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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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92-4

**Trustee reasons for  
Ruschlikon vote outlined**

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) -- Disagreement with Glenn Hinson's theology was only one of many reasons Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted to defund the Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, according to trustee chairman Bill Hancock.

The naming of Hinson -- a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor many FMB trustees regard as liberal -- to a short-term teaching assignment at Ruschlikon was the latest in a long line of events trustees cite to support their vote on a seminary they believe is too liberal and too expensive.

Stung by heavy criticism of the defunding at home and abroad, and angered by what they feel was incomplete press reporting of the action, trustees directed Hancock to write an open letter to Southern Baptists explaining their position.

Hancock's 10-page letter, titled "A Report on Ruschlikon," is dated Jan. 3. FMB staff gave top-priority handling, through a commercial printer and mailer in Richmond, to distributing almost 40,000 copies. Mailing was being done Jan. 9-10, with a few remaining to be mailed Jan. 13.

The letters are going to all Southern Baptist pastors, state conventions and state Baptist newspapers, as well as people who contacted the mission board or trustees about the action, said Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. FMB missionaries also will receive copies.

The trustees voted 35-28 Oct. 9 to remove \$365,000 in Foreign Mission Board funds from the 1992 budget allocation for the seminary in Ruschlikon and redirect it to theological education in Eastern Europe.

The vote produced a storm of protest from Southern Baptists and European Baptist unions, as well as some support, notably from the large Romanian Baptist Union. A Dec. 5-6 dialogue trustees, board staff members and representatives from European Baptists and Ruschlikon failed to produce a consensus to restore funds, Hancock said. Trustees voted 54-27 Dec. 11 to take no further action.

In his letter, Hancock reviews the historical, financial and theological aspects of the Ruschlikon seminary from the trustees' perspective and includes a section headed "Questions of Trust."

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The seminary was begun by Southern Baptist missionaries in 1949 in an effort to unify European Baptists in the wake of two world wars, Hancock said. "The school had a successful beginning and remained financially stable for over 20 years," he wrote, until a series of financial crises in the 1970s.

The mission board deeded the seminary to the European Baptist Federation in 1988, agreeing to continue major FMB financial support (about a third of the seminary budget) through 1992, with decreasing support extending until 2008.

"The property was given with the strong impression that the Ruschlikon president (Southern Baptist missionary John David Hopper) was committed to move the seminary in a more conservative theological direction and to lead the seminary to be more aggressive in evangelism and church planting," Hancock said.

On the financial front, problems have persisted as the seminary struggles to continue operation in an extremely expensive Swiss economy and in a facility needing major renovation. Supporting the 48 full-time students enrolled in the seminary last fall cost Southern Baptists \$15,937 per student in Cooperative Program funds, compared to an average of \$2,474 per student at the six Southern Baptist seminaries in the United States, Hancock reported.

"When there have been sporadic financial crises at Ruschlikon for 19 years resulting in more severe problems after each crisis; when the cost of operation is evaluated; when the student enrollment and cost per student is appraised; when urgent repairs are pending; the question is valid and must be answered, 'Is it financially feasible for Southern Baptists to continue supporting an institution with these circumstances anywhere in the world?'" Hancock asked.

The letter includes a statement that seminary president Hopper said he believes the seminary is cost-effective. Hancock said Hopper feels the expenditure is justified because the seminary serves as a conference center and provides a variety of training programs for about 600 full- and part-time students including pastors, missionaries, laymen and church leaders from across Europe.

The trustee chairman outlined a list of theological concerns trustees have about Ruschlikon, its president and faculty members, including the degree of their commitment to evangelism, church growth and conservative theology, their perceived tolerance of theologians who question Christ's virgin birth and resurrection, their appointment of Glenn Hinson to a teaching post, and the charge by Romanian Baptists that professors from Ruschlikon planted "doubts in their lectures that the Bible is entirely the Word of God."

On "questions of trust," Hancock acknowledged some people "have charged the trustees with violating a trust to fund Ruschlikon through 1992." But he repeated the trustees' understanding that seminary president Hopper had pledged in 1988 to "move the seminary toward a more conservative theological position. Trustees understood there would be greater emphasis on evangelism and training church planters. Some trustees feel this trust has been violated," he said.

He also renewed his charge that Ruschlikon and Hopper had violated the Foreign Mission Board's indigenous principle by undertaking independent fund-raising efforts in the United States without informing the FMB trustees.

"Some trustees contend the matter of trust must be a two-way street," Hancock stated.

He concluded the letter by reviewing the December dialogue between trustees, FMB staff, Ruschlikon leaders and European Baptist representatives. The decision concerning Ruschlikon "might have been different," Hancock said, if any of the participants -- trustees, staff, European Baptist leaders or seminary leaders -- had been willing to compromise.

"Whatever the developments in the future, I can stand before God and Southern Baptists and declare I did my best to resolve this issue," he said. "However, it was an impossible assignment when there was no movement toward reconciliation by the parties involved.

"As individuals and autonomous congregations, you must decide the direction of your support in the future. Whatever your choice, may God be glorified and souls saved."

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Tears and words of thanks  
greet Russia food plane

By Wendy Ryan

Baptist Press  
1/9/92

WASHINGTON (BP)--Tears of joy and expressions of thankfulness greeted a World Airways DC-10 plane with 132,000 pounds of food when it arrived in Moscow Jan. 4.

This mission of mercy was the result of the joint efforts of the Leesburg (Va.) Baptist Church and the Baptist World Alliance through its division of Baptist World Aid.

Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid, made a 48-hour roundtrip from Washington to Moscow to witness the arrival of the plane and unloading of food. He also videotaped the unloading and interviewed Russian Baptists who were helping.

"I was crying when I saw the food," said one man named Alex from the Moscow Baptist Church who worked from the time the plane landed to midnight to unload the 60-pound bags of food. Montacute told him there were also tears of joy when the plane left Washington.

"We thank the Lord for you and for what you have done to help Russian Baptists in our extreme difficulties," Alex said. "God gave you the chance to help Russian people and you turned your hands to help us. God will give you more for this."

"I am so glad for this," said another young man named Vladimir. "I do not have milk and bread."

The expressions of thankfulness were matched by the hard work of the men from the Moscow Baptist Church who, supervised by Sergei Rebrov, one of the pastors of the congregation, unloaded the food in snow and a steady downpour of rain.

Rebrov had been in the United States as a guest of Columbia Road Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va., when the Leesburg church received the offer of a plane if they could fill it with food for Baptists in Moscow.

"I can hardly believe it has really arrived," Rebrov said. "Now we will distribute to more than 40 churches and to orphans and other people in need."

Montacute also reported long lines for food and the scarcity of it among the Russian Baptists he visited. "They need food for this winter and for the next winter as well," he said, "and we are working to provide this. Donations will be gladly received."

Since 1905 the BWA has been involved in supporting Baptists in the former Soviet Union. "We never deserted our brothers and sisters and we shall continue to help Baptists in the new Commonwealth of Independent States," said BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz.

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Faith sustains Texas Baptist  
during 30-day Iraqi captivity

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press  
1/9/92

DALLAS (BP)--Though he was deprived of food and water for five days, blindfolded, bound, stripped and interrogated during a month-long imprisonment in Baghdad, Jim Aduddell said he was sustained by prayer and his personal faith in Jesus Christ.

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"I knew everything was going to turn out all right. I knew Jesus was working things out according to his perfect way. It's just that sometimes our time frame and his don't coincide," said Aduddell, a member of Forest Cove Baptist Church of Kingwood, Texas.

"I'll tell you this -- I made it through because of one person, and that's Jesus Christ."

Aduddell, who works with a Houston-based engineering consulting firm, was arrested Dec. 6 while travelling in the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, about 45 miles from Kuwait City. The Texan and his two companions, David Martin of Alaska and Joseph Ducat of the Philippines, were surveying the area before bidding on an explosive ordnance disposal job.

"It was a no-man's-land, and we saw some things that were pretty rough. There were tanks out there, and one still had four bodies in it. We picked up hand grenades and a machine gun -- in fact, that was part of the problem. When the Iraqis got us, we had that stuff on us," he said.

When a sandstorm hit about noon that day, Aduddell and his partners became disoriented. After wandering for a time, they came across a guard's post but were unable to determine if it was flying a Kuwaiti flag. Only when they were within earshot of the station did they discover it was Iraqi.

"We put our vehicle in reverse, but about that time soldiers ran out after us. They kept us for an hour and a half there, then took us to Basra, and then it was on to Baghdad," Aduddell said.

During the first week they were held, Aduddell and his companions were unsure of the charges against them. However, after about two weeks they discovered the Iraqis believed them to be military saboteurs.

"It looked bad because David Martin was an explosives expert with charges in his briefcase and in our vehicle we had the hand grenades we'd picked up in the DMZ," Aduddell said. "We couldn't make them understand that we weren't military, that we were civilian contractors. The language barrier was a real problem."

Aduddell's faith was tested when he and his companions were blindfolded and taken to a vacant lot on their 15th day in captivity.

"We thought they were going to shoot us down -- kill us and leave us in that vacant lot. I thought, 'I want to see my wife and family again. I want to get out of here. But if this is it, it's all right because I'll be going to a better place. I know I'm going to heaven,'" he said.

For 10 days, the prisoners were blindfolded, handcuffed and intensely interrogated for 10 hours a day. During five days when they were denied food and water, the three men survived on a single orange.

"We were held one place for 19 days where it was so cold we could hardly stand it. They took all our clothes -- stripped us naked -- and it was so cold that when you'd breath out the mist, it would look like you were blowing smoke from a cigarette," Aduddell said.

"I just knew when we were there that they'd let us out on Christmas day. I thought Saddam Hussein would let us go then as a good will gesture, but it didn't happen."

However, just when his morale had dipped to an all-time low, Aduddell heard the voice of children and saw the children's feet through a three-inch crack under his cell's solid steel door.

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"It was an assurance to me that God was still working, even there. He had worked things out to let those kids in to visit their parents. It was a good time in the middle of a very bad time for me," he said.

Eventually, the case against Aduddell and his partners came to trial in Baghdad. After appearing before three judges in a packed courtroom, the captives learned on Jan. 3 all charges against them had been dropped, provided they left Iraq within 72 hours.

With the help of the Polish Embassy and the Red Cross, the three prisoners were transported back to Kuwait and Aduddell came back home to Texas Jan. 6. He plans to return to Kuwait Jan. 15 to complete his job responsibilities.

"Through it all, there were three things that came into my mind that sustained me: 'In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths;' 'We know that all things work together for good to them that love God;' and especially, 'Don't worry, but in all things by prayer and thanksgiving make your requests known to God.'"

Though he was denied any contact with the outside world during his imprisonment, Aduddell said he was undergirded by the assurance that his friends, family and fellow Christians were praying for him. He also saw the power of prayer demonstrated in the life of his fellow prisoners.

"When we were arrested, they asked if we were Christians. I said, 'yes,' but David Martin said, 'You're crazy. This is a Muslim country.' He told them he was not religious, which they could not understand," Aduddell said.

The other prisoner, Joe Ducat, was a Catholic who "always crossed himself and gave thanks when we'd get some food, however little it might have been," Aduddell recalled.

"I must have talked to David a million times about God, but it gets to the point where words don't matter. I just had to pray and turn it over to God. And when we got out, David was 'God blessing' everybody. I really believe David Martin will come to know Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior because of this. If so, it's all been worthwhile."

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Baptist Committee on Furman seeks  
settlement, elects leadership

By Mark R. Jeffcoat

Baptist Press  
1/9/92

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--The newly appointed South Carolina Baptist Convention Committee on Furman met Jan. 8 and unanimously committed to seek a reconciliation with Furman University before proceeding with any legal action.

The convention and Furman University have been at odds since October 1990 when Furman's trustees amended their charter to give themselves authority to elect future trustees. Trustees had been elected by the convention since the school was chartered in 1826.

Tim Head, pastor of Cooper River Baptist Church in North Charleston who was elected committee chairman, said there was a "full and free discussion of the issues" as each of seven members present was given opportunity to express personal views.

"We heard a lot of background information about the situation with Furman and discussed a process for our work," Head said after the four-hour meeting. "We spent a good deal of time getting to know each other and organizing ourselves."

Head said no request for funds for litigation or court costs is imminent since other solutions will be sought first.

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Chip Campsen, a Charleston attorney and member of East Cooper Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, was elected secretary.

Other members present included convention president Eddie Greene, pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church in Anderson; C. Arthur Bruce, member of Northside Baptist Church in Anderson; Redmond Coyle, member of East Pickens Baptist Church in Pickens; Troy Gregg, pastor of First Baptist Church in Chesnee; and Guy S. Sanders Jr., member of First Baptist Church in Bamberg. Bruce A. Russell, retired minister from Charleston, was absent.

Head said the committee will meet again Jan. 31.

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Baptist Men embrace word  
by giving it away

By Steve Barber

Baptist Press  
1/9/92

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Although this year's theme for Baptist Men is "Missions Involvement Through Embracing the Word," which to some might imply "holding on" to a familiar, leather-bound Bible, the reality of Baptist Men in action today implies much more.

"Everyone's talking about the written word these days," said Douglas Beggs, vice president of program services for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. "But what we want to do is embrace the living word and give that word away through ourselves."

More than 250,000 men and boys enrolled in Baptist Men, Baptist Young Men and High School Baptist Young Men units will be celebrating a year of "giving the word away" on Baptist Men's Day, Jan. 26.

"By embracing God's word, the first thing we do with Baptist Men, especially in our prayer emphasis, is to embrace Jesus himself. In other words, we want to be in fellowship with him because he is the word," Beggs said. "Out of that embrace, we then take the word literally."

For Baptist Men, the next step is concentrated prayer, evangelism and church renewal. These, in turn, lead to ministry, a willingness to do as Christ did when he was confronted with human needs.

"We have men in soup kitchens and in disaster relief who are giving the cup of water in Jesus' name, who are going into the prison systems, who are constructing and repairing buildings where the word can be preached, all over the world," added Beggs. "And they do it as volunteers. Truly, they are giving themselves away, and with that, the word alive in them."

The Brotherhood Commission has estimated the time and labor of missions volunteers equalled \$42 million in 1990, the last year for which figures are available. With 27 state Brotherhood directors reporting volunteer activity, there were 59,810 missions volunteers recruited through Brotherhood who participated in 4,002 national and international projects.

"These numbers don't even begin to measure the involvement at the local level that goes unreported," Beggs said.

Even with so much direct, hands-on missions involvement stressed by all age-level Brotherhood units today, Beggs claims Baptist Men's units haven't neglected distribution of the written word, which is a tradition as old as the movement itself.

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The Brotherhood Commission participated in the Bibles for Russia campaign, which began in 1988 with the first stirrings of "glasnost" in the former Soviet Union. The effort ultimately led to the distribution of more than 4 million copies of Scripture. And Baptist Men still use their "Witnessing With A Hand-Marked New Testament" tract when doing personal evangelism and take a leading role in Lay-Led Revivals in local churches.

"The 'Embrace the Word' theme is a compelling reminder that Scripture must be practiced and lived out, not just memorized," said James D. Williams, who is observing his first Baptist Men's Day as Brotherhood Commission president.

"I encourage our churches in the strongest way possible to use this special day to honor laymen who have magnified the ministry of the church by their missions involvement," Williams added. "Remember, one of the greatest needs in our society today is for strong male role models, and recognition makes them visible."

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(Additional information regarding Baptist Men's Day mailed to all state Baptist newspapers by the Brotherhood Commission)

First three students complete  
degree programs in Northeast

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NORTHBORO, Mass. (BP)--A service of celebration at the Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church honored the first three students to complete their theological degree requirements through the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry.

Michael Bone, associate pastor of Nashua (N.H.) Baptist Church, and Victor Vaughn, pastor of Cambodian Baptist Mission in Billerica, Mass., both received the master of divinity degree. Sharon Brouillette, minister of education at Calvary Baptist Church in Ayer, Mass., received the diploma in Christian education.

All three students began taking courses at NEBSM's Northboro center when it opened in the fall of 1989. Bone and Vaughn previously had completed part of their coursework elsewhere.

The degrees were conferred by the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. NEBSM is a degree program of Southern Seminary, with cooperating support from all six SBC seminaries, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Baptist conventions of New England, New York, Pennsylvania-South Jersey and Maryland-Delaware.

Only Bone was able to attend the official graduation exercises in Louisville in December.

Doran C. McCarty, coordinator of the Northeastern program, challenged the students to "hold the mystery of the faith with a good conscience."

"A real minister is not a person of magic but mystery, not of facts but faith, not of creeds but Christ. Mystery has a depth and width and height that demands all our knowledge and imagination, pushing us on to new frontiers of thought and trust."

McCarty also is executive director of Seminary Extension, a Nashville-based program jointly sponsored by all six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Yates Bingham, director of the Northboro center, presided over the celebration service. Other participants included James Currin, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England; Larry Martin, executive director of the Greater Boston Baptist Association; Tom Moncrief, director of missions for the Baptist Convention of New England; and the three students.

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McCarty called the celebration a significant milestone for the Northeastern project. "From its inception, the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry has had the purpose of providing contextualized theological education for ministers who plan to serve in the Northeast. These three students are the first realization of that dream."

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Southern Baptist colleges log  
decade of continuous growth

By Tim Fields

Baptist Press  
1/9/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist colleges and universities showed an overall increase in fall enrollment for the 19th consecutive year according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Enrollment figures for the 1991 fall semester show 113,262 students attended Southern Baptist colleges and universities, a 2.4 percent increase over the 1990 total of 110,605.

The enrollment figures include both full- and part-time students in college credit courses, but not students in non-credit courses. Enrollment statistics were released to the commission by each school.

A compilation of the figures shows 33 of the 53 colleges and universities had increases in enrollment ranging from 22.7 percent to 0.3 percent.

Bluefield (Va.) College had the largest percentage increase for the second consecutive year with 22.7 percent followed by Campbellsville (Ky.) College, 21.7 percent; Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C., 15.6 percent; Brewton-Parker College, Mount Vernon, Ga., 14.5 percent; Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, 14.4 percent; and Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, Va., 14 percent.

Campbell University showed the largest numerical increase from fall 1990 to fall 1991 with 780 additional students followed by Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas, 302; Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, 300; Mercer University, Macon, Atlanta and Forsyth, Ga., 279; Brewton-Parker, 272; Charleston (S.C.) Southern University, 255; and Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., 250.

The last time overall enrollment in Southern Baptist colleges and universities decreased was in 1981, when enrollment was 91,602, a drop of less than 1 percent over the previous year.

The increased enrollment for the past decade means that 21,660 more students attended the 53 Southern Baptist colleges and universities during the fall 1991 term than in fall 1981, a net increase of 23.6 percent.

"The fact that a majority of the colleges and universities still experience growth in enrollment demonstrates the confidence Southern Baptists have in their institutions of higher education even in an environment of change," said Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission.

"With the national emphasis on education, we Christians must recognize that higher education offers a continuing opportunity for relating faith to all areas of knowledge and human endeavor," Walker said. "If the Christian faith is to impact experience, it must be related to the leaders, professionals, researchers and scholars of society. The basic mission purpose of Baptist institutions is to equally emphasize personal faith and professional competency."

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Baylor University in Waco, Texas, remains the largest Southern Baptist university with 11,810 students, followed by Mercer University with 6,166 students. Campbell University for the first time edged Wake Forest to become the third largest Southern Baptist-related university in the nation with 5,777 students. Wake Forest University had 5,755 students.

Some universities have reached or surpassed their established enrollment and are limiting the number of incoming students through admissions ceilings and/or higher standards.

An "Early Estimates" report from the U.S. Department of Education shows total college enrollment in the United States was 14,157,000 in fall 1991, with an average increase of 3.2 percent over the previous fall. The growth figures were spurred by an 8 percent increase in the 5.3 million students attending two-year colleges. The 2.4 percent increase at Southern Baptist colleges compares favorably with enrollment increases at both public and private four-year colleges, which grew by only 1 percent.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, college administrators said while freshmen enrollment was down at many four-year institutions because of large tuition increases and a declining number of high school graduates, overall enrollment increased because of "an influx of adult students who were waiting out the recession in college classrooms."

Following are the 1991 fall enrollment figures and the percentage increase or decrease from fall 1990 to fall 1991 (rounded to the nearest 0.1 percent) at all Southern Baptist colleges and universities by state.

Alabama -- Judson College, 372, up 6 percent; Mobile College, 1,413, up 6.9 percent; Samford University, 4,248, up 2 percent;

Arizona -- Grand Canyon University, 1,745, down 5.4 percent;

Arkansas -- Ouachita Baptist University, 1,289, down 2.7 percent; Williams Baptist College, 768, up 11.3 percent;

California -- California Baptist College, 750, up 10.6 percent;

Florida -- Florida Baptist Theological College, 456, up 2.9 percent; Palm Beach Atlantic College, 1,521, down 0.9 percent; Stetson University, 2,969, down 1.8 percent;

Georgia -- Brewton-Parker College, 2,142, up 14.5 percent; Mercer University, 6,166, up 4.7 percent; Shorter College, 821, down 4.3 percent; Truett-McConnell College, 1,636, up 0.3 percent;

Kentucky -- Campbellsville College, 1,003, up 21.7 percent; Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 145, up 4.3 percent; Cumberland College, 1,673, down 7.6 percent; Georgetown College, 1,547, down 3 percent;

Louisiana -- Louisiana College, 1,013, down 5.7 percent;

Mississippi -- Blue Mountain College, 381, up 6.7 percent; Mississippi College, 3,771, up 2.8 percent; William Carey College, 1,672, up 6.2 percent

Missouri -- Hannibal-LaGrange College, 841, down 16.5 percent; Missouri Baptist College, 1,162, up 9.5 percent; Southwest Baptist University, 2,939, up 0.4 percent; William Jewell College, 1,937, down 5.7 percent;

North Carolina -- Campbell University, 5,777, up 15.6 percent; Chowan College, 750, down 15.9 percent; Gardner-Webb College, 2,014, down 2.8 percent; Mars Hill College, 1,323, down 0.7 percent; Meredith College, 2,362, up 2.4 percent; Wake Forest University, 5,755, up 4.5 percent; Wingate College, 1,631, down 0.1 percent;

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Oklahoma -- Oklahoma Baptist University, 2,165, down 1.9 percent;

South Carolina -- Anderson College, 1,090, up 12.6 percent; Charleston Southern University, 2,413, up 11.8 percent; Furman University; 3,294, down 0.5 percent; North Greenville College, 386, down 1.5 percent;

Tennessee -- Belmont University, 2,821, up 0.3 percent; Carson-Newman College, 2,118, up 1 percent; Union University, 2,272, up 7.8 percent;

Texas -- Baylor University, 11,810, down 1.7 percent; Dallas Baptist University, 2,635, up 12.9 percent; East Texas Baptist University, 1,015, up 9.8 percent; Hardin-Simmons University, 1,801, down 6.6 percent; Houston Baptist University, 2,276, up 1 percent; Howard Payne University, 1,395, up 2.9 percent; University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 1,827, up 1 percent; Wayland Baptist University, 2,382, up 14.4 percent;

Virginia -- Ayerett College, 1,603, up 10.8 percent; Bluefield College, 642, up 22.7 percent; University of Richmond, 4,684, down 3.6 percent; Virginia Intermont College, 641, up 14 percent.