promotes religious participation. Subcommittee members were concerned that the group includes Muslims, Jews and Mormons. They voted to give the money to the Home Mission Board instead, ending at least 25 years of SBC association with RIAL.

The proposed merger of the Public Affairs Committee into the Christian Life Commission will reduce from three to two the number of organizations that represent Southern Baptists on religious-liberty issues. Last year the CLC was given religious-liberty assignment.

The 19-member PAC has served as the Southern Baptist contingent on the larger Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a religious-liberty watchdog organization that includes nine Baptist denominations. The \$50,000 budgeted for the BJCPA is the same as the SBC current budget which was reduced by 87 percent from the 1989-90 budget.

Under terms of the proposed merger, the Christian Life Commission would be enlarged to make room for 9 of the current at-large members of the PAC to serve as CLC trustees. The seven ex officio PAC memberships -- SBC agency executives and the SBC president -- would be eliminated immediately, as would the position of one at-large member who is also an SBC agency executive. The CLC then would determine who would represent the SBC on the Baptist Joint Committee.

Debate on the merger focused on how long those at-large members would be allowed to serve as CLC trustees.

The original proposal presented to the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee would have allowed those eligible for a second four-year term on the PAC to serve their full time on the CLC. In the subcommittee an amendment was offered to eliminate those positions at the end of the current terms.

The amendment passed the subcommittee by a three-to-one margin. But when the proposal was presented to the full Executive Committee, it was reversed again.

Pressler made a motion to restore the merger proposal to its original form and allow the second terms, which he said were "part of an agreement" reached in January by a group of 10 people representing the PAC, CLC and Executive Committee. "This is not an effort to work out a deal," explained Pressler, who said the agreement was a "good faith" effort to reach a compromise.

But Robert Jackson said Pressler's amendment "artificially increases the size of the CLC" by allowing the second terms. "I don't see the point of this if our purpose is to merge... ."

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Six PAC members are eligible for second terms: Robbie Hughes of Jackson, Miss., Robert Showers of Arlington, Va., William Stone of Phoenix, Ariz., Jay Strack of Dallas, Norris Sydnor of Oxon Hill, Md., and J.T. Williams of Tallahassee, Fla.

Permitting the second terms would give the CLC the benefit of the PAC members' expertise in church-state matters, said Eldridge Miller of Sallisaw, Okla. "This is not enlarging the CLC but only making it possible for them to serve a little longer," he said.

"People's feelings are important," argued T.C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va. Allowing the second terms "is a small thing we can do," he said.

Pressler's motion passed 37 to 22.

The merger, which then was approved, asks the CLC to adjust its charter to make room for the PAC members and asks the Southern Baptist Convention to amend its bylaws to eliminate the Public Affairs Committee.

In separate secret ballots, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the employment of three new vice presidents. All three had been elected earlier by the committee's officers under a special authorization.

Committee members later voted unanimously to reduce the minimum age for early retirement of Executive Committee staff members from 60 to 58 in order to make it possible for Shackleford to apply for early retirement. Although Shackleford has not formally requested early retirement, Bennett said, he has been unable to find another job.

Although the Executive Committee could not decide how to define "cooperation," they did approve an amendment to the SBC constitution to require all members of SBC committees to come from "cooperating" churches. Already the constitution requires that all SBC officers, trustees, commissioners and missionaries be members of cooperating churches.

Executive Committee members acknowledged that a dispute involving the chairman of the 1990 Committee on Nominations -- Roland Lopez of McAllen, Texas -- probably prompted the constitutional change. Messengers from Emmanuel Church in McAllen where Lopez is pastor did not participate in the Southern Baptist Convention last June because questions were raised about the church's lack of Cooperative Program support.

Executive Committee members defended Lopez, noting SBC officials later determined Emmanuel's messengers were eligible since a mission of the church had contributed.

Pressler explained: "This should not ever be construed as critical of anybody." He pointed to a resolution, later adopted by the committee, that defended Lopez and the church against the "unfair treatment" they received.

Another proposed bylaw amendment will attempt to clear up confusion concerning the annual report of the Committee on Nominations. The Executive Committee will propose amendments to the SBC bylaws that will treat the annual slate of proposed trustees as a report rather than as nominations.

Committee members were told the amendments would not alter the way the nominations have been handled in recent years but only clear up the existing ambiguity by clarifying the current practice.

The Executive Committee asked its institutions workgroup "to study the procedures and impact of the accreditation of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries." Because at least two seminaries have encountered accreditation problems recently, some Southern Baptists have called for the SBC to set up its own accrediting agency.

The issue was debated in the program and budget subcommittee, which heard that a similar study being conducted by the Southern Baptist Education Commission in response to a motion that was referred during the 1990 convention. Subcommittee members decided to ask for their own study of accreditation, however, while seeking assistance from the seminaries and the Education Commission.

The Executive Committee took several other actions affecting SBC agencies and institutions:

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-- Messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention in June will be asked to eliminate, at the request of the SBC agencies, at-large and local trustees from the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, and the Brotherhood Commission.

The requests came from the three agencies after the Executive Committee, in response to a referred motion at the 1989 convention, asked all SBC entities that have the special positions to determine if are needed any longer.

-- Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., who had asked that their charter be amended so that the SBC would be the final authority in the election of trustees, were asked to consider amending the seminary's articles of incorporation to eliminate their power to remove trustees. Committee members pointed out that no other SBC entity has such power. The Executive Committee is considering adding a provision for the removal of trustees to the SBC constitution or bylaws.

-- The Radio and Television Commission was asked to submit an amended charter for FamilyNet, a religious TV network it intends to buy and operate as a subsidiary. Southern Baptist agencies must receive authorization from the Executive Committee to operate subsidiaries.

-- Such authorization was granted to the Home Mission Board, which will operate Utah Missions Inc. as a subsidiary.

The Oklahoma-based corporation, which is expected to be donated to the HMB, is a ministry that seeks to evangelize Mormons.

-- Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., was authorized to borrow up to \$300,000 to make improvements on seminary housing.

-- Minor revisions were made in the program statements for the Sunday School Board and Brotherhood Commission.

In other actions:

-- The Baptist Convention of New England was approved for representation on the Foreign Mission, Home Mission and Sunday School boards as a result of an increase in church membership above the 20,000-person threshold. The multi-state convention already has one representative on the Executive Committee.

-- Larry Nail, pastor of First Church of Eldorado Springs, Mo., was named to fill a Missouri vacancy on the SBC Committee on Nominations. He replaces Rick Kunz, who moved from the state.

-- In addition to the resolution commending Roland Lopez and his church, resolutions of appreciation were approved for retired state Baptist newspaper editors Donald T. McGregor of the Baptist Record of Mississippi and Jackson Walls of the West Virginia Baptist.

-- The committee voted to recommend holding the annual convention in the year 2000 in Orlando, Fla., June 13-15.

The Executive Committee also heard a message from SBC president Chapman, who called Southern Baptists to respond to America's spiritual hunger. Chapman urged prayer for a swift end to the Persian Gulf War and for a "safe and speedy return of loved ones and a genuine and lasting peace."

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Also contributing to this article were Don Kirkland of the Baptist Courier of South Carolina, Robert Dilday of the Religious Herald of Virginia, and Bill Webb of the Illinois Baptist.

Baptist mission benefactors
survive Chile plane crash

By Jim Newton

N-APMB

ATLANTA (BP)--The widow of a prominent Baptist missions benefactor survived a plane crash off the coast of southern Chile Feb. 20 which claimed the lives of 19 other passengers.

Deen Day Smith, widow of Cecil B. Day who founded Days Inns of America and who gave millions to support home and foreign missions, was one of 53 passengers who survived a plane crash in the freezing waters at Puerto Williams, on the southern tip of Chile.

Killed in the crash was Dorothy Day, the wife of Lon Day, chairman of the board of Day Realty in Atlanta, who was involved with his brother in founding Days Inns.

All are active members of Baptist churches, and strong supporters of Baptist missions efforts. Lon Day, who survived the crash, is a member Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Atlanta. Mrs. Smith and her husband, Charles, who also survived the crash, are members of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church, said the Smiths are "exemplary Christians who are a great encouragement to so many Baptists." Deen and Cecil Day were charter members of Dunwoody who helped organize the church.

David Carnes, associate pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, said Lon and Dorothy Day have been active members of Mt. Vernon since 1964. Lon is a former missions committee member, and was active in the lay renewal movement at one time.

They were among a dozen Georgians on a trip to Antarctica organized by Deen Day Smith, chairman of the board of the Cecil B. Day Investment Co. Cecil Day died of bone cancer at the age of 44 in 1978.

In his will, Cecil B. Day left half of the residue of his estate, after benefits to his family, to home and foreign missions. Both the SBC Foreign and Home Mission boards have received millions as a result, including almost \$15 million that has been used by the Home Mission Board as an endowment to support specific direct evangelism and church starting projects in major cities of America and in New York and New England.

Lon and Cecil Day were sons of the late Lon Day Sr., pastor of several Baptist churches in Georgia.

Lon Lee Day III, the son of Lon and Dorothy Day, said his father called from Chile saying he was okay, but stricken with grief over the loss of his wife. He was able to escape through the back door of the plane, but his wife drowned when water came gushing into the plane through the front.

Bob Williams, president of the Cecil B. Day Investment Co., told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution the pilot of the chartered Chilean LAN airline jet apparently overshot the runway, and the plane went down an embankment into the ocean.

"When it hit the water, there was a hole in the fuselage," Williams said. "It began filling up quickly with water." Williams credited quick action by the Chilean navy with saving the lives of those who were able to get out of the plane. Most of the survivors had scrapes and bruises.

Denny Spear, former pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church and former director of chaplaincy ministries at Days Inns of America, said Mrs. Smith called to confirm she and her husband were OK. "The family has a strong faith in God, and they are handling it well," Spear said.

"They are experiencing a mixture of grief and joy -- grief over the loss of loved ones who died in the crash, but joy for those who were saved."

New England names
Martin editor

NORTHBORO, Mass. (BP)--Joyce Sweeney Martin has been named editor of The New England Baptist, the monthly newsjournal of the six-state Baptist Convention of New England.

Martin, a Kentucky native, assumed the editorship on Jan. 1. She has been on The New England Baptist staff since 1983, serving first as editorial/production assistant and then as associate editor.

Martin is a graduate of Georgetown College, Ky., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and has done further study at Andover Newton Theological School.

Her journalism experience includes interim assistant editor of New England Church Life, an interdenominational newsjournal in Boston, and 15 years as a curriculum and features writer for WMU of the Southern Baptist Convention. She is the author of two books including You Are My Witness published by New Hope Press.

In addition, Martin is an adjunct professor of Christian Education at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in S. Hamilton and at Southern Seminary's Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry in Northboro. She also has been a trustee of Southern Seminary.

Martin is married to Larry Martin, executive director of Greater Boston Baptist Association.

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Hawaii Baptists plan
30 new churches by 1995

By Jim Newton

N- HNB

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HONOLULU (BP)--Hawaii Baptists have issued a "Macedonian call" to Southern Baptists to come over to "the paradise islands" and help them start 30 new churches by 1995.

As one of the major goals of MISSION: Hawaii 2000, Hawaii Baptists plan to start six new churches each year for five years.

Currently, there are 100 Southern Baptist congregations in Hawaii, with total membership of about 16,300.

O.W. Efurud, executive director of the Hawaii Baptist Convention, said the goal is extremely ambitious for a convention composed of small churches with an average membership of about 150. Only a dozen churches have more than 300 members.

If Southern Baptists in Texas were to adopt the same percentage goal, Texas Baptists would have to start a thousand new churches in the next five years, Efurud said.

Yet the comparisons aren't really valid, because churches on the mainland are so much stronger, their resources are so much more abundant, and the costs are so much lower, Efurud said.

Starting new churches is only one part of the MISSION: Hawaii 2000 strategy adopted by the convention last November.

Using a strategy planning process developed by the SBC Home Mission Board for its Mega Focus City program, Hawaii Baptists have set ambitious goals in two priority areas: church growth and church starting.

Goals have been set to train effective leaders, increase church program enrollments and attendance, increase baptisms, establish new ministries to people in need, increase missions giving and stewardship, increase total church membership, raise \$5 million for at least ten new church sites, and have 70 constituted churches with 20,000 members by 1995.

Although Hawaii Baptists are committed to doing everything they can, help from the mainland is essential for success, Efurud said. He hopes Southern Baptists will see the vision of missions in Hawaii, and respond like the Apostle Paul when he saw a vision of a man in Macedonia pleading, "Come over and help us."

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Veryl Henderson, director of missions for the Hawaii Baptist Convention, said everyone wants to come to Hawaii, because the beauty of the islands calls them to paradise.

"But when we talk to them about the realities, they all seem to disappear," Henderson said.

For example, it costs a church \$7,000 to \$12,000 in moving expenses to call a pastor from the mainland. Search committees screen sermon tapes and decide if they want a prospective pastor before inviting him to preach in view of a call. "Once he is here, he's here to stay."

Most pastors can't afford to travel back to the mainland for at least three years after arriving, Henderson said.

The cost of living in Hawaii is the highest in the nation, estimated at 26 percent higher than on the mainland. About 58 percent of the people rent because they can't afford to purchase a house.

Last year, the median price of a home on the island of Oahu was \$355,000, more than three times higher than the mainland median of \$106,000, according to a report in the Honolulu Advertiser. Since 1970, median family income has increased three-fold, while the average cost of housing has increased eight times.

To qualify for a \$355,000 home, the buyer needs \$71,000 for a down payment, an annual income of \$100,445 and ability to make monthly payments of \$2,536. Only 10 percent of the residents on Oahu meet these qualifications.

Because rent averages \$1,500 a month for a three bedroom house and \$1,130 a month for a two-bedroom apartment, most families have great difficulty saving enough for a down payment.

Henderson said most Baptist churches try to provide housing for their pastors, but salaries are low and most pastors' wives have to work.

In addition to the cost of living, some pastors from the mainland have difficulty adjusting the laid-back, hang-loose, multi-ethnic society, Henderson added.

Every person in Hawaii is part of an ethnic minority, Henderson said. No single racial group constitutes more than one-third of the population.

Only nine of the 100 Baptist congregations are predominantly Caucasian. More than 90 percent of the churches are predominantly ethnic, and about half of them worship in one of ten languages.

The Korean and Filipino missions are the fastest growing congregations with the most effective evangelistic outreach, Henderson said.

Last year, HBC churches baptized almost 700 new believers, including almost 300 who made decisions during "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals in 72 churches and missions.

As part of the MISSION: Hawaii 2000 strategy, Hawaii Baptists have adopted goals to increase baptisms by five percent per year and baptize a cumulative total of 4,000 new believers by 1995.

Reaching the baptism goal will not be easy in a state where less than 10 percent of the people are evangelical Christians, Efurd said.

Despite these realities, most pastors who come to Hawaii love it and stay for long tenures. The average is about ten years, Henderson said.

Both Efurd and Henderson said it is easy to recruit volunteers from the mainland to come to Hawaii for short-term mission projects. The difficulty is in providing housing for the volunteers in tourist-oriented society where hotel rooms average more than \$150 per night.

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Efurd said the HBC is fortunate to own two houses purchased by the SBC Foreign Mission Board for missionary residences in the 1940s. When Hawaii became a state in 1959, the Foreign Mission Board turned over responsibility for mission work to the Home Mission Board and gave the property to the Hawaii Baptist Convention. Now the homes are used to house long-term volunteers and furloughing missionaries.

Volunteers who come to Hawaii for short-term assignments often want to stay.

John Seelig, who retired last year after 30 years at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, said he fell in love with Hawaii when he spent seven months last year as volunteer interim director of the convention's church development division and didn't want to leave in September when a full-time director was hired.

"There is something about the Hawaiian people that is indescribable," Seelig said. "They call it the aloha spirit, and the giving of flower leis is a beautiful expression of that spirit.

It is this "aloha spirit" that beckons Southern Baptists, with the plea to "come over and help us."

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Hawaii Baptists raise
\$1 million for sites

By Jim Newton

N-HMB

Baptist Press
2/22/91

HONOLULU (BP)--In less than nine months, Hawaii Baptists have raised more than \$1 million to purchase 10 sites for new churches in a state where land costs up to \$1 million an acre.

As of February, 44 Hawaii Baptist churches and 108 individuals had pledged or given \$1,108,000 to the MISSION: Hawaii 2000 site fund.

"This level of giving and support is unprecedented in Hawaii," said O.W. Efurd, executive director of the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

"Eighteen months ago, we never thought we could have raised a million dollars to help start new churches in Hawaii," Efurd said. "This has given Hawaii hope and encouragement, because we now see we have more potential than we ever dreamed was possible."

At the same time, Hawaii Baptists increased their Cooperative Program giving by almost \$30,000 and exceeded their goals for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Mission. The convention has voted to increase the percentage it gives to Southern Baptist Convention world-wide causes through the Cooperative Program from the current 28.9 percent to 35 percent by the year 2000.

Efurd praised the joint efforts of Mori Hiratani, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pearl City, and Hawaii coordinator of the site fund campaign; and John Earl Seelig of Fort Worth, Texas, mainland coordinator for the effort. They have been successful in raising the site fund goal in Hawaii without decreasing gifts to other causes, he said.

The second phase of the campaign is to raise an additional \$4 million from churches and individuals on the mainland.

Seelig, former vice president for development at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary who retired last year after 30 years on the seminary staff, said the second phase of the fund campaign is "very difficult to promote back on the mainland."

"Most Southern Baptists don't think of Hawaii as a mission field," he explained. "They think of Hawaii as a place to visit and to play."

While Hawaii Baptists already have reached their goal of \$1 million, only \$72,175 has been pledged by 32 individuals and three churches toward the \$4 million goal to be raised on the mainland.

Efurd said the site fund campaign is unique. "This is the first time a state convention has launched a fund campaign this widespread, here and on the mainland."

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Land in Hawaii is so expensive that most churches cannot afford to buy church sites with their own resources alone.

As part of the HAWAII: Mission 2000 strategy to start 30 new churches in five years, the site fund campaign will provide \$5 million to purchase sites for ten churches.

Efurd said many of the new churches will be started with no intention of buying land or building a permanent building. Instead, they will meet in public schools, community centers, leased space shopping centers, or shared facilities with other churches. "Buying land and building a building is not our only model for church starting," he said.

But Hawaii Baptists have discovered from experience that their credibility and acceptance in the community is greater, and their churches are more effective, if they are able to buy land and construct a traditional church building, Efurd added.

The Waipio Gentry Baptist Mission, which meets in a beautiful new building on a hill overlooking Pearl Harbor about 10 miles from Honolulu, has become the model for the ten other new missions selected to receive property through the site fund project.

Efurd said the concept for the unique approach was the vision of Mori Hiratani of Pearl City.

Three years ago, the Hawaii Baptist Convention purchased a half-acre of land for \$200,000 for the Waipio Gentry Mission. Three sponsoring churches in Hawaii each pledged \$60,000, combined with a matching pledge of \$60,000 from the Waipio Gentry congregation, to pay for the \$240,000 building.

Within three years, the entire \$240,000 construction cost has been paid off, and the Waipio Gentry mission is now debt-free.

Steve Sanders, pastor of the mission, said the building and property has given the church credibility in the community. "If a church meets in a school or shared facility for more than five years, the congregation has difficulty identifying with the community, and the residents begin to wonder if the church is going to stay on a long-term basis."

Out of gratitude for the help the convention provided in purchasing the site for their mission, the Waipio Gentry congregation has pledged \$18,000 to the MISSION: Hawaii 2000 site fund campaign.

Although Waipio Gentry is the established model, the Kealakehe Baptist Mission at North Kona on the Big Island is the first of the ten missions to receive property purchased through the new site fund.

In February, the convention bought 3.1 acres on North Kona for \$350,000 using funds from the campaign. The Kealakehe mission, with about 30 members, is currently meeting in a school building.

On a priority basis, the general areas for the other nine missions have already been selected as part of the overall mission strategy.

Six of the sites are on the island of Oahu, two on the Big Island of Hawaii, and one each on the islands of Maui and Kauai.

Efurd said one of the most exciting missions which has been selected to receive site funds is the Waikoloa Baptist Mission meeting currently in a refurbished construction employee housing unit owned by the Transcontinental Development Corporation.

Transcontinental executives were so impressed with the preschool and day care centers operate by Baptist churches in Hawaii that the corporation asked Hawaii Baptists to operate a day care center for children of their construction employees. In return, the corporation agreed to lease space to the mission until Dec. 31, 1991, to give the mission time to raise money to construct a building.

First Baptist Church of Columbus, Ga., has given \$25,000 to the site fund the Kealakehe project, plus \$15,000 for another project, and about \$10,000 for two other projects in previous years. The Columbus church gives 15 percent of its budget to missions through the Cooperative Program in addition to direct missions involvement.

"The cost of property in Hawaii is just mind-boggling, and the sacrificial job those Hawaii pastors and layman are doing is incredible," said Bob Potts, pastor of the Columbus church. "The needs are so great that you feel a little bit like you are spitting into the ocean, but we want to do everything we can to help."

Seelig said Potts has agreed to be one of several regional coordinators to help raise funds for the campaign on the mainland.

Seelig said he and others involved in the mainland campaign are being careful not to try to raise funds that would go through normal church channels. "We don't want any money that should go to the local church, the Cooperative Program, or regular special mission offerings," Seelig said. "This is to be over-and-above the regular patterns of giving."

Seelig, who has helped raise more than \$75 million for Southwestern Seminary in 30 years, said his assignment with Hawaii was both the most difficult job, yet the most rewarding thing, he has ever tried to do.

"You have to see the struggling pastors here who live on sub-standard incomes in a state where the cost of living is the highest in the nation to really get a vision of the needs in Hawaii," Seelig said.

Seelig said he hopes and prays other Southern Baptists on the mainland will catch a vision for what they can do to start new churches in Hawaii and bring eternal life to people who already think they have found paradise on earth.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by HMB bureau of Baptist Press

Adams caps 43 years
with HMB in Hawaii

By Jim Newton

N-HMB

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HONOLULU (BP)--Lee Adams is climaxing 43 years of work with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as a mission volunteer in one of America's most beautiful mission fields.

Adams, who retired in 1986 after serving as administrative assistant to three different HMB presidents, currently is serving as administrative assistant in the HAWAII: Mission 2000 project, an effort to start 30 new churches in Hawaii by 1995, and raise \$5 million to purchase sites for new churches.

"She is ideal for this role," said O.W. Efurd, executive director of the Hawaii Baptist Convention. "She has a great spirit and attitude, takes the initiative, and does everything without having to ask, 'What do you want me to do next.'"

Adams is a detail person, following up on every aspect of the HAWAII: Mission 2000 project, Efurd said. "She has been indispensable."

When she and her husband, George, retired in April of 1986, they camped and played and enjoyed retirement together for more than two years.

But in late December, 1988, George died of a heart attack, and Adams felt a lack of purpose and direction in life.

At Home Missions Week at Ridgecrest during the summer of 1989, HMB Vice President Paul Adkins suggested that Adams become involved as a mission volunteer. "It would be good for you," Adkins said.

The next day, Veryl Henderson, director of missions for the Hawaii Baptist Convention, urged Adams to come to Hawaii and serve as his volunteer secretary. Adams was open to the possibility, and suggested Henderson write her about details.

Several months passed, and one day Adams prayed, "Lord, I can't stand this any more. I've just got to do something." That same day, a letter arrived from Henderson asking her to come to Hawaii as a non-paid volunteer secretary.

She only intended to go for six months, but Efurd talked her into serving as his administrative assistant for MISSION: Hawaii 2000, and staying for more than a year.

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Adams said she loves her work in Hawaii and has found the fulfillment she was seeking.

"I've enjoyed the people more than anything," she said. "They are so warm and dedicated, even though they do everything on a shoestring budget. There is an eagerness here that is refreshing and exciting. I really feel I've been needed, and that I've made a contribution."

Adams has had a steady stream of friends and relatives who have come to visit her during vacations in Hawaii.

In February, she visited in Honolulu with her former boss, William G. Tanner, who left the HMB presidency to become executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma just three months after Adams retired. Tanner and his wife, Ellen, were in Hawaii for a meeting of state convention executive directors.

"Lee Adams is an amazing lady," Tanner said. "I've never known anyone before or since like Lee Adams. She is one of a kind."

Tanner said that at one time, she knew more about home missions and its missionaries than any person alive. She also knew personally every key leader in the Southern Baptist Convention, and every member of the HMB board of directors.

Adams worked for three HMB presidents, including Tanner, the only one now living. In 1943, she came to the HMB as secretary to Courts Redford, who was then assistant executive director. When Redford became president of the HMB in 1954, Adams was named administrative assistant to the president.

After Redford's retirement, Adams became administrative assistant to Arthur Rutledge in 1965. Tanner succeeded Rutledge in 1977.

Adams said the "golden era" of the Home Mission Board was in the 1960s at the end of Redford's term and the beginning of Rutledge's presidency. "That was a pivotal point in the history of the Home Mission Board," she observed.

Although she has wonderful memories of her 43 years at the Home Mission Board, Adams lives in the present tense, not in the past.

Now that the MISSION: Hawaii 2000 site fund campaign has successfully reached its \$1 million goal in Hawaii, Adams plans to stay in Honolulu until June, wrapping up details on the campaign. She plans to return to her home in Atlanta in time for the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

"It is a lot more fun to work for free as a volunteer than to work for a paycheck as an employee," she quipped.

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(BP) photo mailed to Baptist state papers by the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press