



**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee
-- BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #7
Nashville, Tennessee 372
(615) 244-23
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-89
CompuServe ID# 70420

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

January 13, 1993

93-7

TENNESSEE -- Southern Seminary search narrowed to 4 individuals.
OKLAHOMA CITY -- Oklahoma pastor's protest prompts cancellation of Graham's daughter.
ALABAMA -- HMB president thanks WMU for a job well done.
MIAMI -- 550 Tarheel vols tackle repairs needed by Miami's Andrew victims.
KENTUCKY -- Early prayer stirs sleepy youth group.

**Southern Seminary search
narrowed to 4 individuals**

By Art Toalston

**Baptist Press
1/13/93**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's presidential search committee has narrowed its list of potential nominees to four.

Wayne Allen, chairman of the Louisville, Ky., seminary's trustees, said the names are not being released at the request of the four individuals.

Allen, in a telephone interview with Baptist Press, said the seven-member search committee met Jan. 11-12 in Memphis and settled on four potential nominees as successor to Roy L. Honeycutt. President of the seminary since 1982, the 66-year-old Honeycutt announced last October his retirement at the end of 1993.

The search committee received 28 nominations, with a number of the individuals declining further consideration, said Allen, pastor of Briarwood Baptist Church in the Memphis suburb of Cordova.

The committee will interview the four potential nominees in mid-February, Allen said, and select the person it will recommend to fellow trustees in early March.

After one further in-depth interview, the individual's name will be announced in April, Allen said.

"We are doing background checks theologically, psychologically, physically and financially," Allen said. "We want everybody to know we're doing a thorough job of research regarding the person we will nominate.

"We're asking each of the four nominees to give us a brief written interpretation of each article in the Abstract of Principles," the traditional document signed by new faculty members, Allen said.

The search committee has employed a Brentwood, Tenn., firm, Russell, Montgomery & Associates, to do psychological evaluations of the nominees. The company has done similar work for search committees of the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

And physical examinations and credit reports for the four potential nominees are being obtained, Allen said.

"We would ask the prayers of each person in the Southern Baptist Convention for us," Allen said, "as we continue to seek God's leadership for the next president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary."

Oklahoma pastor's protest prompts
cancellation of Graham's daughter By Art Toalston

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Billy Graham's daughter, Anne Graham Lotz, has been canceled from Oklahoma Baptists' annual evangelism conference after at least one pastor complained that a woman should not be in a potential preaching situation.

The cancellation reached the Jan. 13 front page of Oklahoma City's Daily Oklahoman in an article by religion writer Pat Gilliland and, at noon, Paul Harvey's national radio broadcast.

Wayne Keely, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Claremore, Okla., told the newspaper in a telephone interview he had complained because Lotz was scheduled for two 45-minute messages during the Oklahoma Baptist General Convention's State Evangelism Conference Jan. 18-19 at First Southern Baptist Church in Del City.

Keely told the newspaper Lotz's appearance opens the door to a woman preaching, which he believes is against biblical teachings.

Keely could not be reached by Baptist Press for comment.

The pastor also confirmed to the newspaper that he interrupted Jill Briscoe, a popular evangelical women's speaker, during a Baptist youth evangelism conference Dec. 30 when Briscoe asked the audience to turn in their Bibles to selected passages and began to discuss them.

"I think it would have been a sin for me not to do something," Keely was quoted as saying.

Wayne Bristow, Oklahoma Baptists' evangelism director, told the newspaper Lotz was replaced because of concerns raised by pastors who believe the Bible teaches against a preaching role for women, but he did not specifically mention Keely.

"This conviction is so strongly held by a number of pastors," Bristow was quoted as saying, "that it began to be obvious back in early December that this was going to be disruptive."

Bristow said he talked to Lotz "and the decision was made to try to avoid there being a distraction from the real purpose of the conference." The newspaper could not reach Lotz for comment.

Keely told the Daily Oklahoman he would love to hear Lotz and "didn't want her canceled. But to have her come in to preach to a bunch of conservative Baptists is ridiculous."

Keely said he doesn't oppose women on church programs as long as they stick to their personal testimonies and avoid preaching or teaching men. Keely said he bases his position on such Bible passages as 1 Timothy 2:11, where the apostle Paul writes: "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

Dec. 30, during the Oklahoma Baptists' Youth Evangelism Conference's morning session, also held at the Del City church, Keely interrupted Briscoe from the audience. According to an account in the Baptist Messenger, Oklahoma Baptists' newsjournal, Keely stood, pointed his finger at her, announced she was out of authority and contrary to the Word of God, then walked out with his group of young people.

Following his example, two other pastors, including Keely's brother, Buck, of Eastern Heights Baptist Church, also in Claremore, walked out of the auditorium.

Slightly flustered, but keeping her composure, Briscoe, in an emotional voice, told the group she was invited by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, speaking under its authority, under the authority of her husband and the authority of God, the Baptist Messenger reported. Briscoe subsequently received two standing ovations in support of her statements.

Bristow and Briscoe's husband, Stuart, also a popular evangelical speaker, followed the pastors out into the foyer, visited and prayed with them.

Stuart Briscoe is pastor of 5,000-member Elbrook Church in Brookfield, Wis., and his wife is coordinator of the church's women's ministries.

--more--

Concerning Lotz's cancellation, Bristow told the Baptist Messenger, "We have been guaranteed that if Mrs. Lotz speaks at the evangelism conference there will be an interruption of harmony. We did not want her to be embarrassed or the conference disrupted. Mrs. Lotz was very gracious, and said she would be praying with us for the conference."

Keely, in an interview with the Baptist Messenger, commented that Mrs. Briscoe "said she didn't usurp authority because she was under the authority of her husband, but the fact of it is, if her husband was right with God, he wouldn't let her teach men and he wouldn't let her speak in a public assembly."

"My issue is that a woman can do anything in the church with the exception of teaching men," Keely continued. "Mrs. Briscoe had the night before brought in some Scriptures in her testimony," and Keely told the Daily Oklahoman he applauded and amened as she spoke.

But, on Dec. 30, "when she opened the Bible and said turn with me to Luke 5, I just turned around and said, 'Oh, Lord, here it comes,'" Keely told the Baptist Messenger. "She got up there and started preaching and went verse by verse and expounded the Word of God."

Concerning Mrs. Lotz's scheduled appearance at the evangelism conference, Keely said he told Bristow "if she begins to preach, I will get up and I will say, 'Mrs. Lotz, you are out of authority under the Word of God and as such I cannot stay and listen to you,' and I will walk out. I would add to that, 'If there are any men of God in here, they ought to walk out with me.'"

Keely told the Daily Oklahoman he also left the evangelism conference three years ago when a woman who was scheduled to give a "testimony" began preaching. That time, he didn't speak up publicly but did object to state Baptist leaders.

During the Oklahoma Baptist convention's 1988 meeting, Keely tried to prevent the seating of messengers from churches that ordain women deacons or pastors. (There are no women pastors in the convention.) The motion was ruled motion out of order and Keely appealed but messengers approved a motion sustaining the president's ruling.

Bristow, citing the evangelism conference theme based on Luke 10:2, where Jesus tells his followers that "the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few," told the Daily Oklahoman, "I was simply trying to invite men and women who can speak from their relationship to the Lord ... to all the people of Oklahoma, relating to evangelism."

Bristow said he has no political agenda. He said he does not believe the Bible gives women authority to be preachers or pastors, but they can speak under their husbands' authority. He also said that neither Briscoe nor Lotz is an ordained minister.

He told the newspaper he thinks the evangelism conference still will speak to women but not as directly as before. He said the evangelism conference's focus -- to prepare Christians to spread the "good news" of Christ -- is too important to be disrupted by side issues. He said this involves recognition that man's greatest problem is separation from God and that his greatest need is reconciliation to God through Christ.

Taking Lotz's place at the conference will be Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Washington.

--30--

Dave Parker and Dana Williamson contributed to this article.

HMB president thanks
WMU for a job well done

By Susan Doyle

Baptist Press
1/13/93

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP)--Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union received praise and thanks Jan. 12 for a job well done on behalf of home missions.

--more--

Larry Lewis, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board president, speaking to the WMU executive board at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly, said, "Let me acknowledge publicly and with as much appreciation as I possibly can that although the success of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (for Home Missions) is the work of many people across the country, no persons or no organization is more important to the offering than Woman's Missionary Union.

"We thank the Lord for what you do. On behalf of our missionaries, our staff and our board of directors, thank you for all you have done."

Lewis told the WMU board books had closed on the 1992 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, totaling \$37,545,461, a 5.7 percent increase over the previous year's offering total.

The offering makes up 47 percent of the HMB's annual budget, Lewis reminded the group -- "the largest one sum of funding we have in home missions."

In addition to expressing appreciation to WMU for raising financial support for the HMB, Lewis thanked the group for their role in missions education.

"You are telling our story. You are telling it thoroughly. You are telling it well," he said.

Lewis only briefly commented on recent action taken by the national WMU executive board.

"When I prepared this report (to give to the WMU board), I was not aware, of course, of the nature of the report of your long-range planning committee or the recommendations you adopted this past weekend," he said. "Yesterday I received the report, and I studied it carefully."

He read to the group the statement he had given to Baptist Press news service. He noted he and several members of the HMB staff present for the meeting already had had a private briefing with Carolyn Miller, national WMU president, and Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director, earlier that morning.

In return, several WMU leaders expressed appreciation to Lewis for his openness and fairness. They thanked him for sharing the statement personally with them and for bringing a report that answered their concerns.

In his report, Lewis identified a few key trends he said he feels will particularly affect both WMU and the HMB -- an increased emphasis on volunteers over career missionaries, more church-based ministry efforts than agency-based ministry efforts and more ethnic diversity than Anglo dominance.

"It is my prayer, if not my prediction, that there will be more emphasis on the Great Commission and less on the 'great controversy,'" he said. "I certainly hope that will be true."

Lewis gave WMU board members answers to questions and concerns they raised during last year's board meeting concerning adequate annuity and health insurance for home missionaries and opportunities for women in home missions.

Due to budget constraints, the HMB had voted to defund a position shared jointly between the mission board and WMU. The HMB had decided to discontinue the position of promotion associate in new work areas after the retirement of staff member Jimmie Winter this past summer. However, the HMB administrative committee has decided to reconsider this action and recommend to the full board in March that they restore it, Lewis reported, to applause. Lewis emphasized the full board must act on the recommendation.

Other HMB staff members reported on work the agency is doing in transnational missions efforts with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and in convention-wide ministry efforts.

--30--

550 Tarheel vols tackle repairs
needed by Miami's Andrew victims By Barbara Denman

Baptist Press
1/13/93

MIAMI (BP)--Despite the lure of two bowl games featuring North Carolina teams, 550 Tarheels spent the week after Christmas r building homes and churches in south Dade County, Fla.

--more--

The mobilization of the North Carolina volunteers was the largest organized effort to help the devastated victims of Hurricane Andrew since Southern Baptists initially responded to the disaster in August. And while many victims have rebuilt their homes, tens of thousands still live among the rubble and ruin.

The North Carolina construction volunteers worked in cooperation with the predominantly black Second Baptist Church in Richmond Heights, a National Baptist church; the Florida Baptist Convention; and nearly 100 volunteers from Florida and other states.

The volunteers worked on 100 different projects, including 10 Southern Baptist churches and 64 homes targeted for help by Florida Baptists. The homes were chosen for assistance because the owners were either uninsured or under-insured.

The holiday effort was the second or third post-hurricane trip for many North Carolina volunteers. The state convention's disaster feeding unit and team arrived in the Richmond Heights area 18 hours after the hurricane and, for six weeks, its mobile feeding unit fed the community from a nearby school.

"No one to my knowledge has mobilized a group like this," said Cecil Seagle, Florida Baptist Brotherhood director. "North Carolina Baptists by virtue of their strength and size allowed us to triple the number of projects we would have completed. They put us way down the road of wrapping up another phase of our relief effort."

The North Carolina group included hundreds of novice builders, but the work was directed by numerous professional contractors, roofers and an architect who evaluated job sites and made recommendations. They hauled in the state's mobile mass feeding unit carrying 20,000 pounds of food to prepare 2,000 meals a day.

The group seized opportunities for ministry, said Richard Brunson, North Carolina Brotherhood director. Some of the volunteers organized a backyard Bible club in the Richmond Heights community while others distributed Spanish and English Bibles to homeowners.

"They didn't just work on a roof," Brunson said. "They were sharing their faith in conversation, ministering and giving a lot of love."

Although most of their assignments were scheduled prior to arrival, the North Carolina men responded to other pleas for help. After seeing a crew working on her neighbor's home, one woman begged the crew to complete the work on hers since she had all the materials.

A Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA) official asked the Tarheels to help an 83-year-old black woman who had become a recluse after the storm. Immediately after the hurricane, she left her home and returned to find it had been looted. Since that time -- for more than 100 days -- she had refused to leave her home for fear it would be robbed again.

"She was eating molded bread and ketchup," Brunson reported. "Our people bought her two boxes of groceries, talked with her and repaired her home. After giving her a Bible signed by all the workers, she became emotional. Hers had been taken during the robbery."

By the end of the week, the FEMA representative reported the elderly woman had left her four walls and walked outside to visit with her neighbors. "She was a different woman," Brunson said. "In that instance, we were able to minister in a powerful way."

Many of the residents of Richmond Heights, a predominantly black community in southwest Miami, remember the kind deeds of the Baptist Men from North Carolina.

In September the men temporarily roofed the home of single mother Darnetha Sanders. In December they returned to fix the roof permanently. "They were so kind and gracious to come out to help me because I don't have any insurance on my home," Sanders said. "The people from Rocky Mountain made my life complete."

Each day Brunson coordinated the work of 40 crews working in at least 40 places. A crew at Cristianos Unidos, a small Hispanic church in Princeton, replaced the temporary roofing and prepared the church for dry walling. At the Silver Palm Mission in south Miami, an experienced crew built an elaborate truss system on the roof, completing a month's worth of work in a week.

Without this type of volunteer help and donated materials, many of the small ethnic churches may have had "to close their doors," said Bill Coffman, Florida Baptists' language missions director. But receiving help from fellow Baptists has made them feel "more a part of Baptist life and they're more excited about Baptist work and the Cooperative Program than ever before."

The North Carolina Baptists also worked alongside an Ohio team at First Baptist Church of Florida City and nearly completed renovation on the church's education building. The church's sanctuary had been completed by a group of 100 Ohio Baptist volunteers who worked after Thanksgiving.

A group of 100 North Carolina volunteers pitched in at Wayside Baptist Church in south Miami and helped clean out the education building in preparation of rebuilding.

"Can you imagine," said free-lance photographer Ken Touchton. "Four months after the hurricane, one Sunday school classroom after another still in water and filled with soggy songbooks and wet furniture. None of the building had been touched as the congregation ministered to the community."

Pastor Steven Gaines of Clifton Roads Baptist Church in Greensboro said he would like to bring more of his congregation back to Miami. "It will change your heart," he said. "It's one thing to talk about missions and pray for it, but it's another thing to come down here and do the work. Your perspective changes."

Newlyweds Roger and Donna Hunt from Cullowhee said they came to south Florida because "we knew this is a very important project for the Lord and for rest of our nation," Roger Hunt said. "For one thing we are concerned about the problems that are hurting this nation on a large scale. We knew it was the right thing to do."

Through his efforts, Hunt said "I sincerely hope a lot of them will be led to Christ. I don't want the Baptist people to be glorified by this. I want Jesus to be glorified."

Administratively, Richard Brunson admitted the entire effort of bringing a small army of 550 persons on the road provided several sleepless nights but went off with few hitches. "I easily could have enlisted 1,000 volunteers, but not completely sure of all I was getting into, I turned away 200 people before leaving North Carolina.

"I am amazed 550 people would take off work, drive 15 hours, camp out, use a Port-a-Jon and take cold showers for a week," he noted. "This shows people are willing to help if you can show them a need and tell them what to do."

Brunson added the week was personally gratifying for him. "There are a lot of good people with big hearts in Baptist churches around this country," Brunson noted. "The denominational struggle has nothing to do with this work. If we focused on others and missions, we wouldn't have a denominational struggle."

According to Seagle, 97 repair jobs targeted by the state convention are left to complete. Florida Baptist leaders originally promised to repair or help refurbish 372 homes and churches. He reported a 12-member crew from Wyoming is on the way to assist.

During December, Seagle told the North Carolina volunteers that too often Baptists have been known to "hit and run. We come and feed in catastrophic storms and then we leave," he said.

"Our commitment as Florida Baptists is deep and real. We intend to stay here until the job is done," Seagle noted. "That will be either when the Father says that's enough, when there is no money and when there are no volunteers. As long as the Father's in it, as long as there are funds to fund it and people to help us, we're going to stay here and work."

Early prayer stirs
sleepy youth group

By Melanie Childers

GLASGOW, Ky. (BP)--Rising for 6:30 a.m. prayer meetings has stirred a sleepy youth group to new awakenings.

Teens at Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow, Ky., have discovered a connection between their new early morning prayer gathering and the 15 teens who recently committed their lives to Christ.

Associate pastor Ronny Raines said the prayer meeting has become a new tradition. Every Monday, the youths gather at the church for prayer at 6:30 a.m. followed by breakfast at McDonald's -- all before school starts.

When they began the prayer meeting a year ago, about five teens met each week. Today, more than 20 youths roll out of bed early on Monday mornings to pray for their friends.

The participants said they manage to get up early because they have learned the importance of prayer.

"In school there's so much peer pressure," explained 17-year-old Andy Lowe. "Monday morning prayer is a good way to start out the week."

Lowe said he and his buddy Josh Grace suggested the prayer plan to help unify their group. "When people uplift me in prayer, it makes the day a lot easier," Lowe said.

Raines said he believes those prayers are part of the reason 15 youths have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ in the last several months and the church's youth ministry has grown significantly.

Calvary's youth attended their first retreat together in late August last year at a state park in Lucas.

"We had been doing OK, but not a whole lot seemed to be happening," Raines explained. "Before the retreat, we seriously prayed that God would do something." Due to an unprecedented interest in inviting unchurched friends to a church-sponsored activity, Raines said, 41 teens and chaperons attended the retreat.

"We had people everywhere in those cabins," he recalled. "One lady even slept on the kitchen table."

Bob Spears, a pastor from Crossville, Tenn., led three worship sessions based on the theme "The Courage of Commitment" during the weekend.

By the time the invitation was offered at the final session Saturday morning, six people had made professions of faith in Christ.

One of those, Leslie Bow, is a 16-year-old who said she went on the retreat "because my friends asked me to go."

Touched by the testimonies that were shared and by the open acceptance she felt in the youth group, Bow said, she discovered "holes" in her life that needed to be filled.

When she returned home, Bow said she told her mother, "We're going to church tomorrow." Both women were baptized at Calvary the same day.

Three months later, at the church's Nov. 20 youth lock-in, Bow shared her own testimony with the 90 youths and chaperons gathered at the local YMCA building. In addition to several hours of recreation during the all-night event, Raines scheduled some time for the group to share spiritual concerns. They worshipped from midnight to 3:30 a.m., he said. Nine people made decisions.

Raines emphasized the value of planning lock-ins and retreats for teens, noting they are productive because the group is in a new environment, they are alone with no interruptions and they find it easier to experience worship.

Further, Raines said, the prayer meetings have helped facilitate the extensive growth of Calvary's youth ministry.

"Some time ago, they wouldn't even pray in public," he recalled. "Now they're putting their arms around (new Christians) and praying with them. They're excited to see their prayers materialize."

HOUSE MAIL



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

HOUSE MAIL

So. Baptist Library & Archives
901 Commerce
Nashville, TN 37203