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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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91-174

**Florida Baptists turn back
effort to defund Stetson**

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP)--Messengers to the 130th annual session of the Florida Baptist State Convention turned back an effort to defund Stetson University and refused to give up the Tuesday morning session for an additional Pastors' Conference session.

The attempt to defund Stetson University came as a surprise Tuesday morning as convention messengers were asked to vote on the 1992 budget. In annual session last year, messengers overwhelmingly approved a plan to gradually eliminate funding for Stetson over a 10-year period. The 1992 budget allocates \$700,000 to the Baptist school.

Darrell Orman, first vice president of the convention and a south Florida pastor, offered a budget amendment which would have reallocated the \$700,000 to the church extension department of the Florida Baptist Convention for starting new churches in the state.

John Sullivan, Florida's executive director-treasurer, opposed the amendment saying the convention had made a covenant with Stetson, adding "it is never right to do wrong to do right."

In a ballot vote, the amendment failed on a vote of 461 to 437.

The 1,440 messengers also rejected a recommendation from the committee on order of business to forego the Tuesday morning session of the convention next year to provide additional time for the Pastors' Conference and other auxiliary groups. The Pastors' Conference has only a Monday afternoon session, with the convention beginning on Monday evening.

In other actions:

-- A proposed bylaw change that would have made the term of the president of the convention two years instead of one was referred to the state board of missions for study.

-- Ed Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ocala, was elected president of the convention for 1992. He was president of the Pastors' Conference for 1991 and is a trustee of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Jerry Weaver, pastor of a Panama City Beach church was elected first vice president, and Orlando layman Wes Stoope was elected second vice president. The convention's constitution requires that one of the officers be a layperson.

-- Messengers approved a \$24,889,731 Cooperative Program budget goal, which includes a \$957,297 in anticipated additional income. The convention's business and financial plan restricts the basic budget to the previous year's receipts.

The basic budget of \$23,932,434 is divided as follows: 50.82 percent to Florida Convention causes; 3.18 percent to the SBC Annuity Board; and 46 percent to Southern Baptist Convention causes. This is the same division with the national unified budget as last year.

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Resolutions expressed concern and prayerful support for churches and pastors that have suffered losses in the recent rash of arson related fires; stressed the convention's dissatisfaction with the lottery; affirmed the See You at the Pole youth movement; and defined safe sex as abstinence before marriage, fidelity during marriage, and celibacy while single.

A resolution supporting the Cooperative Program charged "movements" within the Southern Baptist and Florida Baptist Conventions undermine the spirit of the Cooperative Program through designated missions giving. The resolution was amended, however, deleting that reference and commending the Cooperative Program as the best way of reaching the world for Christ.

Next year's meeting will be Nov. 9-11 in Fort Myers, Fla.

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Georgians elect moderate president,
four conservative vice presidents

Baptist Press
11/18/91

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Turning back a conservative challenge to his presidency, Atlanta pastor J. Truett Gannon won election to a second term as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention. But his victory was followed by the election of four vice-presidents, all identified with the conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Gannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Church in Stone Mountain, received 50.7 percent to win re-election, defeating Warner Robbins pastor Ted Moody, the candidate supported by Georgia.

The presidential election was the central focus of the three-day meeting. Both moderates and conservatives had organized to produce the massive turn-out for the Tuesday afternoon session. Leaders in both camps predicted a record attendance for the 1992 convention session in Macon. After serving two terms, Gannon will be ineligible for re-election.

In the Tuesday evening session, messengers were informed Nancy Schaeffer, Roger Byrd, Tony Dickerson, and Keith Fordham had won the vice presidential elections. But an overnight challenge to Byrd's election came to light Wednesday morning when it was learned Byrd had not been a registered messenger at the time of his election. Section V of the convention's Constitution says: "No person shall be nominated and elected as an officer who is not a registered messenger of the convention."

Byrd had been nominated by J. Emmett Hendersen, executive director of the Georgia Council for Moral and Civic Concerns, who had lauded Byrd's opposition to the lottery proposal. Byrd appeared before messengers Wednesday morning to express appreciation and withdraw from the race. In the adjusted result, Cartersville pastor David Drake was declared the convention's fourth vice-president.

In other action, messengers defeated a proposal from the GBC executive committee which would have established formal criteria for the organization of associations which would be "recognized" by the convention and granted representation on its executive committee. Messengers speaking against the proposal said the procedure was a form of "connectionalism" and complained the criteria set unrealistic standards for the organization of new associations.

Messengers also turned back a proposed by-law change which would have required the GBC nominating committee to accept the primary choice of local associations for their representative on the executive committee, or else give notice and explanation to the association at least thirty days prior to the convention. The proposal was brought to the floor by Larry W. Williams, pastor of Powell Baptist Church in Harlem. Messengers again complained of moves toward connectionalism as they rejected the proposal.

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Another proposed constitutional amendment which defined the body's quorum was accepted by the convention. The amendment simply defines the quorum as "the messengers present and voting at the time," thus avoiding any future challenge to convention proceedings related to attendance. Tucker Singleton, long-time GBC parliamentarian, said the amendment "simply makes legal and proper what we have been doing in the past."

Two other major issues arose as the convention conducted its business. The first was Georgia Governor Zell Miller's lottery proposal, which will come before Georgia voters in 1992.

Numerous speakers assailed the governor's proposal as a rejection of biblical morality for monetary gain. Henderson told the convention the lottery proposal would "turn the people of Georgia to a state-sponsored religion of magic and superstition." He termed the governor's proposal "irresponsible and reprehensible" and called for elected leaders to be "concerned about something greater than losing an election -- (that is) losing the soul of the United States of America."

Messengers also addressed the controversy related to the action of the SBC Foreign Mission Board in defunding the European Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Messenger Don Parker of First Baptist Church of Marietta moved the convention send \$50,000 directly to the Swiss seminary. His motion was ruled out of order. An attempt then was made to "designate" funds to the seminary, placing the issue on the floor. Alpharetta messenger Ben Hatfield, a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board, called upon his fellow messengers to "place trust and confidence in the board" and asked for "prayerful support."

Hans Guderian, missions leader for the German Baptist Union, addressed the convention on behalf of the Georgia convention's partnership with German Baptists. In the course of his comments he called upon Southern Baptists to continue their financial support for the school.

In the convention's closing business session John Wyatt of First Baptist Church of Conyers moved the convention go on record urging the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board to reconsider their action. Without debate, the motion passed on a hand vote.

Georgia Baptists adopted a 1992 budget of \$33,045,000. Of that total, 50 percent will be forwarded to national mission causes, the same percentage as last year.

The 1992 convention session will meet Nov. 9-11 at the Macon Coliseum.

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D.C. Baptists ask FMB trustees
to rescind Ruschlikon decision

Baptist Press
11/18/91

CLINTON, Md. (BP)--The District of Columbia Baptist Convention in their 115th annual session heard reports of the election of a new executive and new editor, elected a new slate of officers, and overwhelmingly approved a motion calling for restoration of SBC funding for the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Jere Allen, director of the metropolitan missions department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, is to be the new executive director/minister of the convention, and Victor Tupitza, recently retired editor of the Baptist Joint Committee's magazine, Report from the Capital, has been named editor of the Capital Baptist. Both Allen and Tupitza begin these posts Jan. 1. James A. Langley, who has been the executive director for 21 years and editor of Capital Baptist for 18 years, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31.

The convention elected Kenneth E. Burke, pastor of the East Washington Heights Baptist in Washington, president. The convention also elected Ellen Teague vice president, and Letha Johnson, recording secretary. Teague is the new director of the North American Baptist Women's Union, the first person to hold this position.

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Messengers approved by voice vote, with only one abstention, a motion asking the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention "to rescind their motion to withdraw funds from the Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and restore said funds and support to the seminary."

The motion was offered by Charles Worthy, pastor of the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, and a former SBC missionary to Israel. Worthy is a graduate of Ruschlikon and spent five years as pastor of an English-speaking congregation in Germany.

Delegates voted to send greetings "to our fellow Baptists in Czechoslovakia" by Roger Fredrikson, retired American Baptist pastor, who after addressing the convention twice was leaving the next day for an extended preaching mission to the Baptists of that East European nation.

Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, who had just returned from a trip to mainland China, shared from those experiences and from recent visits with Baptists in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in two addresses. Featured speakers also included Beverly Davison, President of the American Baptist Churches in the USA. Lawrence Jones, retired dean of the Howard University Divinity School, and Margaret Perkins, black church relations specialist, Woman's Missionary Union.

The D.C. convention budget for 1992 is \$1,169,654. The convention expects to give 30.50 percent to the Cooperative Program in 1992, down 1.73 percent from last year. There were 263 delegates and 42 visitors in the sessions.

Next year's meeting will be Nov. 12-13 at Pennsylvania Baptist Church in Washington.
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Wyoming Baptists recognize
retiring director of education

Baptist Press
11/18/91

CASPER, Wyo. (BP)--Wyoming Baptists recognized seven years of service by retiring director of education William E. Hardy at their annual meeting Nov. 13-14 in at College Heights Baptist Church in Casper.

Hardy is retiring from the convention, but will be moving to Mississippi to coordinate the partnership between the Mississippi Baptist Convention and Zimbabwe.

The record 113 messengers elected Wayne Fults, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rock Springs, convention president.

A budget of \$993,791 was adopted. Of this amount, \$294,570 will come from Wyoming Baptists. Of the total state contributions, 26.5 percent will be forwarded to the national Cooperative Program unified budget, up 0.5 percent over 1991.

One of the resolutions adopted stated: "We abhor as unlike Christ and his people all types of abusive behavior." This includes battering, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of the aged, and abortion.

Another resolution requested: "We, as churches and members, do all in our power to actively seek reconciliation with our native American people by granting to them all dignity, respect and inclusion as ones for whom Christ died."

The 1992 annual meeting will be Nov. 11-12 at Cheyenne Baptist Church in Cheyenne.
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**Dakota Baptists pass resolutions supporting
Native Americans, opposing abortion**

FARGO, N.D. (BP)--Dakota Baptists passed two resolutions at their 1992 annual meeting at Temple Baptist Church in Fargo, N.D.

One resolution said: "Be it resolved that the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship will join together in prayer for a spiritual awakening among our Native people in our two states."

The other resolution said Dakota Baptists oppose abortion on demand and appeal to our state legislatures to rid our states of this immoral and inhuman act.

The 106 messengers to the convention meeting elected Carl Roach, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mitchell, S.D., president. Ray Self, pastor of Moberly (S.D.) Southern Baptist Church, was elected vice president.

Dakota Baptists adopted a budget of \$782,189. As last year, 14 percent will be forwarded to the national Cooperative Program unified budget.

The 1992 meeting will be Oct. 23-24 at Westside Baptist Church in Rapid City, S.D.

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**Algerian newspaper: stop
'poison of Christianity'**

By Mike Creswell

**Baptist Press
11/18/91**

ALGIERS, Algeria (BP)--An Islamic newspaper in Algeria has called on Muslims to oppose Christians working to evangelize North African Berbers and to stop the "poison of Christianity."

But Christian workers named in An-Naba', an Arabic-language newspaper, say they are taking the threats in stride. The publicity actually has heightened interest in their outreach efforts within Algeria, the workers report.

"Is there no limit to guard us from the spread of Christianity in the region? And how far does its danger reach and how can we confront it?" the An-Naba' article asked.

"Studies reached us that point out that these regions are receptive to Christianization and we find among its inhabitants a readiness to accept Christianity," one article warned. "The (Muslim) faith can become a victim to this assault of Christianization. As to the danger of this Christianity, it certainly is a danger, because the voice of the lie (Christianity) is always strong while the voice of the truth (Islam) fades away."

"Christianization," the article declared, "is a falsification and advances to substitute Islam."

The newspaper urged Muslims to visit Berber areas being affected by Christianity. It also called for distribution of books and tapes on the Koran, Islam's holy book -- "all of this in order to not give a chance to the enemy of Islam"

Muslims should confront Christianity first by studying its books in lessons in mosques and elsewhere, the newspaper urged.

Berbers living across North Africa are one of the 100 people groups in the world that have been least touched by the Christian gospel. They have been identified by many Christian mission organizations as part of the unevangelized "World A" because there are so few Christians among them. Several hundred Southern Baptist congregations across the United States are praying this year especially for the Berber people to be reached for Christ.

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Almost all Berbers are Muslims. Algeria, also predominantly Muslim, is considered one of the countries most closed to the gospel. In recent years Christians throughout North Africa have been persecuted, or barely tolerated.

Many Christians in Europe who work in volatile North Africa have avoided publicizing details of their ministries or themselves because of possible reprisals. The Christian group identified in the newspaper articles is made up mainly of Berber Christians living in France and Algeria.

In recent years Berber Christians living both in Algeria and elsewhere quietly have begun a concerted effort to spread the Christian gospel within the country. Christian radio programs, videos, audio tapes and literature, coupled with personal evangelism efforts within the country, have begun to attract thousands in the region to Christianity.

The Algerian newspaper included in its coverage a photograph of a letter one of the Christian group members wrote to an inquirer in Algeria. "To start from the beginning, we are Christians," the letter said. "The Lord has saved us by grace through Jesus Christ our God and Savior." The letter went on to outline evangelistic efforts in the region.

The letter's recipient apparently was a Muslim working to stop the spread of Christianity. He turned the letter over to the newspaper and wrote the articles that appeared. But the Christian worker said he plans to write the man a second time "to thank him for the free publicity, and to politely ask him next time that he include information about the daily Berber Bible-teaching radio program which is broadcast from France."

Although the Christian workers have worked quietly to get Christian materials into Algeria, they say they are not worried about the public exposure of their ministry. "We are in the Lord's hands and we're working openly," one said.

The article published the address of a bookstore the group operates in Paris, although the address contained an error. Since the article was published, half a dozen Algerians have written to ask for information on Christianity.

"In a reverse sort of way, the articles are promising, since they acknowledge that we are having results," added another Christian worker.

"They are also a positive reflection of recent political reforms in Algeria. The newsstands are flowering with a great variety of locally produced journals, taking advantage of the new freedom of the press. Movement towards democracy is also evident. Algeria now has more than 50 political parties participating in the Dec. 26 parliamentary elections. In 1988 there was just one political party."

One Algerian magazine recently carried an article about Rabah, a young Algerian man who has become a Christian. The question-and-answer article was unbiased in its approach.

A university student in electronics engineering, Rabah was described as pursuing an untiring search for God. "Baptized in Christ, he believes in God, in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Until the end, he is Christian!" the article reported. It even quoted a brief testimony from Rabah. Such an article would have been impossible in Algeria a few years ago.

Political parties were legalized in Algeria two years ago and municipal elections were held in June 1990 -- the first multiparty elections in the country since Algeria won independence from France in 1962. Since then Algeria has suffered poor economic conditions. Housing and consumer goods are scarce; 30 percent of the work force is said to be unemployed.

Nineteen people were reported killed during fighting in Algiers in 1990 as opposition to rule by President Chadli Bendjedid increased and the country came to the brink of civil war. The Islamic Salvation Front, a fundamentalist Muslim party, swept national elections that year. About 100 people were reported killed earlier this year during street fighting between the army and demonstrators. In that clash, Islamic Salvation Front leaders protested election laws they said kept them from achieving total political victory.

If the Islamic Salvation Front takes control of the country at the national level, its followers vow to impose fundamentalist Muslim laws on society. Such laws would include the outlawing of alcohol, segregation of the sexes and other measures reminiscent of the harsh measures adopted in Iran.

But many Algerians indicate they want to remain Muslim while steering clear of Iranian-style repression and revolution. The dual movements towards greater freedom and greater Islamic control have left the country politically and economically stagnant, Western observers say.

One Christian in Algeria recently said more women are wearing traditional Muslim clothing that covers the head, arms and legs. After the Islamic Salvation Front political victories, devout fundamentalist Muslims began patrolling public beaches, demanding women in bathing suits cover up.

The beaches were back to normal this year, but a published report said a woman wearing a short skirt was stoned when she walked near a large political demonstration in Algiers. The injured woman reportedly was rescued by police.

Such incidents illustrate the clash of ideas and ideals within a struggling society. Christian workers are following the country's changes closely, eager for some indication they will be able to spread the gospel more freely one day.

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Annuity Board Property and Casualty
changed to Preferred Risk Mutual

Baptist Press
11/18/91

DALLAS (BP)--The Annuity Board has changed carriers for its property and casualty insurance program from Aetna Life and Casualty to Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company of Des Moines, Iowa.

Joel Mathis, senior vice president of the insurance division, said the change is being made immediately in order to broaden the coverages offered and to simplify the application and underwriting process.

"The Aetna is a fine and stable company," said Mathis, "but Preferred Risk is a specialist in church protection."

"We opened this program with Aetna in 1989, but due to a complicated process, have been limited to 23 states," said Mathis. "Today, we can instantly offer the Preferred Risk program in every state."

The plan will be promoted through the Annuity Board's property and casualty department.

"Our goals remain the same;" said Mathis, "to provide stability of coverage and stability of price. We believe we can achieve both with Preferred Risk."

"Our contract with Preferred Risk opens the plan to churches in every state, and to associations, state conventions and selected agencies and institutions," said Mathis.

A contract also has been negotiated with Marsh and McLennan, of New York City and Dallas, as local recording agent, to custom build policies for large colleges, universities and hospitals.

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Existing policies with Aetna will not be automatically converted to Preferred Risk. As its renewal date approaches, a church will be offered the opportunity to stay with the Annuity Board's property and casualty program and convert to the new carrier, or to renew with Aetna and sever the relationship with the Annuity Board.

"Of course," said Doug Day, vice president for property and casualty, "we hope all our churches will join us in the new program."

Any inquiry about coverage with Preferred Risk would receive a direct agent contact within 48 hours, Day said.

The new insurer has 2,300 agents nationwide. If a church has an independent agent of choice, Preferred Risk will, in most cases, give that agent a limited contract to write the Preferred Risk policy.

Preferred Risk Group began as an auto insurance company for nondrinkers in 1947. It grew to its present five companies. For more than 30 years the company has offered a multiperil policy to churches. It now serves more than 25,000 churches and church-related schools.

A dedicated toll-free telephone service for Southern Baptist churches has been established in Des Moines. The number is 1-800-321-5754.

"All inquiries about property and casualty and all requests for proposals are being handled by the new carrier," said Day. Church with policies in force with Aetna do not need to do anything until contacted by the Annuity Board before renewal time.

Day said the new carrier will make the process of writing insurance simpler and, in many cases, provide coverage at less cost.

Mathis described Preferred Risk as, "a particularly stable company with a conservative investment policy." The company lists its principal investments in corporate and municipal bonds, U.S. Treasury bonds, government-backed mortgages, common and preferred stocks and U.S. Treasury securities.

The company says it does not invest in the beverage alcohol industry, the tobacco industry or make loans to officers and employees.

There are 32 branch claims offices in 20 states with nine additional states staffed by resident adjusters.

In the event of disaster, such as a major fire, Preferred Risk promises a catastrophe team will be on site within 24 hours. The company says if an automobile claim is not addressed by an adjuster within 48 hours the deductibles are waived.

After Hurricane Hugo struck the southeastern U.S. coast, Preferred Risk adjusters were on the scene the next day. They wrote their own estimates and settled 636 claims for \$8,915,901.

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Divorced, never married singles
tend toward less church involvement By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
11/18/91

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist single adults who are divorced and those who have never been married tend to be less involved in their churches than Southern Baptist adults in general while widowed singles are more involved, according to a national study.

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Thirty-six percent of Southern Baptist adults are single, almost identical to the 37 percent in the total U.S. adult population. However, among Southern Baptist singles, a higher percentage are widowed than in the U.S. at-large while a significantly lower percentage have never been married.

This information is part of the 1990 Southern Baptist Constituency Study, a national survey of adults, conducted by H.T.I. Research of Chicago for the Sunday School Board's corporate planning and research department.

From the sample of 1,779 Southern Baptist adults, Dean Anderson, research associate at the board, analyzed the responses of the 478 who identified themselves as never married, divorced or widowed. He then compared these findings to the total sample of 1,779 Southern Baptist adults.

The largest category of Southern Baptist single adults is the widowed, 13 percent of all adults, followed by divorced, 10 percent, and never married, 9 percent. Those who identified themselves as separated or single and living with someone constituted 2 percent each of the sample. The last two groups were not analyzed due to their small numbers.

"The main pattern that stands out is that never married and divorced singles tend to be less active and the widowed so much more active," said Anderson.

For example, while 53 percent of Southern Baptist adults said they had attended religious services at least once a week in the previous six months, only 33 percent of never married singles and 43 percent of divorced singles indicated they had attended at least weekly. However, among widowed singles, 72 percent reported attending services at least once a week.

Never married and divorced Southern Baptist adults also are less likely to cite denominational affiliation as a factor in their choice of a church while widowed adults consider it more important.

Twenty-four percent of all adults cited denominational affiliation as the most important factor in their choice of a church compared to 16 percent of divorced Southern Baptists and 14 percent of those who have never married. In contrast, 42 percent of widowed adults listed denomination as the most important factor in choosing a church.

Within the widowed category, 96 percent are female and only 4 percent male, a factor which Anderson attributed to the longer life expectancy of women.

Among divorced Southern Baptist adults, 79 percent are female and only 21 percent male.

Anderson said these percentages indicate Southern Baptist churches may be doing a poor job of reaching divorced men.

Never married Southern Baptist adults include 45 percent men, more than the 42 percent male makeup of the total Southern Baptist adult group.

While the perception exists that single adults are more likely to be attracted to large churches, Anderson said the distribution of singles by church size does not vary significantly from that of all Southern Baptist adults.

Twenty-two percent of all Southern Baptist adults belong to churches with one thousand or more members. At the same time, 27 percent of never married and widowed, along with 31 percent of divorced adults belong to churches with one thousand or more members.

Anderson said never married Southern Baptist singles are older than might be expected. Forty-nine percent are 35 or older.

More than four out of 10 divorced Southern Baptist singles have children living in their households. Forty percent of Southern Baptist households with children are single parent households which is close to the national average.

Never married singles reported significantly less involvement in any form of witnessing of their Christian faith. Only 39 percent said they had been involved in any form of witnessing in the past year compared to 65 percent of the widowed adults and 53 percent of both the divorced and the total adult group.

Never married and divorced singles tend to have more formal education than the total Southern Baptist adult population while widowed singles have less education.

The social issues that concern single adults differed from the total adult population.

Never married adults were more likely to be concerned about racial discrimination, hunger/poverty, war and sex education. Divorced adults cited the high divorce rate, child abuse and sex education. Widowed singles tended to choose drinking alcoholic beverages, dishonesty in business, hunger/poverty, immorality in sexual relationships and television programming.

In the total adult population, issues most often cited were child abuse, drug abuse, parental neglect of children and high divorce rate.

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(BP) chart mailed to state Baptist newspapers by SSB bureau of Baptist Press

UPS gives \$100,000 grant
to Baptist center gym

Baptist Press
11/18/91

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. (BP)--A Baptist mission center in a low-income neighborhood of East St. Louis received a \$100,000 grant from the United Parcel Service Foundation to provide recreational facilities for neighborhood children and youth.

The \$100,000 check was presented to Chet Cantrell, director of the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis, by James Pierce, UPS district manager, on behalf of the UPS Foundation.

Cantrell, a missionary supported by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Illinois Baptist State Convention, submitted a grant proposal to the foundation. He wanted to raise money to build a new gymnasium at the center and expand the center's programs fostering healthy life patterns for children and youth.

In presenting the check, Pierce said UPS awards more than \$2 million in grants to charitable organizations across the nation. The Christian Activity Center was selected from among 50 grant proposals from charitable organizations in Illinois.

Pierce said UPS Foundation officials were impressed with the way the Christian Activity Center meets the needs of children, youth and senior adults in the neighborhood. The center serves breakfast to children before school, and offers tutoring, recreation, Bible and discipleship classes after school. Senior adult activities are also provided.

The presentation was made at the UPS Bellevue Package Center in East St. Louis before delivery crews left on their routes for the day. Gordon Bush, mayor of East St. Louis, expressed appreciation for the contributions the Baptist center makes to the life of the community.

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**Missionary plans ministry
during America's Cup race**

SAN DIEGO (BP)--When the America's Cup is defended in San Diego next year, Southern Baptists will be part of the team.

US-2 missionary Vicki Underwood is coordinating a ministry among people involved in the international regatta. A US-2 missionary is a college graduate who serves as a home missionary for two years.

As the most recent winner, America will defend the title as 10 countries compete in the best of seven series. One million visitors are expected in San Diego during the five-month sailing competition.

Underwood began working in San Diego in September and immediately became a volunteer for the America's Cup Organizing Committee. She spends 20 hours a week stuffing packets, answering the phone, making copies and establishing a Christian witness among the race organizers.

Every Sunday Underwood speaks in a different church in the San Diego Baptist Association to recruit fellow Southern Baptists for the effort. A steering committee helps her develop plans to minister to sailors and spectators.

A native of Leighton, Ala., Underwood hopes the America's Cup ministry will have a two-fold effect in San Diego.

She said her primary concern is for the gospel to be shared with as many people as possible. She also wants Southern Baptists in San Diego to develop an on-going ministry among people who flock to Southern California beaches.

"When people are doing recreation, they're at ease, their guard is down, and that's an excellent time to minister," Underwood said.