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93-153

NASHVILLE -- Clinton meeting change/update.
WASHINGTON -- Israel, PLO sign agreement; Southern Baptist again observes.
JERUSALEM -- Baptist representatives see hope for growth in peace pact.
NASHVILLE -- On the peace agreement and the end times ...
ATLANTA -- William Neal elected editor of Georgia's Christian Index.
COLORADO -- SBC leaders' moral concerns aired on Focus on the Family; photo.
HOUSTON -- Black urban youth 'hungry' for stand on sexual purity.
ATLANTA -- Literacy missions addresses findings of government study.
ALASKA -- Alaska Baptists up CP despite current shortfall.
CALIFORNIA -- Golden Gate academic VP announces retirement.
MINNESOTA -- Minn.-Wis. convention elects evangelism/stewardship director.
NORTH CAROLINA -- Baptist Men's relief effort earns 'Miracle Men' reputation.
NORTH CAROLINA -- N.C. Baptist Men prepare for new unit for use in 2 days; photos.
NASHVILLE -- Correction.

(BP) NEWS ADVISORY: The Sept. 14 meeting President Bill Clinton had scheduled with SBC leaders H. Edwin Young and Morris H. Chapman, arranged by Little Rock pastor Rex M. Horne Jr., has been rescheduled for the late afternoon of Thurs., Sept. 16.

Thus, the Sept. 14 reference in (BP) story titled "President Clinton to meet with SBC leaders Sept. 14," dated 9/10/93, should be revised to Sept. 16 in 1) the headline, 2) the first paragraph and 3) the sixth paragraph. The sixth paragraph's introductory words now should read: "The late-afternoon Sept. 16 meeting ... "

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Israel, PLO sign agreement;
Southern Baptist again observes By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
9/14/93

WASHINGTON (BP)--For the second time in 15 years, a Southern Baptist in the White House watched as representatives of Israel and a bitter enemy signed a peace agreement in the capitol city.

President Bill Clinton, flanked by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat, observed the signing of a preliminary agreement for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The Sept. 13 signing was witnessed by about 3,000 guests, including former Presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush, on the White House's south lawn.

The signing by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Executive Council member Mahmud Abbas took place at the same desk used in 1979 when Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty between the two countries. Carter, like Clinton a member of a Southern Baptist church, joined the two leaders in a now-famous handshake after the signing.

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This time after the signing of the agreement, Clinton spread his arms behind Rabin and Arafat as they joined in a momentous handshake.

"The sound we heard today, once again, as in ancient Jericho, was the trumpets toppling walls, the walls of anger and suspicion between Israeli and Palestinian, between Arab and Jew," Clinton said at the close of the signing ceremony. "This time, praise God, the trumpets herald not the destruction of that city but its new beginning."

The declaration of principles, according to published reports, provides for interim self-rule by the Palestinians in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, which now are occupied by Israeli forces but overwhelmingly Palestinian in population. Later, a permanent treaty will be negotiated to settle issues such as the status of the entire West Bank, Jerusalem, Palestinian exiles and Jewish settlements in the areas, the reports said.

Hope also has been expressed that this agreement would lead to negotiations between Israel and other foes, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

"I am very encouraged by the obvious willingness of the Palestinians and the Israelis to make some real sacrifices and some meaningful compromises in pursuit of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," said Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"I have been convinced for a long time that the only hope of achieving a meaningful peace in the Middle East was for there to be some arrangement whereby the Palestinians would have self-rule, at least domestically, in the areas where their population dominates," said Land, executive director of the SBC agency which deals with peace issues.

"We all need to pray that a meaningful peace agreement can be negotiated so that the children of the Holy Land, Israeli and Palestinian alike, can grow up in peace rather than war and in love rather than hate."

In his opening remarks, the president also spoke of the future of Jewish and Arab children.

"For them we must realize the prophecy of Isaiah, that the cry of violence shall no more be heard in your land, nor wrack nor ruin within your borders," Clinton said.

"The children of Abraham, the descendants of Isaac and Ishmael, have embarked together on a bold journey. Together, today, with all our hearts and all our souls, we bid them shalom, salaam, peace."

After the signing, Israel's Rabin admitted it was "not so easy -- neither for myself, as a soldier in Israel's war, nor for the people of Israel, not to the Jewish people in the (dispersion)..."

"Let me say to you, the Palestinians, we are destined to live together on the same soil, in the same land," Rabin said. "We, the soldiers who have returned from battles stained with blood, we who have seen our relatives and friends killed before our eyes, we who have attended their funerals and cannot look into the eyes of their parents, we who have come from a land where parents bury their children, we who have fought against you, the Palestinians, we say to you today in a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough.

"We have no desire for revenge. We harbor no hatred towards you. We, like you, are people, people who want to build a home, to plant a tree, to love, live side by side with you in dignity, in empathy, as human beings, as free men, we are today giving peace a chance and ... saying again to you: Enough," Rabin said.

The PLO's Arafat said, "My people are hoping that this agreement, which we are signing today, marks the beginning of the end of a chapter of pain and suffering which has lasted throughout this century.

"Our people do not consider that exercising the right to self-determination could violate the rights of their neighbors or infringe on their security," Arafat said. "Rather, putting an end to their feelings of being wronged and of having suffered an historic injustice is the strongest guarantee to achieve coexistence and openness between our two peoples and future generations."

Baptist representatives see
hope for growth in peace pact

By Marty Croll

JERUSALEM (BP)--Southern Baptist workers in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip sat glued to television sets Sept. 13 watching a handshake between two bitter enemies -- Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat and Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"This is one of those rare moments you'd never really have thought was going to happen in your lifetime, and it's happening," said Ray Hicks, Southern Baptist representative in the West Bank city of Bethlehem. "We're in shock. Really, we're in shock."

"There are so many people who have lost loved ones in the wars or in terrorist acts," said Southern Baptist representative Tom Hocutt of Birmingham, Ala., who has worked in Israel about 10 years.

"The way they seem to be looking at it is that ... there's a hope for peace, that our sons and daughters don't have to be killed anymore. The mindset here has been that war is inevitable."

Hocutt and others discussed the prospects for peace in the region -- and how it could affect Christian work -- only hours after Israel and the PLO signed historic accords recognizing each other's right to exist. The accords promise evolving self-rule for Palestinians living in two Israeli-occupied areas lost by Arabs after they attacked Israel in 1967.

Palestinians in the West Bank, formerly part of Jordan, and the Gaza Strip, formerly part of Egypt, trace their roots to their parents and grandparents who fled there in exile.

Exile was many Palestinians' only choice when the birth of Israel as a nation displaced the British territory of Palestine in 1948. Those Palestinians who were not displaced and chose to become citizens of Israel have become part of the country's society as it has grown in world stature. Palestinian life in the Occupied Territories, on the other hand, is less advanced.

Southern Baptist representatives work with three kinds of people in the region. In Israel, workers relate to groups of Jewish believers in Christ and also to the Association of Baptist Churches, which includes eight churches of Israeli Arabs and two international congregations. In Gaza and the West Bank, representatives work with Palestinian Christians -- many whose peers expectantly await a military conflict that will return their land, Palestine, and its capital city, Jerusalem, to them.

Nancie Wingo, a Southern Baptist representative who came to Gaza about six years ago after 23 years in Lebanon, watched as people flooded the streets in celebration at 3 p.m. the day the peace accords were signed. After waiting out a strike called by militant Muslims who oppose Arafat and refuse to accept Israel's sovereignty as a nation, people "paraded through the streets," she said, "waving Palestinian flags and showing Arafat's pictures" -- both acts previously not allowed by Israelis.

"I would say the majority of people here are crossing their fingers -- very hopeful," added Wingo, of Fort Worth, Texas.

A more peaceful coexistence among Palestinians and Jewish settlers in Gaza could lead to increased opportunities for ministry, Baptist representatives in Gaza agreed. Still, they cautioned people to realize many sticky issues remain to be worked out, and extremists will be trying to disrupt agreement.

In the Occupied Territories, the danger of terrorism has been omnipresent. "For years we've had to be extremely flexible with our scheduling because of strikes, curfews and such interruptions," Wingo said. "If this ended, it would make our work a lot easier."

Wingo teaches English at a Baptist lending library, the Center of Culture and Light, in Gaza City. More peace could allow the library to stay open all day instead of just a few hours, increasing its effectiveness and helping it reach more people. Other places in Gaza also need someone to teach English, but it's been too dangerous to travel as necessary.

In the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Southern Baptist workers Ray and Beverly Hicks likely will ask new Southern Baptist representatives to come help believers there. The danger of living and working in the volatile area has caused them to freeze two requests for career workers needed in the West Bank.

"If this holds ... I think it will be a new day of openness, of being able to share without being nervous or fearful of whom you're talking to or what you're talking about," said Hicks, of Cincinnati. His wife is from Georgetown, Ky.

The Hickses have worked in the West Bank since 1987 and in the Middle East since 1979. They moved to Bethlehem two years ago. The church there just finished its building -- the first Christian sanctuary built in either the West Bank or Gaza since the beginning of the Palestinian insurrection known as the Intifadah in 1987.

Southern Baptist work in the area has been struggling, a result of the distrust and hatred that has made it difficult to survive. "It's just been sort of hanging on," Hicks said.

Celebrators in the West Bank had been blowing horns and waving flags since the night before, he added. He described the scene as "a release" of emotion from people who have been unable to declare their identity for six years -- when Israelis reacted against the newly formed Intifadah.

"I have said for years that until the PLO and Israel talk, nothing will happen, and it looks like something's happening now," Hicks said. "It's unbelievable. It's a new day here."

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EDITORS' NOTE: Baptist Press has asked several Southern Baptist scholars to comment on 1) whether the Bible speaks in any way concerning the peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and 2) whether this agreement in any way reflects a view of the end times. (BP) will print various responses as they are received. The first arrived 9/14/93 from Paige Patterson.

On the peace agreement
and the end times ...

By Paige Patterson

Baptist Press
9/14/93

The signing of a peace accord between the Palestinians and the nation of Israel is one of the most hopeful and astonishing developments in our lifetimes. However, there is no specific allusion to this event in the prophecies of the Old and the New Testaments, and it is highly doubtful if there is even a recognition of it at all. Isaiah 19:18-24 points to a millennial promise of a time when there will be a highway running from Assyria to Egypt and when the prophet promises that the alliance between Israel and her neighbors will be a blessing to all in the midst of the earth. In those days God will say "Egypt my people, Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my heritage." The present peace accord then is a harbinger of ultimate millennial tranquillity.

Neither is there any necessary connection between the present peace accord and the end times. If I were to venture any conceivable connection, it would be that the territory which Israel forfeits strategically weakens Israel and hence makes more possible the predictions of Daniel 9 which forecast a day when Israel will once again be exiled from the Land of Promise but be protected by God from extinction for the last three and a half years of the tribulation. At the most, then, the present peace accord could be viewed as nothing more than a further setting of the stage for the events that will eventually unfold in the end times. However, specific, prophetic fulfillment equations must be strenuously avoided except when a prophecy is being fulfilled with crystal clarity.

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Patterson is president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and author of The New American Commentary's upcoming volume on Revelation, scheduled for release in 1995 by Broadman & Holman.

**William Neal elected editor
of Georgia's Christian Index**

ATLANTA (BP)--William T. Neal III, a former associate editor of The Christian Index, was elected by the executive committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention to join the Georgia Baptist newsjournal once again -- this time as editor.

Neal, currently director of student work for the convention and a 19-year convention employee, was elected unanimously to fill the position. A starting date for Neal has not been determined.

The post has been vacant since May when former editor R. Albert Mohler Jr. was elected president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Clarence Drummond, director of the GBC special missions department, has been interim editor since that time.

Gary Abbott, chairman of the Christian Index board of directors, told the executive committee 25 names had been considered by the board for the position, and seven of those people had been interviewed. The decision to nominate Neal for the position was unanimous on the first ballot, he said.

In comments to the executive committee following the election, Neal said, "I will do the best job I can to earn your trust and to earn the trust of all Georgia Baptists, and to make our paper the kind of paper of which you'll be proud, and hopefully the best Baptist publication in the United States"

Discussion prior to the vote included a request for Neal to describe his view of scripture. His response included a statement that said he believed scripture was "truth without any mixture of error." Later, Snellville pastor James Merritt, a member of the Index board and a leader in the conservative movement among Georgia Baptists, rose to "enthusiastically endorse" Neal, saying Neal had demonstrated to him the theological conservatism he felt the editor of the Index should espouse.

Neal, 45, was associate editor of the Index from 1987 until 1991, when he became director of the GBC department of student work. Previously he had been assistant to the director of the GBC education division (1984-1986), campus minister for Columbus (Ga.) College (1974-1984), news director for Southern Seminary (1972-1974), and youth director for First Baptist Church of Columbus (Ga.).

While earning a B.A. degree from Columbus College, he was a part-time youth director at several churches, a state and local Baptist Student Union president, a summer missionary in Massachusetts, and editor of his college newspaper.

Neal also holds M.Div. and D.Min. degrees from Southern Seminary. His doctoral project, completed in 1989, was titled "Evaluating the Effectiveness of The Christian Index In Serving Georgia Baptists."

Neal and his wife, Judith, have one teen-age daughter, Mary Elizabeth. They live in Lithonia, and are members of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain.

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**SBC leaders' moral concerns
aired on Focus on the Family**

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
9/14/93

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP)--A war is under way for the preservation of traditional family values and there is only one hope for victory -- active involvement by the organized church.

That was the message of Christian author and speaker James Dobson during a recent taping of his "Focus on the Family" radio show which featured interviews with Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. and Southern Baptist Convention President H. Edwin Young. The show, titled "Southern Baptists: Reasserting Traditional Values," is tentatively scheduled to air Nov. 3 on some 2,000 radio stations nationwide.

One reason for society's worsening moral condition, Dobson said, is a pervasive relativism that excuses sin in the name of individual rights. He cited a Barna Research Group report which showed a majority of Americans don't believe in any form of absolute truth.

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"That just blows me away. That's a foundation for everything we do," he said.

Any lasting change in society's moral condition won't come about through the efforts of para-church organizations like Focus on the Family alone, Dobson said, but will instead require the active involvement of local churches. He said he is excited that a number of denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention, are making "a move back toward traditional values and the recognition that we have to defend them."

Draper said he has seen the SBC take on a new focus in recent years, combining an emphasis on biblical truth and absolutes with a concentration on evangelism, missions and moral issues like the sanctity of life.

"It is our responsibility (as Christians) to be involved in our society," Draper said. "We are accountable."

As an example of effective church involvement in confronting moral issues, Dobson lauded the Baptist Sunday School Board's "True Love Waits" campaign. The year-long emphasis encourages teen-agers and college students to sign a covenant promising to remain sexually pure until they marry. Tens of thousands of teens from across the country already have done so.

"It excites me to see the way this (campaign) is exploding," Draper said. "The response has been absolutely mind-boggling."

He specifically mentioned the 13,000-plus teens who made the "True Love Waits" pledge at Falls Creek Assembly in Oklahoma during the summer months and thousands more who made the same commitment at the Texas Youth Evangelism Conference. But he pointed out the campaign is designed not only to "sign up kids," but to mobilize adults and families in communities to say to teens: "We will stand with you for sexual purity."

"The pressure is awful for teen-agers caught up in this sexual whirlwind we have today," Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, said. "True Love Waits" lets young people who decide to abstain from sex until marriage realize they are not alone and provide encouragement and accountability to one another, he said.

Teens can use the positive support, Dobson agreed, pointing to a study by Planned Parenthood which showed peer pressure is the No. 1 reason teens become sexually active.

Dobson said the message of "True Love Waits" give teen-agers "an excuse to say no -- a reason to say no."

"And it's not just for virgins," Young added. Youth who already have engaged in sex can receive forgiveness and still make the commitment to purity, he said.

Dobson also praised the SBC for its stand against homosexuality. Messengers to last summer's annual meeting in Houston approved a constitutional amendment declaring churches that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior" as "not in cooperation" with the convention and thus ineligible to send messengers to annual meetings.

"It's so important for the church to take a stand," Dobson said, adding there needs to be "a message of compassion, but repentance, too."

Young said his church offers support groups for homosexuals interested in turning away from their lifestyle.

"We want to show them there is a more excellent way. ... We want to share a message of grace and love and a second chance," he said.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press.

**Black urban youth 'hungry'
for stand on sexual purity**

By Ken Camp

**Baptist Press
9/14/93**

HOUSTON (BP)--Thomas Walker questioned whether urban, African American teen-agers would accept the True Love Waits campaign promoting sexual purity, but seeing close to 300 young people in just two weekends pledge to abstain from sex until marriage erased all doubts.

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"These kids are hungry. They are starving for someone to tell them the truth," said Walker, youth minister at Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston.

On July 17, Walker introduced True Love Waits to his youth group during an all-day workshop held in preparation for "Youth Explosion," a three-day evangelistic youth event at Brentwood involving several Houston-area black Baptist churches.

At the workshop, 94 young people signed a covenant card that stated, "Believing that true love waits and acknowledging the biblical principle of human sexuality, I commit from this day on to remain sexually pure. Believing that God's way is always the best, I covenant with Him to abstain from sexual intercourse until the day I enter into a marriage relationship."

The following week, Walker offered the True Love Waits challenge at Brentwood's Youth Explosion, and 194 young people from about a half-dozen churches took the pledge.

"At first, we thought that number included our young people, but as we began calling them to follow up, we realized these were all new commitments by kids from the other churches," Walker said.

As a result of the follow-up calls, a significant number of young people also have made professions of faith in Christ, he added.

True Love Waits is a national campaign launched by the Baptist Sunday School Board promoting sexual abstinence among teens.

Campaign backers hope to receive more than 20,000 signed covenant cards from Texas young people pledging sexual purity, according to Chris Liebrum, youth consultant in the BGCT's Sunday school/discipleship division. Hundreds of those teens are expected to participate in an Oct. 26 rally in Dallas in conjunction with the annual BGCT meeting.

Nationally, True Love Waits campaign organizers hope to receive 100,000 signed covenant cards in time for the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla.

More than a dozen other denominations and para-church groups have joined Southern Baptists in the campaign, and planners hope 1 million signed commitment cards will be displayed at the National Mall in Washington during a rally on July 29, 1994.

Walker admitted when he first received information about True Love Waits from the Baptist General Convention of Texas, he wondered if it really could be effective in his community.

Linking the sexual purity campaign to the Youth Explosion was "Spirit-led, not planned," he said, adding he was unsure until the last minute how he should tell the young people about the subject of sexual abstinence.

"I didn't know how I was going to present it. The Lord literally woke me up at 4 in the morning, bringing to mind the story of Gina, a girl I knew growing up in Arizona, who had three babies by the time she was 16," he said.

The teen-agers' response to the frank, honest presentation exceeded all expectations, Walker said. He now has a goal of seeing 500 youth make the True Love Waits pledge by the end of the year, and he fully expects to exceed that number.

The youth appear desperate for someone to lift up God's moral standard concerning sexual behavior, he added.

"Somebody said, 'You need to deal with reality.' The reality is that God said it. Somebody said, 'Tell the truth about safe sex.' The reality is that God already has," Walker said.

Rap music, TV, music videos and peer pressures in "the 'hood" make the pledge of sexual purity particularly difficult for black youth to honor, he said.

Walker and the youth leaders from the other churches involved in Youth Explosion have divided the young people who took the pledge into 12 "tribes" to help provide them emotional and spiritual support.

At least one adult leader is assigned to each tribe to provide the teen-agers biblically based counsel and guidance and to deal redemptively with those who fail in their commitment.

Once every three months, Walker also is planning a special recreational activity for all of the youth who took the sexual purity pledge.

"I want to stay in touch with them and support them through the process. It's like I've told some of the young men," he said: "In 10 years, I want to see you with your wife and kids and have you come up and say, 'Rev. Walker, I made it.'"

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Literacy missions addresses
findings of government study

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press
9/14/93

ATLANTA (BP)--A government study noting the demand for higher reading skills in the job market may open the door for Southern Baptist literacy missions.

Released Sept. 8 by the U.S. Department of Education, the study estimated 90 million Americans -- 47 percent of the nation's 191 million adults -- have poor literacy skills.

However, Kendale Moore, Home Mission Board associate director of church and community ministries, said many adults will not admit they are slow readers. The challenge to Southern Baptists is to be prepared to offer assistance to those seeking help, he said.

"We are called to meet the needs of the students God has prepared for us, not to meet the literacy needs of everyone in the community," he said.

The government study focused on how reading skills affect job performance. People with higher reading skills, it concluded, are more likely to be employed and earn higher wages than those at lower levels.

In north Georgia, Southern Baptists already are helping people improve their work-related reading skills.

The owner of a muffler shop wanted his mechanics to read new car manuals to be prepared to work on new models. When he learned one of his employees could not read the manuals, he called Renva Acree, regional volunteer literacy coordinator for Georgia Southern Baptists. Acree found a man trained in literacy missions to tutor the employee.

Two north Georgia industries offered GED classes to their employees to take advantage of state tax credits for companies offering education classes. But several employees could not read well enough to take the classes.

Acree and other volunteers began teaching the employees to read, using the public library as a non-threatening meeting place.

The north Georgia literacy missions program includes ministries at a residential probation detention center, a training center for the mentally retarded and tutoring for students having trouble learning to read in school.

Although Acree is a retired special education teacher, she notes literacy missions volunteers do not have to be professional educators. One of the students at the training center for the mentally retarded became an excellent reader, took the required training and is teaching her peers to read, she said.

Teaching a person to read requires a long-term commitment, Moore said. Developing a relationship with the student and demonstrating what it means to be a Christian make literacy missions an effective evangelism ministry, he added.

Six students in the north Georgia tutoring program and many students at the probation detention center have made professions of faith, Acree said.

"We use the Bible as our teaching tool," Acree said. "Missions is at the center of our work."

Another aspect of literacy missions is conversational English classes for non-English speaking residents. Last year, 15 ethnic Southern Baptist churches began as the result of conversational English classes, said Gayle Leininger, national home missionary for literacy missions.

Volunteers usually have no trouble finding students for conversational English classes, she said.

Information on starting literacy missions is available from state convention church and community ministries directors, Moore said. Free brochures about teaching conversational English and working with adult non-readers are available by calling the Home Mission Board at 1-800-634-2462.

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**Alaska Baptists up CP
despite current shortfall**

NORTH POLE, Alaska (BP)--The Alaska Baptist Convention has increased its 1994 Cooperative Program budget by 5.78 percent over the current year, despite a 7 percent drop in the churches' CP giving during the first seven months of 1993.

Encouraging the churches in their stewardship, convention executive director Bill G. Duncan used the theme "When God guides, he provides" throughout his message to the convention's 48th session, Aug. 3-4 at First Baptist Church in North Pole.

The convention's 1994 CP budget will be \$164,358, approved by 208 messengers representing more than 23,000 Baptists in 62 churches, 20 missions and 17 preaching points. The percentage of Alaska's CP designated for Southern Baptist Convention causes will remain at 33 percent.

In Alaska Baptists' new three-year partnership with Mississippi Baptists, Mississippi layman Thomas Cooper Walton presented Duncan with a new suit, announcing that before Christmas each Alaska Baptist pastor will receive a suit as a gift from the Baptist Men of Mississippi.

Re-elected president and first vice president of the Alaska convention, respectively, were Walter Davidson, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Anchorage, and Johnny McCoy, pastor of the North Pole host church. Paul Brewer, pastor of Solid Rock Baptist Church in Anchorage, was elected second vice president, a post he has held in previous years.

Recognition was given to retiring Southern Baptist home missionaries Don and Marianne Rollins, who have worked with Alaska natives 33 years; Louise Yarbrough, who has worked in literacy missions and was the state's first Woman's Missionary Union director during the 1950s; and Elmer Sizemore, director of missions for the Tustumena Baptist Association.

No resolutions were adopted by the convention.

Next year's meeting will be Aug. 8-9 at College Heights Baptist Church in Soldotna.

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**Golden Gate academic VP
announces retirement**

By Cameron Crabtree

Baptist Press
9/14/93

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Clayton K. Harrop, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., has announced his retirement effective July 31, 1994.

"No one has ever served more with a spirit dedicated to that which was in the best interest of the seminary," said Golden Gate Seminary President William O. Crews.

Harrop, 69, was elected to the faculty of Golden Gate Seminary as New Testament professor in 1955. He became acting vice president for academic affairs in 1991 and was elected to that position by trustees in 1992. Before joining the seminary faculty he was pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Newtonville, Ind., and Birmingham (Mo.) Baptist Church.

Besides citing normal retirement age, Harrop stated the need for new academic leadership in the life of the seminary: "It is essential that (President Crews) have in this position the one who can carry the seminary forward in the coming years, one who can implement the many new and varied programs that are essential for the well-being of the seminary."

A graduate of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., he received bachelor of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Harrop has completed post-doctoral studies at the University of Chicago, Cambridge University in England and the University of Gottingen in Germany.

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"I can think of no better place to devote one's life than here at Golden Gate," Harrop said. "The hundreds upon hundreds of students have been a challenge and an inspiration. It is a matter of gratitude to see so many of them in places of ministry around the world."

Golden Gate Seminary is one of six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and the only SBC agency in the western United States.

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Minn.-Wis. convention elects
evangelism/stewardship director

Baptist Press
9/14/93

ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP)--The Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention's executive board unanimously elected David Williams as director of evangelism and stewardship Sept. 11, with additional responsibility as editor of the convention's monthly paper.

Williams, 43, who will begin his new work Jan. 1, has been church services director of the Denton (Texas) Baptist Association since 1988.

He previously had worked as minister of education, mission pastor and minister of youth and single adults in Texas Baptist churches and a reporter for the former Memphis Press-Scimitar. In earning a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Tennessee, he was editor of the university's Daily Beacon.

He holds a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and has written curriculum materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board and devotional guides used by Baptist churches in 13 states.

Williams and his wife, Donna Kay, have two sons, Brian, 15, and Jonathan, 13.

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Baptist Men's relief effort
earns 'Miracle Men' reputation By Todd Deaton

Baptist Press
9/14/93

BUXTON, N.C. (BP)--"Send those 'Baptist Miracle Men' to help us," a woman's voice pleaded on the other end of the phone line.

The resident's call was one of numerous requests for assistance heard by John Cullop, pastor of Cape Hatteras Baptist Church, N.C., during the week Hatteras Island received the brunt of Hurricane Emily as the storm brushed the state's coast Aug. 31.

"North Carolina Baptist Men gained a reputation as 'Miracle Men' because they were among the first groups to bring relief to the island communities," Cullop noted. "As they helped various residents, word passed quickly around the community."

Cullop, on-site coordinator of North Carolina Baptist work crews, and volunteers who staffed the state convention's disaster relief unit stationed at a high school on the island were inundated by requests for assistance.

"North Carolina Baptist Men have been feeding the multitudes, as many as 6,900 persons a day," Cullop said. "They have been ministering to the people of Hatteras Island by cutting down trees, pulling debris to the roadsides, patching roofs, taking out soggy carpet and repairing damaged trailers and homes."

Some 85 North Carolina Baptists worked on three feeding teams and another 50 volunteers on debris-clearing teams, reported Richard Brunson, executive director of N.C. Baptist Men.

Two of the three feeding teams were from churches in the Salisbury, N.C., area. The other team was from Winton-area churches.

Working closely with the Red Cross, feeding teams served a total of 40,000 to 45,000 meals, Brunson said, noting the Red Cross provided food and transported hot meals to residents.

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"A lot of people came through the serving lines," Brunson added. In addition to residents, the disaster unit fed many of the power and telephone work crews and Department of Transportation personnel.

Teams of volunteers also helped residents search through rubble for salvageable items and hauled off the rest to the curb for disposal, Brunson said.

"It's sad to ride down the road and see refrigerators, washers and dryers, freezers, couches, beds, furniture and carpet piled six to eight feet high on both sides of the road," Cullop said.

Several North Carolina churches have supplied financial assistance, clothing, beds, mattresses, furniture and food.

The Hatteras trip was the inaugural effort for the state convention's newly purchased, 24-foot disaster relief trailer. Ordered a month ago, it may have been providential the trailer arrived the Friday before Hurricane Emily hit the coast, Brunson said. The convention's 60-foot, tractor-trailer rig was relieving the Midwest flood victims in Hardin, Ill.

Paul Wilson, a Baptist Men's leader from Salisbury, led 30 men in preparing the new trailer for use in just two days.

Baptist Men received requests to help people from individuals in the serving line at the disaster relief feeding unit. Throughout the week, Cullop surveyed the area and requests for assistance came from church members, friends and concerned neighbors.

According to Cullop, the areas surrounding Avon, Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras received a great amount of flood damage. The area saw its highest water level since 1944, with the tidal surge from Emily rising to approximately seven to nine feet, Cullop said.

Avon and Hatteras also sustained damage from high winds, with gusts estimated as high as 115 miles per hour. Several tornadoes are thought to have ripped through the Frisco and Buxton area, mowing down trees, blowing off roofs, downing power lines and demolishing a service station, tackle shop and food mart, he said.

Reports estimate that as many as 900 homes were damaged by the hurricane. Although Cape Hatteras Baptist Church reported no damage from water inside and not a single shingle blown off the roof, there are many amazing stories of families helped by N.C. Baptists.

At one home to which the volunteers delivered a bed, a daughter opened a box of school books, most of which were completely ruined by water. As she was going through the books, she discovered a Bible wedged in the middle.

"As it was removed, she found that not one page was wet," Cullop recounted. "Her mother replied, 'Someone must be telling us which book we should be reading.'"

Dale Morgan, a member of the maintenance staff at Caraway, one of the state convention's two conference centers, worked on a crew of four from First Baptist Church in Asheboro. In some of the places where his team went he said water rose 18 to 20 inches inside the homes.

"At some sites, there wasn't anything we could do, but cut up the remains and remove the debris to the road so the owners could put another trailer in its place," Morgan said.

Director of missions Keith Hamilton, who brought an 11-member team from Atlantic Baptist Association, said the damage from Hurricane Emily was very different from that of Hurricanes Hugo and Andrew, noting the massive flooding which accompanied this storm.

"With Hugo and Andrew there was a lot of damage from high winds," he said. "But this appeared almost like the Midwest flood zone."

His team helped a home with two handicapped twin girls. Their trailer was almost totally destroyed, he said.

"We just cut up their trailer. There was nothing left. The father's shop and equipment were totally wiped out. It looked like a garbage pile.

"We sifted through rubble and placed what was good in a very small pile; the rest was picked up and placed in a large pile by the road," Hamilton said.

Through serving on disaster relief units volunteers find the satisfaction of being able to match their gifts with real needs as they serve Christ, Brunson noted.

"My basic motivation for serving on a disaster relief crew is that this a tangible way I can show faith in Christ and gain an opportunity to share verbally my testimony," Hamilton said.

"Our relief efforts definitely strengthened the witness of Cape Hatteras Baptist Church in the community," he asserted. "Southern Baptists earned a reputation: If anyone is going to be in the middle of helping others, it's going to be Southern Baptists."

"Many persons in our community have recognized Southern Baptists for the first time as a caring and giving denomination," Cullop agreed.

"We are the only Southern Baptist church on Hatteras Island," he said. "Now, we have lived out the gospel on a large scale by the giving of food, water and clothing and visiting those in need -- even unto the least of these.

"We are one hour and 10 minutes from the nearest Southern Baptist church," Cullop said. "At times it seems we're out here all by ourselves.

"It's good to know we are not alone," he continued. "And it's good to see the faces of North Carolina Baptist men and women from all over the state here on Hatteras Island, working together for Christ."

Much assistance will still be needed over the next several months, Cullop said. "There will still be houses to be restored and yards to be cleared and there will be many without a place to call home."

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N.C. Baptist Men prepare
new unit for use in 2 days

By Todd Deaton

Baptist Press
9/14/93

SALISBURY, N.C. (BP)--Before the North Carolina Baptist Men feeding and debris-clearing teams could earn a reputation as "Miracle Men" on Hatteras Island, Paul Wilson and some 30 Baptist Men from Salisbury, N.C., had to perform a minor miracle.

Ordered a month earlier, the disaster relief trailer arrived Aug. 27, the Friday before Hurricane Emily struck the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Richard Brunson, executive director of N.C. Baptist Men, said it may have been providential the trailer arrived when it did since the convention's 60-foot, tractor-trailer rig was relieving flood victims in Hardin, Ill.

"When the 24-foot trailer arrived it was just an empty shell," Brunson recounted. But when Wilson, a Baptist Men's leader from Salisbury who played key roles in North Carolina Baptist relief efforts in Florida and the Midwest, learned of the trailer's arrival, he leaped at the opportunity to have the disaster relief unit ready for use in a matter of hours.

Wilson called some Baptist Men leaders on Saturday and challenged them to help prepare the unit. By 5:30 p.m., about 30 men had gathered at Trading Ford Baptist Church in Salisbury.

Taking a break only to attend services on Sunday, the volunteers worked around clock, installing plumbing, gas lines and electric wiring, and doing painting.

"By Tuesday when the trailer arrived at the Baptist Building in Cary, the disaster relief unit was filled," Brunson said. "Gas cookers, utensils, pots and pans, stand-alone sinks, plastic food containers, power generators and other necessities had been acquired," he noted.

The unit was equipped at an estimated cost of \$14,000, not including some items which were donated. Money for the new unit came from contributions to the Baptist state convention's disaster relief fund and the state missions offering.

As the Hurricane approached on Tuesday, Aug. 31, the unit -- with a team of 30 people -- waited on standby at the Baptist Building. The unit moved on Wednesday to its first position at a campground near Frisco. On Thursday, Sept. 2, the unit served its first meals, breakfast and lunch, to a total of 2,600 people, Wilson said.

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The unit then was moved to a high school in Buxton where it remained through Sept. 10, preparing between 40,000 and 45,000 meals.

"All of the stores and restaurants were closed ... and there was no place for people to find food other than what we were doing," Wilson said.

"Our presence on Hatteras Island was one of the greatest witnesses North Carolina Baptists could have," he added. "They were hungry, and we fed them. That's what the Bible says we should do. Many of them will never forget how we responded to their needs."

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(BP) photos available upon request from the Biblical Recorder, North Carolina Baptists' newsjournal.

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "From 57 in a bait shop, mission becomes full-service church," dated 8/17/93, please change the second paragraph to read:

What would be record attendance for most Southern Baptist churches is 300 less than this spring's average attendance at the 14-year-old church.

Thanks,
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