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April 22, 1993

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Baptist teens' no-sex pledge
catching national attention

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press
4/22/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--Paul Ballenger knows of only two other male virgins at the middle Tennessee university he attends.

"I'm proud to be a virgin and I'm willing to tell that to the world," Ballenger said during the April 21 launch of a Southern Baptist-sponsored abstinence campaign called "True Love Waits."

Abstaining from sex is not a new fad for Ballenger, 19, and his girlfriend, Susan Fitzgerald, 18, a high school senior. During the early stage of their now two-year courtship, they discussed their beliefs about sex before marriage.

"After we had dated about two months, I asked him what he thought about sex before marriage," Fitzgerald said. "I think it sort of shocked him."

"No, I was OK with that," Ballenger responded. "We have the same beliefs in that area."

Fitzgerald said her strong moral beliefs are a result of parental guidance.

"Paul and I were brought up in the same type of family. Our parents taught us strong values and morals," Fitzgerald said. "The one thing my parents taught me since I was little was to stay sexually pure until marriage."

Ballenger acknowledged staying sexually pure is not without its challenges.

"I come home every weekend from school, and it is a constant struggle. But I've made a commitment to more than just myself. I've made it to God, and I've made it to others," he said.

"I think true love can wait."

The two teen-agers, along with about 50 others from their church, stood before a group of about 1,000 youth ministers from 32 states attending the Youth Ministry National Conference 4 and made public their pledges to no sex before marriage.

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Encouraged by a standing ovation, the youth from Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Hermitage, Tenn., ceremoniously walked to the front of the sanctuary at First Baptist of Nashville where the meeting was held and laid in a mound their cards pledging premarital abstinence.

The cards state: "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, those I date, my future mate, and my future children to be sexually pure until the day I enter a covenant marriage relationship."

The Tulip Grove youth are the first in an expected 100,000 to make that same commitment over the next year, according Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and youth minister at Tulip Grove.

With the help of the youth ministers attending the conference, the campaign is expected to snowball across the convention, picking up new pledges at the local, association and state levels, Ross said. By June 1994 at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., Ross expects 100,000 teens to have signed the cards committing to abstinence before marriage.

Ross said the 100,000 figure is a low one.

"That is only one-tenth of the Southern Baptist youth in this country. If only one-tenth of my youth had come here tonight, it would have only been seven. And I had 54."

The timing is right, Ross said in explaining how the local and national media have picked up on the "True Love Waits" campaign. He has been interviewed on CNN Radio, USA Radio Network, CBS Radio, ABC Radio and numerous local radio and TV stations. The story also was picked up by the Associated Press news wire and has been printed in newspapers across the country, even gaining a brief mention in USA Today.

"It just seems like it's God's timing for Southern Baptists with our immense resources to enter the debate about what is going to happen to teen-agers," Ross said.

Teens today seem to be living a self-fulfilled prophesy, Ross said. Because prophylactics are handed out in many schools systems across the country, young people are given the message it is OK to have sex.

"We need to be telling them it is perfectly OK for them to remain sexually pure. It's OK to respect yourself, to have true love for yourself, true love for God and true love for that spouse you haven't even met yet.

"We need to empower these young people to find each other," he said.

A special "True Love Waits" campaign kit has been assembled and includes worship plans for families, churches, associations and state conventions; an outline for a youth Bible study; and promotional materials. The kits can be obtained for \$3 each by writing to True Love Waits, MSN 158, Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234.

In conjunction with the campaign, the Sunday School Board will begin releasing this month a series of Christian Sex Education materials which will be available at Baptist Book Stores.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Southern Seminary board meeting
ends with trustee resignations

Baptist Press
4/22/93

By David R. Wilkinson

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--In a meeting punctuated moments before adjournment by a trio of trustee resignations, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees ushered in a new era at its semiannual meeting April 19-21.

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Trustees bade farewell to retiring President Roy L. Honeycutt and welcomed his successor, 33-year-old Georgia Baptist editor R. Albert Mohler Jr. Mohler, elected in March at a called meeting of the board in Atlanta, delivered a series of devotionals at his first board meeting, but did not participate formally in any of the deliberations. He plans to begin work at the Louisville, Ky., campus in May before officially assuming the presidency Aug. 1.

In contrast to the contested decisions and protracted debates of recent years, most business items sailed through sessions of the full board with minimal discussion. Opposition within the board has steadily dwindled since conservatives gained a clear majority in 1990 and began to assume leadership of key offices and committees.

During the three-day meeting, the 63-member board:

- approved a series of personnel recommendations, including the addition of three faculty members.
- adopted a 1993-94 operating budget of \$16.3 million, a 4.5 percent increase over the current year. The budget included a 4 percent cost of living increase for faculty and staff and a series of increases in student fees and other costs, including a jump in matriculation fees from \$550 to \$650 per semester.
- elected Honeycutt chancellor, effective Jan. 1, 1994. The 66-year-old Old Testament scholar retires July 31 after more than 18 years at the seminary, including the past 11 years as president.
- elected as 1993-94 officers Richard White, pastor of First Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn., chairman; John Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church in Richton, Miss., first vice chairman and chairman of the executive committee; and David Miller, director of missions in Heber Springs, Ark., second vice chairman. John Hicks, a Louisville attorney, was re-elected secretary. Miller defeated William Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, who was nominated from the floor, by a vote of 30-25. The other nominees were unopposed.

In another contrast to recent years, recommendations of new faculty members were approved without opposition. Elected were Carey Newman of Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla., as assistant professor of New Testament; Marvin W. Anderson of Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., as professor of church history; and T. Vaughn Walker, part-time assistant professor at Southern Seminary and pastor of First Gethsemane Baptist Church in Louisville, as full-time associate professor of black church studies.

The meeting ended tensely with separate resignation announcements from three moderate trustees.

George Steincross, a Liberty, Mo., pastor and member of the board since 1984, said he had been elected as a trustee at a time when "there were those in the (Southern Baptist Convention) claiming they would take over the entities of the denomination." Honeycutt's "premature" retirement, coupled with Mohler's election, "establishes the fact that the hostile takeover of Southern Seminary is complete," he said.

Stating he could no longer serve "with integrity," Steincross said he was resigning "in order to express solidarity with the faculty decimated -- 35 of 75 gone in the last five years -- and discouraged by charges and suspicions during the last decade and in order to identify with the pain of students bewildered by trustee extravagance ... and arrogance."

Steincross was followed by Georgia pastor Jerry Mahan and retired South Carolina pastor Horace Benjamin who expressed similar feelings.

Mahan said he thought the seminary was now moving away from its previous commitment to be a "centrist seminary" representing the "total constituency of the Southern Baptist Convention."

"I think this seminary will be an excellent academic institution for part of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said, adding he could not be a trustee at a school where he would not be "theologically pure enough" to serve on the faculty.

All three trustees resigned effective July 31, the date of Honeycutt's retirement.

While Benjamin could not be reached for comment, Mahan and Steincross indicated in interviews after the meeting their resignations also were prompted by the refusal of the board's academic personnel committee to recommend three faculty members for endowed chairs, a process trustees have never challenged before.

The controversy flared after a list of faculty promotions had been approved without discussion and one faculty member was recommended for a chair in New Testament.

Virginia trustee Julian Pentecost, retired editor of the Virginia Religious Herald, questioned why the academic personnel committee's report did not include three other nominations from administrators for endowed chairs in the school of theology.

Committee chairman Richard White replied the committee had "simply taken no action" on those particular recommendations.

When asked by Pentecost what the committee's "rationale" was, White said, "There is just no recommendation from the committee at this time," adding "it would be inappropriate to go beyond that."

The committee's recommendation was then approved, with David Garland named to a chair in New Testament and Douglas Smith named to a chair in church music.

Within hours, however, news of the committee's decision had spread among faculty, and each of the three affected professors issued brief statements.

Old Testament professor Gerald Keown, who received a promotion in separate action, expressed appreciation for "the confidence shown in me by the dean, the provost and the president by nominating me to this chair," adding he would "let the trustee actions speak for themselves."

The other nominees, preaching professor Raymond Bailey and theology professor William Hendricks also thanked seminary administration but made it clear they felt slighted by trustees.

"I feel that this is a clear abrogation of the covenant which exists between the trustees and the faculty," said Bailey, who also lamented "the continuing assault on the Baptist tradition of dissent and academic freedom."

Said Hendricks: "The voices of integrity that I value and who are competent to make academic recommendations were unanimous in their recommendation for this honor. It is apparent that among the trustees independent voices and independent opinion are not valued. I have plenty of both and plan to use them freely."

Although the committee's action to leave three endowed chairs unoccupied will have some budgetary impact, it has no direct financial bearing on the individuals, since faculty promotions were considered separately.

While most actions during the meeting were approved in short order, the most extensive discussion focused on budgetary concerns. Although the proposed budget received only one negative vote, several board members questioned expenditures for trustee meetings and expressed concern about the increasing financial burden being shifted to the students.

Stephen Anderson of Memphis, Tenn., said he objected to the increase in fees in part because trustees had "spent 125,000 dollars on ourselves" during the year. Noting students had expressed their dismay through a letter-writing campaign, Anderson said, "I don't know how many of those silly blue and red cards you received, but I got a bunch."

In response to a related question from Steincross, board chairman Wayne Allen of Cordova, Tenn., acknowledged trustee expenses were over budget by about \$36,000 to date but emphasized it was "money well spent" during a time of transition for the seminary.

Steincross, however, said he regretted "we can easily fund money for trustee meetings without discussion. I'd like to find money (to avoid increasing student fees) the same way we seem to find money for our own meetings."

In response to another question, Honeycutt noted matriculation fees at all six SBC seminaries will increase by a minimum of \$75 per semester next year. He said the seminary presidents had agreed no school would raise fees by less than that amount.

In addition to the recent letter-writing effort, about 250 students chose to protest during the board meeting by standing silently in the balcony throughout a seminary worship service attended by trustees. The students were joined by some faculty and staff members and a few trustees.

A brief announcement distributed before the service described the seminary as "a wounded and grieving community" that feels "powerless to change our circumstances."

According to several students, the gesture was prompted in particular by the stance of the seminary's new president on the role of women in ministry.

While emphasizing all of the seminary's degree programs will remain open to women and affirming God's call to women in a variety of ministries, Mohler has stated his conviction the Bible does not offer support for women serving as pastors.

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Pat Cole contributed to this story.

**FMB affirms WMU resolution,
names first woman area director** By Robert O'Brien

**Baptist Press
4/22/93**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Foreign Mission Board trustees affirmed a Southern Baptist Executive Committee resolution on Woman's Missionary Union while naming the board's first woman area director during their April 19-21 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

Trustees also appointed or reappointed 42 missionaries, re-elected their chairman, voted to enter Syria, heard reports on advances into World A -- the fourth of the globe that has had little or no Christian witness -- and heard cautions about financial considerations for the future.

About 4,000 people, most from the host State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, attended the missionary appointment service at the Columbus Convention Center. The service featured a 400-voice choir, a parade of world flags and a charge to new missionaries by Don Kammerdiener, FMB interim president.

Concluding his charge, Kammerdiener focused on recent drops in financial support of foreign missions, with projections indicating the board will experience a \$4.36 million shortfall in its 1993 budget.

"Will we remember," he asked, "that part of what it means to be a missionary people is to make the sacrificial giving that enables these missionaries to go the ends of the world and to do the work that they have been called to do? Will we remember that somehow in our moment of greatest opportunity we've allowed our attention, our energies and our resources to be diverted to other things, and your missionary force around the world has somehow had to make do on stagnated and even declining resources for three straight years?"

"Could it be," Kammerdiener continued, "that in a meeting like this tonight we would as God's people hear the challenge once again to have a mind for missions and to do what is necessary to reopen the channels of giving that we might touch this world with the gospel of Jesus Christ?"

During their meeting, the board trustees unanimously affirmed a Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee "Resolution of Concern and Commitment" on the Woman's Missionary Union, approved in February.

The Executive Committee's resolution affirmed the Woman's Missionary Union's many contributions to promoting missions over the past 105 years. But it called on the WMU to cooperate only with the Southern Baptist Convention's Home and Foreign Mission boards. It said the committee would honor the WMU's status as a convention auxiliary as long as it "pledges its faithful and solitary support of the missions offerings and missions programs of the Southern Baptist Convention and its mission boards."

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The WMU executive board voted in January to assist mission groups in addition to the two convention mission boards. The action resulted in a tense dialogue between WMU leaders and FMB trustees, and the Executive Committee's resolution, in separate meetings in February.

Concern has centered around whether WMU would assist the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a group that opposes the current direction of convention leadership. WMU said in January it will not promote offerings for other groups or change its current literature to promote other groups. But the WMU board, which does not meet again until June, has not officially responded to the Executive Committee request about exclusive relationships with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Kammerdiener said he believed the FMB trustees should affirm the Executive Committee's resolution, earlier endorsed by the Home Mission Board, "in a positive and affirming spirit."

"I believe the time has come for us to stop living by our fears rather than by our faith," he said. "Trust begets trust and suspicion begets suspicion Sooner or later in our denomination, someone or some group will step forward to declare a unilateral truce in our spiritual civil war. I encourage us to be the ones to do it."

He urged passage of the resolution to affirm "all that our relationships have meant in the past and as an expectation that those relationships will be even stronger in the future."

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien and June Whitlow, associate executive director, attended the Columbus meeting. They unfurled a 150-foot banner made up of pages of WMU literature that promoted the 1992 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

In other action, trustees departed from the custom of nominating a chairman to a second one-year term without opposition, but re-elected John Jackson of California in a 44-30 ballot over Hoyt Savage of Las Vegas.

Jackson has presided over the trustees in a tumultuous year of actions, such as the discussions with the WMU, that resulted in some differences among trustees about how some situations should be handled.

Both Jackson and Savage, however, expressed respect and support for each other after the vote and trustees stood at the meeting's close to show unanimous support for Jackson and for interim president Kammerdiener.

Two other officers were elected in close balloting in what some referred to as opposing slates. Leon Hyatt of Louisiana won 41-32 over Mike Goodwin of Missouri for first vice chairman and LeRoy "Skip" Smith of Texas edged out Paul Brooks of Missouri, 37-36, for second vice chairman. Phyllis Randall of Virginia was elected recording secretary without opposition.

Faye Pearson, 52, a missionary in Taiwan for 24 years, was elected area director for mission work in East Asia. An associate area director since 1988, she will oversee the work of some 500 missionaries in Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, South Korea and Taiwan. Kammerdiener recommended her for the post from a "short list" of candidates brought to him by a trustee search committee.

She is the first woman to be elected as an area director. Five other women are associate area directors, one woman has served as a regional vice president, another has been vice president for communications and others have held administrative posts overseas and on the home office staff over the years.

Pearson won election by show of hands, with about a dozen of the 77 trustees present voting against her election. Some trustees opposed a woman in such a major supervisory post on biblical grounds. But only one spoke against her election at the board meeting.

Kammerdiener pointed out that "this is not a church -- we're not discussing a pastoral role."

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Trustees also approved entering Syria, where Southern Baptist personnel were requested by local churches through the Baptist Convention in Syria. The convention churches meet in two cities: Homs and Damascus, the capital. The Mideast nation, with a population of about 14 million, recognized Islam as its official religion before 1973. Since then Syria has been a secular state with Islam recognized as the religion of the majority, with other minorities accorded rights.

Reports on advances in unevangelized World A indicated the board now has 375 workers -- almost 10 percent of its total overseas force -- assigned to minister in the vast region. More than 40 workers were assigned in March and April alone.

"This shows we are on the cutting edge of addressing this untouched world," Kammerdiener said.

Trustees asked Kammerdiener to send an open letter to Southern Baptist pastors and WMU directors to report on this and other advances the board is making in world missions.

The search committee to find a successor to Keith Parks, who stepped down as president last October, said it will not make a recommendation "until the Lord has told us who his man is," reported Hyatt, vice chairman. Joel Gregory, committee chairman, did not attend because of illness.

Hyatt said the committee will move as quickly as possible but feels it has time to operate because it is confident in the leadership offered by Kammerdiener, who has served as interim president for six months.

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(BP) map (vertical one-column) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutline available on SBCNet Newsroom. A synopsis of FMB trustee actions also is available on SBCNet Newsroom.

FMB elects first woman
as area director overseas

Baptist Press
4/22/93

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Faye Pearson, a missionary in Taiwan for 24 years, was elected April 21 as area director for mission work in East Asia by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

She is the first woman to be elected as an area director. Five other women are associate area directors, one woman has served as a regional vice president, another has been vice president for communications and others have held administrative posts overseas and on the home office staff over the years.

The board's interim president, Don Kammerdiener, recommended her for the post from a "short list" of candidates brought to him by a trustee search committee.

Pearson won the vote by a show of hands, with about a dozen of the 77 trustees present voting against her election.

Some trustees opposed election of a woman to such a major supervisory post on biblical grounds. But only one trustee spoke against her election at the board meeting.

Kammerdiener had pointed out "this is not a church -- we're not discussing a pastoral role."

Pearson, 52, will oversee the work of 500 missionaries in Asia's eastern region, which includes Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, South Korea and Taiwan.

Until recently she was associate to the area director for East Asia and lived in Taipei, Taiwan. When Pearson became associate to the area director in 1988, she became the first woman named by the board to a regional administrative position overseas.

As the new East Asia area director, Pearson succeeds Sam James, who became vice president for mission work in Europe in June 1992.

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"I'm pleased Faye will assume this responsibility as the person called of God for this task," said Bill Wakefield, vice president for the board's mission work in Asia. "Her outstanding qualifications and extensive experience and strong relationships will be used by the Lord to continue the dynamic and effective leadership which the East Asia missions have enjoyed."

Before Pearson worked as a mission administrator she was a missionary educator and student worker in Taiwan. From 1972 to 1981 she worked with students at Jung Shan University, Kaohsiung Medical School and several other colleges in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. She was head of the religious education department and a teacher at the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary in Taipei. She was appointed a missionary in 1968.

A native of Laurel, Miss., Pearson received the bachelor of arts degree from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., and the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

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(BP) photo (mug shot) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

WRAPUP

Golden Gate trustees hire faculty,
OK statement on inclusiveness By Mark A. Wyatt

Baptist Press
4/22/93

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary hired two new faculty members, adopted a statement affirming women in ministry and approved a 1994 budget during their regular meeting April 19-20.

Tom Wolf, 49, pastor of The Church on Brady in Los Angeles since 1969, was named associate professor of missions effective Aug. 1. His election completes a two-year search to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of missiologist Francis DuBose.

"I think we're pulling off a coup here ...," said trustee Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. "Our world is rapidly urbanizing and we need urban thinkers in the area of missions. Tom is doing that."

Seminary President Bill Crews acknowledged he recommended Wolf over "strong objections" from some faculty members. Among faculty concerns were the fact that Wolf does not hold a doctoral degree and has a reputation as a "maverick for 23 years ... who has colored outside the lines in East L.A."

"I'd rather be directing someone who is coloring outside the lines than someone who isn't coloring very much at all," Crews said.

Crews said Wolf's contract requires him to complete a doctoral degree within five years.

Wolf, 49, earned a bachelors degree in sociology at Baylor University and a masters degree in cross-cultural studies from Fuller Seminary. He has held faculty appointments at California Baptist College, Azusa Pacific University, Golden Gate Seminary, Grand Canyon University, and Fuller Theological Seminary.

Crews praised Wolf for "outstanding missions involvement," noting more than 100 current or former members of Wolf's congregation are engaged in missions service.

Trustees also elected Lai Ling Elizabeth Ngan, 40, assistant professor of Old Testament effective Aug. 1. Currently Ngan is associate minister of Stockton (Calif.) Chinese Baptist Church.

Ngan graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in biology from California Baptist College. She earned a master of arts degree from Loma Linda University. She received the M.Div. degree and a Ph.D. in Old Testament from Golden Gate.

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Previously, Ngan was instructor of biblical Hebrew and archaeology at Golden Gate and taught biology and botany at Cal Baptist.

Trustees adopted a policy affirming women as well as men in ministry but which recognizes opportunities for service may be limited by "prevailing Baptist belief and practice."

The four-paragraph "Statement on the Inclusiveness of Seminary Curriculum" was discussed and adopted by trustees during an executive session with reporters and others excluded.

Under the policy students will be counseled "to prepare for areas of ministry where they are likely to find productive ministry and employment in the churches and denominational agencies."

"We're not opposed to women in ministry," trustee Barrett Duke said after the closed-door meeting. Duke, a Colorado pastor, called the policy a "very positive" statement which says "we believe there are many places where women can serve."

Apparently, however, the pastorate is not one of them, according to several present at the meeting. "Mainstream Southern Baptist life does not accept the role of women" as ordained pastors, Duke said in an interview.

The policy trustees adopted does not name specific ministry roles.

Crews agreed some ministry roles are "off-limits" to women but said the question of women pastors "is not an issue" among Golden Gate students. He said he hopes women will not be discouraged from attending Golden Gate.

"We will deal with their training with integrity," Crews said.

In other business, trustees approved a \$5.4 million budget for 1993-94. The spending plan is more than 6 percent larger than the current budget and includes a 3 percent salary increase for all full-time employees.

The new budget anticipates \$2.6 million in Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program support, unchanged from the current amount. It also calls for basic student matriculation fees at Golden Gate to increase 12 to 18 percent beginning in spring 1994.

Trustees approved plans for a \$3.2 million endowment fund to help seminary employees buy homes in the expensive San Francisco Bay area. Special allocations from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will be used along with some matching funds to create the endowment.

In addition to providing home purchase assistance through low-interest second mortgage loans, the plan will create individual earnings accounts to share a portion of endowment earnings with eligible employees.

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**Trustees adopt 'inclusiveness'
statement about women's ministry** By Mark A. Wyatt

**Baptist Press
4/22/93**

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--A policy affirming women as well as men in ministry but which acknowledges "prevailing beliefs and practices ... may affect ministry opportunities in the Southern Baptist Convention" was adopted by trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Trustees adopted the four-paragraph "Statement on the Inclusiveness of Seminary Curriculum" during their regular meeting April 19-21.

"This defines where we stand," said William O. Crews, seminary president.

Crews later told trustees: "Golden Gate needs to say to the women who come here to be trained, 'There is the possibility of significant ministry for you.'

"Women do have significant places of ministry in the church. They are of value to us and we need them," Crews said.

The statement, drafted in response to a trustee motion last October, is believed to be the first policy dealing with women in ministry adopted by any of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. It was discussed and approved by trustees during an executive session from which reporters and others were excluded.

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Barrett Duke, trustee and pastor of First Baptist Church of Highland Ranch in Littleton, Colo., termed the closed-door talks "a concerned discussion about making sure the statement said what we meant and allowed as little room as possible for misinterpretation."

One observer noted the issue was a "hot potato." But despite the potential for controversy, the discussions were "very godly, very Christlike," according to Rob Zinn, trustee chairman and pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in San Bernardino, Calif.

Sandy Casteel, trustee from Florida, said the statement is "much broader than a gender issue; it covers our whole education policy."

The statement declares Golden Gate "will offer programs and courses that train men and women for ministry in the churches and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention." It further states the seminary "will, as much as possible, reflect the beliefs and practices of the Southern Baptist Convention as stated in the 1963 Baptist Faith And Message Statement."

It also places responsibility for at least part of the issue on churches who recommend students, male or female, for seminary training.

Under the policy, students meeting entrance requirements will not be denied the opportunity to enroll in any course or program the seminary offers. But they will be given information regarding "prevailing Baptist belief and practice about men and women in Christian ministry and vocation that may affect ministry opportunities in the Southern Baptist Convention."

The statement recognizes "each church has the responsibility for ordaining individuals for ministry, as well as hiring of its own staff personnel."

"Accordingly, GGBTS accepts its own role to be available to all who are recommended by the churches for training, provided they meet the standard entrance requirements and maintain their academic standing."

Additionally, the seminary will provide counseling "to encourage students to prepare for areas of ministry where they are likely to find productive ministry and employment in the churches and denominational agencies."

Such counseling "will be constructive and should be characterized by integrity and honesty," the policy states.

"We believe there are many places where women can serve," Duke said in an interview. However, Duke said he does not believe the pastorate is one of them.

"From my perspective, not an ordained pastoral role," Duke said. "Mainstream Southern Baptist life does not accept the role of women as pastors."

The statement adopted by trustees does not mention specific ministry roles.

In an interview after the trustee meeting, Crews said prevailing Southern Baptist belief and practice places some ministry roles "off-limits" for women.

"I hope it (the statement) will not discourage women" from attending Golden Gate Seminary, Crews said. He added the policy means the seminary will be able to "deal with their training with integrity."

Crews indicated women in ministry "is not an issue among students" at the seminary. "We don't have the advocates on campus" that were present when he became president in 1986, Crews said.

A similar matter was considered by trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at their March 9-10, 1992, meeting. However, trustees accepted a report from an ad hoc committee on women in ministry which recommended no action on the matter.

"The fact is we don't have any written policy on this anywhere," Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Seminary, said in a telephone interview April 21.

Dilday said the ad hoc committee conducted a thorough study of Scripture dealing with the issue of women in ministry and concluded they did not want to establish a policy related to the issue.

**Statement adopted
by GGBTS trustees**

Following is the "Policy Statement on the Inclusiveness of Seminary Curriculum" adopted by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees April 20:

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary is an institution established by the Southern Baptist Convention to train men and women for Christian ministry. As such, GGBTS will, as much as possible, reflect the beliefs and practices of the Southern Baptist Convention as stated in the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement adopted by the SBC. Accordingly, GGBTS will offer programs and courses that train men and women for ministry in the churches and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

GGBTS recognizes that each church has the responsibility for ordaining individuals for ministry, as well as hiring of its own staff personnel. Accordingly, GGBTS accepts its own role to be available to all who are recommended by the churches for training, provided they meet the standard entrance requirements and maintain their academic standing.

Counseling will be provided at the seminary to encourage students to prepare for areas of ministry where they are likely to find productive ministry and employment in the churches and denominational agencies. This counseling service will be constructive and will be characterized by integrity and honesty. For example: a student will not be denied the opportunity to enroll in any course or program offered by the seminary. However, information will be made available regarding prevailing Baptist belief and practice about men and women in Christian ministry and vocation that may affect ministry opportunities in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The mission of GGBTS is to provide theological education that meets the academic and practical needs for trained leadership in the churches and denominational agencies of the SBC. Therefore, GGBTS will attempt to reflect the mainstream theological beliefs within the denomination and employ professors and staff who reflect the mainstream of Southern Baptist life.

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**Golden Gate taps L.A. pastor
as professor of missions**

By Mark A. Wyatt

**Baptist Press
4/22/93**

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--A Los Angeles pastor whose church has more than 100 current or former members serving as missionaries will be the new professor of missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Seminary trustees elected Tom Wolf, pastor of The Church on Brady since 1969, as associate professor of missions. Wolf's election completes a two-year search to fill the missions post left vacant by the retirement of missiologist Francis DuBose.

Trustees also elected Lai Ling Elizabeth Ngan as assistant professor of Old Testament during their regular meeting April 19-20.

Seminary President Bill Crews told trustees he recommended Wolf despite "serious objections" from some faculty members. Crews said among the faculty concerns were Wolf's lack of a doctoral degree and his reputation as "a maverick for 23 years ... who has colored outside the lines in East L.A."

Trustee Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, commended Crews "for the risk" of nominating Wolf over faculty objections.

"I think we're pulling off a coup here if we get him. Our world is rapidly urbanizing and we need urban thinkers in the area of missions. Tom is doing that," Dean said.

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"I do not lightly move ahead without the blessing of the faculty," Crews told trustees. Crews cited several reasons for recommending Wolf, beginning with his "23 years of recent successful experience in urban ministry" as pastor of The Church on Brady, a post he will leave in joining the seminary's faculty.

Crews also said Wolf will assist in the recruitment of students at all of the seminary's campuses; open doors for Golden Gate "to the larger evangelical world beyond SBC circles"; and model how to build missions-supporting churches.

"Tom is a creative, energetic, visionary leader," Crews told trustees.

Wolf, 49, earned a bachelors degree in sociology from Baylor University and a masters degree in cross-cultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. He has held faculty appointments at California Baptist College, Azusa Pacific University, Golden Gate Seminary, Grand Canyon University and Fuller.

Under terms of Wolf's contract with GGBTS he will be required to complete a Ph.D. degree within five years. Crews said Wolf has committed to pursuing a doctoral degree. Any promotions during the period will be subject to a determination of progress toward completing the degree, Crews said.

Wolf has been an outspoken critic of seminaries for not providing enough practical instruction. But, Crews told trustees, "Many of the things Tom has said I agree with."

Some faculty members also disapprove that Wolf will continue to live in Los Angeles rather than relocate nearer the main seminary campus north of San Francisco. Crews explained Wolf will have teaching duties at the seminary's Southern California campus in Brea and commute to Mill Valley at least one semester per year.

Clayton Harrop, the seminary's vice president for academic affairs, said Wolf "will have to take the initiative to build bridges" with other faculty members.

Rob Zinn, trustee chairman and pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in San Bernardino, Calif., said he had been a student of Wolf's and praised his former teacher's ability and confidence.

Zinn also noted the coincidence that Wolf was elected to replace DuBose, who once was Wolf's pastor.

Contacted by telephone, Wolf told The California Southern Baptist, newsjournal of the California Southern Baptist Convention, he is "very humbled and honored" by the unanimous vote of trustees.

"I feel with that a commensurate burden laid on my shoulders. My responsibilities are to the kingdom and to the churches that will receive leaders from my ministry and from the seminary," Wolf said.

Wolf officially begins his new duties effective Aug. 1.

President Crews told trustees reaction to his other faculty recommendation was "as different as dark and light."

Ngan, 40, will begin work as assistant professor of Old Testament Aug. 1. Currently she is associate minister at Stockton (Calif.) Chinese Baptist Church.

Ngan graduated summa cum laude from California Baptist College with a bachelor of science degree in biology. After earning a master of arts degree in biology from Loma Linda University she earned an M.Div. and Ph.D. in Old Testament from Golden Gate.

Previously, Ngan taught biblical Hebrew and archaeology at Golden Gate and taught biology and botany at Cal Baptist.

In other faculty matters, trustees:

-- received the resignation of Barry Stricker, assistant professor of theology and Christian philosophy, effective June 30. Stricker will become full-time pastor of Tiburon (Calif.) Baptist Church.

-- approved step increases for six professors -- Dan Boling, Oscar Brooks, Dwight Honeycutt, Stan Nelson, G.W. Schweer and Craig Skinner -- and four associate professors -- Gary McCoy, Michael Martin, John Shouse and Craig Singleton.

-- granted tenure to Gary McCoy, associate professor of church music, and Leroy Gainey, associate professor of Christian education.

-- granted sabbaticals for Michael Martin, spring 1994, to complete a commentary on Thessalonians for the New American Commentary series by Broadman; Beth Singleton, 1994-95 academic year, to begin work on a doctor of musical arts degree; and Craig Singleton, 1994-95 academic year, to study voice, piano and conducting.

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RTVC trustees adopt
\$10 million budget

Baptist Press
4/22/93

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission trustees set 1993-94 budget limits at \$10 million and accepted a year-to-date financial report showing income and expenses under budget during their April 19-21 meeting.

Trustees also revised refinancing terms for a \$4.5 million loan balance, heard encouraging TV audience numbers and reports of new programs and elected new officers during sessions at a Dallas-Fort Worth airport hotel.

Noting that this is the third straight year to recommend a "flat" budget, executive vice president Richard T. McCartney said it would be prudent not to increase the budget until additional income is in sight.

With year-to-date expenses running at 97 percent of budget, McCartney expressed confidence in the commission's ability to operate soundly and within its resources.

Jerry Stamps, vice president for business services, reported progress in negotiations to refinance the \$4.5 million balance on a \$10 million loan made in 1986. Trustees approved a resolution which adjusted authorized term limits and cleared the way to accept a lender's favorable fixed-rate loan offer.

Other financial actions included appointing KPMG Peat Marwick to perform the 1993-94 audit.

Officers elected for 1993-94 were Dallas W. Bumgarner of Maryland, chairman; C. Wyman Copass, Kentucky, first vice chairman; Omer Ray Finch, Oklahoma, second vice chairman; and Gary Underwood, Arkansas, recording secretary.

Bumgarner, pastor of Elvaton Baptist Church in Millersville, Md., succeeds Mickey Castleberry, pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., who has completed two years as chairman, the maximum term allowed.

Copass is pastor of Yellow Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky.; Finch is founder and president of Lakeshore Food Systems in Tulsa, Okla., and member of Harvard Avenue Baptist Church there; Underwood is executive vice president of Beech Street Communications Corporation, the FamilyNet affiliate in Texarkana, Ark., and a member of Beech Street First Baptist Church there.

President Jack Johnson presented a plaque to retiring trustee Richard L. Wakefield, pastor of First Baptist Church, Camdenton, Mo., in recognition of his eight years service. Johnson commended two others who are retiring this year but were not present -- Leroy Stevens, retired professor of engineering/technology at Phoenix (Ariz.) College, and Michael S. Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, S.C.

Vice presidents' reports included:

-- A recently completed reorganization is expected to yield some modest savings this fiscal year and as much as \$250,000 a year beginning next year, according to Stamps.

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-- Audience growth numbers may appear somewhat flat compared to last quarter, said Mike Wright, vice president for network operations, "but the long-term curve is still climbing off the chart." The numbers are "harder," he said, since improved reporting systems now provide regular affidavits from affiliates. Wright reported that total households reached by FamilyNet have grown from 11.4 million in April 1991 when the commission acquired the network to nearly 42 million today, at the same time climbing from 56 affiliates to 118.

-- A new TV program, "Capital News," has been the most successful launch of any FamilyNet series, according to Wright, with 60 stations serving more than 15 million households already cleared and another 9 million households expected to be added soon.

-- A new pilot radio program featuring classical music is being produced, reported Ed Malone, vice president for radio. Radio executives in St. Petersburg, Russia, had requested such a program, but Malone indicated it also will be offered in the United States. The program is RTVC's first classical offering and first hour-long radio program.

-- A new state-of-the-art digital editing system is being tested by RTVC TV producers in anticipation of upgrading equipment, according to Glenn McEowen, vice president for engineering services. Also being considered are new TV cameras and a digital recording studio for radio.

-- An International Conference on Communications Ministries (ICCM) to be sponsored by RTVC on June 28-July 1 in Arlington, Tex., will provide multiple conference tracks about equipping, programming and promoting for radio and television ministries in churches, said Doug Dillard, vice president for external relations. "And the event itself makes a powerful statement to our convention and its churches that the RTVC is back, that the commission takes seriously its commitment to serve," Dillard said.

"We are on the cutting edge of a new paradigm shift and it will be built on communication and information," said President Jack Johnson in his closing address to trustees. "The Radio and Television Commission will play a vital part in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention over the next 50 years," he predicted.

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Edelman calls for 'new spiritual struggle' on behalf of children By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
4/22/93

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Guns, television, bad public policy, material greed and lack of moral values all are contributing to make America a tragic home for children, Marian Wright Edelman told about 500 people attending a conference on "Children and the Church" April 21.

Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, was keynote speaker for the three-day conference in Louisville, Ky. The event was directed by the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with co-sponsorship by seven other Baptist entities.

"The church must be the moral locomotive instead of the moral caboose," Edelman declared, calling the church the "key torchbearer of change."

"We must be a part of a new spiritual struggle which must arise across our land to stop the killing and neglect of children and put our action and our leadership and our pocketbooks behind our purported family values," she said.

"We must struggle to reclaim our nation's soul and give our children back their hope . . . ," Edelman continued. "We need a new movement in the 1990s that is about the future and not about the past."

Churches can be a part of this renewal through several means, Edelman suggested. She called on churches and religious leaders to "be a voice for the children of our nation, who are powerless and voiceless."

The church could be part of the Children's Defense Fund's vision to eliminate child poverty in America by the turn of the century, she said.

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Also, Edelman called on churches to support efforts to immunize every American child and to see every child has opportunity for a good preschool education.

Educating church members and community leaders about the needs of children is essential, she said.

To make her point, Edelman painted a bleak statistical picture of what American children now face:

-- "Every Sunday as we wake up, 100,000 children wake up homeless."

-- "Every 13 seconds, about the time it takes us to say the Lord's Prayer, another American baby is born into poverty."

-- "Every 14 minutes, while we listen to the sermon, a baby dies in America."

-- "Every 54 seconds, while we pass the peace, a baby is born to a teen-age mother."

-- "Every 13 hours, before we go back to sleep each night and say our prayers, a preschooler is murdered."

While Americans rightly have been obsessed with helping starving children in Somalia, Edelman said, they have been blind to worse conditions in their own country.

"Why are there more poor children in rich America than there are residents in famine-stricken Somalia?" she asked.

Edelman said America has 14.3 million poor children, a higher number than at any time in history. Further, an estimated 5 million American children are going hungry, she added.

"Thousands of children -- one every 53 minutes -- die of poverty in rich America and millions more suffer preventable sickness and chronic diseases."

America's children are two to 14 times more likely to be poor than the children of Australia, Canada, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom, she continued.

But "no fact tells us more clearly that something is badly awry in American society than the reports of abuse or neglect in 1990 of an American child every 13 seconds," Edelman said.

Throughout the speech, Edelman repeatedly called for a better response to gun-related violence affecting American children.

"The deadly quick violence of guns takes an American child's life every three hours and the lives of 25 children -- the equivalent of a classroom full -- every two days," she explained.

The 55 American men, women and children killed with handguns every day in America compares to 13 such murders per year in Sweden, 91 per year in Switzerland, 87 in Japan, 58 in Canada and 52 in Great Britain, Edelman reported.

Further, "some children in inner cities are growing up being able to distinguish between semi-automatic gunfire before they can distinguish between their colors," she said.

"The evil fruit of the unchecked trafficking in guns abounds all around us ... Guns exceed television sets as American playthings."

But the dangers of television haven't escaped her watchful eye, either.

"It is time for us to tell parents to shut off the television set and to tell Hollywood ... the levels of violence we are now seeing and show are absolutely unacceptable," she said.

America's children need better role models in the media and at home, Edelman charged. "They see too few adults who exemplify and communicate clear, consistent standards of acceptable moral and civic conduct." Christians must "struggle to live our family values in our public and private lives," she said.

"Talk is cheap and won't cure the pervasive breakdown of moral and family and community values in America -- nor will judgmental finger-pointing at any group or family type."

Edelman said Americans must "resist the simplistic, either-or choices and fragmented, single or quick-fix solutions to the needs of our families."

Church-starting Baptist dies of cancer in Hawaii

WAIKOLOA, Hawaii (BP)--Church-starting Baptist pastor Russell C. Morris, 55, died April 18 in Hawaii, ending a bout with cancer.

For 14 years, Morris was pastor of Woolford Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore. He left in 1989 to start a new Southern Baptist church in Waikoloa, a planned community on the island of Hawaii. The church's ministries include a day-care program, directed by Morris' wife, Brenda.

At his first worship service at Waikoloa, only one person from the community attended. Since then, the church has experienced slow but steady growth. Attendance now is about 40.

Both the church and day-care use rented facilities and much of the focus of Morris' ministry was locating property for a permanent church building. Because of his relationship with community leaders and a reputation built over the course of three and a half years, he managed to obtain for the church a 12-acre building site at a cost of \$325,000. An assessor later appraised the property's value at \$3.5 million.

Late last year, doctors diagnosed Morris with liver cancer, a recurrence of an illness that necessitated radical surgery in December 1991. His health declined rapidly but he was still able to preach at a dedication service for Waikoloa's building site March 14.

A native of Maryland, Morris entered the ministry in 1957. While employed as a machinist at Bethlehem Steel, he initiated the founding of Harbor Heights Baptist Church by conducting a community survey and serving as the mission's lay pastor.

He left Maryland in 1960 to attend Campbell College in Buies Creek, N.C., where he earned the B.A. degree in English and religion in 1964. He then entered Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., graduating with the M.Div. degree in 1968. He was minister of education and youth at two churches in North Carolina before accepting the Woolford Memorial pastorate in 1975.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda, a former president of Woman's Missionary Union of Maryland/Delaware. Also surviving are two grown children, a son, Barry, 24, and a daughter, Kyra, 19, a student at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C.

His remains were cremated. A memorial service is scheduled May 3 at the Waikoloa church. A second memorial service is expected to be planned in the Baltimore area in June.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, gifts to the Waikoloa Baptist Church building fund. Checks may be written to Woman's Missionary Union of Maryland/Delaware, 10255 Old Columbia Road, Columbia, MD 21046-1736. The WMU will collect donations and forward them to the church.

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Morris was featured in a Baptist Press story in January.

Dockery speaks of need
for renewal in worship

By Ferrell Foster

Baptist Press
4/22/93

HANNIBAL, Mo. (BP)--Southern Baptists "have really gone through a generation without worshipping" because Sunday morning services have become so evangelistic, said David Dockery during a seminar here.

Dockery, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of theology in Louisville, Ky., dealt with the subject during the recent Midwest Bible Conference at Hannibal-LaGrange College.

While insisting he is not against evangelism, Dockery said Southern Baptists try to have everything in their services. "And I'm not sure we can have it all."

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Evangelistic services are "not a substitute for the worship of God," he said. "We need a mixture."

When services are only evangelistic, a void is left, and that void "saps the life out of the church," he continued.

Dockery said worship is "the act of giving worth or praise to someone." In the church, it is "an offering" given to God "out of recognition of who God is."

Genuine worship also "has a content to it," he continued. "As we sing the songs we must be able to think through what we are singing," and Christians should learn from and respond to the preaching.

"We are involved It is a participation," Dockery said. But many people go absent-minded through a service, not remembering what hymns were sung nor the basic content of the sermon.

"I think there is a need for renewal in our worship," Dockery added, listing "four broad reasons" for the need:

-- The current shift toward entertainment in the modern world. People come to church expecting to be entertained, and "entertainment is no substitute for worship."

-- The Enlightenment has created an overemphasis on the rational element. This emphasis has left "no room for an emotional response to God."

-- The rise of revivalism. In some sectors, there has been an imbalance in emphasis on unbelievers.

-- The general trend toward secularization and the adaptation of that culture. It has reduced the distinction between the church and the culture.

Dockery listed four steps for what to do in response:

-- Help the redeemed community rediscover and understand that worship is a primary function of the church.

-- Learn that worship is not passive, but active.

-- Understand that worship is primarily rooted in the "Christ event."

-- Emphasize worship is primarily spiritual and symbolic.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Faculty issues dominate discussion during Midwestern trustee meeting," dated 4/21/93, please correct the vote total in the 22nd paragraph to 17 to 13, not 17 to 16.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Also available upon request:

-- Story by Ferrell Foster on comments by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary dean David Dockery on worship spoken during a Missouri Bible conference.

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