

(BP)

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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 21, 1992

92-69

EDITORS' NOTE: The following story is an update of (BP)'s lead story April 20.

SEBTS trustees to vote
on Paige Patterson

By Herb Hollinger & Art Toalston

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Paige Patterson, an architect of the "conservative resurgence" in the Southern Baptist Convention, is the nominee for the next president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Roger Ellsworth, Benton, Ill., pastor and chairman of the seminary's trustees, told Baptist Press April 20 Patterson, 49, was the choice of the search committee and had accepted the committee's invitation.

Patterson, in chapel at Criswell College in Dallas April 21, confirmed he will accept the seminary's presidency and begin work there about July 1 if elected by SEBTS trustees. Patterson has been president of 375-student Criswell College and associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas since 1975.

A special trustee meeting been called May 14 at the Wake Forest campus, Ellsworth said. Patterson will meet with faculty and students of Southeastern before the trustee meeting and possibly as early as the week of April 27 in keeping with trustee policy.

The announcement confirmed speculation going back before President Lewis Drummond's official retirement notice earlier this year. He will retire June 30 after four years as the seminary's fourth president. Many trustees, students and others urged Patterson's election as president to help the struggling institution with financial, enrollment and accreditation problems.

Ellsworth said Patterson fit the four considerations the search committee felt were primary for a new president: student recruitment, faculty recruitment, financial development and accreditation.

"Dr. Patterson's experiences in these areas are such that he will make a very fine president," Ellsworth told Baptist Press.

In recent years declining enrollment, a faculty exodus and financial struggles have plagued the seminary which was put on probation by its regional accrediting agency, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools late last year.

Patterson, in his chapel statement, told of reading the words of Jeremiah 6:16: "Thus says the Lord: Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where the good way is, and walk in it; that you will find rest for your souls." He then referred to Paul Palmer, who entered North Carolina in 1720 as the colony's first Baptist preacher. Palmer's itinerant ministry of evangelism and church planting was "so anointed of God," Patterson said, that the colony's governor complained to church leaders in London he was "powerless to prevent or withstand the great tide of religious enthusiasm" resulting from Palmer's preaching.

"As I thought of Palmer and those early North Carolina churches with such appealing names as Tar River, Bear Creek, Lower Fishing Creek, Sandy Run, Kehukee and Shiloh, I found the prospect of returning to these 'old paths' -- not just the places but also the faith and the fervor of Paul Palmer and others like him -- to be a challenging and exciting opportunity."

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Patterson said he called Ellsworth April 20 with "my conviction that, if elected by the board of trustees . . . , God had freed me and indeed called me" to accept the SEBTS presidency "with full awareness of the sacredness and magnitude of the task, the sacrificial labors of many who have traversed these paths before me, my own limitations and the abundant provisions and enabling power of Almighty God."

Late last year Patterson declined an invitation from Jerry Falwell to become president of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.. On Oct. 28, 1991, trustees of Criswell College voted to fire Patterson as president but he was later reinstated following protests by students, alumni and high-profile SBC pastors.

In a news conference after his chapel statement, Patterson said he was never fired as Criswell College president, as some thought, but was offered the chancellorship, which he declined. He said he does not feel Criswell College will suffer financially because it is debt-free and has a "large endowment" that practically insures its future. He said the school has 23 dedicated faculty members and students who are strong "not only intellectually but have tremendous courage." He noted, "Periodically, institutions actually benefit by change of administration and introduction of new ideas."

Asked if he would continue to have a major role in SBC activities, he said, "I'm going to do my best to stand for the truth of God as I understand it." He said he feels he has a role to help rebuild whatever break has occurred in the fellowship and unity of the Southern Baptist Convention. The first order, he said, is to make the Cooperative Program, the SBC fund for national and international missions and ministry, more personal to every Southern Baptist. "I want to train preachers," he said, to assure that goals of Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC effort to share the gospel worldwide, are realized. "I want to see us baptize a half million people in 1995 and a million in the year 2000."

Patterson, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, earned a bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and master's and doctorate degrees in theology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He was managing editor of the "Criswell Study Bible," has authored five books and is a consulting editor for The New American Commentary series of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press. He is scheduled to write the commentary's volume on Revelation.

He also is a trustee of the SBC Foreign Mission Board but said he would resign because of his new position.

Before moving to Dallas, Patterson was pastor of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ark., from 1970-75; Bethany Baptist Church in New Orleans, 1966-70; Second Baptist Church in Abilene, 1963-65; and Sardis Baptist Church in Rotan, Texas, 1962-63.

Patterson and his wife, Dorothy, have two children: Armour, 23, minister of youth at Valley Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., and Carmen, 22, a senior at Criswell College. Mrs. Patterson has earned a bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons, a master's in theology from New Orleans Seminary and a doctor of ministries degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla. She is the author of a new Broadman book, "A Woman Seeking God."

Two other candidates had been interviewed by the trustees' executive committee acting as the search committee, Ellsworth said. R. Albert Mohler Jr., editor of the Georgia Baptist newsjournal, The Christian Index, and Richard Melick, a professor at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., are both considered strong and active conservatives within the SBC.

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Orville Scott of the Dallas bureau of Baptist Press also contributed to this report.

Executive Committee, board
nominees are recommended

NASHVILLE (BP)--Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the four denominational boards -- Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board and the Annuity Board -- have been selected by the 1992 Committee on Nominations.

They will serve if elected by the messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, June 9-11.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (78 members): 20 nominations considered; 7 new members, 12 renominations, one to be filled in Indianapolis.

Nominees, with terms to expire in 1996, replacing members ineligible for re-election include:

John O. Yarbrough, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cartersville, Ga., replacing John T. Tippett of Savannah, Ga.; David Joseph Tolliver, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, St. Louis, replacing Wallace E. Jones of Bridgeton, Mo.; J.W. "Bill" Phillips, pastor of Kennewick Baptist Church, Kennewick, Wa., replacing Doyle J. Collins of Roseburg, Ore.; Gary L. Frost, pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church, Youngstown, Ohio, replacing Kenneth L. Mahanes of Dayton, Ohio; John Wallace, businessman and member of First Baptist Church, Morristown, Tenn., replacing Joe B. Warwick of Knoxville, Tenn.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1996: Clyde H. Freed Jr., pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Hyattsville (Germantown), Md., replacing Walter S. Tomme Jr., of Washington who declined to serve another term; Ronald Ralph Huffman, pastor of Middletown Baptist Church, Middletown, R.I., replacing James C. Wideman of Portsmouth, N.H., who moved.

Nominated for second terms are Joy Dorsett, Birmingham, Ala.; J.C. Mitchell, Winter Park, Fla.; David T. Gray, Radcliff, Ky.; Cayden Jones, Baton Rouge, La.; Russ Priddy Jr., Baltimore, Md.; Blaine S. Barber, Petoskey, Mich.; Russell Bush Jr., Hattiesburg, Miss.; David C. Brown, Las Vegas, Nev.; Julian M. Motley, Durham, N.C.; Jerry D. Brown, Edmond, Okla.; Forrest M. Whittington, Florence, S.C.; and T.C. Pinckney, Alexandria, Va.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD (89 members): 25 nominations considered; 10 new members, 15 renominations. If approved by messengers, two local trustee terms which expire in 1992 will not be replaced.

Nominees, with terms expiring in 1996, to replace members who are ineligible for re-election include:

O. David Taunton, physician and member of Brookwood Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., replacing John H. Thomas Jr., of Old Spanish Fort, Ala.; Larry Weaver, pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., replacing Bryan W. Judge Jr., of Kissimmee, Fla.; Phyllis E. Malcom, homemaker and member of First Baptist Church of Camilla, Ga., replacing Mrs. James Gilbert of Brunswick, Ga.

Glen D. Flowers, pastor of Oakhill Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind., replacing E. Harmon Moore of Danville, Ind.; Terrell D. Mays, physician and member of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., replacing William L. Hancock of Louisville, Ky.; Paul Pressler, attorney and member of First Baptist Church, Houston, replacing Paul E. Martin of Houston.

Charles T. Gresham, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Central City, Ky., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1993 as the result of the resignation of Beverly Cathey of Ashland, Ky. Sam Cathey, pastor of Graceway Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994 as the result of the resignation of Gary A. Smith of Enid, Okla.

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If messengers approve, two local trustee positions will not be replaced upon the completion of the terms of M. Hunter Riggins of Poquoson, Va., and Paula Hemphill of Virginia Beach, Va.

Nominated to additional terms, expiring in 1996, are: N. Rob Martin, Auburn, Ala.; Alan J. Thompson Jr., Phoenix, Ariz.; Leon Hyatt Jr., Pineville, La.; Terry L. Williams, Batesville, Miss.; Paul Lewis Brooks, Raytown, Mo.; Roger W. Knapton, Endicott, N.Y.; Paul Steven Hardy, Burlington, N.C.; Rod H. Masteller, Oklahoma City; Donald C. Purvis Sr., Hartsville, S.C.; Jack C. Parrott, Kingsport, Tenn.; Paige Patterson, Dallas; Bill Sutton, McAllen, Texas; Phyllis A. Randall, Blacksburg, Va.; Lester L. Hall, Beckley, W.Va.; Karen Gilbert, Hampton, Va.; and Gary M. Burden, Newport News, Va.

HOME MISSION BOARD (89 members): 24 nominations to be considered; 12 new members, 12 renominations. If messengers approve, one local trustee position, a term expiring in 1994 and held by Rachel Howard of Doravilles, Ga., until her recent death, will not be replaced.

Nominees, with terms expiring in 1996, to replace members who are ineligible for re-election include:

Thom S. Rainer, pastor of Green Valley Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., replacing Joe Bob Mizzell of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Ronnie L. Mayes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Beebe, Ark., replacing Johnny Jackson of Little Rock, Ark.; Osal J. Evans, retired state trooper and member of First Baptist Church, Sylvania, Ga., replacing J. Don Aderhold of Decatur, Ga.; Michael W. Everson, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Warner Robins, Ga., replacing Rufus Reginald Joiner of Albany, Ga.; Ron C. Meyer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Zion, Ill., replacing Claude A. Hampleman of Duquoin, Ill.

John "Mark" Bond, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky., replacing Wendell Romans of Lexington, Ky.; Ronald Tucker, insurance company president and member of Carmel Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., replacing Thomas M. Freeman, Dunn, N.C.; A. Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Millington, Tenn., replacing William H. Delaney, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Charles G. Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., replacing Albert E. Simms of Richmond, Va.; and Jean Thompson, business owner and member of Cardinal Baptist Church, Ruther Glenn (Bowling Green), Va., replacing Mrs. Ellington E. Wheelless of Springfield, Va.

Gerald Davidson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Arnold, Mo., will be nominated to replace Gene F. Phillips of Kahoka, Mo., for a term expiring in 1996. Phillips declined to serve another term. James Guenther, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Schenectady, N.Y., will be nominated to replace Jon F. Meek Jr., of Aberdeen, N.J., for a term expiring in 1993. Meek resigned his post.

Nominated for additional terms, expiring in 1996, are: Edwin L. Hayes, Cullman, Ala.; Marlin L. Starnes, Delta Junction, Alaska; Joe DeLeon, Pico Rivera, Calif.; Stewart B. Simms Jr., Athens, Ga.; Everett G. Geis Sr., Delhi, La.; David Doyel, Las Vegas, Nevada; Wendell R. Estep, Columbia, S.C.; Stephen Swofford, Dallas; D. Wade Armstrong, Ceredo, W.Va.; Gene T. Bowman, Griffin, Ga.; Ronald Gaynor, Tucker, Ga.; and William O. Priester, Fayetteville, Ga.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD (93 members): 28 nominations considered; 13 new members, 15 renominations.

Nominees, with terms expiring in 1996, replacing members who are ineligible for re-election include:

Jerry M. Grandstaff, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Dothan, Ala., replacing Levan G. Parker of Birmingham, Ala.; Delores Kay Allen, housemanager and member of Craig Road Baptist Church, St. Louis, replacing T.W. Garrison Jr. of Camdenton, Mo.; Gary Chapman, associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., replacing Joseph T. Knott III, Raleigh, N.C.; Barbara Finch, director of childhood education at First Baptist Church, Bothell, Wash., replacing Frank L. Palmer of Oak Harbor, Wash.

H. H. "Bud" Jones, insurance adjuster and member of First Baptist Church of Woodway (Waco), Texas, replacing Edwin H. Young of Houston; Mary Margaret White, retiree and member of First Baptist Church, Humbolt, Tenn., replacing Robert L. York of Nashville; Jack Stewart, businessman and member of Manley Baptist Church, Morristown, Tenn., replacing Jerry D. Burden of Donelson, Tenn.

Dennis E. Perkins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Broomfield, Colo., will be nominated to replace Jerry W. Brown of Bayfield, Colo., whose term expires in 1993. Brown resigned his position. Raymond E. Shelton Jr., pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Taylor, Mich., will be nominated to replace Kenneth L. Johnson of Clarkston, Mich., for a term expiring in 1995. Johnson moved out-of-state.

Lonnie Clayton, engineer and member of Rancocas Valley Baptist Church, Rancocas, N.J., will be nominated to replace Charles A. Wilson of Cherry Hill, N.J., whose term expires in 1994. Wilson resigned his position. Mary Margaret Norman, church elementary school teacher and member of First Baptist Church, Post, Texas, will be nominated to replace R.E. Fowler of Fort Worth, Texas, whose term expires in 1995. Fowler resigned his position.

Bruce Robinson, pastor of West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., will be nominated to replace O. Eugene Mims of Cleveland, Tenn., whose term expires in 1994. Mims resigned his position. Bob Jones, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Granite City, Ill., will be nominated to replace John Sager, Collinsville, Ill., who has resigned.

Nominated to additional terms, expiring in 1996, are: Mrs. Gene Wiggins, Andalusia, Ala.; Daniel Strickland, Orlando, Fla.; Len B. Turner, Savannah, Ga.; Ronald G. Hanie, Lithonia, Ga.; Iris E. White, Columbia, Md.; Robert W. Payne, Independence, Mo.; Lu Linda Tucker, Medfield, Mass.; H. Ondra Black, Budd Lake, N.J.; Kirk Humphreys, Oklahoma City; Richard Kellum, Columbia, S.C.; Phillip Glisson, Memphis, Tenn.; James E. Cary, III, Seguin, Texas; Robert M. Cheek, Jasper, Texas; and Tommy J. Taylor, Virginia Beach, Va.

ANNUITY BOARD (51 members): 14 nominations considered; 5 new members including a new representative from the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptist Convention, 9 renominations.

Nominated to terms expiring in 1996 replacing members who are ineligible for re-election include:

Michael Moot, insurance claims representative and member of Lochwood Baptist Church, Lakewood, Colo., replacing Jack Carroll of Englewood, Colo.; James H. Shelton Jr., retired military and hospital director and member of East Washington Heights Baptist Church, Washington (Temple Hills, Md.), replacing Dallas E. Pulliam of Greenbelt, Md.; Stephen Glenn Weekley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, Tenn., replacing Carl B. Allen of Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Elvis Joe May, certified public accountant and member of First Southern Baptist Church, Tucson, Ariz., will be nominated to fulfill the 1995 term of Mark H. Daniel of Phoenix, Ariz., following Daniel's death. Gordon Shacklee, certified public accountant and member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Voorhees, N.J. (Cherry Hill), will be nominated as the new representative from the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptist Convention. That term will expire in 1993.

Nominated to additional terms are: E. Lee Wyatt Jr., Columbia, Ill.; Guy T. Williams, New Orleans; S.A. Adkins, Hebron, Miss.; Jack F. Coffey, Raleigh, N.C.; Philip A. Bryant, Tacoma, Wash.; B.J. Martin, Pasadena, Texas; Robert B. Bass, Bon Air, Va.; Donald H. Wills, Dallas; and J. Ray Taylor, Fort Worth, Texas.

Nominated to additional terms are: E. Lee Wyatt Jr., Columbia, Ill.; Guy T. Williams, New Orleans; S.A. Adkins, Hebron, Miss.; Jack F. Coffey, Raleigh, N.C.; Philip A. Bryant, Tacoma, Wash.; B.J. Martin, Pasadena, Texas; Robert B. Bass, Bon Air, Va.; Donald H. Wills, Dallas, and J. Ray Taylor, Fort Worth, Texas.

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Cuban Baptists see rapid growth, FMB leaders say

By Mary E. Speidel

Baptist Press
4/21/92

HAVANA, Cuba (BP)--"We don't have but we have. We can't but we can."

That's how some Cuban Baptists describe Christian life in today's Cuba, according to a former Southern Baptist missionary there.

"Cuban Baptists say that although life is difficult, although all they need (materially) is not available, God is providing," said Betty Law, a former missionary to Cuba under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Law, now vice president for the Americas at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, also was a foreign missionary in Spain.

"They're very inspirational," Law said of the Cuban believers. "To me (that's) one of their witnesses right now -- the contrast of how they're looking to Christ for their all-sufficiency compared to Cubans who don't have Christ and that hope."

Law has returned to Cuba twice since she and her family left the country in 1960 after the Cuban revolution brought Fidel Castro to power in 1959. (By 1969 all Southern Baptist missionaries had left the country.) Both trips have occurred since the Home Mission Board transferred responsibility for the western convention to the Foreign Mission Board in 1989.

When Castro came to power, the western convention claimed some 84 churches, 176 mission congregations and 8,561 members. The convention had "a strong, dynamic work," Law said, with excellent programs in Sunday school, church music, youth and student work and missions education. The convention also sponsored a seminary, a home for the aged and a Baptist camp, which continue to operate in Cuba.

In the years after the revolution, the western convention continued to grow, despite the fact that many Cuban Baptists left the country as socialism took hold. Since 1960 more than 100 pastors from the western convention have emigrated to the United States. Today 55 Baptist pastors minister through the convention's 106 churches.

Yet work in the western convention is "growing by leaps and bounds," said Ronald Wilson, mission board area director for Brazil and the Caribbean, who has visited Cuba twice a year since 1989.

Convention statistics reflect that growth. Since 1989 baptisms have more than doubled, from 306 to 747. Total membership for 1991 was 6,784, up from the 1990 total of 6,199. About half of the current members are young people ages 16 to 24.

"To have maintained a steady growth during a period of great difficulty shows the strength of Cuban Baptist work. It's an example of the type of (Baptist) work we would hope to have in every country when missionaries have to leave," said Law, adding that leadership training has always been a strength of the convention.

Baptist work in Cuba began in the late 1800s, when Cuban Alberto J. Diaz started a Baptist church after his conversion in Key West, Fla. Initially, the Home Mission Board accepted responsibility for working with Cuban Baptists. A gradual transfer to the Foreign Mission Board was recommended in 1959. Oscar Romo, HMB director of language church extension, was a key figure in maintaining relationships with Cuban Baptists from the sensitive 1960s to 1989.

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Today four Baptist conventions work in Cuba: the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba; Baptist Convention of Eastern Cuba, affiliated with American Baptists; the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba, a splinter group from the western convention affiliated with the Progressive National Baptist Convention in the United States; and the Free Will Baptist Convention.

Since the 1989 transfer, FMB officials have concentrated on building relationships with western convention leaders and responding to their requests for help. Leadership training has been a major thrust of FMB involvement with Cuban Baptists. At the invitation of convention officials, FMB officials coordinated a stewardship seminar for Cuban Baptists at the Baptist camp near Yumuri, Cuba, in late 1989. It was the first in a series of annual conferences FMB leaders have planned in cooperation with Cuban Baptists. Conference speakers have included Baptist leaders from other Latin American countries.

Since then board officials have coordinated seminars in family life, church growth and evangelism. Future plans include simultaneous revivals led by other Latin American Baptists, a church music conference and a possible discipleship training workshop. The board also has helped arrange for a Cuban Baptist seminary professor to get advanced theological education at another Baptist seminary in Latin America.

FMB and Cuban Baptist officials also have secured permission to provide books to update the convention's seminary library in Havana, Cuba's capital.

Twenty-three students currently attend the seminary. The churches they represent are overflowing. Cuban Baptist churches are "packed every time the doors open," Wilson said. "There's standing room only."

Wilson observed a "powerful movement of God's Spirit" and "overwhelming openness" to the gospel during his most recent trips to Cuba. He and a group of FMB leaders were last there in late March.

Against that backdrop, Cuban Baptists are experiencing "a unique period of growth," Wilson said. "They are deeply committed Christians. I am impressed by the quality of Cuban Baptist leadership and their commitment to our Lord."

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(BP) photo and graphic mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Evangelists' meeting
adopts several changes

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
4/21/92

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--A program "to showcase some of our denomination's most effective evangelists" has been planned by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, according to the organization's president, Steve Hale, an Evansville, Ind.,-based evangelist.

Theme for the conference's June 10 meeting, in conjunction with the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention, will be "Finding Him Faithful ... Yesterday, Today, and Forever!" The evangelists' meeting will begin at 1:15 p.m. in the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome's Hall D.

An evangelist has been selected for each time frame, Hale said. Veteran evangelist Angel Martinez of Fort Smith, Ark., will speak on the "yesterday" aspect of the theme. "Many Southern Baptist pastors, especially of the baby-boom generation, have never had the privilege of sitting under Angel's ministry," Hale said.

The "today" preacher will be evangelist Kelly Green of Mobile, Ala., as an example of an evangelist "contemporarily being used of God," Hale said, while Scott Camp of Del City, Okla., will be the "forever" preacher, as an example of an evangelist not yet widely known among Southern Baptists but one whom "God's hand is resting mightily upon."

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A first-ever wives' luncheon, at noon June 10 in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, has been added to this year's meeting, Hale noted. Marthe Beasley, wife of the late evangelist Manley Beasley, will be the featured speaker.

The evangelist's wife is the one "keeping the home intact and praying for her husband thus having equally a vital ministry," Hale said. "By ministering to the wife, our sincere desire is to see the evangelist's ministry and marriage strengthened."

The luncheon will be free to evangelists' wives, thanks to funds provided by Indiana Baptist churches, Hale said.

The conference's annual business meeting has been changed to a breakfast, at 7:30 a.m. June 9 in the Hyatt Regency, from the traditional evening banquet format, Hale said. "An evening dinner is financially prohibitive for many of COSBE's members," he explained. "Unlike pastors, evangelists must pay their own way to the convention each year and often operate on a shoestring budget. The breakfast will more than cut the price in half and still allow for fellowship and business." In previous years, Hale added, the dinner sometimes extended into scheduled SBC business sessions.

Featured musicians for the evangelists' June 10 session will be the Stone Brothers of Jacksonville, Ocala and Osage Beach, Fla.; Allison Durham Speer and Perfect Heart, both of Nashville; and music evangelist Les Snyder of West Frankfort, Ill. Lee Pitts, an evangelist ventriloquist from Gadsden, Ala., who was adopted as a child by a Baptist pastor and his wife, will give a testimony. Pat Roper, music evangelist from Greenville, S.C., will lead congregational singing.

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Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists
34th Annual Meeting
June 9 - 10, 1992
Hall D, Indianapolis Convention Center
Theme: Finding Him Faithful ... Yesterday, Today, and Forever!

Tuesday, June 9

7:30 Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast -- Hyatt Regency Hotel, Mountain Suites, 3rd Level

Wednesday, June 10

12:00 Evangelists' Wives' Luncheon -- Marthe Beasley, widow of evangelist Manley Beasley and motivational speaker, speaker, Euless, Texas, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Harrison Room, Third Level

1:15 Gospel Music Concert

1:55 Congregational Singing -- Pat Roper, music evangelist, COSBE music director, Greenville, S.C., director

2:00 Invocation -- Perry Neal, evangelist, COSBE vice president, Montgomery, Ala.

2:05 Special Music -- Perfect Heart, musicians, Nashville

2:15 Message -- Scott Camp, evangelist, Del City, Okla.

2:40 Special Music -- Allison Durham Speer, music evangelist, Nashville

2:50 Testimony -- Lee Pitts, evangelist, Gadsden, Ala.

3:05 Congregational Singing -- Pat Roper

3:10 Recognition of Evangelists -- Steve Hale, evangelist, COSBE president, Evansville, Ind.

3:20 Special Music -- The Stone Brothers, music evangelists, Jacksonville, Ocala, and Osage Beach, Fla.

3:30 Message -- Kelly Green, evangelist, Mobile, Ala.

4:05 Offering Appeal -- Sam Cathey, pastor, Briarwood Baptist Church, COSBE advisor, Del City, Okla.

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4:20 Congregational Singing -- Pat Roper
 4:25 Special Music -- Les Snyder, music evangelist, West Frankfort, Ill.
 4:30 Message -- Angel Martinez, evangelist, Fort Smith, Ark.
 5:05 Benediction -- John Bos, evangelist, Orlando, Fla.

After-glow fellowships, sponsored by the COSBE, will meet from 10-11:30 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday nights at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Ballroom.

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Committee seeks successor for
 Illinois executive director

Baptist Press
 4/21/92

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--A search committee is seeking names and resumes of potential successors to Illinois Baptist State Association executive director Maurice L. Swinford, who will retire May 30, 1993.

Swinford announced his retirement plans to the IBSA board of directors March 3 during their semiannual meeting.

Search Committee chairman Wendell Garrison of Belleville, Ill., said the committee "is accepting recommendations and resumes for possible candidates for the position." They should be sent to Garrison at 225 Dorchester Drive, Belleville, IL 62223.

Swinford, 64, has been executive director for Illinois Baptists since Feb. 8, 1988, previously serving as the association's church development division director for 10 years.

Before joining the state staff in 1978, Swinford was pastor of seven churches over a span of 31 years. Except for one seminary church, all were Illinois congregations.

During Swinford's tenure, new facilities have been added at both state camps; plans have been approved for a group maternity center to provide services for as many as 15 clients at a time and indebtedness on the IBSA headquarters building has been retired.

He has been on the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and has been vice president and president of Illinois Baptist State Association.

Swinford holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University at Charleston; a master of divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and an honorary doctorate from Judson College in Elgin, Ill.

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