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92-157

NASHVILLE -- Young appoints 19 leaders for in-depth SBC studies.
DALLAS -- Baptists coordinate feeding at several locations on Kauai.
TENNESSEE -- Brotherhood needs 200 volunteers; Red Cross to pay expenses to Florida.
NASHVILLE -- BSSB sends literature, hymnals to churches damaged by hurricanes.
WASHINGTON -- BWA sends help for Somalia, fields other requests for aid.
WASHINGTON -- CLC examines party platforms on 16 issues in '92 campaign.
TEXAS -- 4 SBC-related ACTS programs to air at new days, times.
ATLANTA -- Carter underscores BWA's importance.
HUNGARY -- Hungary lay academy still drawing East Europeans.
SPAIN -- 'T-shirt evangelism' works in Spanish city.
WASHINGTON -- Minister-ACLU activist to lead church-state group.
NASHVILLE -- Executive Committee meeting corrections.

Young appoints 19 leaders
for in-depth SBC studies

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
9/24/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Leaders of nine groups to study Southern Baptist theology, women's ministries, the family, inclusion of other churches in denominational evangelization efforts and other issues have been announced by SBC President H. Edwin Young.

Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, named Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. as overall chairman of the process to "glance at the past and study the present, in order to plan, pray and dream toward the future."

He cited Draper's wide knowledge of Southern Baptist Convention life from serving as a pastor, SBC president and now an agency leader. "We don't want to reinvent the wheel of any agency or seminary," Young said.

At the same time, Young said pastors and church leaders too often have deferred to SBC agencies and institutions to initiate goals and strategies. "This will be a cooperative effort to show some initiative together.

"We need to have an SOS call for evangelism and missions," Young said. "We need to move away from some of the things that have bogged us down in denominational life."

Young said he will work with the co-chairpersons to enlist nine others to serve on each group, including a representative from a Southern Baptist agency, institution or seminary with assignments related to the group's topic. All participants must agree to pay their own expenses.

Young released in a Sept. 24 news conference a document outlining job descriptions of each study group, along with the names of the co-chairpersons. The document noted the descriptions are "written in general terms to provide direction, but also to give freedom to each group to work toward its assigned task in the most effective and efficient manner they feel possible."

The description of the theological study group, which Young said was written by co-chair Timothy George, specifies the group is to "develop and to articulate theological directions and parameters for our common mission as Southern Baptists. The work of this study group may result in a statement of convictions as well as specific recommendations which shall be passed along to the task force convened by the president of the Southern Baptist Convention."

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George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., will work with Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in leading the study. They will use as foundational documents the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement, the 1987 report and recommendations of the SBC Peace Committee and the 1978 and 1982 Chicago Statements on Biblical Inerrancy.

"We affirm without reservation the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local congregation and the historic Baptist commitment to religious liberty," the description states. "We also recognize legitimate diversity among Southern Baptists on many matters of secondary importance. We desire neither to propose a creedal statement nor to draft a new confession of faith."

A second group, "cords and stakes," was given a two-fold assignment: 1) to "reach out to like-minded local churches in America and abroad in order to invite them to join Southern Baptist efforts in reaching America and the world for Christ"; and 2) to study the degree to which recommendations of the SBC Peace Committee have been implemented. Co-chairs will be Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., and Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., and a former SBC president.

Young, who served on the Peace Committee, said recommendation five of that report called for trustees to "determine the theological positions of the seminary administrators and faculty members."

"I don't know of any (boards of) trustees that have done that," Young said.

He said he believes there are Baptist churches now affiliated with other denominations and many independent Baptist churches "who need a vehicle in evangelism, missions and education. Anyone who would like to join us in the cause of missions and evangelism is welcome."

The women's ministries group has been asked to "identify strategies and methodologies for mobilizing the enormous spiritual gifts and resources of women in the Southern Baptist Convention." Co-chairs will be Sarah (Mrs. Roland) Maddox of Brentwood, Tenn., and Susie (Mrs. O.S.) Hawkins of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Young said he plans to name a representative from Woman's Missionary Union to work with the group.

The family group assignment specified five areas to focus greater attention on the family. They include strategy to offer training on family issues, providing abstinence-based sex education materials adaptable for use in public schools, providing family life materials for a mass market and work with the Christian Life Commission to lobby on behalf of tax codes which support families and report to the 1993 SBC.

Co-chairs are Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., and Stephen Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Russellville, Ark.

The other five groups are:

Multi-ethnic advisory group -- to seek greater ethnic diversity on trustee boards of SBC agencies and institutions. Co-chairs are George Harris, pastor of Castle Hills Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, and James Semple, director of the missions division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Reaching the world -- to study "existing Southern Baptist Convention strategies as well as those of other evangelical groups" and "set the direction for an aggressive effort to evangelize every community and nation in the world." Co-chairs are Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va., and Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla.

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Reaching America -- to study efforts of Southern Baptists and other evangelical groups and present to SBC entities and local churches a "workable strategy for reaching America for Christ." Co-chairs are Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., and Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.

Reaching children and youth -- to "develop a plan for presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to every young person and child in America." Co-chairs are Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga., and Rodney Gage, evangelist from Fort Worth, Texas.

Cooperative Program and special offerings -- to "suggest ways to maximize Southern Baptist participation in Cooperative Program giving." Also, the group is to seek ways to present the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions as "personalized mission projects customized for promotion in the local churches." The group will be chaired by Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, and C.B. Hogue, executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention.

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Baptists coordinate feeding
at several locations on Kauai By Ken Camp & David E. Reid

Baptist Press
9/24/92

LIHUE, Hawaii (BP)--In the wake of Hurricane Iniki, Southern Baptists coordinated an emergency food service at several locations on the resort island of Kauai involving Hawaiian Baptists and other local volunteers, military personnel and Vice President Dan Quayle's wife.

When Bill Arnold, missions promotion coordinator for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Milton Schmidt of First Baptist Church in Dallas, arrived Sept. 16 with a water purifier and field kitchen equipment, a daily bulletin distributed nationally by the American Red Cross announced: THE BAPTISTS HAVE LANDED.

Arnold and Schmidt worked closely with local officials and leaders of the Hawaiian Baptist Convention in implementing a disaster relief response that would effectively utilize available resources and volunteers.

Veryl Henderson, director of the missions division of the Hawaii Baptist Convention, described the whole island as "equally hard hit" and said the need for volunteer workers was great.

"We're still working to restore the infrastructure," Henderson said. "We're without electricity, we're running on generator power and cooking with gas stoves."

He said that a damage assessment, now 85 percent complete, lists 929 homes on the island as totally destroyed, 3,672 as suffering major damage and 4,965 experiencing minor damage.

"The combined relief agencies are providing meals to 23,000 of Kauai's 50,000 people," Henderson said.

The Texas Baptists worked with volunteer clean-up teams in the island communities of Lihue, Waimea and Eleele and they trained 25 of the 50-plus Hawaiian Baptist volunteers who helped to staff an ongoing food service at the community center in Lihue.

Volunteers from Hawaiian Baptist churches were joined by members of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu in preparing and serving meals to survivors of Hurricane Iniki.

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A second field kitchen was delivered by a team of Alabama Baptist volunteers Sept. 19 and was being set up at the Waimea Baptist Church on Kauai. Emergency food service is expected to continue for up to three weeks. California Baptists are on standby to lead in reconstruction on the island.

In addition to the field kitchen at Lihue's community center, the Texas Baptists also were authorized to coordinate emergency meals provided by the cooking school at a local community college, by workers at a hotel and by personnel at a U.S. Army field kitchen.

Marilyn Quayle, wife of Vice President Dan Quayle, and Wallace Stickney, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, visited the community center and assisted in serving meals.

"They both helped serve lunch for 15 or 20 minutes," Arnold said. "They were impressed by what we did and Mrs. Quayle commented on seeing the Southern Baptist disaster relief operation in south Florida."

About 8,000 meals were prepared at the various locations during the three days Arnold and Schmidt were on the disaster site. On one occasion, a large quantity of ice cream was provided to the disaster relief team and Arnold distributed it to hurricane survivors suffering from the unrelenting heat and humidity.

"I was the most popular guy since Santa Claus at that point," he said.

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Brotherhood needs 200 volunteers;
Red Cross to pay expenses to Florida By Steve Barber

Baptist Press
9/24/92

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has issued a call for 200 volunteers to help at disaster relief feeding units in south Florida, with the Red Cross paying for airfare to Miami plus meals and lodging for those able to stay at least 10 days.

"This will be an excellent opportunity for Southern Baptist men and women who have wanted to get involved in this relief effort but cannot afford to pay their own expenses," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

Volunteers must be willing to work at least 12 hours on the feeding units each day while in Florida to qualify for the assistance. Disaster relief certification is not required. Fifty workers will be needed for each 10-day period.

The Brotherhood Commission, which has coordinated the denomination's disaster relief efforts since Hurricane Andrew hit the Florida coast Aug. 24, has decided to maintain the disaster relief feeding units from Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida in the Miami area for the next month. Together, they will be providing about 50,000 meals per day.

Teams will be scheduled for 10-day work weeks according to the following schedule: Sept. 26-Oct. 6; Oct. 6-16; Oct. 16-26; and Oct. 26-Nov. 5.

"Time is truly of the essence here, especially for the first team," said Jim Furgerson, on-site national coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission. "I urge prospective volunteers to make a decision and move as quickly as possible."

Volunteers should first contact their state Baptist convention's Brotherhood department. These offices are coordinating all contacts with the Red Cross for travel arrangements.

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Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers already have provided more than 2 million hot meals and other services in the wake of Andrew at locations in Florida and Louisiana. The response has been the largest effort of its kind in the Brotherhood Commission's history.

Contributions designated for disaster relief efforts in Florida, Louisiana and Hawaii should be sent to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

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**BSSB sends literature, hymnals
to churches damaged by hurricane**

**Baptist Press
9/24/92**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Church literature from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board is being shipped free to about 20 Miami-area Baptist churches damaged by Hurricane Andrew as plans are being made to assist churches in Louisiana, Hawaii and Guam which sustained damage from Andrew or Iniki.

"We're shipping October-November-December literature at no cost and hymnals also are being replaced free," said Mark King, manager of the contracts and services section in the direct sales department.

As soon as a list can be compiled of churches from Louisiana, Hawaii and Guam needing literature and hymnals, they will be provided, King said.

"The Baptist Sunday School Board is committed to assist you at this time of crisis by replacing this coming quarter of Sunday school literature and the hymnals for your church," President James T. Draper Jr. wrote in a letter accompanying the literature orders. "This is done out of a deep concern for the ministry of your church in this particular time of need."

Working through the Florida, Louisiana and Hawaii Baptist conventions, the BSSB also will offer 50 percent discounts on equipment and furniture to churches which did not have insurance or were extremely under-insured for losses.

King said decisions about equipment and furniture needs generally cannot be made by church leaders until their buildings are replaced.

Meanwhile, BSSB architect Steve Newton was making a tour of Miami churches Sept. 21-25 to consult with leaders considering rebuilding needs.

King said people wishing to inquire about assistance available from the board should call him at (615) 251-2018.

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**BWA sends help for Somalia,
fields other requests for aid**

By Wendy Ryan

**Baptist Press
9/24/92**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance, through its Baptist World Aid division, has sent \$40,000 to help feed Somali refugees. The money has been received in response to a BWAid special appeal for Somalia.

The Sharing Way program of the Canadian Baptist Federation has received \$30,000 of the funds. The program, in northeast Kenya, is distributing food to some 40,000 refugees in the Ifo, Daghahaley and Hagedera refugee camps.

The BWAid contribution to Canadian Baptists to help feed Somali refugees in Kenya is part of a \$1.46 million (Canadian) food shipment project supported by Canadian Baptists, the Canadian Food Grains Bank, the Canadian government, the Mennonite Central Committee and BWAid.

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Although the food already has been sent to Kenya, funds are needed to pay for it. BWAid director Paul Montacute said Canadian Baptists on site in Kenya confirmed almost all of the shipment has been delivered.

The remaining \$10,000 has been sent to CARE to assist ongoing feeding programs in Somalia, where CARE is feeding and estimated 1 million people a day in the Mogadishu area. CARE is now expanding its operations to reach about 500,000 more people in regions south of Mogadishu.

Montacute noted Canadian Baptists have worked in northeast Kenya for many years and have been involved with Somali refugees "long before the current media coverage about Somalia."

Since March 1991, Canadian Baptists have helped Somali refugees with blankets, tents and skills in water management and sanitation, however the situation became critical in May 1992 when the flow of refugees increased at an unpredicted rate.

An estimated 300,000 to 400,000 Somali refugees have crossed into Kenya.

Because of its long association with CARE, and because it sometimes is not possible to channel assistance through Baptist organizations, BWAid is working with the U.N.-related organization.

"We will continue to support Canadian Baptists and CARE," Montacute said, "while looking for other efficient and effective ways of feeding the starving people of Somalia."

The BWA is appealing to its member bodies to continue supporting its Somalia appeal.

Meanwhile, the BWA has received requests from Baptists in southern Africa for help needed in the current drought.

The incoming requests give urgency to the BWAid's funding goal of \$2 million for the southern Africa drought. The \$2 million goal was approved during the BWA general council in Jamaica in July.

Baptists in Zimbabwe have asked for \$150,000 for a nine-month emergency feeding project for families in the Bulawayo, Gweru and Gokwe areas and for emergency and supplementary feeding in other areas. They have also asked for help with a seed-planting project.

Baptists in Malawi need help with a reforestation project costing \$30,000 and Baptists in Kenya have asked for \$30,000 to help with refugees.

In a telephone call Sept. 16, Eleazar Ziherambere of Rwanda, BWA regional secretary for Africa, told Montacute there currently are 300,000 displaced people in Rwanda with no food to feed them.

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CLC examines party platforms
on 16 issues in '92 campaign

Baptist Press
9/24/92

WASHINGTON (BP)--The budget deficit and sagging economy, abortion and family values -- all are hot issues in the '92 presidential campaign.

As a help to voters, excerpts from the Democratic and Republican platforms on these and other key issues have been published in the Southern Baptist Commission's September-October issue of Salt, a bimonthly public policy newsletter.

The excerpts were compiled by James A. Smith, CLC Washington-based director of government relations.

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"It is not suggested that this is an exhaustive list of issues," Salt noted, "nor is the purpose to endorse either party or candidate," President George Bush or Democratic challenger Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas.

"By tradition, a candidate is not bound to every position in his party's platform," Salt continued, "but Bill Clinton and George Bush had control of their platform process and approved of the final document. These are the platforms on which they are running."

The full text of each platform, Salt noted, is available from the Democratic National Committee at (202) 863-8000 and the Republican National Committee at (202) 863-8500.

Below are platform excerpts on 16 campaign issues, listed in alphabetical order.

Abortion

Democrats: "Democrats stand behind the right of every woman to choose consistent with Roe v. Wade, regardless of ability to pay, and support a national law to protect that right. It is a fundamental constitutional liberty that individual Americans not government can best take responsibility for making the most difficult and intensely personal decision regarding reproduction. The goal of our nation must be to make abortion less necessary, not more difficult or more dangerous. We pledge to support contraceptive research, family planning, comprehensive family life education, and policies that support healthy childbearing and enable parents to care most effectively for their children."

Republicans: "We believe the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life that cannot be infringed. We therefore reaffirm our support for a human life amendment to the Constitution, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the 14th Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We oppose using public revenues for abortion and will not fund organizations that advocate it. We commend those who provide alternatives to abortion by meeting the needs of mothers and offering adoption services. We reaffirm our support for appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life."

AIDS

Democrats: "We must be united in declaring war on AIDS and HIV disease, implement the recommendations of the National Commission on AIDS and fully fund the Ryan White Care Act; provide targeted and honest prevention campaigns; combat HIV-related discrimination; make drug treatment available for all addicts who seek it; guarantee access to quality care; expand clinical trials for treatments and vaccines; and speed up the FDA drug approval process."

Republicans: "AIDS should be treated like any other communicable or sexually transmitted disease, while at the same time preserving patient confidentiality. ... prevention is linked ultimately to personal responsibility and moral behavior. We reject the notion that the distribution of clean needles and condoms is the solution to stopping the spread of AIDS. Education designed to curb the spread of this disease should stress marital fidelity, abstinence and a drug-free lifestyle."

Arts Funding

Democrats: "We believe in public support for the arts, including a National Endowment for the Arts that is free from political manipulation and firmly rooted in the First Amendment's freedom of expression guarantee."

Republicans: "We ... condemn the use of public funds to subsidize obscenity and blasphemy masquerading as art. ... no artist has an inherent right to claim taxpayer support for his or her private vision of art if that vision mocks the moral and spiritual basis on which our society is founded."

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Civil Rights

Democrats: "We support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, affirmative action, stronger protection of voting rights for racial and ethnic minorities ... work to rebuild and vigorously use machinery for civil rights enforcement; support comparable remedies for women; aggressively prosecute hate crimes; strengthen legal services for the poor ... fully enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]. ..."

Republicans: "We denounce all who practice or promote racism, anti-Semitism or religious intolerance. We believe churches and religious schools should not be taxed; we defend the right of religious leaders to speak out on public issues; and we condemn the cowardly desecration of places of worship ... we reject efforts to replace equal rights with quotas or other preferential treatment ... We will fully implement it [ADA] with sensitivity to the needs of small businesses ..."

Crime

Democrats: "We will create a Police Corps, in which participants will receive college aid in return for several years of service after graduation in a state or local police department. ... Democrats support more community policing, which use foot patrols and storefront offices to make police officers visible fixtures in urban neighborhoods. ... Democrats also favor innovative sentencing and punishment options, including community service and boot camps for first-time offenders; tougher penalties for rapists; victim-impact statements and restitution" for crime victims.

Republicans: Proposes legislation "to restore the severest penalties for the most heinous crimes, to ensure swift and certain punishment, and to end the legal loopholes that let criminals go free." Supports "reform of exclusionary rule that prohibits use of relevant evidence obtained in good faith ... reform habeas corpus law to prevent the appellate process from becoming a lawyers' game to thwart justice." Supports "effective procedures to reinstate the death penalty for most heinous crimes ... mandatory sentences for career criminals ... right of crime victims to be present, heard and informed ... and to be provided with restitution ..."

Deficit

Democrats: "Addressing the deficit requires fair and shared sacrifice of all Americans for the common good ... We must tackle spending by putting everything on the table; eliminate nonproductive programs; achieve defense savings; reform entitlement programs to control soaring health-care costs; cut federal administrative costs by 3 percent annually for four years; limit increases in the 'present budget' to the rate of growth in the average American's paycheck; apply a strict 'pay as you go' rule to new noninvestment spending; and make the rich pay their fair share in taxes."

Republicans: "The only solution is for the voters to end divided government so that a Republican Congress can enact the balanced-budget amendment, requiring a super majority for any future tax increases ... adopt a line-item veto for the presidency, restore presidential power to rescind spending and to lower specific appropriations." Eliminate programs which "have outlived their usefulness."

Drugs

Democrats: "We will expand drug counseling and treatment for those who need it, intensify efforts to educate our children at the earliest ages to the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, and curb demand from the street corner to the penthouse suite ..."

Republicans: "We oppose legalizing or decriminalizing drugs." Supports "stiff penalties, including the death penalty, for major drug traffickers. Drug users must face punishment ... Republicans support the toughest possible state laws to deal with drunken drivers and users of illegal drugs ..."

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Economy

Democrats: "We will rebuild America by investing more in transportation, environment technologies, defense conversion and a national information network. ... we will create an investment tax credit and a capital gains reduction for patient investors in emerging technologies and new business. ... We will make the R & D (research and development) tax credit permanent, double research in basic technologies for our future and create a civilian research agency to fast-forward their development. ... Our economy needs both the people and the funds released from defense at the Cold War's end."

Republicans: "We will oppose any attempt to increase taxes. Furthermore, Republicans believe that the taxes insisted on by the Democrats in the 1990 budget agreement were recessionary" and should be repealed. The "proper path to create jobs and growth is tax rate reduction." Supports "reduction in the capital gains tax (and indexation); an investment tax allowance; a \$5,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers; a needed modification of the 'passive loss rule'; a \$500 increase in personal income tax exemption; making permanent the research and development tax credit; and the passage of federal enterprise zone legislation. ... We support restoring the deductibility of IRAs for all Americans"

Education

Democrats: "We oppose the Bush administration's efforts to bankrupt the public school system the bedrock of democracy through private school vouchers. ... We support education reforms such as site-based decision-making and public school choice, with strong protections against discrimination. ... We will invest in education technology and establish world-class standards in math, science and other core subjects, and support effective tests of progress to meet them."

Republicans: Parents "should have the right not only to participate in their child's education but to choose for their children among the broadest array of educational choices, without regard to their income. We also support the right of parents to provide quality education through home-based schools. ... The President's proposed 'G.I. Bill for Children' will provide \$1,000 scholarships to middle- and lower-income families, enabling their children to attend the school of their choice. ... we oppose programs in public schools that provide birth control or abortion services or referrals. Instead we encourage abstinence education programs"

Environment

Democrats: "We reject the Republican myth that energy efficiency and environmental protection are enemies of economic growth We will protect our old-growth forests, preserve critical habitats, provide a genuine 'no net loss' policy on wetlands, conserve the critical resources of soil, water and air, oppose new offshore oil drilling and mineral exploration and production in our nation's many environmentally critical areas, and address ocean pollution by reducing oil and toxic waste spills at sea." Calls for creation of a "civilian conservation corps."

Republicans: "Environmental progress must continue in tandem with economic growth. Crippling an industry is no solution at all. ... We must base our environmental policies on real risks to human health, determined by sound, peer-reviewed science, including procedures for what is an acceptable risk. We will require federal agencies to promptly compensate ... for any taking of private property, including the denial of use."

Family

Democrats: "Governments don't raise children, people do. People who bring children into this world have a responsibility to care for them and give them values, motivation and discipline. Children should not have children. We need a national crackdown on deadbeat parents, an effective system of child-support enforcement nationwide and a systematic effort to establish paternity for every child. ... Family and medical leave will ensure that workers don't have to choose between family and work. ... We favor ensuring quality and affordable child-care opportunities for working parents We will provide long-overdue tax relief to families with children."

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Republicans: "... we will work to ensure that the Congress and the states shall enact no law abridging the rights of the family formed by blood, marriage, adoption or legal custody rights that are anterior and superior to those of government. ... We support pro-family policies: job-sharing, telecommuting, compressed workweeks, parental leave negotiated between employer and employees, and flextime. Republicans call for a complete restoration, in real dollars, to its (dependent deduction) original value. ... expand the Young Child Tax Credit to \$500 per child and make it available to all families with children under the age of 10." Remove "marriage penalty in the tax code"

Health Care

Democrats: "All Americans should have universal access to quality, affordable health care not as a privilege but as a right. ... We will enact a uniquely American reform of the health-care system to control costs and make health care affordable; ... cover all Americans regardless of pre-existing conditions; ... provide for a full range of reproductive choice education, counseling, access to contraceptives and the right to a safe, legal abortion."

Republicans: "Republicans believe government control of health care is irresponsible and ineffective." Endorses President Bush's health care plan which "will expand access to health care by: Creating new tax credits and deductions" and "vouchers for low-income people who work. Providing insurance security for working Americans by requiring insurers to cover pre-existing conditions. Making health care premiums fully deductible for the self-employed."

Homosexual Rights

Democrats: Opposes "discrimination or deprivation of rights on the basis of race, gender ... sexual orientation or other characteristics irrelevant to ability. ... provide civil rights protection for gay men and lesbians and an end to Defense Department discrimination. ... We condemn anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia, bigotry and negative stereotyping of all kinds."

Republicans: Opposes "includ(ing) sexual preference as a protected minority receiving preferential status under civil rights statutes at the federal, state and local level. We oppose any legislation or law that legally recognizes same-sex marriages and allows such couples to adopt children or provide foster care. ... we support continued exclusion of homosexuals from the military as a matter of good order and discipline."

Pornography

Democrats: The Democratic platform makes no reference to the issue of pornography.

Republicans: Calls for a national crusade. Federal agencies should "halt the sale, under government auspices (military facilities included elsewhere in platform), of pornographic materials." Endorses legislation "allowing victims of pornography to seek damages from those who make or sell it"

Religion in Public Life

Democrats: "Our future as a nation depends upon the daily assumption of personal responsibility by millions of Americans from all walks of life for the religious faith they follow, the ethics they practice, the values they instill, the pride they take in their work."

Republicans: "America must remain neutral toward particular religions, but we must not remain neutral toward religion itself or the values religion supports." Supports "voluntary prayer in schools and the right of the community to do so at commencements or other occasions. We will strongly enforce the law guaranteeing equal access to school facilities. We also advocate recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in schools as a reminder of the principles that sustain us as one nation under God."

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Welfare

Democrats: "Welfare should be a second chance, not a way of life. We want to break the cycle of welfare by adhering to two simple principles: No one who is able to work can stay on welfare forever, and no one who works should live in poverty. ... We'll invest in education and job training, and provide the child care and health care they need to go to work and achieve long-term self-sufficiency."

Republicans: "Today's welfare system is anti-work and anti-marriage. It taxes families to subsidize illegitimacy. It rewards unethical behavior and penalizes initiative. It cannot be tinkered with by Congress; it must be re-created by states and localities. ... Welfare can no longer be a check in the mail with no responsibility. We believe fathers and mothers must be held responsible for their children. We support stronger enforcement of child support laws. ... insist that work must be a mandatory part of public assistance for all who are able to work."

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4 SBC-related ACTS programs
to air at new days, times

By Shawn Switzer

Baptist Press
9/24/92

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The American Christian Television System has announced schedule changes for four weekly Southern Baptist Convention-related programs.

"The Baptist Hour," "The Bible and Life," "The Good News" and "Missions '92" will be shown at new days and times beginning Oct. 1, when ACTS begins sharing a cable channel with the VISN network.

The Baptist Hour's weekly televised worship service with Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., previously aired on Sundays at 6 a.m., Mondays at 11 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m., will move to Thursdays at noon Eastern Standard Time.

The Bible and Life, a Bible study through the SBC's Life and Work series, previously aired on Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 6 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and Tuesdays at 9 a.m., will move to Mondays at 4:30 a.m. EST.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's program, The Good News, which presents the SBC's Uniform Lesson Series, previously aired on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 6:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., will move to 4 a.m. Mondays EST.

Missions '92, a missions update from the Foreign and Home mission boards, previously aired on Sundays at 4:30 p.m., Mondays at noon and 5 a.m. and Fridays at 9 p.m., will move to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 5 a.m. Mondays EST.

ACTS will begin airing via satellite Satcom FlR, transponder 5, on Oct. 1 -- the result the recent channel-sharing agreement. ACTS will continue to simulcast on its current satellite, Galaxy 3, transponder 7, through October.

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Carter underscores
BWA's importance

By Wendy Ryan

Baptist Press
9/24/92

ATLANTA (BP)--Former President Jimmy Carter is still a committed Baptist -- and a world Baptist at that.

This came through softly but clearly as Carter encouraged leaders and friends of the Baptist World Alliance in a recent visit at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta.

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"While the local church can do a lot, it cannot encompass the world the way the BWA can," Carter said, referring to his local church, Maranatha Baptist in Plains, where he still teaches a Sunday school class.

"We go along to church on Sunday morning," Carter said, "and our congregations are made up of people who drive similar cars, wear similar clothes and are the same color. That is why the BWA is so important to us. It helps us to reach out to those who are different to us."

Carter recalled his meeting with Baptists as a featured speaker during the 15th Baptist World Congress in Los Angeles in 1985.

He recalled he spoke at that meeting about healing the wounds between the Soviet Union and the United States and how, as president, he had obtained the release of Georgi Vins in a prisoner exchange with the Soviets.

Rejoicing that the former Soviet Union is free, Carter noted it came because others earlier had suffered and paid a great price. The fight for religious freedom "is the sort of ministry the BWA becomes involved in," he said.

Just returned from a trip to Africa, Carter spoke about some of the countries he visited.

"Liberia is a devastated country," Carter said as he described the destruction and loss of life there from recent civil war.

He recalled he was the first American president to visit Liberia at the invitation of then-President William Tolbert who previously was president of the BWA. Tolbert was captured and assassinated two years after the Carter visit.

Carter spoke of his work trying to secure peace in that civil war and reported he had secured the release of 590 hostages, members of a peace-keeping force in Liberia who had been captured by a rebel leader.

Carter spoke emotionally of his trip to Togo and reported Baptists there have grown in just a few years from 1,500 to 10,000 and from 20 to 300 churches.

He spoke of a Southern Baptist missionary to Togo from his local church, Jerome Ethredge, an agronomist who has sunk 123 successful wells and built a bridge for isolated villagers. All of this work was possible because of Baptist giving.

Carter then challenged Baptists in North America who have so much to support those who have so little.

Speaking to BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz afterwards, Carter said he was pleased the BWA Special Commission Against Racism had received positive publicity worldwide and would be pleased if the BWA would sponsor an international conference of Baptists against racism at the Carter Center.

Andrew Young, former United Nations ambassador under Carter who attended the meeting, praised Baptists for their stand on human rights.

Referring to Jimmy Carter and Martin Luther King Jr., Young said Baptists had changed the world by their fight for human rights for all. "You can be humbly proud of what you have done," Young said.

**Hungary lay academy still
drawing East Europeans**

By Mike Creswell

BUDAPEST, Hungary (BP)--The International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest still plays a key role in equipping Baptists in Eastern Europe for ministry, despite vast changes in the region.

The school -- partly funded by Southern Baptists -- expects 38 students this fall, including Baptists from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. That's a near-capacity enrollment, said Southern Baptist missionary Errol Simmons of Franklinton, La., the school's acting director.

During the summer 120 students from 13 countries took part in four sessions. The academy had to rent rooms at an adjacent boarding school to accommodate them. Students from Pakistan, Iran and the Philippines attended for the first time, joining other students from throughout central and Eastern Europe.

The academy opened in 1990 with a mission to provide high-quality theological training for Eastern European Baptists. Sponsored by the European Baptist Federation and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, it is affiliated with the federation's Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Some Baptists had questioned whether the academy would still be needed since Eastern Europeans now are free to travel anywhere they want to study, Simmons said. But many people in Eastern Europe who now are politically free remain virtual economic prisoners, he pointed out.

"Freer access for travel has brought increased attendance, not less," Simmons said. "But the financial factor faced by Eastern European lay leaders desiring to study at IBLA is a major concern. Their currency is not convertible, making it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for many deserving people to pay study and travel expenses. Fortunately, the receipt of unsolicited donations allows us to offer a limited number of work-study scholarships to needy Eastern European students."

Many Eastern European Baptists also like the broader perspectives provided by the academy, Simmons said. Students and teachers there come from many countries and backgrounds.

"In this kind of context it's possible to bring together outstanding Baptist teachers from around the world as well as church leaders from diverse backgrounds, offering an experience not readily available in any one country," Simmons said.

Teachers during the summer included three professors and a student from Oklahoma Baptist University, which has a teaching partnership with the academy. British Baptist professors taught an advanced course in English for translators. Theological teachers came from Austria, England, Switzerland, the United States and Yugoslavia.

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**'T-shirt evangelism'
works in Spanish city**

By Linda Fisher

**Baptist Press
9/24/92**

VALL DE UXO, Spain (BP)--Even T-shirts can help spread the gospel if the plan is right, Southern Baptist missionaries in Spain have found.

T-shirts were just one part of an outreach program launched in the Spanish city of Vall de Uxo over the summer by missionaries Lonnie and Connie Reynolds. Vall de Uxo is on Spain's Mediterranean coast, north of Valencia. The city has about 30,000 residents; few are Christian believers.

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To magnify the efforts of their 37-member Baptist church, the Reynoldses designed a project called "La Vall '92." It mirrored the larger evangelism projects at Expo '92 and the Summer Olympics -- both held in Spain.

Hundreds of Baptist workers helped with those programs, but the two missionaries had only themselves and their 37 members. So they decided to magnify their work through mass communication techniques.

First they developed a logo featuring the city's symbol, a tower with the sun in the background. They added a cross casting a shadow over the tower, indicating the church's desire for the entire community to come under the cross of Christ.

Then they put the striking logo on posters, letterheads -- and T-shirts, which each church member bought.

With their identity enhanced symbolically, they delivered an introductory letter on the distinctive letterhead to every home in the city, informing residents church representatives would visit soon. Members then visited homes, using an eight-question survey to discover people who were open to further contact or participation in home Bible studies.

"We're looking for people who are interested, not focusing on the closed doors," said Mrs. Reynolds, of Newport News, Va. "Our people have learned it's easier to put literature in a mailbox than to ring a doorbell, and easier to ring a doorbell than to go in for a visit."

Early results were promising. Church members discovered 18 prospects in three weeks.

Members also put up a stand in the city's first book fair. They displayed Christian literature and Bibles for sale and gave away copies of the special-edition New Testament distributed at Expo '92 and the Olympics.

One Saturday Mrs. Reynolds gave a New Testament to a Moroccan Muslim now living in Vall de Uxo. The man later asked her husband for an appointment to talk about the book. Reynolds agreed to meet with him the following Tuesday.

When the Muslim man, named Mohammed, met the missionary, he apologized: "I'm sorry I haven't been able to read the whole book yet." He had managed to read more than half the New Testament in three days and came to the appointment with a notebook full of questions about what he had read.

Mohammed has not yet become a Christian, but Reynolds meets regularly with him. Mohammed also has begun bringing a friend to Bible studies.

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Missionary Linda Fisher is press representative for Spain.

Minister-ACLU activist to lead
church-state separation group

Baptist Press
9/24/92

WASHINGTON (BP)--Barry Lynn, United Christ of Christ minister, civil liberties activist and attorney, has been appointed executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Lynn, who will officially assume the position Oct. 5, was legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington office from 1984-1991.

Before that, Lynn held a variety of positions in the public policy field, including a stint from 1978-80 as legislative counsel for the United Church of Christ's Washington office.

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Lynn succeeds Robert L. Maddox, a Southern Baptist minister and former Carter White House official, who led Americans United from 1984 until last May when he resigned to return to the pulpit.

Foy Valentine, president of Americans United and retired head of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said, "The cause of church-state separation is significantly strengthened by Barry Lynn's acceptance of the call to the helm of Americans United. His abilities, convictions, experience and strong sense of special calling to this work combine to give us great enthusiasm and new hope as we look to the future."

"It is a major honor and a clear challenge," Lynn said, "to head Americans United at this crucial time in the history of our country. The Supreme Court has nearly erased the free exercise of religion, the president has proposed a steady stream of government subsidies for religion and Congress and the state legislatures are too often confused about fundamental First Amendment principles.

"Extreme vigilance is required at all governmental levels to prevent constitutional violations ranging from state support of religious education to government restrictions on non-traditional religious practices," Lynn said.

Based in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, Md., Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a 50,000-member public policy advocate of the constitutional principle of church-state separation.

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CORRECTION: In the (BP) story "Executive Committee inaugurates Morris Chapman, OKs key studies," dated 9-23-92, please correct the quote of Chapman in the next-to-last paragraph to read: "I hope we spend our time leading those churches with a spirit of cooperation."

Thanks,
Baptist Press

CORRECTION: In the (BP) story titled "Agencies ask \$8 million more of SBC Cooperative Program," dated 9-23-92, please change the 18th paragraph to read:

-- declined action on a motion referred from the 1992 SBC to establish a minimum in a church's Cooperative Program giving for one of its members to be nominated as an SBC officer. The Executive Committee response said it has "studied several times the matter ... and declines again" to recommend an amendment for a minimum in Cooperative Program giving to the SBC constitution or bylaws for church participation in the SBC.

Thanks,
Baptist Press
