

(BP)

- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee-
901 Commerce #75
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2351
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-8918
CompuServe ID# 70420.17

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232
NASHVILLE Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

June 10, 1991

91-85

Messengers consider two
motions, refer others

By Sarah Zimmerman

MSO

ATLANTA (BP)--A move to change the way Southern Baptists vote on business was defeated June 6 by messengers to the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta.

In making the motion, Wayne Harrison of Norton, Va., said, "It's high time all the messengers of all our churches ... have equal and fair representation." He said churches that cannot afford to send messengers to the SBC annual meeting should have the opportunity to vote.

Harrison's motion called for mailing SBC business to every Southern Baptist church. Messengers would cast their vote by mail. Harrison has made similar motions in previous conventions, and the motions were referred to the SBC Executive Committee.

Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, Tenn., was chairman of the Executive Committee subcommittee that considered Harrison's motion last year.

Sullivan said implementing the motion would create a "tremendous cost and logistic problem." He said voting by mail would violate the biblical principle to "gather the people together." Sullivan also noted voting by mail means messengers would "miss all the debate and lose the wisdom of the elders."

Harrison's motion was one of two motions discussed during the annual meeting. The other 49 motions made during the meeting were referred to SBC agencies and committees or ruled out or order.

The second motion considered was approved by messengers. It called for three minutes in the final session of the annual meeting to present the plan of salvation.

Messengers could make motions only during business sessions. The Committee on Order of Business considered each motion and recommended it for referral or action. Action taken on referred motions is included in the following year's Book of Reports.

The escalating cost of insurance resulted in five motions that were referred to the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. The motions called for an "opt out" for maternity coverage for people past child-bearing years, lower medical insurance co-payments, reduced insurance premiums for staff members at small churches, support for ministers' wives whose husbands divorce them and acquiring or forming a SBC insurance agency for all types of insurance.

A sixth motion referred to the Annuity Board called for the board to consider unemployment compensation for fired ministers and denominational employees.

Another motion referred to the Annuity Board called for the board to consider whether its president, Paul Powell, has a conflict of interest in also serving as chairman of the board of regents at Baylor University.

A related motion, asking a committee to study whether the Annuity Board can declare itself self-perpetuating and independent, was referred to the SBC Executive Committee.

Three motions were made concerning the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Messengers voted to remove all SBC funds from the BJCPA, but the motions were made before the result of the vote was announced.

--more--

The motions called for the SBC to "totally dissolve itself" from the BJCPA, to prohibit the BJCPA from having exhibit space at the SBC and to investigate any BJCPA funds that may be held by the Southern Baptist Foundation. The first two motions were referred to the SBC Executive Committee, and the third motion was referred to the foundation.

Motions referred to the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board include requests to move promotion day and quarterly literature distribution dates, to make January Bible Study material available during the convention's annual meeting, to include a place to report professions of faith as well as baptisms on the annual church letter and to offer a student discount at Baptist bookstores.

The majority of motions made were referred to the SBC Executive Committee. They include motions to:

- Require the parliamentarian for annual meetings be a Southern Baptist.
- Conduct a SBC image-building campaign.
- Provide pre-school activities during pre-convention meetings.
- List sites of future annual meetings in the Book of Reports.
- Create a family concerns division of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.
- Prohibit colleges, universities and seminaries not related to the SBC from having exhibit space during the annual meeting.
- Require SBC committee members, officers and board members be members of churches that give at least 5 percent of their undesignated funds to the Cooperative Program.
- Make more hotel space near annual meeting sites available to messengers.
- Change locations of meetings scheduled in Atlanta because of the high cost of renting Atlanta meeting facilities.
- Encourage churches that offer Christian day schools.
- Provide a recycling bin at annual meetings.
- Allow mission churches to send messengers to the annual meeting.

Two motions to move the reports of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission and Home Mission board's to more prominent places on the program also were referred to the Executive Committee.

Two motions were referred to Southern Baptist seminaries. One calls for all books removed from seminary libraries by seminary trustees to be donated to the Richmond Theological Seminary. The second promises freedom for professors to teach the historical facts of the canonization of the Bible.

A related motion to affirm the historical facts of the canonization of the Bible was referred to the SBC resolution committee.

A motion to study the pros and cons of disassociating from secular accreditation and moving to self-accreditation was referred to the Education Commission.

Three motions were referred to the Home Mission Board: to examine the length of time pastors in mission areas receive financial assistance, to establish and support crisis pregnancy centers and to study the doctrines of Freemasonry.

A motion to include the pledge of allegiance to the American flag and another motion to include pledges to the Bible and Christian flag during the annual meeting were referred to the committee on order of business. A motion to invite former President Jimmy Carter to speak during an annual meeting was also referred to the committee on order of business.

--more--

Motions concerning abortion and affirming the parliamentary were referred to the Resolutions Committee.

A motion for the SBC president to refrain from insulting people who disagree with him in his presidential address was ruled out of order because other rules already govern the conduct of the president.

A motion for Southern Baptists to refrain from calling themselves liberal, moderate or conservative was ruled out of order because it was in the form of a resolution and the time to introduce resolutions was over.

A motion for a study of abortion policies of Baptist hospitals was ruled out of order because no hospitals are entities of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Also ruled out of order was a motion calling for more advance notice about speakers on the Pastors' Conference program because the SBC has no control over pre-convention meetings.

A motion requiring a comprehensive report of the survey of messengers was ruled out of order because the survey results are printed in the annual report.

A motion that SBC agencies limit the compensation package for employees was ruled out of order because the SBC is not authorized to direct employment policies of SBC agencies.

Motions to hold the SBC annual meeting in Salt Lake City and to honor a man who has attended 50 consecutive annual meetings were called moot because messengers previously acted on the business.

--30--

WMU members gather
for annual meeting

By Joe Westbury & Scott Collins

NCO

Baptist Press
6/10/91

ATLANTA (BP)--More than 3,500 members of the Woman's Missionary Union elected a new president and recording secretary, approved a record budget and heard challenges for Southern Baptists to be true to their call to missions during the two-day 103rd annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention auxiliary.

Meeting in the Georgia World Congress Center June 2 and 3, members tapped Carolyn Miller of Huntsville, Ala., as president and Martha Wennerberg of DeFuniak Springs, Fla., as recording secretary.

In her annual report to the group, Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien charged WMU members to "pray as you have never prayed before for the heart of the SBC -- beg for his forgiveness, for his guidance and for his wisdom."

The missions education organization must risk calling the denomination "back to the unity of the missions challenge," she said.

The executive board reported a \$13,413,380 budget for 1991-92, a 6.6 percent increase from the current \$12.5 million budget.

Addressing the theme "Called To Missions," Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks told the crowd the call to missions "is a call to give ourselves, our substance and our prayers."

But Southern Baptists reflect a difficult task of fulfilling that calling when Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts drop \$835,000 from the previous year, as they did this year, he said.

Maurice Graham, missionary to Kuwait, told the attendees he owed his life to Southern Baptists. He was among a group of hostages in the Persian Gulf country who took refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City following the country's invasion by Iraq in early September.

--more--

"There were many days when I did not know if we would be safe for another 24 hours, but I knew Southern Baptists were praying for Laurie and our family," he said. "At the age of 16 when I made a commitment to missions, I was not fully aware of all it would mean, but I knew I must be faithful to that call."

In calling the denomination to mission, Graham challenged Southern Baptists to renew their call to sacrifice.

"Our theology in today's churches does not understand suffering as a part of a commitment to missions," he said. "Some of our churches may have to suffer a building program not being completed just now so that others may hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Being faithful to the call may require some WMU leaders going to their pastor and saying, 'We need to make missions the No. 1 priority in our church.'"

"When we have that commitment we will be true to our calling to share Christ with those who are waiting to hear.

Outgoing WMU President Marjorie McCullough urged members not to dwell on the success of the past at the expense of failing to claim the treasure of their future.

After spotlighting the gains of the five years of her presidency, she changed the tone to warn against becoming too satisfied with the proud past.

She then drew parallels between the organization's strength and that of Gulliver and the danger encountered when, exhausted from his shipwreck, he took a prolonged rest.

"While he went astray, shipwrecked, and then with relief, slept, the tiny midget people with tiny cords bound him to the ground," she said.

"Ladies, we all have minds of giants. We cannot be found sleeping away opportunities of today because we have had a peaceful and glorious past.

"Are we neglecting the challenges of today? Are we realizing the imperatives of the times in which we live? We could awaken soon to find ourselves prisoners of our own littleness, our little vision, little ideas, little hope."

Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis thanked WMU members for their partnership in home missions.

"Without faith in Jesus Christ, there is no hope," Lewis said. He noted the Home Mission Board is trying to bring that hope through the board's four emphases in evangelism, ministry, starting new churches and helping existing churches to grow.

Lewis thanked the members for their prayers and support of missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

--30--

New WMU president shares
ideas, dreams for future

By Erich Bridges

N-10

Baptist Press
6/10/91

ATLANTA, (BP)--The Woman's Missionary Union "will not deny a person or church or agency the privilege of giving to missions" even if the gift comes outside official denominational channels, President Carolyn D. Miller said Tuesday in a news conference at Georgia World Congress Center.

Miller, elected Monday to a one-year term as president of the 104-year-old organization, was responding to a reporter's question about whether the SBC Executive Committee was pressuring the WMU to "get in line."

--more--

Some prominent WMU leaders, including former executive director Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, have been identified publicly with moderate Southern Baptist groups advocating missions support outside the denomination's Cooperative Program.

WMU has never taken sides in the long SBC theological battle, Miller stressed, and continues to support the Cooperative Program and the denominational missions agencies. But it will not and should not prevent Southern Baptists from giving to missions as they choose, she explained.

But Miller said she could not answer another question about whether the WMU will support missionaries who may be sent out by moderate groups such as the new Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

It's a hypothetical question until the fellowship or another group actually appoints missionaries, she said. If it happens, the question of financial support is up to the WMU's executive board.

Miller, 53, of Huntsville, Ala., went on to outline her dream of involving far more young people and younger women -- particularly working women -- in missions education through local churches.

Eighty-five percent of American women will be working outside the home by the year 2000, she reported. "If we don't reach these working women, we will have lost a great deal of our women," she said.

The problem, she acknowledged, is time: working mothers don't have much of it. But "pockets of time" are there, she added, citing a group of mothers in her own church who wait 30 minutes or more for their children to finish choir practice and a group of nurses she had been told about who meet for Bible study at midnight after their hospital work shifts.

"We can find the pockets of time for people who really want to study missions," she said. "We need to make them want to study missions."

WMU will target older men and women who are not already involved in organized mission groups for missions education, Miller said.

WMU also needs to change its image, Miller stated, an image "that we just sit around and talk and drink ... drink coffee or lemonade," she quickly added to the sound of laughter.

Asked about the fall of the 1990 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering below the previous year's total -- the first such downturn in 53 years, Miller agreed the U.S. economy, the SBC theological division and the coming of the Persian Gulf war all may have contributed.

"But it's more than that," she said, noting Southern Baptist missions support survived the Depression and previous wars.

"I do hope we take some kind of action. We have to go back to our churches and let them know what is happening," she urged. "Missions education and giving are two sides of the same coin. We don't do one without the other."

--30--

Individuals meet with Bush
prior to his SBC speech

By Herb Hollinger

NCO

Baptist Press
6/10/91

ATLANTA (BP)--Thirty-two Southern Baptist Convention officials and their spouses met briefly June 6 with President George Bush prior to his message before they denomination's annual meeting at the Georgia World Congress Center.

They were selected for the meeting by convention President Morris Chapman and Executive Committee President Harold C. Bennett. The White House earlier had accepted the officials' request for a meeting with President Bush but limited the number who could be in the group.

--more--

The group posed for White House and Baptist Press photographers with the president, barely having time to exchange greetings. The whole process took about 20 minutes.

President Bush then was escorted separately by Secret Service officers to the platform for his message.

Those who met with the president included Morris and Jodi Chapman, Wichita Falls, Texas; Harold C. and Phyllis Bennett, Brentwood, Tenn.; Christopher M. Chapman, Wichita Falls, Texas; Eleanor Renee Sullivan, Wilmington, N.C.; Anthony and Stephanie Chapman Evans, Houston; John Elmer Francis, Memphis, Tenn.; Jerry and Janet Vines, Jacksonville, Fla.;

Adrian and Joyce Rogers, Memphis, Tenn., Danny and Rebecca Ann Watters, Douglasville, Ga., Douglas and Evelyn Knapp, Gainesville, Fla.; Fred and Lisabeth Lowery, Bossier City, La.; Donald and Sue Barnes Wills, Dallas; Richard and Rebecca Land, Franklin, Tenn.;

Ernest and Vivian Mosley, Franklin, Tenn.; Richard and Joann Rosenbaum, Franklin, Tenn.; Mark and Sharon Coppenger, Franklin, Tenn.; Herb and Mary Hollinger, Franklin, Tenn.; and Martha T. Gaddis, Hermitage, Tenn.

--30--

Williams discusses vision
for Brotherhood Commission

By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
6/10/91

ATLANTA (BP)--In a news conference hours after his election as Brotherhood Commission president, James Williams said he hopes to "bring the Brotherhood Commission to the denominational table."

After identifying several strengths of the Memphis-based organization, Williams said a weakness is that many Southern Baptists "don't see the Brotherhood Commission as having that much strength."

He conceded the missions agency for men and boys often is perceived as a stepchild among larger, more influential SBC entities.

"I'd like to help change that," he told reporters. "I want to work hard to see that everyone understands the purpose of the Brotherhood Commission. I want to work hard to give strong, very visible leadership in the convention."

The 56-year-old Illinois native was elected to the post unanimously June 5 during a called meeting of Brotherhood Commission trustees. Currently he is executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"I want the Brotherhood Commission to move forward, building strength upon strength," he said.

One of the strengths of the commission is its ability to respond to needs for volunteers quickly, Williams said.

"One of the things that attracted me to the Brotherhood Commission is volunteerism," he said. "I have been impressed that the Brotherhood Commission can turn around on a dime and respond to volunteer opportunities."

Williams said he is very impressed with the commission's staff but would anticipate some staff reorganization in the future. This would be accomplished in a timely fashion and in consultation with staff after determining long-term priorities, he explained.

In comparison to the large staff of the Sunday School Board, the Brotherhood Commission is "mean and lean," he noted. "The Brotherhood Commission is able to respond in a more timely way, and I want to build upon that."

Further, Williams said he was "attracted by the entrepreneurial spirit of the staff, trustees and state directors."

--more--

Citing an "explosion of mission opportunities around the world," Williams said he hopes to lead the commission into a prime position to respond with volunteers.

"Southern Baptists, when they know the challenge and opportunity, will respond," he said.

Williams suggested the Brotherhood Commission must increase its revenue and focus on new kinds of products.

"We want products to meet the needs of consumers," he said, noting he intends to begin a "careful study of materials like Awana and see what we can do to meet the needs of those folks who are being touched by those type materials."

Awana is a non-Southern Baptist program for children some SBC churches have adopted in place of Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union programs.

Williams said the commission will "continue to give support to Southern Baptist cooperative missions, to the Cooperative Program and to the two annual missions offerings.

"We will be in prayerful support of our elected Southern Baptist Convention leadership," he said. "We will continue to relate to and support all churches of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Williams said his life had been shaped by involvement in Royal Ambassadors as a child. It was at an RA camp in Illinois that he first heard God's call to full-time Christian ministry, he said.

He explained further involvement in missions education and action, most recently his participation in Scripture distribution in the Soviet Union.

--30--

Southern Baptist evangelists
meet during SBC activities

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
6/10/91

ATLANTA (BP)--W.A. Criswell, preaching to a gathering at the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, pleaded June 5 for a return to a heart-felt religion that results in many people receiving Jesus.

The sermon by Criswell, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, was among three at the meeting that was held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Criswell -- delivering a message, "The Old-time Religion," he first preached 40 years ago -- recalled the meetings of his early ministry. Those services in brush arbors and tabernacles were marked by shouts, tears and Bible-believing preachers, he said.

"I haven't heard someone shout in a church in years," Criswell said. "How we need a great outpouring of the spirit of God. I've never seen anything wrong with raising your hands, praising God, praising the Lord."

Criswell called on evangelists and pastors to preach "with all the fire ... of our lives. And if we do, God will give us souls. ..."

Rick Gage, an associate in Bailey Smith Ministries, said the bottom line for the church is "to win the lost at any cost."

"My friend, anything short of rescuing souls from hell -- you need to have your priorities examined," he said.

Gage, the son of Southern Baptist evangelist Freddie Gage denied it is now more difficult to bring lost persons to Christ.

--more--

"I believe with all my heart the greatest opportunity for Southern Baptists to reach this world for Jesus is right now," he said. "And we're finding everywhere we go that people today -- they're easier to reach for Christ than ever before.

"I believe the problem is that we're just not being obedient to what the Lord Jesus Christ told us to do when he gave us the marching orders for the church."

Walter Ayers, an evangelist for 35 years, shared how he came from a broken, non-Christian home but saw both his parents saved in meetings he conducted as an evangelist.

Steve Hale of Evansville, Ind., was elected as the group's president. Other officers include Perry Neal, Montgomery, Ala., vice president; Pat Roper, Greenville, S.C., music director; Larry McFadden, Orlando, Fla., assistant music director; Bob Kendig, Gatlinburg, Tenn., parliamentarian; and Jerry Spencer, Dothan, Ala., and Sam Cathey, Oklahoma City, pastor advisers. Ron Pledger, Commerce, Ga., will serve the final year of a two-year term as secretary/treasurer.

--30--

Cooperative Program gifts
up for month of May

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press
6/10/91

ATLANTA (BP)--Cooperative Program unified budget gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for the month of May increased by more than six percent over the same month last year, it was announced June 4.

The May gifts were \$12,415,289, compared to \$11,703,700 for May 1990 -- a \$711,588 increase or 6.08 percent. Eight months into the convention's budget year, Cooperative Program gifts totaled \$95,715,062. That is \$1,471,717 more than the comparable period last year and a 1.56 percent increase.

The 1990-91 basic budget need for the eight months is \$91,555,016.

Designated gifts for the month increased 40.91 percent over May of last year: \$19,608,602 compared to \$13,915,875. That also brought the eight-month total of designated gifts to nearly 4 percent ahead of the comparable period last year: \$107,083,976 compared to \$103,188,048.

Designated contributions include the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and world hunger gifts.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting ministry and missions through state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining money to the SBC Executive Committee for national and international ministries.

--30--

Lottie falls short at \$79.3 million;
impact may be felt in capital needs

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
6/10/91

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists' annual foreign missions offering has registered a drop for the first time in 53 years, but the more than \$79.3 million received may allow some expansion to continue in 1991.

What immediately could be affected are plans to fund capital needs for new construction, equipment and vehicles as the missions enterprise expands. But Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said Southern Baptists will not retrench in efforts to expand world missions.

If the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering had reached its \$86 million goal, it would have provided 47.06 percent of the board's \$182.7 million budget in 1991. The denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget was scheduled to provide 37.95 percent -- or \$69.3 million.

--more--

When the books closed on the 1990 Lottie Moon offering May Southern Baptists had sent \$79,358,610.87 to help finance foreign missions throughout the world. It was the second highest total since the offering began in 1888, topped only by last year's \$80 million total. But it was the first time in 53 years it failed to surpass giving from the previous year.

The Lottie Moon offering, generally collected by Southern Baptist congregations during December, is believed to be the largest single offering of its kind among Christians.

The Foreign Mission Board, the Southern Baptist agency responsible for missions work overseas, last fall increased its annual budget by 4.5 percent from 1990. It based the increase largely on the Lottie Moon goal of \$86 million, a 7 percent rise from the year before.

Depending on how the Foreign Mission Board decides to treat the shortfall, its effects on existing mission work could be limited. What could be more directly affected is spending for such things as new construction, equipment and vehicles missionaries use in their overseas ministries. The 1 percent downturn means of \$8.3 million in Lottie Moon funds earmarked for capital projects, only \$1.6 million actually will be available.

Lottie Moon giving growth has shown a fairly steady increase, even during recent periods of economic instability. As it has grown, it has financed an increasing portion of Southern Baptists' foreign missions effort.

Despite the downturn, Southern Baptists will continue expanding involvement in Eastern Europe and in areas of the Middle East and Soviet Union that, until recently, had been closed to Christian witness for centuries, Parks said.

"We're not retrenching," Parks said. "We will trust in the Lord ... and move ahead with faith and optimism." Fortunately, many overseas Baptist groups with which missionaries work are maturing and bearing increased financial responsibility in their nations, he added.

"But we must make a note of realism and acknowledge we're being hampered because our financial resources are not keeping pace," Parks said. "We truly regret that at this time our resources are not keeping up with the appointment of new missionaries and the opening of new opportunities ... and we pray Southern Baptists will rise to the challenge."

--30--

Ohio director
suffers stroke

By Joni Hannigan

Baptist Press
6/10/91

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Tal Bonham, executive director for the Ohio Baptist Convention, has been left paralyzed on the left side of his body after suffering a massive stroke May 20 caused by a blood clot on the right side of his brain.

Bonham, who turns 57 July 20, has been the executive director-treasurer in Ohio for 11 years. He previously was the evangelism director for the Oklahoma Baptist Convention.

Esther Lafferty, administrative secretary to Bonham said Bonham, hospitalized in Riverside Hospital in Columbus, was "doing better" and began therapy on June 6.

Although a prognosis was not available, Lafferty did report Bonham is "very bright" and said he knows everyone and asks about "the office and the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention" which concluded Thursday afternoon in Atlanta. He can communicate, she said, but his speech is "slurred."

"God's in the miracle business," Lafferty said. "We can only pray for his (Bonham's) speedy recovery."

Bonham has not been well for several years. He suffered a stroke in January of 1989 in Alabama where he was speaking, and has undergone two surgeries including a five-bypass surgery on his heart April 26 of this year.

Family members include his wife, Faye; four children; and one granddaughter.

--30--

Hall is named
HSU president

By Charles Richardson

N-10

ABILENE, Texas (BP)--Edwin L. "Lanny" Hall officially became president of Hardin-Simmons University June 1.

Hall succeeds Jesse C. Fletcher, president since November 1977, who became chancellor will continue as the Connally Professor of Missions.

Hall comes to HSU from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, where he has been president since January, 1989.

"Our family looks forward to becoming deeply involved in campus and community life as we begin our work here," Hall said. "Hardin-Simmons is a special place and we feel very blessed to return."

Hall will be the first layman to serve as president of HSU since the late Rupert N. Richardson, who was president from 1943-1953. Twelve men have been president, dating back to 1892.

The new president brings to the office a 20-year career in education and government. He was recommended from among three finalists by a 16-member presidential committee, headed by Seymour, Texas, trustee Gene Adams.

He was elected by members of the board of trustees on Feb. 22.

Both Hall and his wife, the former Carol Jean Bardin, are ex-students at HSU. He attended during the 1967-68 school year and she was a student on the Abilene campus, 1965-68.

Born in Fort Payne, Ala., Hall moved with his family to Fort Worth as a first grader. He is a 1967 graduate of Haltom High School.

He is also a graduate of North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas, Denton, with the bachelor of science degree in secondary education, with teaching fields in political science and history and the master of education degree in secondary education, with minors in political science and history.

He earned the doctor of philosophy degree in educational administration from the University of Texas in Austin.

Before taking the Wayland presidency, he was executive vice president and chief academic officer for Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, from 1986-1989.

Beginning in 1975, Hall entered 11 years of various federal and state government positions, including three years in Washington. He also served three terms in the Texas Legislature as a member of the House of Representatives beginning in 1978 from Tarrant County.

He and his wife have two children, Lane Carol, 14; and Chad Lanier, 10.

--30--

SWBTS, HSU sign
'covenant of correlation'

By Charles Richardson

N-10 Texas

Baptist Press
6/10/91

ABILENE, Texas (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, have signed "a covenant of correlation" agreement for advanced seminary standing for qualified university graduates.

The covenant is between the Logsdon School of Theology at HSU and the seminary's School of Theology.

--more--

While more than 30 Baptist colleges and universities throughout the nation have expressed interest in similar arrangements, the agreement between HSU and SWBTS "is the first to be formalized," according to Tommy Brisco, director of Advance Standing at the seminary.

The program allows up to 30 hours of correlation credit said Brisco.

The covenant states, "In recognizing the excellent academic preparation provided in our sister institutions, Hardin-Simmons University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary seek to build upon this foundation for the purpose of enhancing theological training at both schools. ... The purpose of this covenant is to establish a basis by which the curricula of the respective entities can be correlated to a degree mutually acceptable to each in order to secure advanced standing seminary status for qualified university graduates."

The agreement provides for the seminary's School of Theology to provide a prospectus from each department participating in the program and to grant credit (in part or full) to students who have met the requirements specified.

The Logsdon School of Theology at HSU covenants to correlate such courses that may be deemed appropriate with seminary departmental prospectuses.

Qualified students will submit projects (research papers or comparable materials) to the seminary departments for analysis and credit.

Officials from both the seminary and HSU hailed the agreement as a program "for better students" to achieve advanced standing at the seminary and thus reduce their time in studies.

Brisco, who is also associate professor of Biblical Backgrounds and Archaeology, as well as Director of Advanced Standing for correlation and examination, said, "It means we are going to try and develop processes by which the better students here at Hardin-Simmons can gain advanced standing by correlating our curriculum"

--30--

Presidential search committee
named for Wingate College

Baptist Press
6/10/91

WINGATE, N.C. (BP)--The board of trustees of Wingate College has selected representatives from a broad spectrum of the college family to constitute a Presidential Search Committee.

Trustee H. Clark Goodwin of Monroe has been named chairman of the nine-person committee which includes five representatives of the trustees, and one representative each from the faculty, student body, alumni and Wingate College Foundation.

Other members of the committee are: trustees C.C. Dickson Jr., Luther T. Moore, Bruce M. Simpson and Donald C. Taft; John B. Ashcraft Jr., member of the Wingate College Foundation; Robert D. Billinger Jr., member of the Wingate College faculty; Gary Ann Whisler, president of the Wingate College Student Government Association; and Elizabeth R. Goins, member of the Alumni Association.

"We have every confidence that the members of this committee will work in harmony to find the individual best suited to lead Wingate into its second century of service. The members of this committee have indicated both their willingness to sacrifice time and energy to this effort, and their desire to seek a new leader with vision to continue our pursuit of excellence," said Jack Lail, chairman of the board of trustees.

--30--

Texas Baptists try to reach
unchurched 'Streets of Laredo'

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
6/10/91

DALLAS (BP)--In an unprecedented effort, Texas Baptists are marshalling state missions resources to target the most unchurched city in the state -- Laredo.

--more--

"The 'Streets of Laredo' are among the most unchurched in America," said James Semple, director of the state missions commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"With a population of 130,000 souls, only about 10,000 are in any kind of church service on Sunday. Even more shocking than that is fewer than 600 are in attendance at the city's eight Southern Baptist congregations."

Through their gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions, Texas Baptists will help Frio River Baptist Association reverse that troubling statistic and reach Laredo for Christ, Semple said.

"Texas Baptists are committed to claim Laredo," he said. "The Mary Hill Davis Offering will aid in tripling the number of Texas Baptist churches in the '90s."

But it will be a challenge. Membership of Texas Baptist churches in Laredo is less than two percent of the total population. Even so, Southern Baptists are the largest non-Catholic denomination in the city.

This remains true even though Baptist churches in Laredo recorded a net growth of only three in 1980 to 1988, according to Jim Watson, director of missions, Frio River Baptist Association.

Laredo is a city poised for growth and for international outreach, Watson noted, adding it is one of the largest inland ports of entry into the United States. More than 15,000 loaded trucks cross the international bridges there each month. Within five years, that number is expected to be 4,000 per day.

Laredo is the most Hispanic city in the United States, with 98 percent of its population Hispanic. Although the city's population is expected to skyrocket within the next few years, the ethnic ratio is expected to stay roughly the same.

"We lack the real significant missions base to do what needs to be done in this area. We need expertise, we need financial resources, and we need pastors," said Watson.

Of course, he added, a major mission field lies just across the Rio Grande in Laredo's sister city where more than 600,000 people live and hundreds others come to work. But before Baptists in Laredo can reach out effectively, they must first strengthen their missions base.

"We need a strong Jerusalem from which we can launch out into Judea and Samaria," Watson said.

Recognizing the challenge of reaching this unchurched city, Frio River Association made "Target: Laredo" top priority in its strategic plan for the 1990s.

The association adopted as key goals:

- Establishing five new congregations and increasing the total membership of Texas Baptist churches in Laredo by 300 in the next five years;
- Adding a Laredo-based associate director of missions to the associational staff; and
- Establishing a Baptist student ministry on the campuses of Laredo State University and the adjacent junior college.

Texas Baptists will support the associational "Target: Laredo" goals through their gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions. The 1991 offering includes \$50,000 to provide missions personnel salary and services in Laredo and for church programming and land purchases.

Already, the association has hired Eliseo Vega as associate director of missions. Vega, a native of the area, first became involved in missions as junior high school boy, translating for visiting missions teams from upstate churches.

--more--

He later became regional health care coordinator for River Ministry.

The association also has started the nucleus of a student ministry at the local college campuses. It is seeking loan underwriting from upstate churches through the Texas Baptist Church Loan Corporation to allow a church in north central Laredo to buy the building in which it is meeting. And it is attempting to secure church sites throughout the rapidly growing northern section of the city.

Representatives from 13 upstate Texas Baptist Key Churches attended a missions tour of Laredo in February, and several expressed interest in providing prayer and financial support for "Target: Laredo."

"We know many of you feel you've been fighting the battle with short sticks for a long time," Elmin Howell, director of River Ministry, told Laredo-area pastors at a banquet held in conjunction with the Key Church meeting. "We're here today to join hands and hearts with you to really do something to make a difference in this city."

--30--

God brought student from Nepal
face-to-face with Christianity

By Nan Dickson

Baptist Press
6/10/91

BELTON, Texas (BP)--"The wildest thing is that God brought Satish Mishra thousands and thousands of miles to have an opportunity to be face to face with Christianity everyday," said John Loughlin, a graduating senior from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas.

Mishra, a seventeen-year-old freshman from Nepal, came to UMHB because a friend attended, and he thought a smaller school would care for students. When he arrived at UMHB he met many caring students, but particularly was befriended by John Loughlin.

"John would take me places and ask me if I feel homesick. This surprised me. It was like a brother's love. I asked him how he could be like this, and he told me it was because of Jesus," Mishra said.

Loughlin took Mishra to First Baptist Church of Belton where they attended the Sunday school class for international students taught by Paul and Eva Dyke.

"I wanted to learn about Christianity because it is not illegal here. I had an interest in Christianity since the first time I heard it taught as a philosophy in the seventh grade," Mishra said.

"Satish would come to my room and talk to my roommate and me for hours. He was interested in Christ and would ask to learn more," said Loughlin. "The Lord gave us the opportunity to really be friends."

Mishra transferred to another school in Michigan around Thanksgiving. During that time, he felt homesick for UMHB and began attending a Baptist church in Michigan.

"I was feeling alone in Michigan. I heard that if I accepted Jesus, I would never be alone again, and I knew I could get peace like John. After I accepted Jesus, everything seemed all right," Mishra said.

When Mishra told his uncle about his new-found faith in Christ, he was told it was not good for the family or for him and he would no longer be part of the family. Because his uncle was supporting him financially, Mishra was left totally on his own.

"I was disappointed but not afraid. I knew God was with me. I had heard that people died for Christianity so losing my family was nothing. I knew God had a plan for me," Mishra said.

Mishra soon found out he had a new family -- a family of believers in Jesus Christ. He called his Sunday school teacher, who put him in contact with Reed Harris, director of international studies at UMHB.

--more--

"I continue to study here because Mr. Harris wrote letters found financial support for me," Mishra said.

The university was able to help Satish through financial aid and the generosity of Jim and Carla Miller of First Baptist Church of Kennedy.

"One Sunday our pastor read a letter from Reed Harris. I knew I should get involved. I felt the Holy Spirit in this. After the service, I asked for a copy of the letter. My wife and I had a part in helping Satish with tuition. We also wrote him and offered to help him in any other way he might have need," said Miller.

"The First Baptist churches of Sinton, Salado, Kennedy and Belton also assisted Satish financially," said Harris.

"Pointing others to Christ and growing them in him is what this school offers. I have seen Satish grow this year. I can see Christ in his actions and the way he cares for people," said Loughlin.

"Satish decided to forsake his family for Christ. This should not be radical but normal. It has been fun to be a part of his life, getting to know him and seeing the growth."

Loughlin and Mishra met most mornings for breakfast and Bible study.

"Satish has become quite a student of the Bible, reading mostly from English translations because a Nepal Bible could not be found for him," said Loughlin.

Friends from Dallas Theological Seminary were able to locate a Nepali Bible through a furloughing missionary couple to Nepal. The missionary woman sent her own Bible to Mishra.

"God continues to provide for Satish, he will spend the summer with the Miller's in Kennedy," said Harris.

Mishra responded to the Miller's letter and asked them if he could work for them this summer and have a place to stay.

"Having Satish here is going to work out great. My kids love him. He fits in with the guys at my aircraft painting business, and he is a super individual. He is helping prepare planes for painting and cleaning up around the shop. The Lord has blessed us and we are excited to be able to help Satish," said Miller.

--30--

South Dallas church
crosses all barriers

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
6/10/91

DALLAS (BP)--George Mosier, pastor of Beckley Hills Baptist Church in Dallas, knows church growth experts say people want to congregate along racial, ethnic and socio-economic lines. But he insists it's not true for his congregation.

The composition of the multi-racial congregation in south Oak Cliff is roughly one-third each Anglo, Hispanic and black, including several racially mixed couples. A few Russian families also call the church their spiritual home.

"They said it couldn't be done," said Mosier. "But it's a happy mix."

The neighborhood around the church is well-integrated, and the church reflects the same racial and ethnic make-up, he notes.

"The black and Hispanic families especially seem to want to worship in a place that really practices 'in Christ there is no east or west,'" Mosier said.

"Any Anglos who resist that will just have to come around to viewing it that way. They live and work with blacks and Hispanics. It's time for them to get real and start worshipping with them."

--more--

Although most homes in the area have bars on the windows, and crime is of major concern to residents, Mosier regularly visits prospects in the neighborhood, knocking on doors a couple of days each week.

"The only time I've been frightened was when I was met by two maladjusted pit bulls at one home," Mosier said. "But generally, I'm welcomed right in. And if I visit 20 homes during the week, about five of those families will show up on Sunday morning.

"We're reaching a lot of young black men. It's important that they be given back their dignity. We try to tell them, 'Here's a place where you can be a winner. You can assume spiritual leadership in your home.'"

Mosier is quick to admit the church has been through rough times. Thirty years ago, it was an upper middle-income, Anglo congregation averaging several hundred in Sunday school attendance. But as the community surrounding the church changed, members moved away, and Beckley Hills eventually reverted to mission status just to survive.

When Mosier accepted the pastorate, Beckley Hills was down to an average of 25 in Sunday school attendance. In the last year, the church has begun a slow but steady resurgence, averaging about 60 in Sunday school and close to 200 in worship.

On July 14, the church will celebrate its 44th anniversary, but only a handful of long-time members remain. According to Mosier, 98 percent of the congregation has been at the church five years or less, the average age is 25 and finances are a problem.

"We're aware that 90 percent of those we reach won't be able to give significant help to the church financially," Mosier said.

Currently, he is asking sister churches in Dallas Baptist Association to let Beckley Hills "borrow" young couples on a short-term basis to strengthen the congregation's financial and leadership base.

Meanwhile, the church is trying to minister in its community, offering counsel to families affected by wide-spread drug use in the neighborhood and by unemployment, as well as offering a caring fellowship to persons going through hard times.

"People who've been hurt like the feeling they get when they come to Beckley Hills," Mosier said. "These people have been through it, and they have a real compassion. They go out of their way to be welcoming and caring."