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January 27, 1992

92-14

**Dean candidate's father-in-law
murdered after trip to bank**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--William Huckeba, father-in-law of David S. Dockery, general editor of "The New American Commentary" at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, was robbed and killed Jan. 24 outside his home in the Bush Hills area of Birmingham.

The murder occurred the day Dockery was interviewed by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's 70-member faculty in Louisville, Ky., in connection with seminary officials' plans to nominate him as dean of the school of theology.

Huckeba, 76, and a deacon at Hunter Street Baptist Church, was shot multiple times in the upper body by a gunman who approached him outside his home, according to The Birmingham News.

The newspaper reported Huckeba had just returned from a nearby bank where he had deposited his retirement check. He had stopped at home to pick up his wife, Polly, so the two could visit friends.

While he waited on his wife, the gunman approached his vehicle. A family friend said the victim's wife saw the man and heard her husband yell for her to call the police. When she turned to call, the man shot Huckeba, the friend said.

Huckeba was taken to Baptist Medical Center-Princeton where he was pronounced dead at 5:03 p.m.

The newspaper said Birmingham police were looking possibly for two men in connection with the slaying.

A lifelong resident of Bush Hills, Huckeba was retired from the U.S. Navy and TCI Cable.

He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Lanese Dockery of Nashville; and two sons, Paul Huckeba of Pensacola, Fla., and David Huckeba of Columbia, Md.

At the Louisville seminary, President Roy L. Honeycutt Jr. said, "The seminary community has been shocked and deeply grieved by the tragic death in the family. We will continue to pray for David, his wife, Lanese, and other members of the family." Seminary Provost Larry L. McSwain attended the funeral Jan. 27 in Birmingham.

Concerning Dockery's Jan. 24 interview with the faculty, Honeycutt said, "We have every reason to be positive about the prospects of his election by the trustee executive committee to a tenurable position on the New Testament faculty." However, he said, "I think it would be inappropriate to speculate any further since that might presume upon both the trustees and Dr. Dockery."

An interview with the faculty is part of an advisory process to the seminary provost in the selection of new faculty members. In a Jan. 20 news story, Baptist Press quoted a seminary spokesman as saying a vote is taken in such faculty interviews. However, seminary officials clarified Jan. 27 that no formal vote is involved.

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Honeycutt and the seminary's provost, Larry L. McSwain, have confirmed they intend to nominate Dockery as dean of the school of theology once he is elected to the faculty during the trustees' Feb. 3-4 meeting and then voted on for tenure during their April 27-29 meeting. Dockery would become dean of the school of theology Aug. 1.

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Study committee on BJCPA,
Foundation funds continues

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press
1/27/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--A special study committee looking into the dispute over the \$390,000 capital needs fund held by the Southern Baptist Foundation, claimed by both the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the SBC Christian Life Commission, met for four hours Jan. 24 and determined it needs more study.

The funds have been held for nearly four decades by the foundation but when the SBC recently severed relationships with the BJCPA a dispute erupted between the CLC and the BJCPA over ownership of the funds. The BJCPA requested the funds last fall with the intent to purchase a building in Washington; however, the matter had by then been referred to the SBC Executive Committee whose chairman, David Hankins, appointed a special study committee.

The study committee -- the Executive Committee officers, its legal assistance committee and three at-large members -- met Jan. 24 in Nashville for four hours, three of which were in executive session. Following the session, the Executive Committee's legal counsel, James P. Guenther, who said he was authorized by the committee to be its spokesman, said the committee will continue its study.

"The committee's study is more focused now," Guenther said. "But it will continue to research the matter." Guenther said the committee will meet, probably twice, during the Feb. 17-19 Executive Committee meeting in Nashville.

He gave Baptist Press a "time line" of facts the committee was given in its study of the matter. However, Guenther would not give any hint as to what direction the committee was taking.

"The committee has been diligent (and has) shown a desire to be informed and this is clear evidence (the committee wants) to do the right thing," Guenther said. The committee, Guenther added, is not sure at present what that is and wants more time to think about it, although there has been a "focusing" of the committee in the direction it sees as more likely. Guenther would not elaborate further, except to say, "Some options are better than others."

Richard D. Land, executive director of the CLC, and Oliver S. Thomas, BJCPA legal counsel, both presented written position statements of their respective agencies at the meeting.

The \$300,000 capital needs item was established in the mid-1960s, ostensibly for a building in Washington housing several related groups including the BJCPA, and has been held by the foundation since. Almost \$100,000 has been added to the corpus during those years.

'Statement of facts'
given in time line

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following "statement of facts" was given to Baptist Press by James P. Guenther, counsel for the SBC Executive Committee. It is released as given to Baptist Press.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In an effort to provide the committee with the facts relevant to the fund in question we have researched the files and archives of the Executive Committee, the Convention, the Southern Baptist Foundation, and those of the Baptist Joint Committee which are kept by the Historical Commission. The documentary evidence which was revealed by this research may best be described in a time-line fashion.

1. October 27, 1961

Porter Routh requests all Southern Baptist entities, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJC), and the Baptist World Alliance to submit capital needs assessments for a funding program set to begin in 1964 or 1965. The request came from Dr. Routh, then treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention and chief executive officer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, on behalf of the Committee on Capital Needs.

2. February 1964

The Executive Committee receives a report recommending the distribution of \$300,000 for "share in Washington, D.C., building for Public Affairs Committee."

The Executive Committee adopts a motion which recommends that the Southern Baptist Convention approve a capital needs budget for 1965-68 which authorizes a total distribution of \$300,000 over the period (\$270,000 in 1967 and \$30,000 in 1968) to "Public Affairs."

A footnote to the recommendation states: "The \$300,000 allocation to the Public Affairs Committee to be subject to conditions approved by the Executive Committee or the Southern Baptist Convention."

3. May 1964

The Southern Baptist Convention adopts the Executive Committee's recommendation (i.e., the proposed capital needs allocation, including the footnote) without amendment.

4. September 19-21, 1966

The Executive Committee notes that "no plans have been developed for a shared building in Washington." The Committee adopts a recommendation authorizing the disbursement of the capital needs fund (intended for the "Public Affairs Committee") to the Southern Baptist Foundation "with earnings thereon to be added to the principal, until such time as share plans are developed for a building or other action is taken by the Southern Baptist Convention."

5. September 22, 1966

Dr. Routh notifies the BJC that the above-stated recommendation was adopted by the Executive Committee. Dr. Routh refers to the BJC as the "Joint Committee on Public Affairs."

6. October 4-5, 1966

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In his Executive Director's report to the board of the BJC, Dr. C. Emanuel Carlson reports that the funds approved by the SBC in 1964: "for a Baptist Building in Washington had, by a vote of the Executive Committee ... been earmarked for deposit with the Southern Baptist Foundation ... where it will accumulate interest in behalf of the project until it can be used, or until further action is taken by the Southern Baptist Convention or its Executive Committee.

7. January 18, 1967

The Executive Committee sends the first distribution check to the Southern Baptist Foundation. The letter repeats the language of the previously adopted recommendations and reiterates that the purpose of the allocation is to share in the cost of a Washington, D.C. building for the Public Affairs Committee. Dr. Carlson receives a copy of the letter; it is addressed to him at the "Committee on Public Affairs.

8. August 30, 1967

Dr. Carlson sends Dr. Routh a statement submitted by the BJC to the Capital Funds Committee of the Executive Committee. The statement is intended to document the BJC's request for capital funding to be disbursed "as part of the next capital funds five-year term." The BJC requests \$600,000 for a new facility in Washington over the period 1969-1974. In the letter, Carlson indicates his hope that "any District of Columbia facility might develop as a joint Baptist resource, in line with the program hopes outlined in the former paper."

The statement itself is a detailed account of the uses of the proposed facility including what agencies will enjoy what percentage of the floor space, etc. It refers to the \$300,000 allocation from the Convention. The statement contemplates that space would be shared with a Center for Advanced Studies, Continuation Education and Conference Center as well as the D.C. Baptist Convention and Baptist World Alliance.

9. February 1968

The Executive Committee adopts a five year Capital Needs Program to begin in 1969. It does not provide any funds for the BJC.

The Executive Committee also adopts a Cooperative Program Allocation proposal which states "permission is granted to the Joint Committee on Public Affairs to use of (sic) operations the interest from the \$300,000 capital reserves held for them by the Southern Baptist Foundation."

10. June 1968

The Southern Baptist Convention adopts the proposed allocation with the footnote granting the BJC permission to use the interest.

11. June 14, 1968

Dr. Routh notifies the BJC that the Southern Baptist Foundation is authorized to pay to it the earnings "from the capital reserves held to the account of the Joint Committee."

12. 1975

The \$300,000 held by the Southern Baptist Foundation shows up on the BJC's financial statement for the first time. A footnote appears on the financial statement. The 1980 version of this footnote states: "The investment in the Southern Baptist Foundation represents a designated amount placed with the Foundation by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in September, 1966 for the purpose of sharing in the cost of a Washington, D.C. building for the Public Affairs Committee and other Baptists in Washington. In 1968, the Foundation was authorized to pay the earnings from this money to the Joint Committee on a quarterly basis. The fund balance for this designated amount is a restricted balance and cannot be used for any purpose other than that described above. (emphasis added).

A similar statement appears as a footnote to every BJC financial statement since 1975.

Sometime in 1967, an extensive brochure was developed by the Baptist University Study Committee proposing the establishment of A Center for Research and Continuation Studies. Presumably this is the Center which the BJC contemplated as a co-tenant.

13. July 3 and 10, 1980

Dr. Routh, now retired and serving as Interim Executive Director of the BJC, asks the Southern Baptist Foundation to predict the amount of income the BJC might expect from the \$300,000 account in 1981. The Foundation responds to the request.

14. February 15, 1984

The BJC asks the Foundation to recommend an investment strategy for the \$300,000 account.

15. July and August 1985

The BJC receives investment recommendations from the Foundation. The BJC directs the Foundation to make the changes necessary to "maximize our investment with the Foundation." The Foundation acknowledges the request stating that the Foundation would continue to advise the BJC "in an effort to maximize your investment with us."

16. August 14, 1986

At the BJC's request the Foundation produces an asset review showing the activity in the accounts "we manage for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs."

17. June 1988

The Southern Baptist Convention approves proposed amendments to the charter of the Southern Baptist Foundation. The charter states that one of the purposes of the corporation is "to take and to hold by ... gift or grant ... either absolutely or in trust any property" Part I, Article 7 (B).

Part I, Article 7 (F) of the charter states: "In every case where specific instructions have been given the Directors of the corporation by the donor, grantor or testator, the trust gift shall be known as a "designated gift," and the instructions shall be forever binding upon this corporation and its successors and shall be carried out."

18. July 15, 1988

At the BJC's request, the Foundation develops a five year summary of the account. The summary details the amount of income, the sources of income and projects future income.

At some point, the Foundation designates the account: "OC400 -- BJCPA Capital Needs Fund."

19. February 1991

Roy Gean, member of the Public Affairs Committee, requests information from the Foundation on trusts providing benefits to the BJC.

The Foundation identifies the capital needs fund as the only fund held by the Foundation for the BJC. The Foundation has no written instruments pertaining to the fund. It states that it is acting only as agent for the BJC in the management of the fund.

20. June 4-6, 1991

At the Southern Baptist Convention, Roy Gean moves that the Executive Committee study and direct the allocation of the funds now held by the Foundation for the BJC. The motion is referred by the Convention to the Foundation pursuant to SBC Bylaw 28.

21. June 27, 1991

James Dunn instructs the Foundation to close the BJC account because "attempts by some to pilfer the BJC's account" have caused the BJC to decide to purchase property in D.C. Copies of the January 18, 1967, and June 14, 1968, letters described above are attached to Dunn's letter.

22. July 10, 1991

The Foundation's executive committee considers Gean's motion and Dunn's request. The committee agrees to request the BJC to provide documentation "that the disbursement would comply with the 1964 action of the Southern Baptist Convention in that the funds would be used for the purpose of sharing the cost of a Washington, D.C. building."

The committee further agrees that since the decision to allocate funds was made by the SBC in 1964, it would be inappropriate for the Foundation to presume to act on Gean's motion. In addition, to comply with the 1964 footnote, the Foundation requests the Executive Committee to define any conditions set for disbursement of the fund.

23. July 16, 1991

The Foundation requests Harold C. Bennett, President and Treasurer of the Executive Committee and Treasurer of the SBC, to advise the Foundation of any conditions on disbursement which have been approved by either the SBC or its Executive Committee. The Foundation also informs the BJC of its actions and requests.

24. September 4, 1991

The BJC enters into a contract for the purchase of office space in D.C. for \$345,000. The contract does not indicate whether the building and/or the cost are to be shared with any other Baptist group. Subject to certain contingencies, the BJC is obliged to close on the building purchase or before November 4, 1991.

25. September 11, 1991

The trustees of the Christian Life Commission (CLC) vote to ask for control of the account to fund the purchase of a building for the CLC's new Washington staff who are to carry out the CLC's new religious liberty program assignment.

26. September 12, 1991

The BJC sends a demand letter to the Foundation. The letter states that the BJC has satisfied the only condition placed on the account by evidencing its intent to buy office space. The letter says that the BJC fears a delay in disbursement until after the September Executive Committee meeting because of further conditions which might be placed on the fund by the Executive Committee pursuant to the 1964 footnote. However, it is the BJC's belief that the Convention would have to approve any additional conditions.

The BJC claims legal and equitable title to the fund. It states it has received assurances from the Foundation that the fund was available when needed.

27. September 16-18, 1991

The Administrative Subcommittee of the Executive Committee refers the issue of the disposition of the fund to a special committee for study and recommendation back to the Administrative Subcommittee. This action is reported to the full Executive Committee.

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Sherman accepts coordinator's post
with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
1/27/92

DALLAS (BP)--Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, announced to his church Jan. 26 that he has agreed to become the first full-time coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Sherman, 64, told his congregation he was resigning as pastor effective Feb. 29 to assume responsibilities with the Atlanta-based moderate-conservative organization. He is expected to be officially installed during the annual CBF Convocation April 30-May 2 in Fort Worth.

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The CBF's 82-member coordinating council had voted unanimously Jan. 9 to "call" Sherman as coordinator at a salary and benefits package not to exceed \$100,000. At the time, he asked for two weeks to consider the offer and discuss the decision with family and close friends.

In an article entitled "Sorting Things Out" in the Jan. 16 issue of the Broadway Baptist Church newsletter, Sherman expressed ambivalence toward the job offer. He said there were "strong, compelling reasons" both for staying at Broadway and for going to the CBF in Atlanta.

"The good reasons to go to Atlanta and do this job are out for all to see. The group is small and finding its way. They need some leadership; we can give a little," he stated.

"This is important work. With the passing of time, the Fundamentalist faction in the old SBC takes hold, pushes good people out, puts different people in, redirects programs The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is an infant group trying to give people like us options."

The CBF was formed last year by moderates who felt disenfranchised within the Southern Baptist Convention and dissatisfied with the direction of the current SBC leadership.

On Jan. 11, the organization's coordinating council approved a motion by Sherman to hire Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe who no longer feel they can work for the Foreign Mission Board in light of the board's decision to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

In what some observers viewed as his inaugural address, Sherman urged the CBF to "stop lining off the playing field . . . and get on with the game . . . It's time we get past being just a debating society. It's time we take some children to raise."

Sherman was an early and outspoken opponent of the conservative movement within the SBC and served as an organizer of several moderate groups, including the CBF, Baptists Committed and the Southern Baptist Alliance.

Sherman, a Fort Worth native, came to Broadway in 1984 after 20 years as pastor of First Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C. Other pastorates include Selfs Baptist Church in Fannin County, Texas; First Baptist Church in Chamblee, Ga.; and First Baptist Church in College Station, Texas.

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WMU national leaders
issue urgent call to prayer

By Susan Todd Doyle

Baptist Press
1/27/92

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--An urgent call to prayer was issued to all members of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Jan. 24 by the organization's national leaders.

The call to prayer is scheduled for noon Monday, Feb. 10, through noon Tuesday, Feb. 11.

The call to prayer, in the form of a letter, was signed by Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director, and Carolyn Miller, national WMU president.

God has "entrusted us with a call to prayer for missions," the letter said. "Often, he has called us to pray at specific times for specific concerns. During the Jan. 11-16 meeting of the WMU executive board, we felt God's direct leadership and his call to prayer concerning three matters," the letter said.

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-- "We ask you to pray for Woman's Missionary Union," the letter said. "Feb. 9-15 is 'Focus on WMU Week' across our convention. During these days, many churches will be honoring the work of WMU. As we celebrate the missions leadership role of WMU, pray for God's continued guidance in our future.

-- "We ask you to pray for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The Foreign Mission Board trustees will be meeting Feb. 10-12. News reports to date say that efforts are being considered to speed up the establishment of a search committee to replace R. Keith Parks, president of the FMB.

"Bill Hancock, chairman of the FMB trustees, has called the trustees to 'pray diligently' for this significant meeting. We want to join them in prayer. Doors are opening to the gospel around the world as never before. Southern Baptists, under Dr. Parks' leadership, are seizing those opportunities. We must not do anything to slow down or halt this momentum.

-- "We ask you to pray for 'Green Alert,' the Foreign Mission Board's plan of action to respond to the mission possibilities in the Commonwealth of Independent States, the former Soviet Union."

The letter was sent to each state WMU office with the request that it be shared throughout the state. The invitation to participate in the call to prayer is not limited to WMU members but is open to anyone interested in missions, the letter said.

"Prayer is the most powerful action we can take, no matter what the issue," the letter said. "These are trying times, not only within our denomination, but within our own country and the larger world scene, as well. We must claim the power of the Holy Spirit and the promises of God's Word to guide us every step of the way."

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Prayer termed ammunition
against apathy, evil

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press
1/27/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Prayer is the ammunition of Christians. Those not willing to arm themselves risk "disintegrating and dying," pastors from Alabama and Texas said.

Churches desiring to survive the '90s had better start praying, Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Baptist Church of Houston, told about 140 people from 14 states attending an intercessory prayer workshop at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Churches and Christians that do not pray together in the '90s may not survive," Shook said. "If the average church prayed as much as it gossiped, it would be revolutionized. We must learn to pray as never before."

People living in today's world "deaden their senses toward reality" in a variety of ways, including entertainment, drugs and alcohol, Shook said.

Larry Thompson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., said "something has to be radically done" to alleviate the apathy of churches.

Thompson, national director of Watchmen National Prayer Alert, said, "If the nation is going to see spiritual awakening, then Christians are going to have to (claim) the promises of God."

Watchmen National Prayer Alert is a prayer effort among Southern Baptists to bring spiritual awakening to the country and the world. The 1,200 churches participating so far have agreed to pray one hour a week during 1992. The prayer alert is coordinated by the board's discipleship training department.

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"Our churches are dead and God's people seem to be satisfied with the good old days," Thompson said. "We will not see the glory of God until once again we begin to appropriate the promises of God."

Thompson said the time has come to stop reading and talking about prayer and start "experiencing it."

"We need more than education about prayer -- we need to experience the power of God in our own lives," he said. "If ever there was a time in the body of Christ where we needed to pray, it is today."

Meanwhile, calling prayer the foundational or hidden ministry of the church, Shook outlined the anatomy of prayer as focus, force, foundation, fruit and fight.

God or "the Father" is the focus of prayer, Shook said. "Most people say the focus of prayer is us. They say give me. But prayer is to the Father."

Praying in the spirit is the force of prayer, Shook said. "Prayer is a Christian's speaking relationship in the spirit to God. Pray at all times in the spirit."

Prayer is foundational, Shook said. "Pray through Jesus Christ. Nobody gets to God if they go around Christ."

The fruit of prayer is to pray for others, he said. "Our greatest joy is intercession or prayer for others."

Finally, Shook said, to pray is to fight. "If we don't realize prayer is warfare against Satan, then we're not going to make a difference," he said. "How can we expect to win people to Christ if we don't stand up against Satan?"

The Jan. 20-22 intercessory prayer ministry workshop was sponsored by the discipleship training department and the Church Program Training Center.

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Winningshams to leave
Minnesota-Wisconsin work

Baptist Press
1/27/92

ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP)--Otha Winningham has announced his retirement as executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention, effective April 1, 1993.

His wife, Louise, also has announced her resignation as editor of The Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist, effective July 1, 1992.

The Winningshams made their announcements during the Jan. 24-25 meeting of the convention's 28-member executive board in Rochester. The convention encompasses 13,000-plus members in 90 churches and 32 chapels in the two states.

Winningsham, 60, has led Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptists since July 1975.

"Dr. Winningsham has provided excellent leadership to this convention during his tenure as executive director," said Larry Creamer, convention president and pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Fort Atkinson, Wis., and Community Baptist Church in Milton, Wis.

"We are in as sound a condition as any of the 37 state Baptist conventions and I attribute that largely to Dr. Winningsham's leadership," Creamer continued.

In nearly 40 years in ministry, Winningsham was director of missions for the Keystone Baptist Association in central Pennsylvania for five years and a pastor in Indiana and Arizona.

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Winningham, of Jacksonville, Fla., is a graduate of Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., who later earned the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. Winningham, 59, has been volunteer editor of the convention's newspaper since 1976. She was Woman's Missionary Union director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana from 1959-66 and WMU director for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey from 1973-75. She grew up in Knoxville, Tenn., graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.