

# (BP)

## -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 16, 1992

92-67

### Annuity Board decides against CBF exhibit

DALLAS (BP)--The Annuity Board confirmed April 16 it has decided not to exhibit at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, April 29-May 2.

The Annuity Board joins seven other SBC agencies who changed their plans. Earlier this month the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, and four of the six Southern Baptist seminaries -- Midwestern, New Orleans, Southern, and Southwestern -- each announced they would not be exhibiting at the meeting. Southeastern and Golden Gate seminaries never had plans to exhibit.

Tom Miller, Annuity Board senior vice president for public relations, said there will be no official representative of the Annuity Board at the Resource Fair of the general assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"We will have select personnel present as observers, not as participants, just as we did last year in Atlanta at the CBF," Miller said.

"We have a fiduciary responsibility to everyone who deposits their funds with us and we will go to learn how to better serve all segments (everyone within the bounds) of the SBC," Miller said.

"There are no denominational politics in the management of money. The mission of the Annuity Board is to assist our people in preparing for retirement regardless of their political or theological persuasion," Miller said.

Baptist Press asked Miller why the late change in the decision and also was there pressure from outside the Annuity Board that caused the change. To both questions Miller responded, "I decline to discuss it."

Miller said he was responding to an inquiry from Ernest Mosley, executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee, when the change in exhibit plans became apparent. Mosley advised Baptist Press of the decision.

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### ADVISORY TO NEWS MEDIA AND BAPTIST PRESS BUREAU PERSONNEL:

The Foreign Mission Board trustee subcommittee that will look at possible guidelines for handling of sensitive news by the Richmond (foreign) bureau of Baptist Press will meet April 27-28 in Richmond, Va., rather than May 4-5. The original date was reported in the Baptist Press wrap-up story on the recent FMB trustee meeting in Clemson, S.C.

Terry Williams, pastor of First Baptist Church in Batesville, Miss., and chairman of the subcommittee of the trustee communications committee, has written all FMB trustees for their input.

The first day's session will be limited to members of the committee, which includes trustees Bill Pace and John Greene of Florida and Mike Smith of North Carolina and three staff members -- Alan Compton, vice president for communications; Irma Duke, associate vice president for communications support; and myself.

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Herb Hollinger, vice president for Baptist Press in Nashville, asked permission to attend and has been invited to join us for the April 28 session of the committee. He has already sent the committee a copy of BP's operating guidelines, as approved by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Jim Newton, chief of the Atlanta BP Bureau, has sent the committee a copy of the original "Working Arrangements for News Handling" between BP's central bureau in Nashville and the FMB. The Richmond (foreign) bureau was set up in October 1969. At that time, Jim was news editor of BP in Nashville.

--Bob Stanley, chief  
Richmond (foreign) bureau, Baptist Press

Hispanic Baptists to meet  
prior to Indianapolis SBC

By David Winfrey

Baptist Press  
4/16/92

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Hispanic ministers will gather for fellowship and worship -- and to work at establishing a Hispanic congregation in the Indianapolis area in connection with the sixth annual Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers Conference.

More than 350 Hispanic Baptists are expected to attend the conference prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Indianapolis June 9-11, said Bob Sena, conference coordinator.

The 6:30 p.m. conference Sunday, June 7, will meet at the Chapel Wood Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

The meeting also will focus on spiritual preparation for an August meeting in Orlando, Fla., to launch a decade of Hispanic evangelism in the United States, Sena said.

"The bottom line in all of this is that we are committed to raising the cross of Jesus in the Hispanic marketplace throughout the decade," said Sena, who also is pastor of Spanish Baptist Church in Atlanta.

The Orlando meeting also will commemorate 500 years of Hispanic heritage and culture since Columbus traveled to the Americas, he said.

Of the Southern Baptist Convention's 38,220 churches, about 2,600 are predominately Hispanic, according to the Home Mission Board's language church extension division.

According to the 1990 census, Indianapolis has more than 11,000 Hispanic residents but the area has no Baptist church where Hispanics can worship in their language, said James Abernathy, interim director of missions for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Baptist Association.

An effort a year ago to establish a Hispanic congregation "just kind of fell apart," Abernathy said. "We're trying to get reorganized. We feel like we're getting things back on track."

Sena said ministers from the conference will try to establish a Hispanic congregation during their visit. "We hope our very presence will create an awareness of the need to start Hispanic work in the Indianapolis area. The (Indianapolis Metropolitan Baptist) Association is already committed to start one new (Hispanic) work before the Southern Baptist Convention."

Sena said conference officials have scheduled speeches from two candidates for president of the Southern Baptist Convention and are working to get all announced candidates to address the Hispanic conference.

Scheduled are Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., and Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, Sena said.

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The evening's featured preachers will be Rudy Hernandez, San Antonio-based evangelist; Samuel Gonzalez, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Casa de Oracion, Joliet, Ill.; Pete Rivera, language program leader for the Illinois Baptist Convention; Yamile Fernandez, pastor of Santa Anna (Calif.) Community Church; Henry Blackaby, Home Mission Board director for prayer and spiritual awakening; Fermin Whittaker, HMB planning section regional coordinator for western United States and Canada; and Sena.

For more information about the conference, contact Sena at (404) 299-3475 or (404) 934-9617.

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Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers' Conference  
Annual Meeting  
Sunday, June 7, 1992  
Chapel Wood Baptist Church, Indianapolis  
Theme: "If my people ... "

Sunday, June 7

6:30 Call to Worship -- Primera Iglesia Bautista de Ohio Choir, Dalel Medina, director, Primera Iglesia Bautista, Youngstown, Ohio,  
Scripture Reading -- Carlos Jimenez, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Cristo  
Prayer -- Victor Mendoza, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Emanuel, Aurora, Ill.  
Praise Celebration  
Welcomes -- Jerry Adamson, pastor, Chapel Wood Baptist Church; James Abernathy, director of missions, Metropolitan Baptist Association of Central Indiana, Indianapolis  
Presentation of Proclamation from Mayor's Office and Senator's Office  
Words of Affirmation and Support -- James T. Draper Jr. president, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville  
Special Greetings -- SBC presidential candidates  
Music for Inspiration  
Offering -- E. Villanueva, pastor, Iglesia Bautista, Toledo, Ohio  
Praise Celebration  
Theme Interpretation -- Bob Sena, coordinator, Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers' Conference, Atlanta  
Music for Inspiration -- Ron Owens, associate to director, prayer and spiritual awakening, Home Mission Board, Atlanta  
Messages -- Samuel Gonzalez, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Casa de Oracion, Joliet, Ill.; Rudy Hernandez, evangelist, San Antonio, Texas; Fermin Whittaker, regional coordinator, western United States and Canada, planning section, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Henry Blackaby, director, prayer and spiritual awakening, Home Mission Board, Atlanta  
Praise Celebration  
Messages -- Pete Rivera, language program leader, Illinois Baptist Convention, Springfield; Yamile Fernandez, pastor, Santa Ana Community Church, Santa Ana, Calif.  
Altar Call  
Prayer of Dedication -- Oscar I. Romo, director, language church extension division, Home Mission Board, Atlanta  
Benediction

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CORRECTION: In the BP story released 4/7/92 headlined "High calling includes lowly tasks for South African church planters," please delete paragraph 14, which reads as follows:

When the well is completed Shaw will have to drop a favorite joke from his routine: "Water is so expensive around here we're considering becoming sprinkling Baptists."

Missionary Carroll Shaw (from Texas) fears this may be misunderstood by South African Baptists, who he says consider immersion by baptism very sacred.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

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Phoenix pastor 'connects'  
with Sunday school class

By Sandy DeVaney

Baptist Press  
4/16/92

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--A Phoenix pastor is now on the receiving end of a ministry designed to reach people who cannot attend Sunday school.

First Southern Baptist Church of Phoenix, Ariz., has operated a telephone Sunday school class since 1978 -- and the newest member of the class is Gary Young, the pastor.

Young, a former member of the SBC Executive Committee, has had two rounds of chemotherapy after being diagnosed with lymphoma and has not been able to keep a full schedule at the church. But thanks to modern technology, he can keep in touch with members of his church while getting the rest he needs.

Every Sunday morning, a telephone operator calls each class member to stand by for a conference call. She then calls Tom Moore, the class teacher. After roll is taken, the class shares prayer requests and Moore leads the lesson.

Being a part of the class has been a blessing, Young said, and is much better than listening to radio or tapes.

"The great thing about it is that people talk back. It really is just tremendous," he said.

In the beginning of the telephone ministry, Young said, the cost to the church was about \$5 or \$6 per week. Since then the cost has risen to about \$55 per week. "But it was worth it because of the ministry to people," he said. "And it's still worth it."

Aside from a few technical difficulties (Cecil Stewart, the teacher when the ministry began, once had to teach from a phone booth), the class has run smoothly.

Stewart, with the help of Shields McCoy, would visit class members during the week and deliver quarterlies to them. When Stewart was no longer able to teach the class, the two men traded responsibilities. Now Moore teaches and McCoy helps him.

"I've taught Sunday school for a long time but never anything like this," Moore said. "I was a little apprehensive at first because there's no visible audience but it is such a loving, caring group."

A ministry of this kind is vital, Moore said, to people who normally would be unable to attend Sunday school. "It enables the church to minister to people who would get lost in the shuffle," he said.

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Sometimes when people are not able to attend church regularly it is easy to lose contact with them, "yet these people were the founding fathers and mothers of the church," Moore explained.

Needs in the class vary. Some, like one member with multiple sclerosis, are unable to attend church at all. Others, like Young, participate in the class at home and then are able to attend the regular worship service.

"(The class) helps them remain a vital part of the church -- and they certainly are," Moore said.

After two rounds of chemotherapy, Young said, his tumor has shrunk more than 50 percent. Doctors are amazed at the progress he has made. "But I know why it's shrunk so fast," Young said. "It's because of prayer and the love of people. I've got the most loving, supportive church in the world."

Young was able to preach during the morning services every Sunday in March and he started preaching during the evening services as well on April 5.

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Sandy DeVaney is a writer for The Baptist Beacon, newsjournal of The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

World missions conferences  
report million-plus attendance

By Steve Barber

Baptist Press  
4/16/92

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Participation in the Southern Baptist Convention's World Missions Conferences returned to the million-plus level during 1991, almost exceeding 1989's all-time record attendance, according to Kenny Rains, director of the conferences for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Rains will report to state convention World Missions Conference directors that 1,113,521 persons attended the conferences, which involved 3,917 churches in 187 local Baptist associations.

"We are thrilled that our WMC attendance is back to more than 1 million," Rains said, adding that 455 persons made commitments to career or volunteer missions service.

"This is our first year to have more commitments to missions service than professions of faith, and there were 425 (professions)," Rains said.

A category for "other decisions" was a new addition for 1991, with 421 persons volunteering for activities including neighborhood missions involvement, backyard Bible clubs and literacy work.

The state conventions with the largest number of participating churches in 1991 were Arkansas, 583; Georgia, 452; Alabama, 364; Kentucky, 325; Texas, 322; and Tennessee, 314.

Across the convention, 59 percent of the churches in the participating associations took part in the conferences.

The large number of Arkansas churches taking part is due at least some extent to that state convention's simultaneous WMC emphasis during the year, according to Rains. Simultaneous conferences are slated for Hawaii, Michigan, New York and Wyoming in 1992.

The conferences bring Southern Baptist missionaries into local church settings for personal contact with those who support them, Rains said. "Every church participating has two home missionaries, two foreign missionaries and one state or associational missionary come into their church and make a presentation, and that means a lot of personal contact with missionaries. It really helps missions come alive for those in the local churches."

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World Missions Conferences are coordinated by the Brotherhood Commission in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union and state conventions involving associations and churches.

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Individualized consultations  
available to black churches

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press  
4/16/92

ATLANTA (BP)--Individualized consultations for black Southern Baptist churches which are not growing are now available through the Home Mission Board.

"Our churches complain about being on the plateau and this is one tool to help them grow again, said Michael Cox, associate director of the HMB black church extension division. "My long-range desire is to see a group of consultants trained to provide these studies."

For each study, a consultant spends two or three days at the church, talking to members about the church's history and future. Following the visit, a written report outlines the consultant's findings and suggestions.

Cox trained with Lyle Schaller, author and church growth specialist, for the consultations. After a week of classroom instruction, Cox observed Schaller conduct a study of Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church, a Chicago congregation with 484 members.

Cox and Schaller met with 68 church members, from the church's charter members to its youth group. Afterwards, Schaller presented the church with a nine-page document about the church's strengths, weaknesses and possible strategies for growth.

"This was a watershed event for our church," said Don Sharp, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church for 27 years. "It helped us focus and fine tune what we need to address as we face the future."

Sharp said an important element of the evaluation is that it is done by an objective outsider.

"This came from someone who took the lid off our church and examined us under a microscope and said, 'This is what you look like.'

"This really gave me a shot in the arm," Sharp said. "It's presented me with new horizons and challenges."

The church is making plans to implement Schaller's suggestions, such as offering two Sunday morning worship services.

Sharp noted that a consultation is not a miracle. He said if the consultation is effective it will require a commitment from the church members.

Sharp also noted the consultation is not designed for a congregation in turmoil; it is not a process to referee a fight.

For more information or to schedule a consultation, contact Cox at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street N.W., Atlanta, Ga., 30367-5601 or (404) 898-7415.

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SBC directors of missions  
to seek 'divine directions'

By Art Toalston

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--"Discovering Divine Directions" will be the theme of the 31st annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions prior to the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

The June 7-8 DOM meeting will explore, "How do you find where God is at work?" said conference president Glenn Hickey, director of missions of the Pulaski Baptist Association in Little Rock, Ark. Answers to the question "should provide us clues for developing our mission strategy for the future for local Baptist associations," Hickey said.

The conference theme was sparked by Henry Blackaby, Home Mission Board director for prayer and spiritual awakening who addressed last year's DOM meeting, Hickey said. "Out of his message we saw a good idea for a program."

One of the meetings key emphases will be volunteerism. Reginald McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, will speak on "Divine Directions ... in Volunteerism" during the 2:15 p.m. Sunday session, June 7.

A panel discussion on volunteerism will follow with four associational leaders: Jim Pearce, director of lay ministries of the Greater Boston Baptist Association; Glenn Williams, DOM of the Pike Baptist Association in McComb, Miss.; Bill Moyle, DOM of the Tampa Bay (Fla.) Baptist Association; and Allen West, retired DOM of the Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville, Ky.

The two-day DOM meeting, in the Holiday Inn North, will begin with worship at 10 a.m. June 7 led by Larry Martin, first vice president of the DOM conference and DOM of the Greater Boston Baptist Association. Jim Herrington, DOM of Union Baptist Association in Houston, will be the preacher.

The 1 p.m. session June 7 will include Hickey's president's address; a message on "Divine Directions ... Through Prayer" by David Aker, DOM of the Pulaski Baptist Association in Somerset, Ky.; and Bible study led by Vernon Davis, vice president for academic affairs at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Jimmy Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will speak on divine directions at the SBC agency during the 4 p.m. session June 7, while Preston North, DOM of the Eastern North Dakota Baptist Association, will speak on divine directions in that state.

The 6:30 p.m. program June 7 will feature foreign missions including comments by R. Keith Parks, retiring president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

The 8:15 a.m. program June 8 will include messages on divine directions in retirement by James Walker, retired DOM of the Eastern Indiana Baptist Association in Indianapolis; in devotional life by Dennis Betts, DOM of the Greater Cleveland (Ohio) Baptist Association; in personal crisis by Doug Benedict, DOM of the Lamar Baptist Association in Purvis, Miss.; and from the DOM wife's perspective by Norma Mackey of Waynesboro, Miss. Barry Landrum, associate pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, will deliver the conference's closing address.

A 12:45 luncheon will feature a program by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

Southern Baptist Conference  
of Associational Directors of Missions  
31st Annual Meeting  
June 7-8, 1992  
Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis  
Theme: Discovering Divine Directions

Sunday Morning, June 7

10:00 Worship Service -- Larry Martin, director of missions, Greater Boston Baptist Association, worship leader; Jim Herrington, director of missions, Union Baptist Association, Houston, preacher

Sunday Afternoon, June 7

1:00 Hymn -- Randy McCollum, director of missions, East Central/Miami Associations, Kokomo, Ind.  
Invocation -- Tommy Cupples, director of missions, Metro-East Baptist Association, East St. Louis, Ill.  
Welcome to Indianapolis -- James Abernathy, interim director of missions, Metropolitan Baptist Association, Indianapolis  
Special Music -- South Carolina DOMs, Bill Harrill, director of missions, Waccamaw Baptist Association, Conway, S.C., director  
President's Address -- Glenn Hickey, director of missions, Pulaski Baptist Association, Little Rock, Ark.  
Hymn -- Randy McCollum  
Divine Directions ... Through Prayer -- David Aker, director of missions, Pulaski Baptist Association, Somerset, Ky.

2:00 Break

2:15 Hymn -- Randy McCollum  
Prayer -- Don Reed, director of missions, Kansas City (Kan.) Baptist Association  
Bible Study -- Vernon Davis, vice president, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.  
Hymn -- Randy McCollum  
Divine Directions ... in Volunteerism -- Reginald McDonough, executive director, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Richmond  
Panel Discussion on Volunteerism -- Panel: Jim Pearce, director of lay ministries, Greater Boston Baptist Association; Glenn Williams, director of missions, Pike Baptist Association, McComb, Miss.; Bill Moyle, director of missions, Tampa Bay Baptist Association, Tampa, Fla.; Allen West, retired director of missions, Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville, Ky.  
Prayer -- James McBride, director of missions, Delaware Baptist Association, Smyrna, Del.

3:45 Break

4:00 Hymn -- Randy McCollum  
Prayer -- B.L. Roberts, director of missions, Apache Baptist Association, Mesa, Ariz.  
Group Sharing: Divine Directions in Your Association  
Director of missions Orientation Committee Report -- Lawrence Clegg, director of missions, Chappapeela/LaTangi/St. Tammany/Eastern Louisiana Baptist Associations, Hammond, La.  
Continuing Education Committee Report -- Ken Chadwick, director of missions, Salt Lake Baptist Association, Salt Lake City  
Director of Missions Sharing: Divine Directions ... in North Dakota -- Preston North, director of missions, Eastern North Dakota Baptist Association, Fargo, N.D.  
Special Music -- South Carolina DOMs  
Divine Directions ... at the Sunday School Board -- James T. Draper Jr., president, Nashville

5:15 Prayer and Adjourn -- Jesse Alligood, director of missions, Merritt/Pine Mountain/Summerhill Baptist Associations, Columbus, Ga.

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Sunday Evening, June 7

- 6:30 Banquet, Foreign Mission Board Hosting, R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.  
 Invocation -- Darrell Evenson, director of missions, Interstate Baptist Association, Portland, Ore.  
 Recognition of New DOMs -- Tim Logerquist, director of missions, Gold Coast Baptist Association, Oxnard, Calif.  
 Recognition of Retiring DOMs -- Bill Moyle  
 Recognition of State Director of missions Presidents -- Bob Wainwright, director of missions, Flat River Baptist Association, Oxford, N.C.  
 Program by Foreign Mission Board -- R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.

Monday Morning, June 8

- 8:15 Hymn -- Randy McCollum  
 Prayer -- Troy Massey, director of missions, South Central Baptist Association, Lititz, Penn.  
 Bible Study -- Vernon Davis  
 Welcome to Houston 1993 -- Jim Herrington  
 Recognition of Former Presidents -- Charles Nunn, director of missions, Richmond (Va.) Baptist Association  
 Divine Directions ... In Retirement -- James Walker, retired director of missions, Eastern Indiana Baptist Association, Indianapolis  
 Open Circuit Report -- Grayson Glass, director of missions, Galveston Baptist Association, La Marque, Texas  
 Divine Directions ... In Devotional Life -- Dennis Betts, director of missions, Greater Cleveland (Ohio) Baptist Association  
 Prayer -- Jerry Wilkins, director of missions, Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Baptist Association
- 9:30 Break
- 9:45 Hymn -- Randy McCollum  
 Prayer -- Lin Jones, director of missions, South Canadian Baptist Association, Seminole, Okla.  
 Nominating Committee Report -- Charles Tedder, director of missions, Caldwell-Ray Baptist Association, Richmond, Mo.  
 Divine Directions ... the Director of Missions Wife's Perspective -- Norma Mackey, Waynesboro, Miss.  
 Treasurer's Report -- John Dent, director of missions, Beaverdam Baptist Association, Seneca, S.C.  
 Special Music -- South Carolina DOMs  
 Divine Directions ... In Personal Crisis -- Doug Benedict, director of missions, Lamar Baptist Association, Purvis, Miss.  
 Miscellaneous Business  
 Prayer -- Lyle Seltman, director of missions, Northland Baptist Association, Traverse City, Mich.
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Hymn -- Randy McCollum  
 Prayer -- Herbert Higdon, director of missions, Madison-Chester/Crockett Association, Jackson, Tenn.  
 Secretary's Report -- Carver Tinsley, director of missions, Northwest Indiana Baptist Association, Gary, Ind.  
 Anniversary Recognitions -- Ken Chadwick  
 Installation of New Officers -- Glenn Hickey  
 Hymn -- Randy McCollum  
 Closing Address -- Barry Landrum, associate pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston
- 12:00 Benediction

Monday Afternoon, June 8

- 12:45 Luncheon, Annuity Board Hosting, Paul Powell, president, Dallas  
 Invocation -- Ed Copeland, director of missions, Metro Columbus (Ohio) Baptist Association  
 Program by Annuity Board