

(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) 742-8919
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

September 23, 1992

92-156

NASHVILLE -- Executive Committee inaugurates Morris Chapman, OKs key studies.
NASHVILLE -- Agencies ask \$8 million more of SBC Cooperative Program.
NASHVILLE -- Harold C. Bennett assures SBC of his commitment, prayer; with photo.
NASHVILLE -- Morris Chapman inaugurated as SBC Executive Committee leader; with photo.
NASHVILLE -- Draper fields BSSB questions in Baptist editors' briefing.
FLORIDA -- Baptist chaplain offers aid to south Florida troops; with photo.
FLORIDA -- Commander 'can count on' Southern Baptist response.
GERMANY -- Help quell violence, German churches urged.
MARYLAND -- Editor, pastor receive religious liberty awards.
MISSOURI -- Southwest Baptist University dismisses three more employees.

Executive Committee inaugurates
Morris Chapman, OKs key studies

Baptist Press
9/23/92

By Art Toalston and Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE (BP)--In a new era of leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention, the SBC Executive Committee inaugurated Morris Chapman as its president-treasurer during sessions Sept. 21-23 in Nashville

That new era will be shaped by at least two studies the Executive Committee endorsed. One study, initiated by new SBC President Ed Young, will take a sweeping look at SBC foreign and home evangelistic outreach, theology, structure and funding as the convention approaches its 150th year in 1995.

And Executive Committee members authorized Chapman to conduct a study to determine the need for a new national publication.

Chapman, one of seven conservatives elected as SBC president since 1979, succeeds Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president-treasurer since that same year.

In his retirement dinner, Bennett voiced strong affirmation for the SBC: "I respect the convention. I have committed my life to the convention. And I assure you here tonight that I stand by our convention. I believe with all my heart God is not through with Southern Baptists and God is going to bless the work of our convention in the years yet ahead."

Chapman, in his inauguration service, acknowledged the Executive Committee at times must make tough decisions but pledged to "always seek the highest good for the convention it serves. We will seek always to honor the name of our dear Lord Jesus.

"Truth and trust are the foundations to the integrity of the Executive Committee and its very existence," Chapman said, promising to "seek to earn and maintain the confidence of the Southern Baptist family."

In his first address to the Executive Committee as SBC president, Young said, "I have not and never will be a status-quo kind of guy," then outlined plans for a national task force to "examine where we have been, where we are and where we need to be."

--more--

He announced 18 co-chairmen who will lead nine special study groups and then as a task force to make suggestions and recommendations to the denomination. Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. will serve as overall chairman of the study.

Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, acknowledged the sweeping study "is fraught with risks but filled with faith." SBC agencies need to "forget about turf, forget about politics We need to dream again the dream God has laid on us as Southern Baptists."

Young noted no funds have been allocated for the committee and that "every person will be on their own financially."

Executive Committee members voted unanimously to affirm Young's plan.

Young also called for a change in how Southern Baptists "do business" at their annual sessions, citing problems in obtaining quorums for the night sessions and the last day.

He urged representatives of SBC boards, agencies and institutions to "get out of the reporting methodology of the 1950s" and "make these sessions thrilling for God" by finding a better, more creative way of presenting "a dynamic look at what God is doing" through the SBC.

The study of a possible national publication developed from a motion at the SBC meeting in Indianapolis for a monthly publication primarily of Baptist Press releases. The Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee determined to study the possibility of a national publication with a broader scope of information than only news, Chapman told Baptist Press.

All options would be considered, Chapman said, including a subscriber-based circulation.

He said he did not view the proposed publication as being in competition with state Baptist papers. "I do not see it as competitive with any periodical in Southern Baptist life. That would not be the purpose of it."

The Executive Committee voted down a recommendation from the administrative subcommittee to study the agenda, purpose and character of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and evaluate its effect on the programs, ministry and general welfare of the Southern Baptist Convention. The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptist "moderates" who have been dissatisfied with the direction of the SBC.

The recommendation was simply a request to study the CBF, said North Carolina layman Bill Horton who offered the motion. "It does not call for a declaration of war on the CBF although a state of civil war has been thrust upon us," he said.

Horton said the Executive Committee must face up to the challenge presented by the CBF. He cited Texas, North Carolina and Virginia as states where the CBF has made strides. As a result CP giving in these states has decreased by more than \$2 million, he said.

"The SBC is being viciously attacked and is wounded and bleeding, but with God's help we can make a normal recovery and be stronger than ever," he said.

James Morton of California spoke against the recommendation. "If we make the study, what would we accomplish?" he asked.

Bill Harrell of Georgia agreed, noting, "It is time to go on, do our business, attack the job at hand and let others do what they want."

--more--

New Executive Committee President-Treasurer Morris Chapman, when asked to respond, said that "in ur polity" those with an opposite view have a right to exist. "I hope we spend our time leading those churches with that spirit of cooperation," he said.

The recommendation failed by a voice vote.

--30--

Agencies ask \$8 million more
of SBC Cooperative Program

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
9/23/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists' Foreign and Home mission boards and 17 other convention-related entities have requested \$8 million more from the Cooperative Program to do missions and ministry during the 1993-94 budget year.

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention's boards, commissions and institutions presented Cooperative Program allocation requests during the Executive Committee's Sept. 21-23 meeting in Nashville.

The agencies requested a total of \$148,202,053, up 5.7 percent or \$8 million over the current SBC Cooperative Program budget.

Final deliberations over the 1993-94 Cooperative Program budget recommendation to the 1993 SBC meeting in Houston will come during the Executive Committee's upcoming February meeting.

The largest requested increases were from the Christian Life Commission, 29-plus percent; Radio and Television Commission, 13 percent; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 12 percent; Historical Commission, 11.8 percent; and Brotherhood Commission, 10 percent. Other percentage increases ranged from 1 percent to 8 percent.

In another Cooperative Program matter, Executive Committee members approved a Dec. 2-3 meeting of key staff with state Baptist convention executive directors and Stewardship Commission staff for "discovering and developing understandings and relationships that will enhance the future effectiveness of the Cooperative Program."

Six regional Cooperative Program dialogue sessions were held earlier this year to discuss concerns among Southern Baptists for the convention's unified fund for national and international missions and ministry.

In other business, concerns over New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's new baccalaureate program were assigned to the presidents of the six SBC seminaries for a recommendation during the Executive Committee's meeting in February.

More than 50 students have enrolled at the seminary to pursue the baccalaureate degree, which has been criticized by a number of state Baptist colleges and universities as violating convention-assigned programs of SBC seminaries.

In discussing the matter, various members of the administrative subcommittee said a larger study is needed of the overall direction in theological education at the seminaries.

Addressing a motion from the 1992 SBC in Indianapolis that the Executive Committee charge the Woman's Missionary Union for its meeting hall expenses, the Executive Committee opted to maintain its long-standing practice of providing the space at no charge.

At the same time, the committee instructed its staff to study the present policy of paying a portion of the cost of the Pastor's Conference meeting space.

--more--

According to figures compiled by Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr., Executive Committee vice president for business and finance, the committee paid \$169,945 to help underwrite Pastor's Conference costs from 1988-92 while WMU costs totaled \$20,000.

In other business, the Executive Committee:

-- approved a three-year phased return to the enrollment-driven funding formula in place for the SBC's six seminaries in the 1989-90 budget year. A revised funding plan was adopted at the time to aid Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary weather declining enrollment after controversy from Randall Lolley's resignation as president and the transition to a new president. The return to the enrollment-driven formula will be complete with the 1995-96 budget year.

-- approved three additional years of \$200,000 special allocations to Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., for faculty-staff housing supplements due to the San Francisco area's high cost of living. The action is contingent, however, on the creation of a \$3.2 million endowment fund for housing supplements. Golden Gate will use funds received in the sale of some of its property to match the Executive Committee's original five-year (\$200,000 each year) commitment and the added three years to run through the 1996-97 budget year.

-- approved a recommendation to the 1993 SBC of program statement revisions for the Home Mission Board to include ministries with disabled persons as part of its social ministries assignment (a recommendation originating with the Southern Baptist Conference of the Blind) and for the Education Commission and Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, which involved changes in format rather than assignment.

-- affirmed plans by the SBC Sesquicentennial Committee to join in a Historical Commission-sponsored commemoration of the SBC's 150th year May 8-10, 1995, in Augusta, Ga. The Executive Committee voted to recommend to the 1993 SBC in Houston to rescind plans for special commemorative events in connection with the June 1995 SBC meeting in Atlanta.

-- declined action on a motion referred from the 1992 SBC meeting in Indianapolis for a special three-year offering the week of July 4th for evangelizing former communist countries. The Executive Committee urged giving for such efforts to be channeled through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and encouraged Foreign Mission Board trustees again to designate all receipts above this year's goal for sharing the gospel in the former Iron Curtain.

-- declined action on a motion referred from the 1992 SBC to establish a minimum in a church's Cooperative Program giving to qualify for messengers to the annual meeting. The Executive Committee response said it has "studied several times the matter ... and declines again" to recommend an amendment to the SBC constitution or bylaws.

-- responded to motions referred from the 1992 SBC to limit salaries and severance benefits for SBC employees by noting it is "sensitive to the issue (and) assures the Convention that the Executive Committee will strive to provide appropriate stewardship leadership."

-- named to vacancies on the SBC Committee on Nominations John Harrison, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Lansing, Mich.; Bob Call, member of Forest Park Baptist Church in Farmington Hills, Mich.; and Phyllis Ramsey, member of Temple Hills (Md.) Baptist Church. They replace John O. Gilbert and Gordon McDougall, both of Michigan, and Rose Mary French of Maryland who were approved by the SBC in June but are unable to serve.

-- declined action on motions referred from the 1992 SBC for the SBC to devise a method for Southern Baptists across the country to vote on issues before the convention, because "it is not practicable," and to fund Metro Sunday School Enrollment Training clinics in every SBC church.

Harold C. Bennett assures SBC
of his commitment, prayer

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP)--Parallel to his "U.S.A." patriotism, Harold C. Bennett said, "is the Southern Baptist Convention. My denomination.

"I live for it," Bennett told a banquet tribute to his 13-plus years as president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

"I respect the convention. I have committed my life to the convention," the retiring SBC leader said. "And I assure you here tonight that I stand by our convention.

"I believe with all my heart God is not through with Southern Baptists and God is going to bless the work of our convention in the years yet ahead. And I look forward to praying for the convention."

To his successor, Morris Chapman, Bennett added: "I have promised you that I will pray for you and Jodi (Chapman's wife). And God bless you as you take leadership of a grand and wonderful denomination."

The Sept. 21 retirement dinner, attended by more than 500 people at Nashville's Stouffer Hotel, included testimonials to Bennett and his wife, Phyllis, from sons Jeffrey and Scott; daughter Cynthia Bennett Howard, a Southern Baptist missionary, via video from Swaziland in southern Africa; and numerous familiar names in Southern Baptist life.

"We've been through a lot," youngest son Scott told his parents, referring to -- but not elaborating on -- his growing-up years. Now, having come "full circle," he said he is grateful for a mother and father "who never once turned their back on me."

The son, now professor of organ and German at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., added he has never seen his dad "turn his back on Southern Baptists."

Paying tribute to her mother, Cynthia Howard, said, "I have seen you love and support Dad in all of his endeavors. ... You have always made our house a special home."

Words chosen by fellow Baptists to describe Bennett's traits included integrity, honesty, faithfulness, Christ-likeness, humility, fairness, graciousness, good judgment, consistency and patience.

"The twinkle is still in his eye," added James Griffith, retiring executive director-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

H. Franklin Paschall, a member of the search committee that nominated Bennett for his position in 1979, recounted, "We wanted a man of impeccable character. ... We wanted in this person one who knows and loves Southern Baptists."

Paschall, a former SBC president and former pastor of Nashville's First Baptist Church, credited Bennett with "fulfilling every dream and surpassing every expectation we had."

"Harold has known Jesus Christ and lived under his lordship," said Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"He is the kind of Christian you and I can stake our lives on," said William Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and former president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

--more--

Retirement gestures to Bennett included a new Lincoln Town Car, with the Executive Committee still receiving donations for its purchase; a plaque to be placed outside the SBC Building's auditorium "in recognition of the vision and inter-agency leadership" he gave in a seven-floor building opened in 1985 to house the Executive Committee and six other key SBC entities; letters of commendation from President George Bush and former President Jimmy Carter; and a book of some 300 letters from friends across the SBC.

State Baptist conventions added various gifts, such as two rocking chairs and a book autographed by noted southern writer Eudora Welty from Mississippi Baptists; two passes to Disney World from Florida Baptists; \$150 in shredded money from Baptists in Washington; a "Field of Dreams" video from Iowa where the popular film was shot; and an 1884 silver dollar from Nevada Baptists of silver mined and minted in the state.

Bennett, before taking the Executive Committee post in 1979, had been executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention since 1967; director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' missions division, 1965-67; secretary of the HMB metropolitan missions department, 1962-65; superintendent of new work for the Sunday School Board's Sunday school department, 1960-62; and, earlier, a pastor, prison chaplain, short-term FBI clerk and Navy pilot.

In retirement, Bennett said he initially plans to teach courses on the SBC at Southern Seminary for two semesters.

In his 13-plus years with the Executive Committee, Bennett said he learned not to take himself too seriously; "to be grateful for the blessings from heaven;" and to "stay with my critics long enough" to learn from them and, perhaps, help them.

J.C. Mitchell of Winter Park, Fla., chairman of the Executive Committee's president-treasurer transition committee, closed the evening referring to rock music from one of the hotel's adjacent halls that could be heard during much of the evening.

"The distracting music tonight reminds us that the world is ever with us," Mitchell said, "and that there is a world out there that needs Jesus Christ."

--30--

(BP) photo available upon request from the central office of Baptist Press.

Morris Chapman inaugurated as
SBC Executive Committee leader

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press
9/23/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Acknowledging the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention at times must make "tough decisions," new President-Treasurer Morris Chapman pledged to "always seek the highest good for the convention it serves."

Chapman was inaugurated Sept. 22 as the fifth president of the Executive Committee, succeeding Harold C. Bennett, who is retiring Sept. 30 after 13 years at the helm.

Chapman, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, said the history of the Executive Committee is built on high standards and principles.

"Truth and trust are the foundations to the integrity of the Executive Committee and its very existence," Chapman said. He pledged to keep Executive Committee meetings open, unless delicate legal or personnel matters are being discussed, to maintain its high principles.

Chapman promised to "seek to earn and maintain the confidence of the Southern Baptist family." He noted the purpose and intent of the Executive Committee is to "participate in mutual partnership" with other SBC agencies and with state Baptist conventions to "share the good news of Jesus Christ."

--more--

And h noted the Executive Committe exists to encourage tithes and offerings through the Cooperative Program.

"You have elected me as one who believes the Cooperative Program is an inspired method of giving given by the Holy Spirit," Chapman said, stressing he is convinced the Cooperative Program "is still the best method."

The Mississippi native stressed there is a lot of "good news" to proclaim about Southern Baptists. He cited an article in the September issue of The Baptist Program which describes the growth of Southern Baptists since 1978 when Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' plan to share the gospel with the entire world by the year 2000, was launched.

He emphasized that Baptist Press, the SBC news service, is "committed to reporting accurately, fairly, and positively the good news of Jesus Christ and Southern Baptists."

Chapman urged members of the Executive Committee and guests "to give their best for Christ's sake. On Christ the solid rock I stand. May we stand together on that rock."

SBC President Edwin Young of Houston and former SBC president Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of suburban Memphis, Tenn., spoke during the inaugural ceremony in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Van Ness Auditorium.

Young compared the passing of the mantle from Bennett to Chapman with that of Old Testament prophets Elijah and Elisha. He noted that Elisha asked for a double portion of God's blessings and it was given to him from God.

"Morris Chapman is uniquely prepared to serve as president of the Executive Committee in such a time as this as God's double-portion man," Young said.

Rogers observed today's world is "lost and reeling" and without morals and the only thing that can save it is Jesus.

"I charge you to lead us to tell this old world Jesus saves," Rogers said.

Deacons from Chapman's former pastorates at First Baptist Church of Woodway in Waco, Texas, First Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M., and First Baptist in Wichita Falls reflected on Chapman's tenure at their churches.

"We learned a new definition of joy in the Lord," said H.H. "Bud" Jones of Chapman's time at the Waco church. "Many of us learned the incredible joy of leading someone to the Lord because of the example of Morris and (his wife) Jodi Chapman."

Jones said he has been with Chapman in times of pain and euphoria and "all points in between" and Chapman's life consistently was "based on faith, taking God at his word."

James Roach of Albuquerque credited Chapman with leading First Baptist there "in the power of the Holy Spirit," while Steve Cookingham of Wichita Falls said, "There's testimony after testimony of members of our church" about how God used Chapman and his wife "to bring spiritual maturity to their lives."

Congratulatory messages were read from evangelist Billy Graham and Vice President Dan Quayle.

-30-

Art Toalston contributed to this report. (BP) photo available from the central office of Baptist Press in Nashville.

Draper fields BSSB questions
in Baptist editors' briefing

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP)--From rumors the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board plans to develop a program to compete with Woman's Missionary Union to concern over an "experience drain" left by the retirement of more than 100 long-tenured employees, President James T. Draper Jr. addressed questions on a variety of issues during a two-hour briefing of 41 Baptist state paper editors and journalists Sept. 21 in Nashville.

Not only is the board not competing with WMU, Draper said the two organizations are "co-developing" a National Conference for Women in San Antonio, Texas, March 5-7, 1993.

"We have complementary and not competing roles," he said. "But there are some things women are facing that the WMU is not assigned to deal with. For instance, abused wives, single parents -- these are areas that need some attention and this is very much in line with what has been assigned to our discipleship and family development division."

While the board will work on products in these areas, Draper said the agency will not produce materials to compete with WMU's missions-focused curriculum and periodicals.

Discussing the board's voluntary retirement incentive program -- an offering of early retirement to 191 employees as part of the institution's restructuring -- Draper said he is concerned about the potential "experience drain" created by the departure of many long-tenured employees. As of Sept. 18, Draper said 105 employees had accepted the early retirement option, adding several more will likely do so by the Oct. 15 deadline.

To help minimize problems caused by the departure of experienced employees, Draper said the board is contracting with some of the retirees to work as consultants during transition. Some employees will continue to work full-time through Nov. 1 and will help train employees who will be doing the work they leave behind, he said.

Draper said the board plans to replace about 50 percent of the departing employees, adding the retirement program is expected to save the board about \$2.5 million.

Responding to other questions from the editors and journalists, Draper said:

-- The board will soon hire a coordinator of ethnic work. Greater visibility is being given to language and ethnic work with three sections reporting directly to the vice president for church growth and programs. Draper also said the board of trustees needs more ethnic representation, adding he plans to request help from the SBC Committee on Nominations.

-- The Sunday School Board will provide materials and services to all Southern Baptist churches regardless of their political affiliation in the denominational controversy, Draper said. However, the board will not likely send representatives or displays to next year's meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of Southern Baptist moderates. "I feel that we cannot be put in a position of encouraging anything that would pull (money) away from the Cooperative Program," Draper said.

-- The role of trustees is to hold administrators accountable rather than being involved in the day-to-day administration of an institution, said Draper, who served as chairman of trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Draper said a decision to reduce the number of trustee-elected management positions to the president and four vice presidents "gives us more accountability. I'm accountable and the vice presidents are accountable and if we don't do the job, (the trustees will) fire us."

-- About 90.7 percent of Southern Baptist churches bought some or all of their literature from the Sunday School Board in the January/February/March quarter of 1992, up about 1 percent from 1990.

Baptist chaplain offers aid
to south Florida's troops

By Barbara Denman

CUTLER RIDGE, Fla. (BP)--When President George Bush ordered the U.S. Army to provide humanitarian assistance to storm-ravaged south Dade County, an ordained Southern Baptist minister was among the first 18 soldiers to hit the ground that Aug. 29 at Homestead Air Force Base.

But Sonny Moore is not a typical Southern Baptist minister. He parachutes from airplanes, wears a red beret and is saluted by his congregation when he walks by.

Major Sonny Moore is the highest-ranking chaplain assigned to the prestigious 82nd Airborne Division, which was deployed into south Dade County to "take back the streets." He was one of 76 chaplains from 26 denominations serving in the area, which included 11 Southern Baptist chaplains.

When their mission of law enforcement was accomplished, the soldiers stacked their weapons to give humanitarian assistance to the battered Florida residents.

At that time, the elite 82nd Airborne paratroopers -- the same troops who captured Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega in 1990 -- became peacemakers, walking hand in hand with Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers.

Throughout the first three weeks of their assignment in Florida, the paratroopers were stationed at First Baptist Church of Cutler Ridge, First Baptist Church of Perrine and Glendale Baptist Church. They unloaded trucks, cleaned debris from church yards, hauled off trash and cleaned Sunday school rooms. They kept order, directed traffic and carried groceries to cars and homes. One soldier was seen reading books to children.

"Our mission was to create a presence," Moore said. "Our soldiers walked the beat and the streets several times a day. They walked through neighborhoods, spoke to residents and gave them back their comfort level."

This was a new kind of experience for the military. According to Army legal specialist Melinda Dunn, this is the first time the military was deployed in the United States to provide humanitarian assistance.

As a chaplain for the 82nd Airborne, Moore sees his job as "God's man among them, to have that Jesus touch and to show some humor. To show them that in spite of the circumstances we can have joy and peace. We're more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Moore sounds like a preacher because he is. The Lambert, Miss., native was a pastor in that community for 16 years before going on active duty with the Army. Until recently he served with the "Screaming Eagles" Division, a stint that also saw active duty in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf war.

When Moore arrived at Fort Bragg, N.C., home of the 82nd Airborne, two months ago, his commanding officer asked him about his program. "I said I am a pretty simple guy, and it boils down to two things: number one, to preach the Bible, and number two, to love the people. And that's what I do, I love them."

As he walks among the troops, Moore appears comfortable in his role and the presence he commands. He calls the soldiers together and asks them to select the best in the company. He rewards them with humor, attention and a St. Michael medal. He reminds them of worship service on Sunday, drafting one to read Scripture, another to pray. During each Sunday, Moore may lead seven worship services. He is charged with providing the men and women opportunities to worship according to their own beliefs.

--more--

Although he calls himself an enabler, Moore also is a natural motivator, calling soldiers by name, trying to recall tours of duty they have shared. "One of the biggest things I do is to be a pastor to them," he said. He has prayed with the soldiers under the stars, walked with them on beach patrol and shared God's forgiveness and cleansing. He estimates that he has distributed 300 to 400 Bibles to the soldiers serving in south Dade.

Moore contends that the paratroopers and Southern Baptist volunteers are engaged in a love affair. On Sunday Sept. 19, the First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale bussed 28 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne to the downtown church and during the worship services gave them a five-minute standing ovation. Afterwards, individual members escorted the young men and women to lunch. When given a choice of watching football on TV or going to evening worship, all 28 paratroopers returned to the church. Four made professions of faith that day.

Moore called the Southern Baptist volunteer effort in south Florida "marvelous. I'm proud to wear this uniform, but along with that is to be a Southern Baptist and see the impact Southern Baptists have had in this area," he said.

"I can't tell you how many times I have been to staff meeting and my commanders have said Baptists have really made a difference in this city. Other denominations have made a great impact. But nobody greater than Southern Baptists -- and everybody will tell you."

--30--

(BP) photo available from the Florida Baptist Convention's communications office.

Commander 'can count on'
Southern Baptist response

Baptist Press
9/23/92

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (BP)--The highest-ranking military official deployed in south Florida applauded Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

Brigadier General Carl Ernst, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division stationed in south Dade County to provide security and humanitarian assistance, called the Southern Baptist disaster response, "one you can count on."

"The Southern Baptist Convention has been one organization you can count on when it really gets bad," he said. "They are able to get volunteers in large quantities and keep the volunteers flowing. From the very young to retirees and some folks in between. It's been marvelous.

"The Southern Baptist Convention has been one of the folks who throughout this whole tragedy has been shoulder to shoulder, joining ranks to help people in these neighborhoods."

Ernst added that the 82nd Airborne Division had become attached to Southern Baptists as they have served on the church grounds with several Brotherhood disaster relief feeding vans. "It's amazing what you will find on these sites. It's amazing to watch all the helping hands that have shown up here in Florida to help. You know who you can count on and that's important to me."

--30--

Help quell violence,
German churches urged

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press
9/23/92

BERLIN (BP)--Christians must oppose the neo-Nazi violence flaring up across Germany.

That's the message German Baptist leaders have sent once again to their churches as violent attacks against refugees and immigrants continue in scores of German cities.

--more--

"We must not only look at this development but we must work against it through prayer and helping actions," advised the German Baptist Union's executive committee in an open letter to churches in mid-September.

The new statement came in response to continuing violent attacks against refugees who have fled to Germany from crumbling Yugoslavia and other areas.

In Wismar, a gang of youths attacked a refugee hostel Sept. 15 with rocks and gasoline bombs for four hours before police could control the situation. Similar attacks have occurred in other cities for weeks, including the widely publicized violence in Rostock, where a refugee building was burned. Wismar and Rostock are northern port cities in former East Germany.

To oppose such attacks, the Baptist committee urged church members to speak out on the issue in worship services and other meetings and to open their homes to foreign families and "give opportunities for personal encounters."

The statement follows a lengthier public declaration made by the Baptist union's youth department in early September expressing alarm at the attacks. Young Christians were challenged "to take your position on the side of the weak and helpless, because we believe that our Lord Jesus Christ lived and preached for the equality of all people independent of their origin, nationality or social status. In this he is our example and our standard for our words and actions."

Young people, the statement declared, must "stand against any kind of fascism."

Many of the Baptist union's 591 churches and 329 missions have backed the statement, said Hans Guderian, union home missions secretary.

"We stressed very much that we want a country open to people from the outside. We do not want to be a closed country. We asked our churches to pray and to act in this way," Guderian said.

About 140 German Baptist churches sponsor ministries of various forms with refugees or foreigners, Guderian said. Eighty-three churches sponsor language-group congregations or Bible studies. They include Vietnamese, Turks, Koreans, Spanish speakers and many other nationalities.

Baptist ministry to refugees and outsiders has doubled since 1988. "Not only is such work being done, but it is increasing very much," Guderian said, despite the violent attacks.

The union's annual home missions conference Oct. 26-30 will bring together about 100 Baptists in full-time work in such ministries. An approximate translation of the meeting's theme is: "No longer guests and strangers -- open doors for foreigners, refugees and people that need help."

Tensions have risen in Germany following unification as about a third of the workers in former East Germany have lost their jobs. The country is reeling economically from the high costs of unification. At the same time, Germany has been flooded by refugees from Eastern Europe and other areas seeking safety or better economic conditions.

Already some 5 million foreigners live in Germany, a nation of about 80 million people. Many have taken advantage of the country's constitutionally mandated policy of granting asylum to anyone who is politically persecuted.

More than 280,000 asylum seekers have entered Germany this year and more than half a million are expected before year's end. That will double the 256,000 who came in 1991. Thousands of ethnic Germans have left the former Soviet Union and resettled in Germany. They have required extensive help from the government with housing and other needs.

--more--

Many Germans resent their government spending so heavily to help outsiders. Although attacks on foreigners often are led by neo-Nazis, many are not, Guderian said. Some are carried out by people who simply have been misled towards violence. Press reports also have linked some attacks with agents of the former East German secret police.

In one national poll, about half those questioned agreed "Germany belongs to Germans."

The violent assaults on refugees in Rostock got heavy press coverage but similar attacks have occurred in many German cities over the past year. Scores of violent incidents marked September alone.

In Quedlinburg firebombs were thrown at a refugee home in attacks that lasted five nights. In Dresden the car of a Vietnamese refugee was firebombed. A refugee home in Hilden was stoned. Two Yugoslavian children taking refuge from the war in their homeland were severely burned when their refugee home near Heidelberg was firebombed by a neo-Nazi gang.

Another refugee facility was firebombed in Engelsberg. At Guben 60 stone-throwing rioters battled with about 100 riot police outside a refugee hostel. Police in Eisenhuettenstadt battled 150 young rioters in the streets to prevent them from attacking a reception center for asylum seekers. Incidents also occurred near Bonn and Karlsruhe, both in western Germany.

So far in 1992, 10 people have died and 700 have been injured in almost 1,000 violent attacks mounted by neo-Nazis in Germany. In 1991 such attacks numbered more than 1,400, up sharply from 270 in 1990.

Pressure is mounting within the German government to begin reducing the number of asylum seekers allowed into the country. The government announced in late September it will deport thousands of Romanians, most of them Gypsies, beginning Nov. 1.

Tens of thousands of Gypsies have settled in Germany, sparking widespread resentment because Germans see them as "dirty" and "unorderly." When neo-Nazis burned the refugee building in Rostock, they reportedly were after Gypsies who were staying there.

--30--

Editor, pastor receive
religious liberty awards

Baptist Press
9/23/92

SILVER SPRING, Md. (BP)--Two Southern Baptists received awards for their work on behalf of religious liberty Sept. 21 from Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Honored during the organization's national conference were Julian Pentecost, former editor of The Religious Herald, newsjournal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and Rudy Pulido, pastor of Southwest Baptist Church in St. Louis.

Randolph A. Bush, acting executive director of Americans United, said the organization's Religious Liberty Award was given to Pentecost for his strong editorials defending church-state separation. Pentecost was editor of The Religious Herald 22 years, retiring in April of this year.

Pulido received the award for his work in Missouri. President of the Americans United chapter in St. Louis, he has been involved in various church-state separation projects, including serving as lead plaintiff in a case challenging federal funding of parochial schools in Missouri.

"At a time where separation of church and state is under fire in many religious communities," Bush said, "it is good to know that many Americans -- like Julian Pentecost and Rudy Pulido -- still see the value of that important concept and will not abandon it."

--more--

Americans United, a 50,000-member public policy group based in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, Md., is committed to constitutional separation of church and state.

--30--

Southwest Baptist University
dismisses three more employees

Baptist Press
9/23/92

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP)--Three Southwest Baptist University employees who acknowledged being part of efforts to block the election of a proposed candidate for president of that school are no longer associated with the university.

Acting president Wayne Gott announced Sept. 14 that Jerald Andrews and Patty Edwards had been terminated effective immediately. Jo Ann Shaddy opted to resign. Andrews served as senior executive vice president for external affairs. Edwards was director of major events and university advancement projects. Shaddy worked as administrative assistant and assistant director of the Walton National Literacy Center at SBU.

Each acknowledged assisting former chancellor James E. Sells in distributing anonymous letters attributed to students and faculty in efforts to block the election of a trustee search committee nominee for president. Trustees announced Sells' relationship with the university had been terminated on Sept. 3.

"I regret having to make this most difficult decision," said Gott. "I am convinced that this action is in the best interest of the university." Gott said he originally hoped the three would be able to stay at SBU but upon investigation, he found there was little if any support for their continued employment.

On Sept. 9 two SBU teacher organizations, the Faculty Chamber and the Association of Tenured Professors, called for the dismissal of the three employees. The Student Government Association also adopted a resolution calling for the dismissal of all employees associated with the actions. According to a spokesman for the university, each of the three employees was offered a financial arrangement if they would resign. Andrews and Edwards were offered six months' salary but rejected the offer and were terminated effective immediately. Shaddy accepted the administration's proposal of three months' severance pay. Edwards told Word & Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, "Yes, I have been terminated and I think unjustifiably so." She described the financial offer as "totally unfair and unsuitable" and said the university "was not open to negotiating at all."

When asked if she anticipated some kind of action against SBU for her dismissal, Edwards said she did not want to respond to the question "at this time."

Gott said the difference in the offers to the employees was based on the length of service each had to the university and on the length of their contracts. Gott said Andrews had been at SBU since 1975 and Edwards since 1981. Each worked on a five-year contract with three years remaining. Shaddy returned to SBU employment in August and worked with a one-year contract.

Andrews and Shaddy could not be reached for comments. On Sept. 18, Gott announced that Ken Edmondson had been named acting vice president for university advancement and would be assuming many of the responsibilities which previously were assigned to Andrews.

Edmondson has been executive director of capital programs for SBU since May 1990.

--30--