



-- BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-8919
CompuServe ID# 70420,17

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232
NASHVILLE Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The following story updates a BP story released Oct. 14 headlined "Baptists continue to debate defunding of Swiss seminary."

Soviet Baptist president voices
support for Ruschlikon seminary

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Soviet Baptist President Gregori Komendant has voiced support for continued Southern Baptist assistance to the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Komendant's statements came in the wake of a 35-28 vote Oct. 9 by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The trustees voted to defund the board's \$365,000 contribution to the 1992 operating budget of the Swiss seminary, which has students from all over Europe.

"We share your concern about the surprising decision (of the) FMB ... of defunding the operating budget," said Komendant, president of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, in a letter to Karl-Heinz Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation.

The Swiss seminary "is very important, especially for all European Baptist unions in the time of reconstruction and unification of Europe," Komendant said. "We do believe that the continuing participation of (the) FMB in this project will receive a great appreciation of Baptists in the USSR."

The FMB trustees, Komendant added, "ought to inform (us of) the real reason for this decision."

Numerous European Baptist leaders have reacted with dismay to the trustees' action, saying it calls into question their trust in and future relationships with the Southern Baptist mission agency.

The Foreign Mission Board earlier had promised funding for the Ruschlikon seminary through 1992. But the trustee vote, if not changed before the end of the year, will transfer the \$365,000 to theological needs in Eastern Europe. In a separate vote they set plans in motion for a massive "Green Alert" mission thrust into the former Soviet Union.

The Oct. 9 vote came, according to trustee Ron Wilson of California, after FMB trustees learned Glenn Hinson was teaching at the Swiss seminary for four months. Hinson, a church history professor, is on sabbatic leave from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Wilson said trustees, who have debated the Ruschlikon seminary issue over the past several years, perceive Hinson as having liberal views of Scripture. They felt the seminary showed it was continuing in a "liberal" direction by allowing Hinson to teach there, Wilson explained.

Hinson, who said he felt "very pained" to have "been used as an excuse" for the action, said in a telephone interview: "I don't regard myself as a liberal." He described his beliefs as consistent with "traditional affirmations of the church through the centuries."

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Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt and the seminary faculty association each issued statements supporting Hinson. The action maligned "the reputation of a renowned Christian scholar," Honeycutt said.

In a special called meeting Oct. 15, the Southern faculty unanimously appealed to the FMB trustees to rescind the decision to defund the Swiss seminary's operating budget. They said the action "will weaken significantly the ministry of that seminary at a time of unprecedented mission opportunity in Western and Eastern Europe"

Two former Ruschlikon seminary presidents now on the Southern faculty, John D.W. Watts and C. Penrose St. Amant, both said defunding the seminary would create problems in Europe.

"The (Ruschlikon) seminary is the symbol in Europe of the Foreign Mission Board's dedication to cooperative mission work," said Watts, president of the Swiss seminary from 1964-70. "The Baptist unions of Europe, including those of Eastern Europe, have come to trust the kind of projects and the kind of cooperation that is related to Ruschlikon."

Watts said relationships with European Baptists could be "irreparably damaged" by the FMB action. His comments echoed protests from European Baptist leaders in a number of countries, including Germany, England, Scotland, Sweden, France, Italy, Spain, Finland and Norway.

"It is vital that the action be rescinded and that some kind of apology be forwarded to the leaders of the (European Baptist) Federation as well as the trustees of the Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary," Watts said.

Two Southern Baptist missionaries, seminary professors Robert Crider and David Dixon of the Spanish Baptist Seminary in Madrid, also decried the action. In a letter to Karl-Heinz Walter, they said the trustee action is "a radical measure that has negative influence on our cooperative ministries with Baptists in Eastern Europe.

"This (action) comes at a critical time when opportunities for the training of pastors and spiritual leaders could truly change the lives of thousands throughout this continent," the two professors said, according to European Baptist Press Service. "Could not a better solution be found that would offer mutual incentives rather than damage cooperative relations?"

FMB President R. Keith Parks, who spoke in favor of funding the seminary before the trustees voted, said he hopes the trustees will vote in their December meeting to reinstate the allocation previously promised for 1992.

But Wilson, who said the trustees had to "vote their conscience" on the matter, would be "surprised to see it voted on again." He believes many European Baptists will support the trustee action.

The budget cut equals nearly 40 percent of the seminary's budget and will begin in two months. But it will not close the institution, according to its president, Southern Baptist missionary John David Hopper. "God will provide for us out of the riches of his grace," he said in a statement issued Oct. 12.

Parks said the seminary and its various satellite programs are set to play a key role in evangelism, church planting and Christian education in the wake of communism's collapse in the former Soviet bloc. But the defunding will hinder Southern Baptists "from capitalizing on the opportunities that will not be there forever," he said.

Southern Seminary faculty
support Ruschlikon seminary By David Wilkinson & Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary faculty unanimously appealed to trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to rescind their Oct. 9 decision to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Faculty at the Louisville, Ky., school approved Oct. 15 a resolution calling upon FMB trustees "to reconsider and rescind their action which penalizes this (Ruschlikon) seminary and hurts the cause of missions in Europe."

The resolution also protested "the negative characterization" of veteran Southern Seminary professor E. Glenn Hinson by some FMB trustees.

Hinson was singled out during the mission board's debate as an example of the Ruschlikon seminary's "liberal" drift. The church history professor is teaching at Ruschlikon for four months as an International Service Corps missionary while on sabbatic leave.

One of the critics, FMB trustee Ron Wilson of California, told Baptist Press "even the liberals in our denomination consider Glenn Hinson liberal."

The resolution by Hinson's faculty colleagues, however, praised him as "a sterling example of Christian character and one who has encouraged students in a deeper devotional life." It noted Hinson's "renown as an international scholar and his commitment to worldwide mission," adding, "he has taught for over 30 years within the seminary's doctrinal guidelines."

The faculty statement claimed the FMB's decision to eliminate \$365,000 from the Ruschlikon seminary's 1992 operating budget "will weaken significantly the ministry of that seminary at a time of unprecedented mission opportunity in western and eastern Europe in which we at (Southern) seminary have had a share."

"This action," it said, "will cause great alienation, anger and mistrust of the Southern Baptist Convention among European Baptists and occasion a great setback for the cause of cooperative missions in Europe."

That theme was echoed by two Southern Seminary faculty members who have been president of the Ruschlikon seminary.

"The (Ruschlikon) seminary is the symbol in Europe of the Foreign Mission Board's dedication to cooperative mission work," said Old Testament professor John D.W. Watts, president of the Swiss seminary from 1964-70. "The Baptist unions of Europe, including those of eastern Europe, have come to trust the kind of projects and the kind of cooperation that is related to Ruschlikon."

Southern Baptists' relationship with European Baptists could be "irreparably damaged" by the FMB action, he said: "It is vital that the action be rescinded and that some kind of apology be forwarded to the leaders of the (European Baptist) federation as well as the trustees of the Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary."

C. Penrose St. Amant, senior professor of church history, added many European Baptist leaders have been educated at Ruschlikon. "It's a very important element in the life of Baptists in Europe," said St. Amant, president of the Ruschlikon seminary from 1971-77. "I deeply regret any action that would threaten its funding."

Following is a copy of the resolution in support of Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary Oct. 15, 1991 by a unanimous vote of the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Resolution in Support of Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary

Whereas, the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board have chosen to terminate the funding of the Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary; and

whereas, they have made such a decision reversing prior agreements related to the work of Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary in Europe; and

whereas, such action will weaken significantly the ministry of that seminary at a time of unprecedented mission opportunity in western and eastern Europe in which we at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have had a share; and

whereas, this action will cause great alienation, anger and mistrust of the Southern Baptist Convention among European Baptists and occasion a great setback for the cause of cooperative missions in Europe; and

whereas, in the process our colleague, Glenn Hinson, who is teaching at the Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary during his sabbatical leave as so many of us have done in the past, has been maligned and wrongly judged;

the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary meeting in a special session on Oct. 15, 1991, does hereby call upon the members of the Foreign Mission Board to reconsider and rescind their action which penalizes this strategic seminary and hurts the cause of missions in Europe; and furthermore

we protest the negative characterization of our colleague who was afforded no opportunity for defense. We unequivocally witness to Glenn Hinson as a sterling example of Christian character and one who has encouraged students in a deeper devotional life. We celebrate his renown as an international scholar and his commitment to worldwide mission. He has taught for over 30 years within the Seminary's doctrinal guidelines, The Abstract of Principles. We assure him and his family of our unwavering support in this time of intimidation and criticism.

Furthermore, we declare our prayer and support for the president, faculty, and student body of the Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary.

Approved unanimously Oct. 15, 1991 by faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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Report says 'breakthroughs'
occurring in feeding the hungry By Louis Moore & Tom Strode

Baptist Press
10/17/91

NASHVILLE (BP)--While the number of hungry people in the world continues to grow, "various ideas are working to overcome hunger," says a new report by Bread for the World Institute on Hunger & Development.

The report says more than half a billion people, including adults and children, are constantly hungry. It also says a total of about 1 billion people are too poor to maintain an adequate diet, with those who are not now listed as among the half billion hungry susceptible to it.

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The report repeats what Bread for the World has said for some time: There is no single cause for world hunger and subsequently no single cure. "The principal barrier to ending world hunger is neither lack of resources nor insufficient knowledge," the report says. "It is the failure to put ideas that work into practice on a broad scale."

"We are again seeing that militarization, poor economic and political decision, natural disaster and great inequalities of wealth and power are the primary causes of hunger," said Marc Cohen, editor of the report.

Despite this bleak assessment, the report says there are many encouraging trends occurring that indicate significant breakthroughs in feeding the hungry. Among the positive points in the report is the assessment that while the number of people who are hungry is higher than ever, the percentage of the world's population that is hungry is slowly declining.

The report pinpoints south Asia as the place where "the majority of the world's hungry people reside" and adds, "hunger is on the decline in absolute numbers" there.

Encouraging, successful hunger-fighting ideas identified by Bread for the World include:

- Better use of technology;
- Organizing for social change by the hungry and their advocates;
- More effective handling of short-term food aid;
- New national policies that are designed to combat hunger.

"The fact that the number of hungry people in the world continues to grow is clearly distressing," Ben Mitchell, newly elected director of biomedical and life issues of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said in a statement commenting on the report's findings. "It is imperative that Christians do what we know to do.

"Unfortunately, we are sometimes guilty of responding only in 'novel crises.' That is, our consciousness is raised about a recent disaster or catastrophe, and we respond to the need. We tend, however, to lose enthusiasm for 'chronic crises.'

"World hunger is one of those persistent and pernicious issues that constantly calls for our compassionate, consistent and sacrificial response," Mitchell said.

"When Jesus saw the hungry crowds, he was moved by compassion and fed them," he said, referring to Mark 8:1-3.

Bread for the World's report "presents challenging information on the continuing need to be concerned about, and to expend sustained effort to alleviate, hunger," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

He encouraged Southern Baptists to "pray fervently about what God would have each of us to do in terms of giving, initiating programs and raising public awareness in order to meet the needs of hungry people both at home and abroad. I would hope that Southern Baptists would prayerfully consider utilizing the materials we have prepared at the Christian Life Commission both for observance of World Hunger Day and for raising awareness on this critical issue."

Montana Fellowship
increases CP percentage

BOZEMAN, Mont. (BP)--Messengers to the annual session of the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship, held in Bozeman Oct. 10-11, voted to increase the percentage of fellowship gifts to the SBC Cooperative Program.

Paul Jones, co-pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Billings was elected president. He succeeded Earl Fitzwater, layman from Kalispell.

A budget of \$222,654 was adopted by the messengers which includes a one percent increase to the SBC Cooperative Program, from 20 percent to 21 percent.

Theme was "Embrace God's Word" for the meeting held at Four Corners Baptist Church in Bozeman. The 1992 meeting will be Oct. 7-8 at Easthaven Baptist Church in Kalispell.

The messengers also heard the fellowship has purchased a building with 8,800-square-foot in Billings as the new fellowship office building. Fellowship officials said the new building should be ready for occupancy about Nov. 1.

The building cost \$69,750 and it is anticipated the cost of renovation and additional equipment would be about \$30,000. The building was purchased debt free.

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Bush commits to 'fullest
prosecution' of obscenity

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
10/17/91

WASHINGTON (BP)--President George Bush, speaking to the closing session of the national conference of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography, recommitted his administration to the "fullest prosecution" of obscenity and child pornography.

At the Oct. 10 meeting, the president received samples of petitions signed by about 500,000 persons supporting his efforts to enforce laws against illegal pornography. Many of the signers were Southern Baptists, a RAAP official said.

Bush, admitting he was "preaching to the choir," said of child pornography, "This horror must stop.

"I believe no matter who you are or where you live, we all want a better nation, a better world for our children and grandchildren," Bush said. "And most Americans feel very strongly that obscenity is not a part of that better world. It abuses, degrades and insults both women and men."

In the last six months, the Department of Justice has gained convictions against some of the major producers and distributors of hard-core pornography in the country, Bush said.

Officials in the Justice Department reinforced the president's pledge. Bill Barr, acting attorney general; Robert Mueller, assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division; and Pat Truman, head of the child exploitation and obscenity section, told about 200 persons in a packed meeting room at the Old Executive Office Building the department would continue to prosecute illegal pornography.

The obscenity section's attorneys "know we're making a difference in America," Truman said. The section has not lost a case in the five years of its existence, Mueller said.

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"I have never in all the eight years I've been involved in this battle heard the four levels commit to this as a priority," said Jerry Kirk, chairman of RAAP. "This is the first time (Bush) has talked about it publicly. ... he took the gloves off today... . We have no doubt of his commitment."

"I want to see a full-court press ... anything less than that will not satisfy me because there already have been too many victims, too many children molested, too many women raped, too many marriages and families ruined," Kirk said.

"I am delighted at the growing awareness of the pervasive and destructive nature of the problem in our society," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Having been to several such conferences, it is truly encouraging to see the progress that is obviously being made in ridding our country of this poisonous filth.

"I hope it encourages all of us to press on to even greater success in the future," said Land, a member of RAAP's executive committee.

Southern Baptists were among those at the forefront of the petition effort, said Dean Kaplan, vice president of public policy for the National Coalition Against Pornography, the sister organization of RAAP.

"They took the lead church by church throughout the country in collecting petitions for presentation to the president today," said Kaplan, who did not know yet how many Southern Baptists participated.

One of the ways Southern Baptists received petitions was in the July-September issue of Light, the ethics magazine of the Christian Life Commission.

Rob Showers, a trustee of the Christian Life Commission, received RAAP's Law Enforcement Leadership Award at a banquet Oct. 9, the first day of the conference. Showers, an attorney, is a member of First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va.

About 300 people attending the banquet were challenged by film critic Michael Medved to inject the "issue of values into the national dialogue" about the products of the media.

"Redeeming the popular culture is one of the great, ennobling, challenging, impossible but necessary crusades of our time," said Medved, co-host of the movie review show "Sneak Previews."

The Rapture, a new movie in which a professing Christian kills her daughter because she believes God instructed her to do so, is the "most clear example I have ever seen of many, many examples of the anti-religious bigotry that thrives in Hollywood," he said.

Movies, television, music and other products of the media not only distort religion but the family, said Medved, who is Jewish.

"It's not just pornography that destroys," he said. "I believe the popular culture destroys -- destroys hope, destroys values, destroys the very idea of the family.

"What concerns me most is the continual message undermining marriage and undermining the family," Medved said. "It's a message you get again and again and again."

Young people in America are receiving their "basic vision of the truth from the garbage" in the media, he said.

"These are not just celluloid shadows flickering on screens somewhere ... these are ideas, these are indeed values that are being implanted into the souls of young Americans across the country who imbibe, and, boy, how they imbibe, the products of this popular culture," Medved said.

Ervin Duggan, a member of the Federal Communications Commission, also told conference participants they were involved in a "battle of ideas."

There are four ideas they should reflect, Duggan said:

- The United States must regain its virtue in order to regain its strength;
- Self-restraint is a requirement for freedom to work;
- The public's opinion can be transformed;
- The motivation for their cause is not what they oppose but what they support.

"This is not simply a battle against the things we deplore," Duggan said. "It is a battle for the things we cherish -- the lives of children, the lives of adults... ."

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Harvest Festival feeds hungry,
wins souls, helps church grow

By Louis Moore

Baptist Press
10/17/91

CLYDE, N.C. (BP)--When Southern Baptist pastor Tony Crisp looked out over the audience of about 1,600 people at the Smoky Mountain Harvest Celebration, he saw something he had not seen since he was a child 27 years ago: His parents were in the same worship service with him.

Crisp's parents divorced when he was eight, and he went to live with a grandmother in Riceville, Tenn. Both parents subsequently remarried, but Crisp continued to live with his grandmother until he was an adult.

Now married and a father of three, Crisp had invited both his parents to come to the Harvest Celebration, not knowing for sure either would show up. They did, though they sat with their new spouses in separate sections of the front row.

Crisp, 35, says he fought back tears as he took to the pulpit to preach at the festival and looked down to see both parents in front of him.

The personal dimension of the occasion was one more facet of the kaleidoscope-like event Crisp planned meticulously as a massive outreach to the mountain communities 20 miles west of Asheville, N.C.

The Smoky Mountain Harvest Celebration was planned as a means of attracting as many people as possible to a combination evangelistic crusade, church anniversary and food-for-the-hungry campaign. The festival sponsor, Rehoboth Baptist Church in Clyde, N.C., determined to pull out all the stops for a one-day effort to impact its community with the gospel.

And when the day was over Rehoboth Church had managed to attract and feed free about 1,600 people and to entertain with country and western music an audience more than 10 times its membership size. During it all, 60 people expressed faith in Christ. One of those was Crisp's niece. Two others were baptized that same Saturday afternoon in an outdoor baptistery.

Entertainer Jerry Clower told church members during the festival, "I'm proud of you because I know hundreds of churches 20 times your size that wouldn't even think about doing something like this. We've got too many negative Christians, and I'm glad you're not some of them."

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In its first year, Rehoboth Church had grown to a congregation of 140 people. Crisp was called as pastor shortly after the church was begun Oct. 5, 1990. He had been pastor of Allen Creek Baptist Church in Waynesville, N.C. for five years. The congregation recently purchased a building which had housed a Mormon congregation, and before that, a Methodist congregation.

In announcement letters, Crisp said the festival, including the free meals and entertainment featuring country and western stars Clower and The Whites, was designed "as an incentive for a wide range of people to come to this event."

"Why are we doing this? The answer is quite simple, we are seeking to draw as many people as possible to this event in order to tell them about the Lord Jesus Christ and his 'gift' of eternal life," he said.

Festival participant Dede Colclasure, who identified herself as a Methodist, said she attended because her boyfriend talked her into going. Her boyfriend, Mike Morgan, who identified himself as "Wesleyan," said he and Colclasure had "nothing to do this morning and I had seen the advertising for this festival." He said he was attracted by the entertainment.

Richard Morgan, a member of a Holiness Church, said "Anywhere Jerry Clower is, I want to be there."

Because of the size of the audience and the size of the church, the Rehoboth congregation invited members of other area churches to volunteer to help serve and organize the festival.

The event cost the church about \$20,000, not counting many items which were donated, Crisp said. The church received about \$6,000 in donations for the event and paid the remaining \$14,000 from its budget, he said. No offering was taken at the festival itself.

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Christians should put
Jesus in the center

By Breena Kent Paine

Baptist Press
10/17/91

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Make Jesus "Lord of all," Landrum P. Leavell II urged students and faculty during a recent chapel address at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The seminary president said, "If the center is skewed and imperfect, then the circumference is going to be faulty. Jesus should be that center in a Christian's life."

Those people called to ministry should have two axioms, Leavell said. First, they should have a personal assurance of salvation, "not a 'think-so, hope-so' religion." Second, they should look at their relationship with Christ as a master-slave situation, a state in which the slave does not own anything he has, cannot quit, and responds to the command of his master.

Christians should also have two accentuations, he continued. First, they should have an integrity that is consistent and unsmirched; and second, they should have values and convictions that are not compromised at any price, including the lordship of Christ, fidelity to one's spouse, and commitment to daily spiritual growth.

In addition, Christians need to have more acquiescence in the areas of forgiveness and submission to God's will. "We should take our cue from God, who forgives our sins and removes them 'as far as the east is from the west,'" said Leavell, rather than dwelling on the wrongs others have done. Christians should also have the "spirit of Gethsemane" toward God, that of "not my will, but thy will be done."

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Last, those who have answered God's call should show acceleration in delivering God's message to the world and in personal, spiritual maturing. "Now is the hour. If we're to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we're going to have to be about his business," Leavell said. "Spiritual maturity will never be gained without discipline. ... Your personal quiet time is going to have to be guarded as well as the gold at Fort Knox. You don't reach a plateau of spiritual arrogance when you mature spiritually; you reach humility and (submission).

"The men and women who teach you are spiritual giants, but you're not going to get it by osmosis," he told students; growing is every Christian's personal responsibility.

"You may never be in a prestigious church, but if you're growing every day, you'll be a success."

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(BP) photo available upon request from New Orleans Seminary

Doors can't be opened
without money and people

By Breena Kent Paine

Baptist Press
10/17/91

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Doors throughout the world are beckoning to be opened, but "unless we have more money and more people, we cannot open them," R. Keith Parks told area Christians during a recent Global Missions Week on the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary campus.

About 25 Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff and missionaries were available to dialogue with students and others interested in missions during the three-day event which included seminars, displays, chapel addresses, and a missions rally nearly 50 people made decisions for missions.

"God opens the door, but he never forces his people to go through it," said the FMB president. However, "beyond that door God has opened is the opportunity for spiritual harvest that is more than you can ever imagine.

"There are more people and more places responding than ever before," he continued. "The only hindrance is a lack of Christians to bear witness.

"I do not believe it is God's will that only five percent of seminary graduates go to 95 percent of the world," said Parks, who has met pastors nearing retirement who have "never considered missions."

"I guess they never considered whether God could speak anything but a deep South accent," he continued. "Tell me how you can preach the gospel and not consider sharing Christ with a lost world."

Some people's attitude is, "I just don't know if God's calling me to be a missionary. I don't know if I can handle the food or the lifestyle," Parks said. "But it is un-Christian to dare to say there are other considerations of concern ... that keep me from walking through the door.

"I will challenge you to do something early in your ministry that you will always be glad you did. Consider missions.

"To go through these doors leads to difficulty, to danger, to inconvenience, to suffering," Parks continued. "Given the affluent lifestyle of Southern Baptists, do you think we are capable of finding young people willing to take on the kind of lifestyle necessary to share Christ with the world?"

"There are places where it's dangerous. There are places where Christians are being killed today," he said. "But in 146 years of missionary work and more than 10,000 missionaries, only 13 have died at the hands of other people; and these include missionaries who have gone through wars, rebellions, upheavals.

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"Christians need to say, 'I am willing to face death for my Lord if he is calling me to do that,'" Parks continued, because "the only answer to all the philosophies of religion moving into the religious vacuums of the world is to demonstrate Christ's love to them.

"God doesn't call you to do something he doesn't enable you to do," he explained. For, "not only has the Lord opened the door, but he's walking through it. The question he's asking is will you go through the door with him?

"It is tragic when some people hear and reject," Parks said. "It is even more tragic when someone who would have responded doesn't because no one has told him.

"In this day and age, still one-fourth of the world has not heard of Jesus," he continued; but if Christians are going to go, other Christians are going to have to pay their way. "We are losing opportunities because we are deciding to keep (our money) and use it for lesser purposes."

For every \$100 Southern Baptists give, Parks said, \$99.09 is spent on the 34 percent of the world who are already Christians; 90 cents is spent on those with access to the gospel; and only one penny is spent to reach the one-fourth of the world who have never heard of Jesus.

"Year by year, our buying power diminishes because our giving is not even keeping up with inflation."

Furthermore, if Christians are to be sent throughout the world to share Christ, others must "join in their struggle" through "sincere, earnest, honest prayer."

However, Parks said, "You can't give your money if you want things more than you want the world to know Christ. You won't pray if you'd rather watch TV than intercede for the lost. And you won't go if you want to be a recognized pastor or businessman here."

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(BP) photos available upon request from New Orleans Seminary