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ROUNDUP:

FMB still seeking new president;
OKs Hamburg Agreement, budget

By Bob Stanley

Baptist Press
10/15/92

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The search for a new president for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board continued even as trustees and staff paid tribute Oct. 12-14 to their retiring president, R. Keith Parks.

Trustee Leon Hyatt of Louisiana, vice chairman of the presidential search committee, presided as the group met Oct. 13 in Richmond. He told trustees at their business session the next day the committee is still "praying" and "probing" to find God's man for the presidency. Committee chairman Joel Gregory, who recently resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, did not attend the meeting.

Hyatt criticized an Associated Baptist Press story that reported the committee had narrowed its search down to two men: FMB interim president-elect Don Kammerdiener and Sunday School Board administrator Avery Willis, a former missionary to Indonesia.

The story was a "prime example of irresponsible journalism," Hyatt said. "Some statements were true, some distorted and some patently inaccurate."

After the meeting Hyatt declined to elaborate on the particulars of the ABP story, but said the committee still has no firm date for completing its search. He also declined to confirm that Gregory himself is not a candidate, as ABP reported. "But that's not intended to say he will be," Hyatt quickly added.

Some trustees expressed anger that ABP's quoting of anonymous committee sources had compromised the integrity of the committee. One said the committee is still considering multiple candidates and likely is months away from a final selection.

Greg Warner, ABP executive editor, defended use of unnamed sources as "indispensable to investigative journalism." The sources were search committee members, he added. But he said ABP is anxious to correct the alleged inaccuracies if Hyatt or others on the committee will identify which statements are inaccurate.

In other actions, trustees:

-- Ratified the "Hamburg Agreement" for future work with European Baptists, which was drawn up by FMB representatives and European Baptist leaders in September.

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-- Approved a 1993 budget of \$183.8 million, less than one tenth of a percent increase over this year's total.

-- Accepted the resignation of eight more European missionary couples, including Paul Thibodeaux, associate to the area director for eastern Europe, and his wife, Margie. Four of the couples said they could not continue working with a board they claim has departed from Southern Baptists' traditional indigenous approach to missions -- a charge trustees deny.

-- Shored up its European staff by transferring Jack Shelby and his wife, Avah, from Cooperative Services International to help coordinate volunteer work in eastern Europe. Shelby has been a field director of the Southern Baptist aid organization, operating out of Hong Kong.

-- Heard a report that a trustee subcommittee will study the feasibility of hiring an outside consultant to help evaluate the board's present organizational structure.

-- Appointed 41 to its missions force and reappointed two to bring the current total to 3,918 missionaries in 126 countries.

-- Honored 75 retiring missionaries with a cumulative total of 2,184 years of service in 35 countries.

But the focus of much of the meeting was Keith Parks, who will retire as president at the end of October. In report after report, staff members reported statistics and accomplishments of Parks' almost-13 year tenure.

James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission, presented a plaque to Parks, who, he said, for 38 years "has demonstrated the meaning of a missions heart for all Southern Baptists to emulate." The plaque cited Parks' efforts in behalf of the unreached world, which Williams said has opened up "unparalleled opportunities" for Southern Baptist volunteers through the Brotherhood.

Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission personnel, said 4,866 people have been appointed or employed for overseas service since Parks became president in 1980. This is 42 percent of all the missionaries ever appointed by the board, he noted.

Finance vice president Carl Johnson said Parks had led in greatly strengthening the board's financial position as well as its benefits for missionaries. During Parks' administration, the board has increased its endowment from \$14 million to \$72 million, almost doubled its contingency reserve to \$25 million, raised the missionaries' salaries and cost-of-living allowances and tripled contributions to the missionary pension plan.

Trustee Alan Thompson of Arizona presented 38-year mission service pins to Parks and his wife, Helen Jean, who worked 14 years as missionaries to Indonesia before he joined the administrative staff. Thompson also presented Parks a "Resolution of Appreciation" plaque outlining major accomplishments achieved during his presidency.

At a reception Oct. 12, trustees gave the Parkses a camera; four volumes of letters of appreciation received from missionaries, staff, trustees and other Southern Baptists and missions leaders; and the title to the Ford automobile the board has provided for his use. Trustees also announced they had donated \$1,500 to the library of the Indonesian Baptist seminary to provide books in the name of "Helen Jean and Keith Parks." One of the Parkses' three sons, Kent, and his wife, Erika, are missionaries to Indonesia.

Trustees ratified with no dissenting votes the Hamburg Agreement, a blueprint for future partnership with European Baptists drawn up at a Sept. 11-12 meeting in Hamburg, Germany. The agreement had already been ratified by the executive council of the European Baptist Federation at a London meeting Sept. 28-Oct 1.

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Trustee Paul Pressler of Texas criticized the wording of an ABP story on the London meeting published in the Oct. 8 issue of The Religious Herald, Virginia's state Baptist paper. He said the account left the impression the Foreign Mission Board had apologized for defunding the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, last October, instead of expressing regret for the manner in which the action was taken. Another paragraph, Pressler said, quoted "sources close to the discussions" as telling ABP the apologies were left out of the agreement in order to "save face" for the mission board.

Trustees voted down Pressler's motion to call the board into executive session to discuss the news account.

Leroy "Skip" Smith of Texas, chairman of the trustees' Europe, Middle East and North Africa committee, said the regret he and other FMB representatives expressed at the Hamburg meeting related to the manner in which the defunding action was taken -- without prior consultation and adequate communication with European Baptists -- and not the action itself.

He called attention to a subsequent paragraph in the story that he said correctly quoted him as stating: "We deeply regret the grief, anguish and frustration brought about by the action of the Foreign Mission Board and pledge that we will give ourselves to closer consultation in the future on key issues."

Smith added he recalled nothing in the Hamburg discussion on the words "save face" or anything of that nature. He was impressed by the "sweet moving of the Spirit" during the meeting and the "profound way" it changed the lives of the six FMB representatives attending, he said.

The board's strategy committee, after hearing Kammerdiener outline six criteria on which he feels volunteer mission efforts should be evaluated, voted to appoint a subcommittee including staff members to do an in-depth study on the issue of volunteerism.

Parks asked that any study include efforts to hear from people on the field, including area director staff and missionaries, and the board department that deals with volunteers. Another suggestion was that the group talk with Baptists in other nations who would be recipients of the volunteers.

Kammerdiener's criteria were: (1) balancing the contribution of career missionaries with short-term people; (2) keeping commitments to partnership programs through state conventions, associations and churches; (3) planning around overseas Baptists' hopes and dreams; (4) building into evangelism campaigns a way to pull new believers into congregations; (5) telling fact from fiction in analyzing results of various methods; and (6) being sensitive to the revived strength of Orthodox churches in the former communist bloc.

Sam James, the board's new vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, told the mission personnel committee the Hamburg Agreement had led to reactivating a number of requests for missionaries in several countries that had put the requests "on hold" after the 1991 decision to defund the Ruschlikon seminary.

About 40 personnel requests are open in Europe, including 21 in Eastern Europe, James said. A total of 11 requests are under the board's Green Alert plan for former Soviet republics, he said, and six state Baptist partnerships are set for Eastern Europe and three for Western Europe.

Responding to a question on volunteers in Eastern Europe, James urged trustees not to substitute a large volunteer force for the presence of career missionaries. Volunteers can strengthen what career missionaries are doing, James said, but should not take the place of long-term personnel who learn the language and culture and invest their lives there.

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During the Oct. 12 plenary session, trustees heard concerns on the election of the board's new president from Cal Guy, distinguished professor of missions, emeritus, at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Guy earlier had spoken on this subject to the board's presidential search committee and voiced a longtime desire to address the full board, said trustee chairman John Jackson, who invited Guy to the October meeting. Jackson introduced Guy as "one of the great missiologists of our day."

A frequent Foreign Mission Board volunteer, Guy told trustees he has spent a lifetime teaching missions, encouraging students to commit themselves to mission service and support.

Trustee decisions about the new presidential profile should seek to guarantee "that your man is, by nature, a secure, mature, knowledgeable leader," Guy said. He added that he told FMB trustees five years before Parks was elected president that Parks was that kind of man. "I was so sure then and now that he was the best-prepared man we've had. I stand by that still ...," he said.

Guy presented a document outlining the characteristics he felt trustees should look for in the new president. These include (1) an operational concept of shared leadership; (2) a commitment to administration as his major assignment and promotion as a very minor one; (3) missionary experience; (4) thorough training in mission philosophy, strategy and methods (5) strength to make adjustments for the sake of maximum harvest; (6) willingness and ability to teach; and (7) filled with the Holy Spirit.

Guy said it was important the new president have "fruitful, productive and visionary" missionary experience. "The man who's been a missionary will be a far stronger leader, more able to understand and minister ... than somebody who's never been there," he said.

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Erich Bridges, Mary E. Speidel, Marty Croll and Kathy Fogg Berry contributed to this story.

FMB trustee chairman denounces
charges of resigning missionaries By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
10/15/92

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The trustee chairman of Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board used the waning minutes of the trustees' Oct. 12-14 meeting to denounce charges leveled by resigning missionaries Paul and Margie Thibodeaux.

As reasons for resigning, the Thibodeauxs said trustees were suspicious about missionaries and "imperialistic" in their dealings with Europeans.

Thibodeaux, associate to the area director for eastern Europe, has played a key role in the board's aggressive effort to settle missionaries in nations where communism toppled.

Trustee chairman John Jackson, in his closing remarks, said he felt "compelled" to defend the trustee board. "These accusations would indicate that you are not men and women of integrity," he said. "I do not believe that. I emphatically deny that any accusations made are true."

Thibodeaux, his wife, Margie, and three other missionary couples in Europe made stinging remarks in submitting their resignations, effective Dec. 31. All eight are expected to keep working in Europe through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, although none has formally joined the group yet.

The fellowship, organized by opponents of the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention, sponsors a small but growing mission team primarily made up of missionaries who have left the Foreign Mission Board.

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Besides the Thibodeauxs, the other resigning missionaries are Jim and Becky Smith in Germany, Kent and Debbie Blevins in Switzerland and Kevin and Jan Rutledge in Poland. The Rutledges were appointed just 10 months ago. Smith works closely with Thibodeaux in setting up partnership projects between Baptists overseas and in the United States. Blevins is a teacher at the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and with his departure the board will close its mission in Switzerland since it has no other personnel there.

Theirs were among 47 resignations -- including 16 in Europe -- reported during the FMB trustees' meeting.

The Thibodeauxs referred to a hotly contested letter sent in May 1991 to then-trustee chairman Bill Hancock by trustee Ron Wilson. The letter charged that missionaries during the past 25 years have exported weak theology overseas.

Disgruntled mission workers suggested the letter outlined a "global agenda" of theological housecleaning. Former Europe area director Keith Parker leveled that specific charge -- and made the Wilson letter public -- when he announced early retirement last January to protest board policies. Parker also has joined the fellowship.

Hancock disclaimed any connection of the trustee body to the letter. Last spring trustees unanimously declared they weren't driven by a "global agenda."

But in his resignation letter, Thibodeaux claims trustees say one thing and do another. "We have just come to the point where we can no longer work for the board," he said by phone from his office in Vienna, Austria. "We're going to get out of the way and let them do whatever they are going to do."

Thibodeaux stressed he doesn't want trustees to get the idea he is now working in Europe with a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship agenda. For the sake of missionaries, Thibodeaux said he plans to give "110 percent" to the Foreign Mission Board until he leaves.

"I have promised I will close out my work responsibly so I do not leave our missionaries hanging in the gap. We've worked hard and believe in what we've been trying to do," Thibodeaux said. "We've got to close out properly so good missionaries will not be hurt."

Jackson charged in his statement that by raising funds in Southern Baptist churches for its own missionary program, the fellowship is "cutting the throats of our missionaries."

Grayson Tennison, the fellowship's new interim director for missions, responded that he sees no difference between what the fellowship is doing and what churches do that use non-Foreign Mission Board channels for their mission work.

Board staff and trustees alike have praised Thibodeaux for tireless, selfless work as point man in the spread of the gospel in Eastern Europe, where he has worked nearly 10 years. But after Soviet communism collapsed, Thibodeaux' emphasis on career missions collided with trustees' desire to capitalize on a rising tide of volunteers seeking to work in former communist nations.

The conflict gave rise to criticism from Thibodeaux that trustees are dealing Europeans "a new threat -- the resurgence of Western imperialistic missions. Such an approach appears to be emerging in the Foreign Mission Board," reads the couple's resignation letter.

During the past two years Thibodeaux has been the target of various rumors begun by trustees who feel he is blocking their plans to influence the region without regard to European culture, he charged.

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In their resignation letter, the couple accuses the board of destroying missionary ministries through "character assassination ... in the push to sift and purify. Authentic God-ordained ministries are being destroyed through innuendo, gossip and outright untruths," the letter charges.

In their August meeting, trustees questioned Thibodeaux about whether he was able, as a senior missionary, to interpret the good will of the board to colleagues and restore their faith in trustees. During the session, he left open the question of whether he could -- or should -- trust some trustees.

Trustee chairman Jackson thinks Thibodeaux has been tainted by the suspicion of former supervisors toward trustees, he said. Isam Ballenger, former vice president in the Europe region, and Keith Parker, former area director, announced their early retirement last January after the board voted to defund the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The pair cited their discomfort with what they considered a trustee trend to enforce religious orthodoxy in Europe and the rest of the world. Parker is now the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Europe coordinator, and Ballenger is a consultant for the group.

Thibodeaux's comments at the time opposing the defunding raised trustee ire to the point that at least one trustee called for his resignation.

Thibodeaux knows other missionaries in the area are considering their options for future ministry. "When you've lived through the year we've been through, and you've lost close friends and pastors -- that's what Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker were to us -- it is only human to ask, 'Will I be next?' and, 'How will they respond to me?'" Thibodeaux said.

Jackson responded: "Isam and Keith were sincere in what they believed (about trustee intentions), but what they believed was wrong. It sounds like to me (Thibodeaux) has swallowed it hook, line and sinker." Further, Jackson said, he and others have repeatedly stressed that the idea of a "global agenda" was proposed in a letter by just one trustee who didn't speak for all.

"I am in disagreement with the tone of Paul's letter," Jackson added. "I think some statements are ludicrous. That part about imperialistic missions -- I absolutely feel that is ludicrous. I don't want to get into a war with Paul in the press. But he has questioned the integrity of this trustee board, and I must defend its integrity."

Still, Jackson and Leroy "Skip" Smith, chairman of the trustees' committee for Europe, say the Foreign Mission Board will suffer a loss when Thibodeaux leaves. "My comment when I heard about it was I feel like he was a valuable missionary and it will probably hurt us to lose him," Jackson said.

"I think the man has some fantastic ability," Smith said. "He's literally worn himself out for the cause of Christ. He has given and given and given." Future mission workers "will be able to build on ... the contribution he and Jim Smith have made and the groundwork they have laid," he added.

Sam James, elected by trustees in June to replace Ballenger as vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, said he regrets Thibodeaux and the others are leaving just as hope for better relationships with Europeans is dawning. He referred to the recently adopted "Hamburg Agreement," which calls for Southern Baptists and the European Baptist Federation to work as equal partners.

"The Foreign Mission Board is making significant changes in its attitude and actions toward Europe," James said. "Trustees expressed great joy at reaching this agreement. I'm optimistic that we've turned a corner."

"Both Paul Thibodeaux and Jim Smith have done a monumental job of organizing and utilizing our resources in eastern Europe," he said. "I just wish they could hold on and stay with us for a while, and give this a chance to work itself out."

HMB approves budget,
restructuring and missionaries

By Martin King

ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved a new budget and organizational structure, as well as appointed 30 missionaries.

Meeting in regular session, board members discussed at length and subsequently approved a 1993 budget of slightly more than \$86 million, which is less than a 1 percent increase over the 1992 budget. Discussion centered around the proposed budget being reduced since its mailing to members the previous month. Several members questioned why the proposed budget was reduced when the board appeared to be in a very healthy financial position with several million dollars in reserve.

Board member Wendell Estep, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., said he understood the agency's need to have sufficient working capital. "However, we're not in the banking business. I would much rather have the money out in the field rather than in the bank."

HMB President Larry Lewis agreed all available funds must be put to work on the field, and acknowledged the financial report for the first nine months indicates receipts over budget and expenditures under budget. He cautioned, however, that a positive bottomline at this time of the year can be misleading.

"It's like looking at your bank balance the day after payday and believing you have a lot of money without considering the bills you have to pay tomorrow and next week," Lewis said. "We still have a lot of budget needs to meet before the end of the year." HMB planners project 97 percent of 1992 receipts from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions already have been received, he said.

Lewis also recalled and renewed a pledge he would never bring a deficit budget for board approval. "Only the federal government can do that. We must do the very best job we can to project our revenue for the next year and beyond. Then we construct a budget that stays within those projections. That's what you have been presented here; the best thinking and work of a very capable staff."

The budget was approved overwhelmingly. Board chairman Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Hixson, Tenn., assured members the administrative committee and HMB administration understood concerns expressed. "We hear you. And during the December meeting of the administrative committee we will again review the budget and will recommend restoring the cuts if it is warranted at that time."

The directors also approved several organizational changes Lewis said will make the agency more efficient and effective. Beginning Jan. 1, all financial affairs will be consolidated under planning vice president Ernest Kelley. His title will be changed to executive vice president of planning and finance, and he will be chief fiscal officer of the agency. Bob Banks will continue as executive vice president with specific responsibilities for daily operations.

Other internal changes combined some positions and shifted responsibilities for others between departments. Included in the changes was the combining of the lay and personal evangelism departments as well as merging the department of evangelism church growth with the associational evangelism department. Each change was detailed in the proposal and approved as part of the reorganization.

In addition, six management positions which are either vacant or will be vacant as the result of retirements were eliminated. Lewis emphasized although the positions were being dropped, none of the functions would be eliminated. "We are simply trying to shift as much money as possible out of the Atlanta office and into the field."

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During the president's report, Lewis commended SBC President Ed Young for his proposal to create nine study groups "for an innovative examination of our denomination. I have communicated my support to Dr. Young for this fresh approach to examining what we are doing to proclaim the Gospel in America." Lewis also told the board he had been assured not only will SBC agencies have representation on the study groups, but the recommendations will come directly to the agencies for study and consideration. "This is good. The process creates a forum to allow fresh ideas."

Lewis also reviewed successful HMB enterprises over the past three months, including the National Church Growth Conference, the See You at the Pole youth prayer rally, and the board's involvement in disaster relief efforts. He also updated the board on the study of Freemasonry being conducted by the HMB interfaith witness department, saying it will be presented to the directors in March.

During the meeting the board also appointed 30 home missionaries, approved the endorsement of 47 Southern Baptist chaplains, and elected five staff to vacant positions. Those elected were Herbert B. Brisbane and Michael F. Thurman as associate directors of the black church extension division; James A. Dunbar as a loan officer in the church loans division; John W. Hocking as senior systems analyst in the information services department; and, W. Thaddeus Hamilton as director of personal evangelism.

Thirteen Home Mission Board employees with combined HMB service of over 200 years were honored for their dedication to missions. Each will retire by the end of the year and was presented with a resolution and walnut plaque.

Directors also responded to three motions referred by the SBC Executive Committee from the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis. The actions concerned limiting salaries and severance benefits for convention employees. The board's responses pledged to be good stewards but declined to set limits in these areas.

The board also heard a progress report on the agency's new headquarters which will be located in Alpharetta north of Atlanta. Committee chairman Ralph Smith of Texas, reported the building project is "on schedule and under budget." Plans call for bids to be taken next spring or summer. Smith said construction should start soon after bids are issued. An 18-month construction cycle would target completion in the spring of 1995. The building will be funded with proceeds from the sale of the existing property.

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Foreign Mission Board votes
\$183.8 million budget for '93

By Erich Bridges

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Faced with a flat U.S. economy, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees adopted a \$183.8 million budget for 1993 -- less than a tenth of a percent increase over this year.

The projected budget, approved Oct. 14, reflects a continued "leveling" of mission income, said outgoing board president R. Keith Parks.

"Hopefully, with the elections this fall, the United States economy will continue its climb out of the recession and the level of employment will increase, and this recovery will be reflected in additional Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (giving) by Southern Baptists," Parks told trustees. "There are still many unemployed Southern Baptists."

Here's where the 1993 mission funds will go:

-- \$122.3 million, or 66.5 percent of the total budget, to support the 3,900 missionaries abroad. The ever-rising cost of keeping missionaries on foreign fields continues to claim a larger percentage of the total each year.

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-- More than \$39 million for mission programs of evangelism and church development, Christian leadership training, media programs, health care, human need ministries and field administration.

-- \$22.4 million for U.S. administration and promotion at the Foreign Mission Board, or 12.2 percent of the total (the same percentage as last year).

No missionary or staff salary increase is budgeted for 1993, reported Vice President for Finance Carl Johnson. Missionaries and board employees received no increase in 1992.

The Lottie Moon offering, received annually in local churches, and the denomination's Cooperative Program unified giving plan provide the lion's share of foreign mission funds. Next year Lottie Moon will fund nearly 46 percent of the total budget, if the \$84 million offering goal is reached. The Cooperative Program is expected to provide about \$70 million, or 38 percent.

Trustees voted to designate any receipts above \$84 million for evangelism in former communist countries. In taking this action, the board joined with the SBC Executive Committee in declining a request made by a messenger at the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis for a special three-year offering the week of July 4 for this purpose.

The 1991 Lottie Moon Offering fell short of its \$84 million goal by about \$2.6 million. But it topped the previous year's total by 2.5 percent in the middle of a serious economic recession, giving worried mission planners new hope.

Overall Southern Baptist gifts to the Cooperative Program fell 1.4 percent for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, but gifts to the Annie Armstrong offering for home missions had climbed 5.2 percent by mid-September.

"If we could have the same experience with Lottie that the Home Mission Board had with Annie, that would certainly be positive," said Johnson.

Other mission funds will come from investment income, designated gifts, special gifts for hunger and relief ministry, unallocated revenues from previous years and "alternate channels" -- the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

This year the board anticipated \$1.8 million in gifts channeled through Virginia Baptists and the fellowship, which represents moderate Southern Baptists. It expects about the same amount next year, despite the fellowship's own growing foreign mission program.

The board had already received nearly \$2 million from the two sources by the end of September, Johnson said. "The \$1.8 million budgeted for next year is anticipating that we might not get as much as we did this year. But we don't know. There's no pledge (from the fellowship) to the Foreign Mission Board."

Some mission planners expected designated gifts to soar after many churches threatened to quit supporting missions through the Cooperative Program and send money directly to the mission board in the wake of denominational squabbles. Johnson said some increase is beginning to show up, but only a \$200,000 increase, for a total of \$3 million, was used in estimating such receipts for the 1993 budget.

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Trustees have quick and 'quiet'
meeting at Southeastern

By Jon Walker & Norman Miller

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10/15/92

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--In what was described as a "nice and quiet" meeting, trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary met Oct. 12-13 to adopt a long-range plan for the seminary, discuss future funding concerns and elect new officers. Intertwined with the trustee meeting was the inauguration of Southeastern's fifth president, Paige Patterson.

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Outgoing trustee chairman Roger Ellsworth, from Benton, Ill., said the adoption of the long-range planning committee report was the most significant agenda item discussed in this meeting.

"This will be our guiding document for the next five years," Ellsworth said. "The staff worked very hard on this and the trustees are very pleased with it."

Objectives of the long-range plan include the maintenance and further development of ministry-driven educational programs, the promotion of student development, and the enlargement the seminary's financial support. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) cited the lack of long-range planning as one reason for placing Southeastern on academic probation last year.

During his report to the trustees, Southeastern president Paige Patterson said the next 36 months would be "most critical" for the seminary due to anticipated funding deficits. He said he estimates an additional \$350,000 a year are needed to meet accreditation requirements such as additional faculty and library enhancements.

Southeastern faces a three year step-down in SBC Cooperative Program funds beginning in August 1993. At that time the six SBC seminaries will revert to the past formula for funding, based on enrollment, ending a funding freeze mutually observed by the seminaries since 1989 to help Southeastern during a critical declining enrollment period.

Patterson's plans for overcoming the funding deficit include restoring confidence in the school and developing 12 endowed chairs. This would remove certain faculty salaries from the seminary's operating budget.

Southeastern trustees elected Ned Mathews chairman. Mathews is pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C., and an alumnus of Southeastern.

The trustees also elected Dale Thompson of Fort Smith, Ark., vice chairman; and Ken Stevens of Novi, Mich., secretary. Cecil Rhodes of Wilson, N.C., was re-elected treasurer.

Ellsworth said the meeting was "nice and quiet" because many major items were covered in last May's "called session" where Patterson was elected president.

Trustee William Delahoyde of Raleigh, N.C., said, "The quality of the reports we received (from the administration) did not require a great deal of deliberation. Over the past year, the trustees have made a real effort to let the administration administrate, and we are seeing the fruit of that decision."

"I just appreciate the spirit of keeping the main thing the main thing," said Jerre Brannen, trustee from Gainesville, Fla. "There's a sense of focus on where the Lord is leading the seminary."

In other trustee business:

Trustees adopted a change to the long-range planning committee's report which allows the seminary's budget to be driven by needs rather than by the previous budgets.

The trustees approved the long-range planning committee's report, which was summarized in seven objectives: (1) maintaining and developing ministry-driven educational programs; (2) ensuring excellence in teaching; (3) promoting student development; (4) enhancing the seminary's library; (5) refining the school's administrative process; (6) enlarging its financial support; and (7) utilizing campus facilities as fully as possible.

President Paige Patterson reported on five items of particular concern:

(1) the esprit de corps on campus. He reported Southeastern was "no longer a campus in turmoil."

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(2) accreditation. He said SACS sent 18 recommendations to which the seminary is striving to respond by Oct. 30. Patterson offered his hopeful opinion that SACS may remove the seminary from probation in December, awarding a ten-year accreditation.

(3) rebuilding the student body. He said despite reports that enrollment was down, it is actually up by 10 students.

(4) money. He stressed the need to build an endowment fund.

(5) rebuilding the faculty. He introduced seven new faculty members and said the administration is moving toward introducing more at the next trustee meeting. The priority area is Christian education.

The new faculty members introduced were: Scott Tatum, visiting professor of preaching and pastoral ministry; Daniel Akin, dean of students and adjunct professor of church history; Paul Carlisle, assistant professor of pastoral theology; Keith Eitel, professor of missions and assistant director of the Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies; Gerald Cowen, professor of pastoral theology; David Lanier, associate professor of New Testament; and Gary Galeotti, professor of Old Testament. With the exception of Daniel Akin, dean of students, all are on one-year presidential appointments.

The trustees voted to give Paige Patterson the title of professor of theology.

Trustees dealt with motions referred to them by the SBC:

1. On limiting the salaries and severance packages of SBC employees, the trustees reported "there is no employee of (Southeastern) receiving a salary approaching \$100,000, and the trustees of SEBTS at this time have no intention of raising the salary of any employee to this amount." The trustees appointed a committee to formulate a severance policy to be presented in the March trustee meeting.

2. Concerning prerequisites for being awarded a degree from an SBC seminary, the trustees voted to send a copy of Southeastern's admission policies to the Convention.

The trustees rejected an offer to purchase 5.9 acres of the seminary's property because the offer did not meet the appraised value of the property.

A motion from the communication committee to begin advertising the seminary in various Christian publications was tabled.

The trustees voted to accept an investment performance report of the school's endowment portfolio by Legg, Mason, Wood, Walker, Inc. In response to the report, the committee on audit and investment said it was "putting on notice" one of the seminary's three investment advisory firms that, if the firm did not add value to Southeastern's endowment portfolio by the end of 1992, then the seminary would begin searching for a new investment manager.

Paul Fletcher, vice president of internal affairs, said accounts receivable among students is up to \$60,000. He said although student fees may need to be raised to cover expenses, he wants to remain sensitive to the financial difficulties many students experience while in seminary. He said he would like to see those costs offset by scholarship funding.

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Southeastern Seminary
inaugurates Patterson

By Norman Miller & Jon Walker

Baptist Press
10/15/92

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--SBC president Ed Young predicted Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary will become a "product-driven institution" as he spoke to more than 1,200 people during Paige Patterson's inaugural ceremony, Oct. 12.

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Young encouraged Southeastern's administration to determine prayerfully "the kind of product this institution would produce."

"The product is scholarship on fire, and erudition does not exclude sound, conservative, theological positions," said Young. "I believe this seminary will gear its graduates to serve primarily in the local church, and these scholars on fire for God will make a radical difference as servants in the churches across the eastern seaboard and around this globe."

Patterson responded by saying his presidential responsibilities are more than any one man can do. He asked for prayer in three specific areas: 1) he never bring shame to God or the seminary, 2) Southern Baptists pray for his family, and 3) the seminary community always remember education is not an end in itself, it is a means for training people to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Morris Chapman, president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said, "This is a great day in the life of Southern Baptists. I rejoice that God has called Paige to this distinguished position."

Foreign Mission Board trustee Paul Pressler, a name linked closely with Patterson's throughout the conservative resurgence of the Southern Baptist Convention, said, "There is no institution in the world that would not be blessed and changed for the good by the presence of such an outstanding person (as Patterson)."

Although a large portion of the inaugural participants expressed support for the day's events, there were some negative reactions. Specifically, a few people expressed they were offended by Ed Young's comments about his days at Southeastern. Young, an alumnus of the seminary, said his Southeastern experience caused him to doubt his salvation, his call to ministry, and the veracity of the Bible.

Southeastern theology professor Robert Culpepper, said, tongue-in-cheek, "It is amazing Young has done so well having started (his ministry career) with such a tremendous handicap as a degree from Southeastern."

Divinity student Grace Dalton said she did not even attend the inauguration because she knew she would be offended, particularly by what she characterized as one group telling another group what to think.

"We're guided by the Bible," Dalton said, "but (we should) recognize that it was recorded by human beings and translated by human beings."

Charles Page, pastor at First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., and a Southeastern alumnus, said he polled Southeastern alumni "from various spectrums of the convention" and, although there were mixed emotions about the seminary's fifth president, there was also "a real hope and optimism."

United States Vice President Dan Quayle sent a letter of support read by trustee Roger Ellsworth. Quayle wrote about Patterson, "You are respected and admired for your searching intellect, your high personal standards, your fidelity to scripture, and your leadership by example."

Patterson expressed a low-key attitude about the inauguration.

"Inaugurations like this concern me," said Southeastern's fifth president. "When focusing on a man, I fear there is a tendency not to give adequate expression of thanksgiving to God."

**Golden Gate trustees approve
housing aid for employees**

By Mark A. Wyatt

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary voted Oct. 13 to set up a \$3.2 million endowment to help seminary employees buy homes in the expensive San Francisco Bay area.

Seminary president Bill Crews told trustees a recent study "revealed a 54.4 percent difference in the cost of living in Marin County, compared to the location of the other Southern Baptist seminaries.

"The biggest part of the cost of living is housing" Crews said. The study showed it costs at least three times as much to buy a house near the Mill Valley seminary campus as it does in cities where other Southern Baptist seminaries are located, he said.

To create the endowment Golden Gate will use proceeds from the sale of some seminary land to match \$1.6 million in special allocations from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Last month the Executive Committee extended by three years its original five-year, \$200,000 annual commitment on the condition that Golden Gate set up the housing supplement endowment.

Crews said the fund is not enough but conceded "it's all we're probably going to get." He said creating the endowment means the seminary can finally "put the cost of living issue to bed."

Trustees affirmed an earlier action by their own executive committee to obtain a \$3.8 million dollar loan on the institution's 17-acre Seminary Ridge Development project. The Sanwa Bank loan originally was obtained by Roseville (Calif.) real estate developer Jack Rice on behalf of Golden Gate to finance the development project. When seminary officials learned the bank planned to sell the note, the trustees' executive committee agreed to acquire the loan to prevent anyone else holding a mortgage on seminary property.

Repayment of the loan will be made from proceeds of the sale of 22 individual lots and a condominium site. Seminary funds on deposit with the Southern Baptist Foundation were used as collateral for the loan.

Trustees approved spending an additional \$200,000 in capital funds to continue renovation of student apartments. The structures were built just after Golden Gate moved from Berkeley to Mill Valley in 1959.

"It's a marvelous upgrade," California trustee Rob Zinn, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, San Bernardino, said after a number of trustees toured the renovation site. "This doesn't take care of all the student housing but it gets us up to where we want to be," Zinn said.

The funds are in addition to \$500,000 approved earlier this year for student housing improvements.

Trustees also heard reports that student enrollment and finances at Golden Gate have "turned the corner." Enrollment this fall totals 591 students, an increase of three over 1991 Fall figures. Seminary president Crews called it a "positive trend" after several years of declining enrollment.

Included in enrollment figures are 144 students attending the seminary's Southern California center in Brea, and 48 enrolled at the Northwest Campus in Portland, Ore. In addition, 268 students are enrolled in 20 Ethnic Leadership Development centers in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Arizona.

Crews told trustees preliminary audit figures for 1991-92 show Golden Gate finished "in the black for the second year in a row." And despite a more than \$75,000 shortfall in Cooperative Program funds since 1990, Crews said the seminary is on track for a third consecutive year of operating within its budget.

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Trustees responded to several motions referred from the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis. In response to two motions relating to severance benefits, trustees stated current retirement policies "are well within the bounds of responsible stewardship."

To a motion to set a \$100,000 limit on SBC employee salaries, trustees replied " ... we have no employee whose salary approaches ..." that amount.

Trustees also stated all degrees granted by Golden Gate conform with guidelines of the three accrediting agencies to which the seminary is responsible. This came in response to a referred motion which would restrict the way Southern Baptist seminaries award earned degrees from the masters level or above.

In other business trustees:

-- approved sabbatical leaves for professors Ron Hornecker, Max Lyall, and John Shouse.

-- agreed to publish results of a student survey being conducted as part of a year-long strategic planning project.

-- voted to hold their Oct. 1993 meeting in Brea to mark 20th anniversary of Golden Gate's Southern California Campus.

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Retiring missionaries thank God,
Baptists for 2,184 years of service

Baptist Press
10/15/92

By Kathy Fogg Berry

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Dan Ray remembers watching fishermen in their boats along the South China sea.

As a child, he observed them mending or making fishing nets. Many cords with knots tied together just right made sturdy nets to surround and hold a catch.

"God has spread a net over the world to bring salvation to those who come into it," Ray said, sharing a testimony during a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board recognition service honoring 75 retiring missionaries. He compared the emeritus missionaries representing 2,184 years of service to sturdy knots in a net.

Quoting Jesus' words from Matthew 4:19 -- "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" -- Ray recalled growing up the son of Southern Baptist missionaries Rex and Janet Ray, who served in China and later South Korea before retiring in 1955. Ray also grew up to become a missionary. He and his wife, Frances, ministered in South Korea for 39 years.

Before presenting certificates and pins to the missionaries during a service Oct. 12 at Derbyshire Baptist Church in Richmond, FMB President R. Keith Parks recalled visiting some of their homes.

"I know this bunch, some of them very well. We were appointed with some of them," he said. "I've been in their homes, I've prayed with many of them. Helen Jean and I have visited them all over the world. They have blessed us in ways we cannot express."

Repeatedly during the week retiring missionaries thanked Southern Baptists for support that allowed them to serve in 35 countries. And repeatedly they expressed gratitude for the multicultural "fishing expeditions" they'd experienced with God.

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-- Romona Mercer, missionary in Japan for 38 years, recently received a telephone call from a young couple in Matsue, Japan. Her husband, Dewey, was pastor of a church there until his death 17 months before retirement. The church, she explained, is full of new Christians, and he had been their only pastor. Just before she returned to the United States to retire, church members told her not to go away heavyhearted. They would continue on, they promised. The couple who called wanted her to be first to know they had dedicated their lives to full-time Christian service.

-- Divina Park, a 28-year missionary, remembered pausing from hymn playing in a small nitrate-mining camp town's church in Chile to answer a young boy's anxious inquiries: "Who is this Jesus? Did he really live and die? Did he come to life again? Did he do that for me?"

-- Carlos Owens, missionary to Africa for 36 years, celebrated Christian converts like Anosisye Mwaigwembe and Danieli Bihali, who planted churches in Tanzania, and Yesaya Shavinge, Moses Tololi, and Augustu Khumalu, who helped start 40 churches in Namibia.

-- Nadine Lovan, missionary to Ghana for 34 years, recalled one student who said, "Mom Nadine, I want to be a Christian. ... I believe what the Scriptures teach, but it is so difficult when I know my family will desert me."

-- Jean Dickman, Southern Baptist representative and surgeon in Yemen's Jibla Baptist Hospital for 35 years, said, "My being a doctor made it possible for me to go to a country like Yemen that is 100 percent Muslim. Our witness there has been for a large part through lifestyle evangelism."

-- Pat Bellinger, missionary to Liberia for 29 years, thanked God for the opportunity to serve with Christians there and said, "I was blessed again and again as Liberian refugees related stories of scattered Christians spreading the gospel wherever they went."

-- La Nell Bedford, 41-year missionary in Argentina, thanked God for Christian converts like Delia and Jose Ragni, who continue to share their faith.

Missionaries expressed bittersweet feelings about leaving mission fields and people who've become like family to them. But as Ben and LaNell Bedford's retirement approached, they recall, Mrs. Ragni made a special request.

"Because someone shared the gospel with you, you came to know the Lord. And because you responded to God's call to Argentina and shared the gospel with us, we came to know the Lord," she said.

"Tell Southern Baptists thank you for sending and supporting missionaries. Ask them to continue their support so that this (Christian) chain can be repeated many times over."

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Parks leaves tips
for his successor

Baptist Press
10/15/92

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--R. Keith Parks, who will retire at the end of October as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, passed along some advice to his successor as part of his final report to the board Oct. 14.

To the incoming president, yet to be selected, Parks made these suggestions:

"1. Determine the missiological standard by which decisions will be made and apply it consistently and vigorously, resisting any special interest groups, any passing fad, any influential individual or power bloc in your decision making.

"2. Assume responsibility for all tough, unpopular decisions whether you made them or not.

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"3. Delegate responsibility and encourage a participative management style.

"4. Encourage, even insist on, the free expression of news and other forms of communication without administrative restriction, intimidation or control.

"5. Identify with career missionaries.

"6. Guard against using any aspect of this office to meet personal needs or desires. Be an authentic pilgrim-servant fulfilling a mission, not filling a position.

"7. Maintain a daily closeness to the Lord so decisions are made in God's wisdom rather than your own."

Parks thanked missionaries, staff, Southern Baptist Convention agency and state leaders, co-workers worldwide and people in local churches "who have prayed, sent forth and supported financially the cause of foreign missions."

He also expressed gratitude for board trustees, noting that through the years "some of them have become close friends, spiritual mentors and decision-making resources of great significance. It is one of my deepest regrets that this relationship has deteriorated in recent years. Mutual confidence and trust in this pivotal relationship are essential for the well-being of any organization."

Parks said God has blessed Southern Baptists in their foreign mission work. "For his grace in the past, I express my gratitude," he said. "For the future, I pray that all of us as Southern Baptists may continue faithfully to express our commitment to reaching a world for Christ."

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The complete text of Parks' final report to the Foreign Mission Board is available on SBCNet Newsroom.

Congress passes bill
halting sports gambling

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
10/15/92

WASHINGTON (BP)--Congress took time in the hurried, closing days of its session to pass legislation preventing the spread of state-sponsored gambling based on professional and amateur sports.

The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (S. 474) will prohibit states not already engaged in such practices from authorizing or operating lotteries or other games based on sporting events. The bill also bans such gambling on Indian lands.

The Senate passed the bill Oct. 7, two days after the House of Representatives amended and okayed it. Both did so by voice vote. The Senate adjourned Oct. 8. The House adjourned the next day.

While the bill's supporters have received no clear signal what President George Bush will do with the bill, "they expect it to be signed" by him, a congressional spokesperson said. The president has 10 days after he receives the bill to act on it. As of Oct. 14, he had not received the legislation, a White House spokesperson said.

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"Congress has bucked a national trend in favor of more and more gambling by passing this legislation," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "State-sponsored sports gambling would no doubt have been the wave of the future unless Congress acted. It's not often that Congress does the right thing when it comes to moral concerns, but in this case they scored a winning touchdown in the final minutes of the game.

"It is appropriate for Congress to step in and restrict state-sponsored sports gambling in light of the national scope of sports," Smith said. "Allowing our national pastimes to become marketing agents for the gambling industry would have had an especially pernicious effect on our children."

Smith testified in support of the bill before a Senate subcommittee in June 1991.

The bill, which is effective Jan. 1, 1993, will not impact forms of sports gambling already legal in Arizona, Delaware, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota and Oregon. The House passed an amendment, which was then approved by the Senate, allowing New Jersey a one-year exemption to permit its voters to decide whether to legalize sports gambling in Atlantic City casinos.

The measure does not affect the sport of jai-alai or pari-mutuel racing by animals such as horses and dogs.

"Sports is not and never should be about winning and losing money," Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D.-Ariz., said in a written statement after the bill's passage. "When sports gambling is sponsored by states, it sends the wrong signal to our kids. This legislation will maintain the integrity of our sports and sports figures."

Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League and the National Collegiate Athletic Association supported the bill. The commissioners of the four professional leagues testified on behalf of the legislation last year.

DeConcini was the bill's chief Senate sponsor. Rep. John Bryant, D.-Texas, and Rep. Hamilton Fish, R.-N.Y., were prime sponsors of the House version.

Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia have general lotteries. In addition to the states where sports gambling is legal, many other states reportedly have considered legalizing sports lotteries to raise funds.

"I understand that many states see sports gambling as a quick fix for budgetary shortfalls, but there are far less destructive ways to generate additional revenue," DeConcini said.

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Texans in Bulgaria continue
to seek 'impossible missions'

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
10/15/92

DALLAS (BP)--After helping establish the English-speaking International Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria, this year, veteran Partnership Missions volunteers Harold and Ruth Bryson are eager for more "impossible missions."

Their ministry in Bulgaria -- until recently a bastion of hard-line communism -- was part of the European Baptist Convention thrust to establish English-speaking churches in all cities in Europe, said Texas Partnership Missions Coordinator Bill Gray.

The Bryson's ministry was in addition to Texas Baptist Partnerships which will involve hundreds of volunteers serving alongside Estonia and Romania Baptists next year.

This was the fourth missions assignment for the Brysons since they got involved extensively after he was 70 and retired from a journalistic career. Last year, they served in Brazil with an evangelistic/church construction team from their home church, Richardson Heights Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas.

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Previously, he was interim pastor of Little Stukeley Baptist Church of Cambridge, England, and International Baptist Church of Paris, France. Also, the Brysons have served in Malawi and have taken into their home two Brazilian students studying in the U.S.

When the missions-minded couple arrived in Sofia, Bulgaria, they initially sat on the floor and ate off a hardbacked suitcase with plastic spoons salvaged from their airline trip over.

Eventually, they were able to secure some basic furniture, and the enthusiastic response they received from spiritually-hungry people more than made up for temporary hardships.

"They just could not believe we were there as volunteers and had paid our own way," said Bryson. Their ministry was undergirded through a used automobile purchased with funds given by their friends at Richardson Heights Baptist Church.

The church which the Brysons helped establish averaged 21 persons in attendance and had 40 on their final Sunday there.

Besides beginning the new church, a highlight of their trip was attending services in a Bulgarian gypsy village where they "expected to be spectators but were swept into the service as every person there greeted us with a hug."

The pastor of the gypsy church explained it was a 10-mile walk to the nearest Baptist church that had a building. The deacons in his congregation had located land for a church in the gypsy village, but had not been able to raise money to buy the land.

"We can make our own bricks and build the church if we can just buy the land," the pastor explained.

The Brysons gave half of the money needed to buy the land for what will be the first church ever built by the Bulgarian gypsies.

"It will be more than a church," said Bryson. "It will be a symbol of their new stable life style -- no more wandering from place to place."

Another highlight was attending the Bulgarian Baptist National Convention in the former Communist Party headquarters where all of Eastern Europe sent students to train in communism.

"The International Language Baptist Church in Sofia represents a global vision," said Bryson. "The work is advancing rapidly among high school and college young people who see an opportunity to learn the most coveted language of the world.

"As they progress through the gospel of Mark, they become believers. How eager they are to share their new-found faith with friends."

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CLARIFICATION: In (BP) story titled "WMU staff commissions one of its own" dated 10/14/92, one paragraph may be unclear in one regard. Yarbrough is going to work for Amity Foundation through Cooperative Services International. WMU has not sent its own missionary.

Please replace the second paragraph with:

Yarbrough leaves for China Oct. 19 where her long-term assignment will be to help Chinese Christians develop curriculum materials. Working through Cooperative Services International, Yarbrough will work for Amity Foundation, a Chinese Christian social service organization involved in such efforts as helping place English teachers, conducting social ministry projects and printing Bibles.

Baptist Press