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

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November 2, 1992

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SBC Cooperative Program begins  
fiscal year with slight increase

Baptist Press  
11/2/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for the first month of the new fiscal year were up 1.28 percent over the previous year's first month, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

October 1992 receipts, the first month of the 1992-93 fiscal year, were \$10,830,045 compared to October 1991 of \$10,693,592, or a 1.28 percent increase, according to Chapman.

However, the monthly basic operating budget requirement for the month is \$11,683,366, leaving the October CP gifts about 7.9 percent below budget. The 1992-93 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget is \$140,200,395.

Designated gifts for the first month were up a whopping 41.99 percent over last year: \$2,100,758 for October 1992 compared to \$1,479,520 for October 1991.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions, world hunger and other special gifts.

State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the Executive Committee for national and international ministries. The percentage of distribution is at the discretion of each state or regional convention.

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BWA supports Catholic/Orthodox  
appeal to end Bosnia bloodshed

By Wendy Ryan

Baptist Press  
11/2/92

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance has called on Baptists to study and support the appeal made by Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle and Croatian Catholic Cardinal Kuharic for international help for Bosnia and an end to the war.

"The tragedy of Bosnia is daily before us," said Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary in support of Pavle and Kuharic. "The criminal killing and massacre must stop.

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"I call upon Baptist brothers and sisters everywhere to study this call for peace," said Lotz, "to pray for peace and to work by all means, government and private, to alleviate suffering and stop the bloodshed now."

In their appeal issued in Geneva on Sept. 23, Pavle and Kuharic called for:

-- an immediate and unconditional end to the hostilities, bloodshed and destruction and a stop to the destruction of places of prayer and holy places, Christian and Muslim alike.

-- immediate negotiations between warring parties.

-- the immediate and unconditional freedom of all prisoners of war and hostages and the closing of all prison camps.

-- an immediate end to ethnic cleansing.

-- the return of all refugees and deportees to their homes and freedom of religion for all groups.

-- the return of normal communication and free movement for all people.

-- equal access for all people to humanitarian aid.

"Equally with one mind and voice we condemn all crimes and distance ourselves from all criminals," Pavle and Kuharic said in a statement. "We especially express our horror at the perpetration of extremely immoral misdeeds, at the mistreatment of older and younger women and girls, which only monsters can perpetrate no matter what name they give themselves."

Pavle and Kuharic pledged "before God and humanity" to use all means "to work decisively and openly for peace" and "for the dignity and inalienable rights of every individual and every people, for humanity, tolerance, for forgiveness and love."

Pavle and Kuharic said they issued the appeal after prayer and "a candid and truthful dialogue on all dimensions of the present situation."

In his call to Baptists, Lotz spoke of the work of Baptists in Serbia and Croatia distributing humanitarian aid to refugees and victims of war.

Working with Canadian Baptists and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the BWA, recently sent \$25,000 in flour and foodstuffs to Croatia.

Working with Brother's Brother Foundation, BWAid obtained a large quantity of winter clothing for displaced persons and refugees. These are now being shipped to Croatia where they will be distributed by "My Neighbor," the humanitarian organization of the Baptist Union of Croatia. BWAid has sent more than \$128,000 in relief to the former Yugoslavia.

During a service of prayer and reconciliation at the European Baptist Federation in September, Baptists from Europe joined hands around Croatian and Serbian Baptist leaders and prayed.

"I feel very good between two Serbs," said the Baptist leader from Croatia. "It is by the mercy of the Lord that we are standing here."

Bush signs bill halting  
spread of sports gambling

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP)--President George Bush has signed into law a bill halting the spread of state-sponsored gambling based on professional and amateur sports.

The president signed The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (S. 474) Oct. 28. The law prohibits states not already engaged in such practices from authorizing or operating lotteries or other games based on sporting events. It also prohibits Indian tribes from sponsoring such gambling.

"We commend the president for signing this important piece of legislation," said James A. Smith, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "America's pastimes should not be polluted by the corrupting influences of the gambling industry. Without this legislation, gambling based on amateur and professional sporting events certainly would have been the wave of the future."

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

The act, effective Jan. 1, 1993, will not impact forms of sports gambling already legal in Arizona, Delaware, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota and Oregon. It also allows 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.

Congress passed the legislation in its final week of the session. The House of Representatives passed it Oct. 5. The Senate approved the bill Oct. 7. Both did so by voice vote.

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

Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League and the National Collegiate Athletic Association supported the act.

The CLC's Smith, as well as the commissioners of the four professional leagues and others, testified in support of the bill before a Senate subcommittee in June 1991.

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Southern Baptists to expand  
ministry training in Northeast

By Lesley S. Vance

Baptist Press  
11/2/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists are making an effort to expand ministry training opportunities for Baptists in the Northeast.

Members of the Northeast Task Team for Theological Education (NETTTE) have adopted a \$130,000 budget goal for 1993 -- more than double their current budget.

NETTTE is a joint effort of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, the Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist state conventions of Pennsylvania/South Jersey, New York, Maryland/Delaware and New England. NETTTE functions to provide oversight and fund-raising for ministry training activities in the Northeast.

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"Many people in the Northeast who feel a call into the ministry cannot move to one of the six Southern Baptist seminaries," said Ken Lyle, NETTTE chairperson and executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. "Through NETTTE-sponsored activities, we can train our people who are called to ministry vocations."

The increased budget NETTTE expects to raise will be used to sponsor seminars, conferences, research projects and mentor training programs. In addition, NETTTE underwrites Southern Baptist seminary professors who lead pastors in the January Bible Study and other workshops in the Northeast.

"When people in the Northeast cannot get ministry education, they usually go South and do not return," said Doran McCarty, NETTTE coordinator and executive director of SBC Seminary Extension. "Through NETTTE-sponsored activities, people are able to stay where they are and get training they need."

NETTTE is looking for a on-site program coordinator. The additional budget will help fund the full-time position, to be responsible for scheduling NETTTE activities, fund-raising events, seminars and conferences.

NETTTE also will use its increased budget to expand space for a library, hire seminary faculty and purchase a computer system at one of its sponsored programs, the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry (NEBSM) in Northboro, Mass., a degree program of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

"The potential for NETTTE is without limit," Lyle said. "I count it a rare and challenging privilege to join with believers from Washington, D.C., to Maine as we write Baptist history."

Information about NETTTE may be obtained from McCarty at 901 Commerce St., Suite 500, Nashville, TN 37203, (615) 242-2453, or Lyle at the Baptist Convention of MD/DE, 10255 Old Columbia Road, Columbia, MD 21046, (301) 290-5290.

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Union University students build  
family's Habitat house in 3 weeks      By Tracey King

Baptist Press  
11/2/92

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--Shanell and Willie Boykin never believed they could own a house of their own. Making a down payment and writing a mortgage check each month seemed like an impossible dream until Union University students teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to make the Boykins' dream a reality.

Students, faculty and other volunteers began construction on the \$27,500 house Oct. 8. Three weeks later it was completed and ready for occupation. The Boykins should be settled in by Thanksgiving.

The Boykins' home is Union's second attempt at building a house for a needy family in Jackson. Last fall the university became the first college in the nation to build and completely finance a Habitat house.

"Union students have raised \$6,500 each year to supplement a grant from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency," said Tim Wheat, campus minister. "Construction on last year's house lasted five months. This year the foundation for the second house was laid on Oct. 8 -- three weeks later it was finished.

"On our big work day, 130 volunteers worked from 7 a.m. until sunset putting shingles on the roof, digging the driveway and framing the walls," Wheat said. "Workers haven't been professional carpenters or painters; they have been people with a willing heart to share with those who are less fortunate." A total of 257 Union volunteers worked on the house.

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The Boykins have worked alongside volunteers to build the three-bedroom, two-bath home. After contributing 500 hours of "sweat equity," they will rent the house for one year, making payments of less than \$200 a month. If they make their scheduled payments for a year, then they will take over the low-interest mortgage.

"The Union students have been a blessing," said 23-year-old Shanell. "We've met a lot of nice people who have helped us put a roof over our family's heads." Willie, an industrial equipment operator, and Shanell, a homemaker, have two children, Sharica, 5, and Jeremy, 2.

Theresa Williams, executive director of Jackson's Habitat office and a student in Union's nursing program, thanked the university for leading the way in such an ambitious project.

"Three weeks is one of the shortest construction times for a house built in Jackson," Williams said.

Since 1986, Jackson volunteers have built 13 houses, and Habitat International, the parent organization, has built 17,340 homes.

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King is Union's director of public relations. (BP) photos available upon request from Union's public relations office, (901) 668-1818.

New Testament scholar named  
writer for Romans commentary

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press  
11/2/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--A retired New Testament scholar has been selected as the new writer for The New American Commentary volume on Romans.

Robert H. Mounce, formerly a professor and academic dean at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky., replaces Robert Sloan, a Baylor University associate professor who resigned from the project in April.

A native of LaSalle, Ill., 70-year-old Mounce also has been president of Whitworth College, a liberal arts school in Spokane, Wash., and may be best known by pastors as author of the volume on Revelation in The New International Commentary on the New Testament.

"We're really thrilled to get Dr. Mounce for this project. He is well-known among evangelicals as being a first-rate New Testament scholar," said Ray Clendenen, editor of The New American Commentary. The 40-volume series is being published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press.

At the time of his resignation, Sloan expressed concern about Clendenen's nomination as editor of the commentary, claiming his selection would represent "because of the political and theological associations attached to his resume and experience, a significant movement toward further polarization in the Baptist family."

Clendenen, former chairman of the Old Testament and Hebrew department at Criswell College in Dallas, began work in August as the third editor of the commentary, replacing David Dockery, now dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. No other writers have resigned from the project this year.

Mounce, who also taught at Bethel College in St. Paul, Minn., earned a doctor of philosophy degree in New Testament studies from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, a master of theology degree in New Testament and the bachelor of divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and a bachelor of arts degree in music from the University of Washington. He has done post-doctoral work in archaeology at New York University.

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He is the author of 10 books and numerous articles in Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias, theological and professional journals and magazines. He recently delivered the Huber L. Drumwright Lectures in New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mounce's commentary on Romans is expected to be the last volume released in The New American Commentary series, according to Clendenen. The estimated completion date for the series has been changed from 1997 to 1999, he said.

Five New Testament commentary volumes -- Philippians, Colossians, Philemon; Mark; Acts; 1,2 Timothy/Titus; and Matthew -- have been released to date. Upcoming releases include: Luke, by Robert A. Stein, professor of New Testament at Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., January 1993; Jeremiah, by F.B. Huey, professor of Old Testament, emeritus, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, April 1993; and Ezra/Nehemiah, by Mervin Breneman, a missionary pastor and seminary professor in Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 1993.

Huey's volume on Jeremiah will be the first Old Testament volume released in the series.

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Russian Baptists keep  
hope despite difficulties

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
11/2/92

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Russian Baptists are seeking to evangelize a nation that hungers for spiritual nourishment and craves better economic times, said the president of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia.

"The hope of the believer is in God," said Vasily E. Logvinenko during an October visit to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "He is a gracious God, a good God. We trust he will have mercy on Russia. We not only await revival among th people but we also hope the economic situation will straighten out."

The economic conditions "amount to a national tragedy," said Logvinenko, noting most Russians struggle to provide basic food, clothing and shelter for their families.

Scarce resources, he said, have prohibited Baptists from taking full advantage of their freedom to share the gospel. "We don't have the money to build the churches we can now build," said Logvinenko. "Before we had the money but not the land or the opportunity. Today we have the land and the opportunity but no money."

Baptists, Logvinenko said, are enjoying an improved public image in Russia. "Previously, the word Baptist was a bad word," he said. "It was kind of an insult to call someone a Baptist. They accused us of immorality. They accused us of sacrificing our children to the God whom we worshipped. But now the Baptists are regarded very, very highly."

Baptist pastors and Sunday school teachers have been invited to public schools to teach the Bible, he said.

Despite the hardships, Logvinenko is confident the present Russian government will stand. "Even though there is strong opposition, people understand that nothing can improve rapidly," he said. "Everyone understands it will take time for us to recover."

Logvinenko, 67, was converted to Christianity as a youth in 1942 while th German army surrounded his hometown of Odessa. "During the difficult war time the Lord drew me to himself and I received Christ," he said. "In 1944, I was drafted. I was in the army until the end of the war, but I remained a Christian. My faith was established."

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In 1958, Odessa Baptist Church elected him to the office of deacon, a position comparable to a lay minister in America. "We had no Bible schools," he said. "We could train none of our pastors or Christian workers. The church would look at the abilities of an individual and they would invite him to preach or give him responsibility in the area of his ability." He became pastor of the congregation in 1969.

Logvinenko has worked as a driver, a factory worker and a construction engineer. He learned the latter profession by attending night college classes. He eventually gave up his secular job to concentrate on serving the 1,000-member Odessa congregation.

In 1979, Logvinenko moved to Moscow to serve for five years as president of the former All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, a group that encompassed Baptists in all republics of the former Soviet Union. His attention is now focused on Baptist work in the largest of the former Soviet republics. There are about 70,000 Russian Baptists on the roll and many others who have not been counted, he said.

At Southern Seminary, Logvinenko visited with nine Russian students who are studying this year at Boyce Bible School, a division of the seminary that provides ministerial training for persons who do not have college degrees.

Also, he and seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt made plans to open a training center in Moscow that will be dually sponsored by the seminary and Russian Baptists.

Trained leadership will better enable Baptists to share the gospel in an environment where "paganism" and cults also have made inroads, said Logvinenko. "People, spiritually speaking, are poverty stricken. They are looking for something to fill that vacuum. They respond to the gospel and, unfortunately, to many false teachings as well."

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Southern Seminary will  
co-sponsor Moscow center

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
11/2/92

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Russian Baptists are launching a joint venture of ministerial training in Moscow.

"The Christian Training Center of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia" will open its doors in May. It will train pastors to serve Russia's burgeoning Baptist population, said Southern Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt.

"Southern Seminary is pleased to help Russian Baptists train pastors during a time of unprecedented opportunity for spreading the gospel in that nation," Honeycutt said. "A trained leadership is essential for Russian Baptists to establish and grow new congregations."

About 40 pastors are expected to enroll in the first year of courses to be taught at the Russian Baptist union headquarters.

At least six professors from the Louisville, Ky., seminary will travel to Russia over the next two years to teach during six three-week terms. Faculty from Russia will teach courses in Russian, English and Russian Baptist history. Persons who complete all six terms of study will receive a certificate from Southern Seminary.

Plans for the center were developed by Honeycutt and Vasily E. Logvinenko, president of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia during an October visit to Southern by the Russian leader.

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"The Baptist churches of Russia have an unusual opportunity of sharing the gospel and expanding their ministries," Logvinenko said. "To evangelize the people and to organize churches we need pastors who have the necessary training. ... I hope and believe the cooperation between Southern Seminary and Russian Baptists will continue for years to come."

Nine students from Russia are studying this year at Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern providing ministerial training for persons who do not have college degrees.

The seminary has funds budgeted to begin the program but additional funds will be needed in the future, said Provost Larry McSwain. "This is a faith venture. We believe alumni and friends of Southern Seminary will want to support this unique and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The Russian center is one of three international programs directly supported by Southern Seminary. Southern also sends professors each year to teach courses in Bulgaria and Trinidad. In addition, Boyce Bible School recently has opened a center in Hawaii.

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NOBTS forms partnership with  
neighborhood elementary school      By Kim Gruesser & Debbie Moore

Baptist Press  
11/2/92

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Claiborne Elementary School have been neighbors for more than 30 years. Now the two schools are more than just neighbors -- they're partners.

Nestled in the heart of a quiet Gentilly Woods neighborhood, Claiborne is just six blocks from the seminary. The two schools have established a growing mutual commitment for each other. More than 70 children of New Orleans seminary students currently attend Claiborne. And one professor's wife and one student's wife are teachers there.

The seminary also provides grounds and maintenance assistance as well as the use of some office equipment and the seminary's chapel for graduation and awards services.

New Orleans professor Walter Brown has been instrumental in shaping the cooperative association between the schools. Due in large part to his efforts, the number of children from the seminary attending Claiborne has risen from 28 in May 1991 to more than 70 in September 1992.

"When my wife, Joyce, and I decided to come back to New Orleans (in August 1989), we made the commitment to minister in the city," said Brown, a native of Baldwin, Miss., and a former associate professor of religion at William Carey College in Mississippi.

One way the Brown family has worked to minister is involvement at Claiborne. "My wife teaches at Claiborne and our children, Jonathan and Lindsay, attend there. We have encouraged others from the seminary to get involved in the school as well," Brown said.

"We can have a positive impact on a local school with attention, time and energy," said Mark Foley, the seminary's director of student relations.

Commenting on the relationship between the New Orleans seminary and the school, Foley said, "A concern of many people thinking about attending New Orleans Seminary is the education of their children. Since the average seminary student is married, is in his or her early 30s and has children, we recognized the need to provide an opportunity for a quality education."

The principal of Claiborne, Donald R. Batiste, recently was recognized as the outstanding principal for elementary schools in Orleans Parish. He currently is enrolled as a doctoral student at the University of New Orleans, majoring in educational leadership and foundations.

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Claiborne was one of four New Orleans public schools recommended recently for competition in the National Elementary School Recognition program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, honoring schools considered among the best in the country.

Special programs offered at Claiborne include the Spaulding Writing Road to Reading method; a Spanish immersion program for kindergarten through sixth-grade children; and a talented-in-the-visual-arts program, as well as vocal music, band and drama.

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New Orleans offering  
new D.Min. programs

By Debbie Moore

Baptist Press  
11/2/92

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The doctor of ministry degree program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary now offers a new field of study: evangelistic church growth. Two other new D.Min. degrees offered by the seminary are in missiology and Christian education.

New admission requirements also have been developed for New Orleans Seminary's D.Min. program. First, the seminary has instituted a master of divinity equivalency, allowing graduates with master of religious education or master of arts in Christian education degrees to obtain an M.Div. equivalency in order to qualify for the doctor of ministry degree program.

Second, D.Min. admission is now predicated on a 1.75 GPA (on a 3.0 scale) or a score of 850 on the Graduate Record Exam, inclusive of the verbal component plus one other component.

As before, the program requires three years of formal ministry experience following graduation from the M.Div. program and before entry into the D.Min. program.

The D.Min. in evangelistic church growth also requires certification in Continuing Witness Training (CWT) or a comparable personal witness training program.

The three new D.Min. programs, along with the traditional pastoral ministries program, all operate on a cycle. The entry window for the evangelistic church growth D.Min. curriculum is January each year. The entry window for the missiology and Christian D.Min. curricula is July each year. All admission work needs to be completed six months in advance.

The D.Min. is a professional degree tied directly to active, full-time vocational ministry. The degree is designed to enable the student to polish his or her ministry skills and emphasizes the practical application of knowledge gained in academic surroundings to the varied situations of ministry.

More information can be obtained from the doctor of ministry office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126-4858.

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