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**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #75  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Herb Hollinger, Vice President  
Fax (615) 742-891  
CompuServe ID# 70420.1

**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

December 10, 1991

91-185

**Sellers Home staff honored  
for 58 years of ministry**

**By Jim Newton**

**NEW ORLEANS (BP)**--Southern Baptists expressed appreciation to the staff of Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center for 58 years of care and service during special ceremonies Dec. 8.

On Jan. 1, responsibility for the maternity home is being transferred from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, and the maternity home ministry will be moved from New Orleans to Tallulah, La., a small town 45 miles east of Monroe, La.

John Williams, executive director of Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, pledged to continue the tradition of excellence demonstrated by the Sellers Home ministry.

The maternity home will be moved to a 13,000-square foot modern facility valued at more than \$2 million in Tallulah that is much nicer than the facility in New Orleans, said Williams.

The sprawling ranch-style eight-bedroom house was given to the Children's Home last year by Lynn Seymour of Tallulah, who was impressed by the change she had seen in the life of a troubled teenager after living at the Children's Home main campus in Monroe.

During ceremonies expressing appreciation to the staff at the Sellers Home in New Orleans, Harold Wilcox, HMB director of church and community missions, stressed Sellers Home is not closing or coming to an end, but rather is entering a new era.

Paul Adkins, HMB vice president for ministry, paid tribute to the staff at Sellers Home, both past and present, for their professionalism and Christian commitment.

Adkins pointed out the transfer of the ministry from the HMB to the Louisiana Children's Home was in keeping with a national trend. Of the 19 Baptist state conventions which own and operate children's homes, about 15 also include maternity homes and adoption services. Sellers has been the only maternity home owned and operated by a national agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The home was started in 1933 by the late Clovis Brantley, director of the Baptist Rescue Mission in New Orleans who saw the need and convinced the Home Mission Board to open the Baptist Woman's Emergency Home and Baptist Baby Home, said Adkins. The name was changed in 1961 in honor of Thomas Benton Sellers, who donated his services as obstetrician for more than 30 years.

Adkins praised the leadership of Allegra LaPrarie, director of the home from 1948 to 1975, and Mary Dan Kuhnle, director from 1975 to the present.

LaPrarie, now retired and living about four blocks from the Sellers Home in New Orleans, recalled that from 1948 to 1975 a total of 1,948 babies had been adopted through Sellers. "I felt like I had 1,948 grandchildren," she said.

Kuhnle expressed appreciation to the staff at Sellers, presenting to each staff member a china plate from the kitchen where staff and clients had eaten for decades. On each plate was a drawing of the Sellers Home building with a personal inscription.

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Kuhnle also presented to Adkins and to Williams the metal cornerstone plaques from two Sellers Home buildings in New Orleans.

Kuhnle will continue to direct Sellers' post-adoptive services in New Orleans for the next six months, and then enter a private social work practice specializing in post-adoptive services.

June Whitlow, associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, expressed support of Sellers Home by WMU, which has promoted financial support of the home through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

Charles McCullin, former director of the Christian Social Ministries Department at the Home Mission Board now retired in Gibsland, La., expressed appreciation of the rich heritage of caring, competency and confidentiality demonstrated by the staff at Sellers.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press

Legislation opposing,  
favoring gambling stalls

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press  
12/10/91

WASHINGTON (BP)--Legislation halting the spread of one form of gambling while at the same time legalizing another failed when a controversial crime bill faltered in the United States Senate on the day Congress adjourned for the year.

The crime bill would have stopped the expansion of state-sponsored sports lotteries and other games based on sporting events, but it also would have permitted gambling on United States cruise ships.

The bill narrowly passed the House of Representatives, but it died Nov. 27 in the face of Republican opposition in the Senate. Democratic leaders called it a tough-on-crime bill, while some Republicans said it would be better to have no bill than the one proposed by the other party. The bill's backers did not have enough support to force a vote on the issue.

Both gambling provisions in the crime bill also are free-standing bills.

The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (S. 474) will prohibit states from sponsoring or licensing sports gambling. It would not affect forms of sports gambling already legal in Delaware, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and South Dakota. It also excludes the sport of jai-alai.

The provision in the crime bill would have allowed New Jersey one year to establish sports gambling.

James A. Smith, the CLC's director of government relations, expressed the Commission's support of S. 474 in testimony before a Senate subcommittee in June. Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D.-Ariz., is the prime sponsor. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved the bill Nov. 21.

"We are pleased the Senate Judiciary Committee has approved this important legislation," Smith said. "This legislation takes away from states a very popular betting scheme which will likely spread across this nation unless S. 474 becomes law.

"The government should not be in the business of giving approbation to or attempting to profit from gambling. This should be especially true of America's sports enterprises in light of the high degree of interest of children."

A similar House bill (H.R. 74) is sponsored by Reps. John Bryant, D.-Tex., and Hamilton Fish, R.-N.Y.

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The U.S.-Flag Cruise Ship Competitiveness Act (H.R. 3282) was passed by the House Nov. 23 and, like the sports gambling bill, was included in the crime bill in a conference committee. It would allow U.S. flagships to have gambling on board if the vessel's principal purpose is not as a gambling establishment. The bill will permit gambling on "voyages to nowhere" if the state from which the ship is operating has not passed a law prohibiting gambling or such excursions.

Cruise ships under foreign flags already are allowed to have gambling on board.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Gene Taylor, D.-Miss.

Supporters of the sports gambling and cruise ship bills plan to pursue passage of their legislation through both the crime bill and their free-standing bills, congressional spokespersons said.

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Southern Seminary Professor  
White fights cancer battle

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
12/10/91

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--For long-time pastor and professor Ernest White, diagnosis of lung cancer five months ago launched him on an unwelcome but "fascinating journey."

"It's a way of discovering things about myself that there was no other way to discover about myself, my life and my relationship with the Lord," said White, Gaines S. Dobbins professor of church administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The struggle has stirred both his impulse to fight and his need to reflect. White, who also directs the seminary's Dehoney Center for the Study of the Local Church, calls cancer his "enemy" and is determined to beat it. Still, he says, the experience has prompted him to ponder his good fortune of having a loving family and productive ministry.

"I just concluded that 'yes, this might get me, but there's been a lot of good things,'" said White. "This is not something out of the ordinary. I am a human being and human beings get cancer."

White's doctors report he has made good progress in his chemotherapy program. He has vowed to "use every weapon at my disposal" to fight the illness. "I can meditate, use imagery, relaxation and, in general, marshal the healing forces of God within me to reduce, arrest or eradicate the cancer," he said. "If I am healed, by whatever means becomes the agent, it will be divine healing for there is no other kind of healing except by the healing creator."

White first sensed he had cancer last July as he flew to a Baptist World Alliance conference in Montreal. "It made no rational sense that there was a sore spot on my rib," he said, adding his experience with cancer patients during his 30-year pastoral ministry helped him anticipate the diagnosis.

Soon after returning home, he learned he had a tumor on his right rib and lung, and the cancerous cells had already begun spreading throughout his system.

White's battle with cancer has not stopped him from teaching his classes or keeping his supply preaching dates. He is scheduled to teach a full load during the spring semester.

Support from the seminary community and friends from around the country has strengthened him, he said. He has received numerous telephone calls and a "myriad of dear friends" have sent him letters of support. "I am dazzled by the evidence that there must be as many as 10,000 people praying for me in the seminary community, my church and other churches I have served as pastor, interim pastor or consultant," he said.

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The possibility of death has not deterred White from maintaining control of his life's circumstances, he insisted: "I decided I would not cower in the face of death and 'go as a quarry slave, driven to the dungeon,' but rather walk confidently and gratefully on my terms as I have wanted to handle life on my terms."

Though unsure of the exact outcome of his illness, White believes "down deep" he will beat the disease: "Whether that will be in the form of arresting or eradication, I don't know."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southern Seminary

EDITORS' NOTE: The Northwest Baptist Convention story was made available to Baptist Press 12-9-91. Despite the story's late arrival, (BP) wanted you to have the information from the convention meeting.

Northwest approves convention  
facilities move contingency

Baptist Press  
12/10/91

YAKIMA, Wash. (BP)--Messengers from the 383 churches of the Northwest Baptist Convention meeting Nov. 12-14 approved a series of motions authorizing the moving of convention facilities from downtown Portland, Ore., "as funding is available."

The 549 registered messengers also approved a 1992 budget of \$3.49 million and adopted a resolution urging the Foreign Mission Board to reconsider its defunding of the Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary in Switzerland.

The new location for the convention facilities will possibly be in Vancouver, Wash., just across the Columbia River from Portland. The city of Vancouver, a part of the Greater Portland area, is built around old Fort Vancouver, a military outpost abandoned by the British in 1826 by treaty agreements with the government of the United States.

The Northwest Convention purchased a ten-acre plot in Clark County two years ago as a probable site for a future relocation. Tentative studies have been made for the construction of a campus style facility on the site for housing the Northwest Baptist Convention staff offices and service activities, as well as for the Northwest Baptist Foundation and the Northwest Center of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Zoning requests for construction on the convention-owned property, as well as other detailed planning and feasibility studies, now can be undertaken with full convention authorization, said Cecil C. Sims, executive director of the convention.

Two factors urging the move were noted by the executive board to be the critical space needs of the Northwest Center, the NW Foundation, and some of the service activities of the convention, as well as the increasing restrictions and value of the present downtown property. A nationally-used convention center has just been completed within three blocks of the NWBC property, a nearby sports stadium complex has been approved for construction as the home of the Portland TrailBlazers basketball team, and new hotels and office structures are also being proposed nearby to support these activities.

Messengers approved three recommendations from the NWBC executive board authorizing "full speed ahead -- as funding is available" for the project. The first gave basic authorization for the move, "as funds are available, in keeping with the plan and direction of the convention, and the business and financial plan," the document which governs the operations of all boards, agencies and institutions of the NWBC.

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The second and third recommendations had to do with fund raising for the project. Messengers approved entering into a "major fund raising effort using the California Plan of Church Finance as consultant, to enable the desired facilities to be developed, with a goal (for the fund raising) of \$1.5 million." The third recommendation authorized use of the state mission offering for 1992 or 1993 for the relocation effort, "if deemed wise by the consultant in the development of the fund raising plan."

All three recommendations were debated before being approved by written ballot. The vote on each of the recommendations was about 68-70 percent in favor of approval.

Those speaking for approval included a core of the pioneer developers of Southern Baptist work in the Pacific Northwest, supported by a group of young pastors who have received their theological training largely at Northwest Center. Those in opposition were thought to be mostly messengers seeking more information about the cost and type of development before granting approval.

The entire slate of officers was re-elected for a second term. James W. "Bill" Phillips, pastor of the Kennewick Baptist Church in Kennewick, Wash., was re-elected president. Don Porter, pastor of the Summitview Baptist Church in Yakima, Wash., and Frank Palmer, pastor of the Forest Avenue Baptist Church in Redmond, Ore., were given second terms, as well.

The 1992 budget of \$3,490,877 includes a Northwest Cooperative Program unified budget goal of \$1,780,000, with 30.75 percent pledged to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. The 1991 CP percentage was left unchanged.

Though messengers had denied approval of a previous resolution restricting advertisement of Sunday activities at Mt. Baker Baptist Conference Center, owned and operated by associations in northwest Washington state, they granted near unanimous approval of the resolution aimed at Foreign Mission Board trustees. Only one person spoke in opposition, calling for solidarity with the conservative FMB trustees in their attempt to stand against liberalism.

The 1992 meeting of the Northwest convention will be Nov. 10-12 in Eugene, Ore.

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Estimates project four years  
of increased baptisms

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press  
12/10/91

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)--For the first time since 1950, Southern Baptists can expect their fourth consecutive year of increased baptisms this year, according to estimates by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The estimated number of baptisms for 1991 is 390,800, up 1.5 percent from the 385,031 baptisms reported last year. The last time Southern Baptists had four consecutive years of increased baptisms was 1947 through 1950.

The 1991 estimate, based on reports from state evangelism leaders, is the highest number of baptisms reported since 1983, when the total was 394,606.

This year's projected increase is especially significant because it follows last year's Here's Hope national revivals, said Clay Price, director of the HMB program research department, who compiled the data.

The last time Southern Baptists had a national revival emphasis was 1986. The following year Southern Baptists had a 7 percent decline in baptisms.

"Granted, this year's increase is small," Price said. "But considering it follows a national emphasis on evangelism in 1990, it is a remarkable increase."

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The continued increase in baptisms can only be attributed to a movement of God, said Darrell Robinson, HMB vice president for evangelism.

"People are praying for God's direction with hungry hearts," Robinson said. "We're becoming a desperate, broken people seeking God."

Robinson said he senses churches are realizing their responsibility for every person in their community. He said churches are looking back to principles Jesus used in reaching people.

The Northwest Baptist Convention, which includes Oregon, Washington and part of Idaho, reported one of the largest increases in baptisms. The convention had a 19.1 percent increase in baptisms in 1990 and a 17.5 percent increase this year.

Adrian Hall, evangelism director for the Northwest Baptist Convention, said he attributes the increase in baptisms to new churches and missions and new Sunday school units.

"We have more people involved in outreach visitation and more people trained in personal evangelism," Hall said. "I believe Northwest Baptists are developing a totally new sense of responsibility to God for people."

Hall has encouraged churches to keep active prospect files and take responsibility for each person listed. Hall said the average Southern Baptist church in the Northwest Convention has 43 prospects for every 100 members.

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Southern Baptists must avoid building  
"record-album churches," professor says

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press  
12/10/91

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)--Building record-album churches in a compact disk world is a temptation Southern Baptists must shun.

Charles Kelley, evangelism professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, issued that challenge to Southern Baptist evangelism leaders meeting in Williamsburg, Va.

The advent of compact disks made record albums a thing of the past, Kelley explained.

"The need for good music has not changed, but the package has," Kelley said. "People like CDs because the music is presented with less distortion. They offer the purest way to hear the music."

Likewise, Kelley said Southern Baptists need to look for new ways to present the gospel in the purest way.

"We may have to pray, 'Show me the difference between New Testament evangelism and the evangelism I like.' We must present a gospel that is not distorted by culture, even Southern Baptist culture."

Southern Baptists will be tempted to build "record-album churches" based on past successes, Kelley said. He noted the 1940s and 1950s were years of explosive growth for Southern Baptists because of four factors.

First, Southern Baptists used personal evangelism and weekly visitation to discover prospects. The prospects were enrolled in Sunday school where they were taught Scripture and where class members demonstrated Christian commitments. Sermons followed by invitations confronted people with their need to make decisions for Christ. Revivals were used to harvest decisions.

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"That was our golden age," Kelley said. "The problem is, what do we do for an encore? Sometimes we get locked into 1940s and 1950s expectations, when in fact, the world is different now."

Kelley urged Southern Baptists to learn at least two things from their past: assign responsibility for evangelism and learn from other Christians.

He noted the Home Mission Board did not have an evangelism department until the Southern Baptist Convention mandated its creation in 1906. That demonstrated "assigned responsibility is more effective than assumed responsibility."

Southern Baptist churches have so many activities that evangelism can get lost in the process, Kelley said.

"So much is going on, if we just assume evangelism is taking place, it probably won't be done," he suggested. Instead, churches need to assign evangelistic responsibility to people and programs.

Second, Kelley suggested Southern Baptists adopt ideas from other Christian groups. He noted Sunday school did not originate with Southern Baptists, but Southern Baptists endorsed the concept and made it a valuable tool.

Yet the only effective strategy for building churches in a compact disk world, Kelley said, is "being on our knees before God to seek his agenda and his methodology and his ideas.

"Remember, it's not the package. It's the music that matters," Kelley concluded.

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Baptist hymnal sales  
approach 1.5 million

Baptist Press  
12/10/91

NASHVILLE (BP)--Sales of "The Baptist Hymnal" pew edition are approaching 1.5 million copies, far surpassing forecasts for the first year.

State church music leaders were told during their winter planning meetings Dec. 3-6 at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board more than 1,428,500 copies of the hymnal, released on March 14, had been shipped as of Dec. 3.

First-year sales forecasts had been for sales of 550,000, said Jimmy Edwards, vice president for marketing and distribution.

He credited state music leaders for doing "all we have asked you to do and more" in producing and promoting the hymnal.

Churches of widely differing sizes and worship styles have bought the hymnal, said Wesley Forbis, director of the board's church music department and editor of the hymnal. This indicates achievement of a goal "to provide a tool the Southern Baptist Convention could gather around."

In eight months following the national PraiSing II to launch the hymnal in Nashville, 56 PraiSings in 31 states, Canada and Puerto Rico have been held to celebrate the publication. Total attendance at state and national events has exceeded 50,000.

An additional 48 associational PraiSings have been held or are scheduled.

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**New student evangelism organizations  
approved by state student directors By Chip Alford**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The creation of national and state student evangelism organizations in 1992 will provide "a rapid way to deploy student evangelism programming," according to a student ministry consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Brad Gray, consultant for student evangelism and world student ministries, said the formation of the National Evangelism Task Force (NET Force) and a State Evangelism Task Force (SET Force) in each state convention will ensure evangelism remains a top priority for college students for years to come.

Plans for the new organizations were approved by state convention directors of student ministry during their annual planning meetings Dec. 3-6 in Nashville.

Gray described the NET Force as "a delivery system, not a program in itself."

The organization will include two representatives from each state convention appointed by the state director of student ministry. One representative will be related to Baptist Student Union and the other will be a church-related person who ministers to college students. State directors are to recommend the NET Force members from their state by Jan. 15, 1992.

The NET Force will meet once a year to: provide input from the field that will assist in the development of annual student evangelism programming, receive training to implement the programming, assist in the design and use of a new evangelism section of "The Student" magazine and assist in the development of student evangelism conferences and training events.

The NET Force members from each state also will appoint members to their state force. The first SET Force groups are scheduled to be appointed in February 1992.

These state groups are to include an equal number of campus directors of student ministries and church-related persons, such as church ministers to college students, associational Sunday school student ministry leaders and college Sunday school teachers. The purpose of the state forces is to carry the yearly evangelism program designed by the NET Force to their state constituency by making themselves available to train others.

The program content for the first year of the new student evangelism organizations already has been set, Gray said. It will include training in the Balanced Program of Student Evangelism (which includes ongoing student programs and special evangelism events); the SHARE Seminar Workbook, third edition; and "Dealing With Life's Questions," the collegiate edition of Outreach Bible Study.

Gray told the student directors the new organizations will allow methods of evangelism programming to stay current with changes in the student culture.

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**State music leaders urged  
to help hurting musicians**

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press  
12/10/91

NASHVILLE (BP)--Pastors are not the only church staff persons who suffer hurt in work relationships, a Southern Baptist expert in church staff relationships told state Baptist music leaders Dec. 6 during their annual winter planning meeting.

Brooks Faulkner, senior manager of the church staff support section in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, said ministers of music, like pastors, are "by their vocational nature, out front kinds of persons.

"It is good to remember that although all church staffs are family, not all family members are loved in the same way, nor equally loved, for that matter," he observed.

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Faulkner said poor interpersonal relationships affect achievement.

"If someone is spending more energy trying to get back at another staff member, it is obvious there is deprivation of achievement. Energy is not being dissipated properly," he continued.

Among the signals indicative of a hurting staff member are changes in response to new situations, repeated lack of communication, a loss of intensity about work and ministry and erratic work hours.

"The Bible teaches sacrifice, self-discipline, humility, compassion and understanding. It does not teach unbridled anger, disguised strategy to get your way, put downs or stand offs," Faulkner told the state music leaders.

Citing Titus 3:1-14 as a biblical format for helping hurting persons, Faulkner said church staff persons need to be subject to authority as a part of the price for achieving.

"You have to work within the confines of the authority structure," he said. "You can't expect to be an undisciplined maverick and, at the same time, be a master builder."

He said Titus teaches to be gentle, know that grace is for everyone, be devoted to what is good, avoid foolish controversies, avoid fractious and divisive people and pay attention to priorities.

He offered six suggestions to state music leaders in helping ministers of music who are hurting:

- Establish communication links that are practical with the state convention church minister relations directors.

- Work at establishing support networks among other ministers of music, directors of missions and pastors who are sympathetic to ministers of music as people.

- Refer seriously neurotic or psychotic people to professionals who can help.

- Don't be intimidated or turned off by people who hurt.

- Make calls to uncover facts.

- Spend energy in giving time and attention.

Conflict is neither good nor bad, and churches that become what God wants them to become aren't always harmonious, Faulkner said. They have conflict because they are made up of people.

"Conflict can create energy; it can be constructive," he concluded. "It can make persons sensitive to where they are and what they value. It can help persons become more tolerant.

"Persons can be helped to grow in conflict resolution if they continue to care for each other," he observed.