



**(BP)**

**-- BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE:  
SBC Executive Committee:  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Herb Hollinger, Vice President:  
Fax (615) 742-8910  
CompuServe ID# 70420.1

**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

August 3, 1992

92-122

EDITORS' NOTE: Baptist Press today inaugurates a new index of its daily releases.

KENTUCKY -- Seminary trustee's abortion message takes aim at professor & candidate.  
GLORIETA, N.M. -- SBC leaders field questions during Jericho town meeting.  
GLORIETA, N.M. -- Even country and western music has a role in home missions.  
ALBUQUERQUE -- Southern Baptists report gains in largest cities.  
ORLANDO -- Romo cited for contributions to SBC work with Hispanics.  
PENNSYLVANIA -- Penn-Jersey search committee seeking resumes of candidates.

Seminary trustee's abortion message  
takes aim at professor & candidate

Baptist Press  
8/3/92

By Mark Wingfield & Marc Whitt

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)--Compromising preachers, conspiring politicians and complacent people are to blame for the "holocaust" of abortion, according to an Arkansas Baptist leader who preached in Kentucky July 27.

David Miller, director of missions for Little River Baptist Association in Heber Springs, Ark., was the keynote speaker for a "pro-life rally" at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington. More than 800 people heard his 45-minute message at the church which is not affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Miller specifically took to task Southern Baptist Theological Seminary -- the Southern Baptist school where he serves as a trustee.

"It grieves me to tears that our oldest and dearest seminary in the Southern Baptist Convention does not take a (position) on abortion," he said. "Dr. Paul Simmons of Southern Seminary is speaking on behalf of the pro-choice stance of the Bible in his ethics class. Please pray for us on the board that he can find another place to teach."

Simmons, professor of Christian ethics, has faced opposition from conservative trustees because of his support of abortion rights. However, trustees have not been able to act quickly to remove him, primarily because he is a tenured professor.

In April 1990, Southern's trustees passed a resolution opposing abortion except when the life of the mother is endangered. Miller proposed the resolution, which also encouraged faculty and staff to hold a similar viewpoint and called abortion "the greatest moral issue faced by Christians today."

Speaking last week, Miller said the argument in favor of abortion that scares him most is that a fetus "should be aborted if it is found to be handicapped or mentally deficient."

Referring to his own physical disability that confines him to a wheelchair, Miller said, "I'm glad my mother was not dependent upon Dr. Paul Simmons' ethics class at Southern Seminary."

Contacted for a response, Simmons said: "I defend David Miller's right to believe and express what he will about abortion. I wish he would grant me and others who disagree with him the same respect.

--more--

"It would also be nice if he would understand my views more precisely and represent them more accurately," Simmons added. "I do not recommend abortions to women for any reason but I do support those women and couples who decide to terminate a pregnancy rather than bring children with serious anomalies into the world.

"Miller is aware of the fact that I teach according to the seminary's Abstract of Principles and fulfill my contractual obligations," he concluded.

In addition to Simmons, Miller criticized other "compromising preachers" afraid to speak out against abortion.

"There was a time when pulpits shook with moral-valued preachers," he explained. "Those times are long gone. Today, pulpits are now silent because preachers are to remember the separation of church and state. Preachers who would like to speak out are afraid because they might have their tax-exempt status with the IRS removed.

"It would be better to lose that status than to lose status with God," Miller said. However, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission said preaching against abortion could not endanger a church's tax-exempt status. The IRS has warned churches not to endorse political candidates but has not prohibited churches from speaking on moral issues, said CLC staffer Louis Moore.

Miller described abortion as "meanness, madness and murder."

He condemned public schools for promoting "safe sex" rather than abstinence. "Most of our local schools won't hand out aspirin to students without the consent of the parents," he added. "Why, then, can these same children have an abortion without that consent?"

Miller also criticized the governor of his own state, Bill Clinton, a fellow Southern Baptist who is the Democratic nominee for U.S. president.

"Bill Clinton of the great state of Arkansas denied for 10 years he was ever with the pro-choice crowd," Miller charged. "Now, Bill Clinton is stumping on the pro-choice bandwagon. Conspiring politicians are with the meanness of abortion."

Finally, Miller said "complacent people" are to blame for the ready availability of abortion in America.

"These people have the attitude, 'It does not affect me. I'm only one person.' I tell you tonight that complacency is killing our democracy," he said.

At the conclusion of his message, Miller called on Southern Baptists to pray for and minister to people contemplating abortion: "We should throw up our arms to these women who are pregnant and love them and show them the way of the Lord. We can go further. We can provide medical centers and godly parents."

--30--

Wingfield is news director of the Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist newsjournal; Whitt is one of the paper's correspondents.

SBC leaders field questions  
during Jericho town meeting

By Karen Benson

Baptist Press  
8/3/92

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--During an hour-long "town hall meeting" Aug. 2, about 150 participants of "Jericho '92 -- A Southern Baptist Missions Festival" heard leaders of five Southern Baptist entities field questions ranging from the agencies' efforts to settle strife in the convention, to the discrepancy between missionaries' salaries and denominational employees' salaries, to the Brotherhood Commission's plans to involve more men in missions.

--more--

Fielding questions were: Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union; R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; James Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission; and Baptist Sunday School Board staff member Tommy Dixon, who was representing Jimmy Draper, president.

The agency leaders were asked about any plans or strategies to "reach out to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship" and bring the CBF and the rest of the Southern Baptist Convention together.

"I've had some meetings with the leaders, myself," Lewis said. Also, "Our MissionsUSA magazine goes to all the churches, regardless of their affiliation," Lewis said. "I don't know of any way we discriminate against those (CBF) churches."

Out of a recent meeting between representatives of the Foreign Mission Board trustees and WMU executive board members came the request that FMB leaders meet with CBF leaders, Parks reported. The FMB trustee chairman is trying to arrange such a meeting, he reported. "We try to work with all Southern Baptist churches," Parks said.

"I would pray that somehow there could be a coming together," Williams said of the tension between the two camps within Southern Baptist life. "I'm convinced 85 percent of those in the CBF want a reason to come back home."

O'Brien agreed that efforts by both sides to reach out to the other is needed. "We, like you, would be very happy if we could heal the divisiveness in our convention," she said. "We will pray toward that end."

The missions leaders also were questioned about recent reports of high salaries of denominational leaders, while "some of our missionaries have barely enough to get by."

"We would all wish that all missionary salaries would increase," Lewis responded. "But the truth is we're having to rely heavily on bivocational." Much of the home missions enterprise is being carried out by bivocational workers and Mission Service Corps volunteers, he said.

"Thank God that he's raising up these people," Lewis said. "Let's pray that more and more funding will come."

As to the salaries of agency personnel, he said, "The truth is, in our agency, when we call anyone to a position, we're asking them to take a pay cut. We are way under what is generally considered to be market value."

Brotherhood is addressing the need to involve more men in missions involvement, study and prayer, Williams reported.

"The days of our Baptist Men getting together to meet, eat, burp and go home is long past," Williams declared. The Brotherhood Commission staff already is at work on plans to draw more men into "evocative missions experiences" that are undergirded with more men studying about and praying for missions, he said.

The Brotherhood must work on its image, its curriculum and, in short, "tell our story again brand new," Williams said.

Even country and western music  
has a role in home missions

By Sarah Zimmerman

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Residents of multi-housing units, people in prison and fans of country and western music were just some of the groups identified as mission fields during home missions week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Two conferences were designed for people ministering in multi-housing units, such as apartments, high rises and condominiums. Thirty percent of the nation's population lives in multi-housing -- and as many as 75 percent in some cities, said David Bunch, Home Mission Board assistant vice president for strategy development.

However, only 2 percent of people living in multi-housing are involved in any kind of religion compared to 50 percent of people in single-family dwellings, Bunch added.

Larry Lewis, HMB president, urged members of the Southern Baptist Multihousing Association to "go out where the people are and put a ministry in their midst." He challenged them to "establish a functioning, ministering body of Christ anywhere and everywhere the people are."

Prisons are another place of concentrated population.---The United States' prison population is growing five times faster than the nation's population, said home missionary Bill Howse. He said the country's prison population doubled from 1970 to 1982 and will double again from 1982 to this year.

Participants in a seminar Howse led discussed the need for comprehensive prison ministries that begin when a person is arrested and include outreach to his family and follow-up with a prisoner when he is released.

In a conference on innovative churches, John Worcester described how new churches reach people who have "consistently said, 'No thank you,' to existing churches."

Contemporary music is a hallmark of innovative churches, said Worcester, pastor of Mount Tam and Bay Marin churches in San Rafael, Calif. He said a new approach Southern Baptists should consider is churches which use mostly country and western music. He noted that country and western music is gaining favor around the country, even in places not typically associated with the style of music.

The Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf also met during home missions week at Glorieta. James Gregory, conference president and layman from Knoxville, Tenn., said the group focused its attention on being part of the family of God during its training sessions and worship services.

Members of the deaf conference are becoming involved in worldwide outreach efforts in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board. They have worked in Romania and Russia and are planning a mission trip to the Dominican Republic this month.

The deaf conference included special programs for youth and the Association of Southern Baptist Interpreters of the Deaf.

Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., preached from the parables of Jesus during each evening service.

From the parable of the man who hired workers for his vineyard at different times of the day but paid them all the same wages, Jackson asked, "What's in this for me?"

Christians are in danger of "a religious expression where rewards are expected rather than a life where service is offered," Jackson said. He said Christians should serve God because they love him, not for any other motivation.

Southern Baptists report  
gains in largest cities

By Sarah Zimmerman

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--Southern Baptists are making progress in the nation's largest cities, according to a report by the Home Mission Board research division.

The report shows that from 1981 to 1991, associations in 44 metropolitan areas outpaced the rest of the Southern Baptist Convention in new churches, membership, baptisms, Sunday school enrollment and attendance and Woman's Missionary Union enrollment.

The report was presented in Albuquerque during the annual update of Mega Focus Cities, a strategy shared by five Southern Baptist organizations. Mega focus cities are 44 metropolitan areas expected to have at least 1 million residents by the year 2000. They are represented by 69 Baptist associations.

The associations are home to 118 million people, or 47 percent of the U.S. population, said Clay Price, director of the HMB research department.

Yet these associations have fewer Southern Baptist churches per residents than the rest of the country. Nationwide, there are 6,507 people for every Southern Baptist church. In these associations, there are 27,508 people for every Southern Baptist church, according to the report.

The percentage of unchurched residents in the mega focus associations is 44 percent, compared with a national average of 45 percent. But 11 of the mega focus associations report an unchurched population of more than 60 percent.

The report represents the fastest growing areas of the country, such as eight associations in Southern California which gained 3 million people -- the equivalent of the residents of Oklahoma -- in 10 years, Clay said.

During the update meeting, leaders of the SBC groups which work with mega focus cities signed a resolution to "prioritize our resources to reach the people of these great metropolitan areas with the saving message of Jesus Christ our Lord."

Signing the resolution were Larry Lewis, HMB president; James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president; Dellanna O'Brien, Woman's Mission Union executive director; James Draper, Baptist Sunday School Board president; and A.R. Fagan, Stewardship Commission president.

The mega focus strategy involves working with associational leaders to develop a grass roots ministry. Lewis and Draper both praised the strategy for giving associations ownership of the program.

Lewis and Draper also noted the mega focus process gives the convention organizations a chance to model cooperation and eliminate duplication.

The following statistics compare Southern Baptist Convention growth from 1981 to 1991 with growth in the mega focus cities and other associations:

Churches: SBC, 5.9 percent; mega focus cities, 14.6 percent; other associations, 4.9 percent.

Total members: SBC, 10.5 percent; mega focus cities, 15 percent; other associations, 9.6 percent.

Resident members: SBC, 8.5 percent; mega focus cities, 9 percent; other associations, 8.3 percent.

--more--

Baptisms: SBC, 2.2 percent decrease; mega focus cities, 2.2 percent increase; other associations, 3.3 percent decrease.

Sunday school enrollment: SBC, 8.7 percent; mega focus cities, 14.7 percent; other associations, 7.5 percent.

Sunday school average attendance: SBC, 2.3 percent; mega focus cities, 10.2 percent; other associations, 0.8 percent.

WMU enrollment: SBC, 7.7 percent; Mega focus cities, 8 percent; other associations, 7.7 percent.

Brotherhood enrollment and giving were the only areas where the convention statistics were ahead of mega focus cities.

Brotherhood enrollment over the 10 years increased by 17.3 percent in the convention, 14.5 percent in mega focus cities and 17.8 percent in other associations.

Financial comparisons include:

Total receipts: SBC, 80.3 percent; mega focus cities, 79.6 percent; other associations, 80.5 percent.

Cooperative Program: SBC, 58.6 percent; mega focus cities, 51.5 percent; other associations, 60 percent.

Total mission expenditures: SBC, 65.9 percent; mega focus cities, 63.1 percent; other associations, 66.5 percent.

The 44 metropolitan areas included in mega focus cities are Seattle; Portland, Ore.; the California cities of Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego; Phoenix, Ariz.; Salt Lake City; Denver; Kansas City, Mo.; Oklahoma City; New Orleans; the Texas cities of Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston; Memphis and Nashville, Tenn.; Atlanta; Charlotte, N.C.; Greensboro, N.C.; the Florida cities of Orlando, Tampa-Saint Petersburg, West Palm Beach and Miami-Fort Lauderdale; St. Louis; Chicago; Minneapolis-St. Paul; Milwaukee, Wis.; Detroit; Indianapolis; the Ohio cities of Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati; Pittsburgh; Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y.; Boston; Providence-Hartford, Conn.; New York City; Philadelphia; Baltimore; Washington; and Norfolk, Va.

Five metro areas were originally part of the mega focus cities process but are no longer included because they are losing population and not expected to have 1 million residents by 2000. They include Birmingham, Ala.; Dayton, Ohio; Honolulu; Louisville, Ky.; and Vancouver, British Columbia.

--30--

Romo cited for contributions  
to SBC work with Hispanics

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press  
8/3/92

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)--Ethnic groups now are a significant element of Southern Baptist life when, 40 years ago, Southern Baptists believed language work belonged to someone else, Oscar Romo said after being honored as Southern Baptist Hispanic Statesman of the Decade.

Romo, director of the language church extension division of the Home Mission Board, said he never dreamed "we could have had this kind of reception in the convention."

Romo's contributions to Southern Baptist ethnic work were noted by a parade of Southern Baptist agency leaders and their representatives who paid tribute to him during the Conference of Southern Baptist Hispanic Pastors' meeting in Orlando, Fla., Aug. 2.

--more--

Romo was named as Hispanic Statesman by the conference that was a celebration of the 500th anniversary of Hispanic influence in America.

The Hispanic meeting preceded the National Language Church Development Conference sponsored by the special ministries department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board at the Hyatt Orlando Convention Center, Aug. 3-6.

Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. presented Romo a Spanish-language Bible, noting Romo's involvement is a tribute to "the contributions of Hispanics in the convention in the past 111 years."

Much of the growth of Southern Baptist ethnic work is related to the vision and involvement of Romo, Harold Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee, said in a letter read to the group by Ernest Mosley, executive vice president of the committee.

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, said in a letter a quiet revolution has occurred in the convention during the past 25-30 years as the denomination has changed from a regional, Anglo denomination to a multi-cultural, multi-language and national organization. The letter was read by Charles Chaney, HMB vice president for extension.

Romo has been associated with the HMB for more than 43 years as a military chaplain, missionary and pastor. In 1956, he began directing language work in Texas and was funded by the Home Mission Board. He moved to the HMB in Atlanta in 1965 and became director of language work there in 1970.

Ethnic work in the Southern Baptist Convention has grown 161 percent in the past decade, according to a recent survey, Romo said. Hispanic work in the convention has grown 54 percent.

The "phenomenal growth has been much more than we could have expected because God has done it," Romo said.

There are more than 6,000 ethnic congregations in the Southern Baptist Convention. More than 2,600 of those are Hispanic congregations, Romo said.

Home Mission Board goals call for 20,000 ethnic congregations by the end of the decade with an additional 5,000 Hispanic congregations.

Those goals are supported by ethnic organizations such as the Hispanic Pastors' Conference, Romo said.

--30--

Penn-Jersey search committee  
seeking resumes of candidates

Baptist Press  
8/3/92

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)--The executive director search committee for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey has announced a Sept. 23 deadline for receiving resumes of prospective nominees.

The position became vacant when Wallace Williams resigned to join the faculty of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala. Williams had led the state convention five years.

According to search committee chairman Chuck Teague, the committee is asking each resume be accompanied with a cover letter specifying reasons for the person's nomination.

Resumes with cover letters should be mailed to Search Committee, 4620 Fritchey St., Harrisburg, PA 17109.

--more--

8/3/92

Page 8

Baptist Press

The search committee also is conducting an in-state survey of Baptists for input. The Penn-Jersey convention, organized in 1970, has 204 churches and missions with some 25,000 members.

--30--

---

EDITORS' NOTE: Europe correspondent Mike Creswell is in Barcelona covering Baptist ministries at the Olympics. He will file a roundup story either Aug. 5 or 6 and it will be posted that day. However, photos will not be available for release until next week.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

---

Baptist Press is available on

**CompuServe**

For more information contact David Haywood  
at CompuServe ID 70007,5000 or phone 615-251-2895