

(BP)

-- BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-8919
CompuServe ID# 70420,17

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232
NASHVILLE 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

September 16, 1993

93-155

NASHVILLE -- Christian Life Commission OK's purchase of building in D.C.
ATLANTA -- HMB construction contract awarded for \$13.5 million.
ATLANTA -- Church loans available for 6.95 percent interest.
DALLAS -- Texas ethicist applauds station for pulling plug on 'NYPD Blue.'
ATLANTA -- Initial reports positive for 'See You At The Pole.'
NASHVILLE -- End times/peace agreement quote ...
ATLANTA -- Baptist leader makes bid to become Atlanta's mayor.
SOUTH CAROLINA -- S.C. Baptists sell property, to construct new building.
ILLINOIS -- Illinois Baptists elect Gene Wilson to top post.
NEW ORLEANS -- New Orleans trustees promote 3 professors.
NEW ORLEANS -- Retired Navy captain to head NOBTS giving.
TEXAS -- RTVC names Deborah Key as first woman v.p.
NASHVILLE -- Herschel Hobbs tells his story from Ala. boyhood to SBC giant.

Christian Life Commission OK's
purchase of building in D.C.

Baptist Press
9/16/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission trustees in their semiannual meeting Sept. 13-15 in Nashville approved a record budget of \$1,665,131 and authorized the purchase of a new building in the nation's capital to house the agency's Washington staff.

The increase in the budget is fueled by a sizable increase in the sale of CLC products and also in designated gifts. The growth in product sales and designated gifts more than makes up for declining Cooperative Program revenues affecting all SBC agencies.

"All of these figures indicate tremendous growth in Southern Baptists' confidence in the CLC and its products at all levels of Southern Baptist life," said Richard D. Land, CLC executive director. "Already (at the end of 11 months in a 12-month fiscal year) 1992-93 is the greatest year of the CLC in terms of sale of products."

Money for the new facility will come partially from the \$300,000 given to the CLC in June from a building fund that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs never used for its original purpose.

The new building, a residential townhouse converted into an office building, will cost \$495,000 and will need about \$150,000 in renovations. CLC trustees estimated the \$300,000 will cover the renovation costs and the \$148,500 down payment. The remaining \$346,500 purchase price for the building will be paid through an owner-financed note for 10 years at 8 percent interest. Payments on the note are about the same as the CLC is currently paying for rent on its Washington offices.

The contract also must be approved by the SBC Executive Committee, which meets Sept. 21-22 in Nashville.

--more--

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
SBC
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

The projected increase in product sales is based on incomplete figures that point to a dramatic 30-percent increase in anticipated sales for the 1992-93 budget year. The CLC product sales budget in 1992-93 was projected to be \$150,000 but is nearing \$200,000 with more than two weeks left in the budget year. The 1993-94 budget projects sales of \$210,000, which will be only slightly higher than anticipated revenues in the current year.

Louis Moore, the CLC's director of media and products, told trustees the historic high in sales was achieved only four years after the historic low point, when CLC sales plummeted to about \$68,000 in 1988 during the transition of the agency from moderate to conservative control.

"The situation four years ago was like a plane that suddenly lost altitude and was plunging downward rapidly," Moore said. "We not only have pulled the plane out of the nosedive, but we've got it back into a higher altitude than it was in before we hit the turbulence. We can thank God for that miracle. And we look forward to what he has in store for us in the years ahead."

Moore told trustees it is not overly optimistic for them to begin thinking about what it would be like, if given proper resources, for the CLC in five to seven years to have a sales budget topping \$1 million.

Major workhorses in the CLC's product line are its seven full-color bulletin inserts focusing on the seven emphasis Sundays assigned by the convention to the CLC: Sanctity of Human Life, Race Relations, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Christian Citizenship, Religious Liberty, Day of Prayer for World Peace and World Hunger. In 1988-89 sales of those bulletin inserts totalled less than 150,000 but in 1992-93 are approaching 1.5 million.

Moore also reported the CLC's two publications, "Light" and "Salt," published on alternating months, have grown in four years from less than 65,000 circulation to almost 90,000.

"Our sales figures and circulation figures should be interpreted as an affirmative vote by rank-and-file Southern Baptists," Moore said. In his annual report to trustees, Land compared his first year at the CLC to the present one. In October he will have been executive director of the CLC five years.

"When I came to the commission it was ... in a perilous financial state," Land said. "The commission was nearly \$90,000 in debt, with \$50,000 due in the form of a bank note within six weeks of my arrival, and we were behind on many bills. As you will see from the financial report, the CLC is now on a sound financial footing which is getting stronger by the month.

"The commission's profile in Baptist life has grown tremendously during the last half decade," he said.

"All of this has been accomplished in the midst of revolutionary transitions," he said. "In the area of personnel, we have located, moved and trained 11 new personnel in addition to the executive director and have only three support staff remaining from previous administrations."

The new budget calls for increasing the CLC's support staff by hiring a new receptionist and reassigning duties to two current support staff.

Trustees also approved C. Ben Mitchell's request to work half-time until he completes his Ph.D. dissertation in medical ethics at the University of Tennessee. Mitchell is the CLC's director of biomedical and life issues.

Trustees approved several recommendations responding to motions presented at the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston in June.

One asked that all SBC agencies limit the size of severance packages given departing employees. The trustees responded, "The CLC affirms that trustees of SBC entities should always be mindful of their stewardship responsibilities to Southern Baptists as they seek to discharge their financial oversight of the various SBC entities. The CLC believes, however, the best place for concerns such as those expressed by the referred motions to be addressed is within the trustee bodies of the various entities as these trustees perform their Convention-mandated oversight functions. The trustees of each entity are most aware of the factors involved in each individual severance case and will be best able to act in accordance with the best principles of Christian stewardship."

The second response pertained to a motion urging support for the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The trustees responded, "The CLC considers the UDHR to be a document helpful in obtaining and securing life and religious liberty for millions of human beings throughout the world." The response also says the CLC "intends to use its access to the United Nations to encourage the Secretary-General, United States Ambassador to the United Nations and other officials to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the (document)."

A third motion encouraged Land to contact Paul Powell, president of the SBC Annuity Board, to begin a mutual study to respond to the proposal about screening investments of SBC funds for social/ethical issues.

In other action, trustees approved renaming the CLC's religious liberty award "The John Leland Religious Liberty Award" in honor of a major figure in the struggle for religious liberty in the Revolutionary period on the United States.

Trustees also voted to present the CLC's 1994 Distinguished Service Award to Richard Neill, a Fort Worth dentist who launched a campaign to drive TV talk-show host Phil Donahue off easily accessible daytime hours because of Donahue's "disgusting and saddening sexually explicit shows."

--30--

HMB construction contract
awarded for \$13.5 million

By Martin King

Baptist Press
9/16/93

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board's executive committee voted unanimously Sept. 14 to award a \$13,572,000 construction contract to Metric Contractors, Inc., of Marietta, Ga., for construction of the board's new national office building.

HMB President Larry Lewis told the committee he was delighted with bids for the project which were slightly lower than expected. "They were certainly an answer to prayer," Lewis said.

Six firms submitted construction bids for the project ranging from Metric's low bid to a high bid of \$14.7 million.

The project will be funded primarily from the sale of the board's present location near Atlanta's downtown which has already been sold. The new property is located in Alpharetta, Ga., a fast-growing suburb 22 miles north of the present site.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the project will be Oct. 11 as part of the mission agency's regular fall board of directors meeting. Construction is expected to be completed by the spring of 1995 with dedication ceremonies in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta in June 1995.

The executive committee also elected William Barner, a native of Georgia, as director of loan production for the board's church loans division. Barner presently is an HMB loan officer. The production department arranges new loans for qualifying Southern Baptist churches.

Bob Inlow, director of the church loans division, said Barner's promotion will strengthen the division's ability to serve churches. "Bill has pastored churches in areas where Southern Baptist work is strong as well as pioneer areas. That experience coupled with his six years as a loan officer, makes him perfect for this position," Inlow said. Barner has pastored churches in Georgia and Indiana and was a director of missions in Ohio.

The executive committee also appointed 40 new home missionaries and received a report from the chaplains commission that 20 new Southern Baptist chaplains were endorsed. That brings to 2,338 the number of chaplains endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention.

--30--

**Church loans available
for 6.95 percent interest**

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP)--Loans with a three-year fixed interest rate of 6.95 percent -- the lowest rate in 15 years -- are available to Southern Baptist churches, the Home Mission Board's church loan division announced in September.

The interest rate is available for new loans or refinanced loans for Southern Baptist churches to buy property or construct buildings for church use, said Bob Inlow, director of the church loans division. The interest rate will be adjusted after three years to reflect interest rates at that time.

"This is a good time to refinance and an excellent way to build equity," said Bill Barner, director of the loan production department.

Generally, churches which could recapture the closing costs within 18 months through lower payments would benefit from refinancing, Barner said.

Information about loans from the Home Mission Board's church loans division is available by calling (404) 898-7200.

--30--

**Texas ethicist applauds station
for pulling plug on 'NYPD Blue'**

By Ken Camp

**Baptist Press
9/16/93**

DALLAS (BP)--WFAA-TV, the Dallas ABC network affiliate, took a courageous stand by pulling the plug on the off-color "NYPD Blue," and other stations should follow suit, according to Phil Strickland, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

In a letter to the station's management, Strickland commended Dallas' Channel 8 for "maintaining high standards in television broadcasting."

Cathy Creany, vice president and general manager of WFAA-TV, announced Sept. 10 her station's decision not to broadcast the controversial police drama citing the program's heavy concentration of profanity, sex and violence.

When it declared the program "not consistent with our company's television programming standards," Dallas' Channel 8 became the first ABC affiliate in a top-20 market to reject "NYPD Blue." Dallas-Fort Worth is the nation's eighth-largest TV market.

The A.H. Belo Corporation, parent company of WFAA-TV, also is pre-empting "NYPD Blue" on its ABC affiliate in Norfolk, Va.

Created by the Emmy Award-winning producer of "Hill Street Blues" and "L.A. Law," Stephen Bochco, the premiere episode of "NYPD Blue" -- scheduled to air Sept. 21 -- reportedly contains a steamy sex scene with partial nudity, graphic depiction of a police officer repeatedly being shot point-blank and the use of profanities previously unheard on network TV.

The Texas Christian Life Commission is urging other ABC affiliates to "follow the good example of Channel 8," Strickland said, and the commission is encouraging Texas Baptists to express to their local stations their concerns about programming.

"The issue is not limited to ABC or to a single program. The issue is the continuing attempt by networks to generate larger audiences by competing with each other in seeing who can produce the most explicit sex and violence," Strickland said. "This is destructive not only to the values of the church, but to the values of our whole culture."

The frequently cited argument that TV programming does not have any effect upon behavior is "nonsense," Strickland said.

"You cannot saturate young people with the notion that irresponsible sex and unrestrained violence are OK and then expect them not to get the message," he said.

"They do get the message, and we are drowning in the outcome as expressed in the proliferation of gangs, sexual abuse and violent crime."

--30--

**Initial reports positive
for 'See You At the Pole'**

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP)--Through "See You at the Pole," school administrators are recognizing Christian students can exercise their faith, said one of the event's coordinators.

"It went smoother in more places this year," Dean Finley, youth evangelism consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said after this year's prayer rallies Sept. 15.

During See You At the Pole, youth are encouraged to gather at their school's flagpole before school to pray for themselves and their peers. Nationwide reports on how many students participated in the multi-denominational event will be available in October.

The practice is gaining acceptance, Finley said. In previous years, youth in some places did not get permission to meet.

In Louisiana, two local school administrators initially would not allow students to participate in See You at the Pole, said Wayne Jenkins, state evangelism associate. The problems were resolved before Sept. 15, however, and the students were allowed to participate, he said.

Chuck Flowers, youth evangelism associate in Texas, said initial reports from Texas schools show more participation than last year when more than 100,000 students joined the prayer effort. The Texas students reported no problems and several professions of faith.

Early reports indicate 2,000 students at 28 Louisiana schools participated in See You at the Pole, Jenkins said. In Milton, W.V., 66 youth gathered at the town's high school.

Some students in Jefferson City, Mo., protested during the prayer time, said Richard Leach, evangelism associate for Missouri Baptists. Though the protestors carried signs with sayings such as "Christians go away," See You At the Pole participants continued their plans and had a good meeting, Leach said.

Jenkins said he hopes the student gatherings will create positive peer pressure for Christian students and help them see they are not alone as Christians on their campus.

--30--

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.

COMMENTARY

**On the peace agreement
and the end times ...**

By W.A. Criswell

**Baptist Press
9/16/93**

In my humble opinion, anyone and all of us can be assured that the present approach to agreement and peace signed in Washington between the Israeli government and the Palestinians has no meaning whatsoever in the light of God's holy revelation in Holy Scripture. God's book plainly says there will be no peace to Israel until it is brought to them through Jesus Christ our Lord, and this, in turn, is dependent upon their accepting him as their Lord and Savior. According to Holy Writ, Israel will live in trouble and in confrontation until the end time.

All history confirms this. Israel has never been at rest in these last 2,000 years. Israel will not be at rest in the years that lie before us however more or multiplied this may be.

My heart goes out to God's chosen people, but for them to have peace and rest, they must first accept their Lord and Savior and their first begotten Son, Jesus, our Lord.

--more--

May God grant that this may be soon and to that end we pray that the kingdom of Christ may come and that his will may be done in Israel as it is in heaven.

--30--

Criswell has been senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas since 1944.

**Baptist leader makes bid
to become Atlanta's mayor**

By James Dotson

**Baptist Press
9/16/93**

ATLANTA (BP)--Nancy Schaefer, vice chairman of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and founder of the Atlanta-based Family Concerns Inc., announced her candidacy Sept. 16 for mayor of the city of Atlanta. Schaefer is also the immediate past first vice president of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Schaefer, a member of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, is one of seven candidates vying for the position, considered especially significant because of the spotlight being placed on Atlanta as it prepares to host the Olympics in 1996. The incumbent, Maynard Jackson, is not running in the Nov. 2 election.

During a news conference on the steps of Atlanta's city hall, Schaefer was endorsed in her bid by Georgia state Rep. J.E. "Billy" McKinney, who said he had decided against his own bid for the post.

McKinney, father of U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Decatur), said he met Schaefer during the battle over a move to extend employee benefits to unmarried "domestic partners" of Atlanta city employees.

"I have not known her long, but from my association with her, I find that she is willing and ready to tackle any issue facing Atlanta," he said. "She promises that she will protect taxpayers' money as if it was her own."

In announcing her candidacy, Schaefer said many factors influenced her decision to run, "but ultimately I feel I am here to reflect the community standards and family values that all Atlantans are yearning for," she said.

Areas of particular concern include the effect of crime and drugs on the inner city, problems in the Atlanta Board of Education related to violence in schools and explicit sex education, corruption in city government and the trend signified by the passage of the domestic partners legislation.

"I want to break the cycle," she said. "Atlanta smells. I want to bring back again a new fragrance, an aroma of character, responsibility, honesty and pride."

Schaefer said she would release further details of her platform and answer other questions during the coming week.

Schaefer has been president of Family Concerns Inc. since 1986. The organization identifies issues of concern in the community and seeks to educate and inform Christians through such vehicles as a regular newsletter and church bulletin inserts. Moral issues addressed by the organization have included the homosexual rights movement, abortion and the provision of Christ-centered alternatives and sex education.

Schaefer and her husband, Bruce, have five children. At First Baptist Church of Atlanta, she is a Sunday school teacher. She has been a member of the Christian Life Commission since 1989.

--30--

**S.C. Baptists sell property,
to construct new building**

By Mark R. Jeffcoat

**Baptist Press
9/16/93**

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--The South Carolina Baptist Convention's general board has sold almost a block of prime downtown Columbia real estate and announced construction of a new office-resource center along Interstate 126.

--more--

B. Carlisle Driggers, executive secretary-treasurer of the convention, announced the downtown property, adjacent to the Governor's Mansion, was sold to the federal government for \$3.3 million dollars. Final documents were signed Sept. 15. It includes a 37,500-square-foot office building, a 6,700-square-foot retail building, two parking lots and two undeveloped lots.

The property covers nine-tenths of a block adjacent to the Strom Thurmond Federal Building. The convention will rent back the space for up to 14 months until its new facility is completed.

Driggers said efforts to sell the property have moved slowly since 1991; negotiations with the General Services Administration, the federal agency making the purchase, took more than a year. Construction on the convention's new building was delayed because proceeds from the sale represent a major portion of construction funding.

The convention's office, with about 100 people, has been at the location since 1961.

Also affected by the sale is the Baptist Book Store, a subsidiary of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. The national bookstore chain leased the retail space from the state Baptist convention. It will relocate to a separate new space in 1994.

The new office building will be located on a 4.7-acre site the convention bought in 1991. The three-story brick building will have about 63,000 square feet of office and meeting space. In addition, a 17,000-square-foot basement, mostly unfinished, will offer storage and future expansion space. A recent space study indicated the convention's immediate space need for 57,000 square feet.

In addition to office space, the building will include a resource library, television studio, and print shop.

Driggers said clearing of the property and site work will begin Sept. 20; a groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled Oct. 5. General contractor F.N. Thompson of Charlotte has projected 11 months for construction of the new building.

--30--

EDITORS' NOTE: The following story can replace (BP) story with the same headline dated 9/15/93.

Illinois Baptists elect
Gene Wilson to top post

By Bill Webb

Baptist Press
9/16/93

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--Gene Wilson, 49, of Riverside, Calif., was elected Sept. 14 to succeed Maurice Swinford as executive director of Illinois Baptist State Association.

The IBSA board of directors voted 59-2 in their regular semiannual session in Springfield, Ill., to call the director of missions for Calvary-Arrowhead Baptist Association as IBSA's eighth executive director.

Wilson, who entered the Smith-Dillon Conference Room at the Baptist Building to standing applause with his wife, Virginia, after the vote, told directors and IBSA staff members: "I want to pledge myself to you Southern Baptists in Illinois, to walk in obedience to the Lord, fulfill the Great Commission and be your servant and friend. Together our lives will make a difference."

"We believe we are recommending to you a missions strategist and a church growth specialist," search committee chairman Wendell Garrison told directors before the vote.

"Dr. Wilson has been frequently used by the Home Mission Board in church growth conferences and in metropolitan ministry conferences such as one on 'New Paradigms in Church Planting' for Chicago Metro (Baptist) Association (in January).

"Of the 17 or 18 people we talked to about Gene Wilson, one said: 'Gene is very committed to new work, starting new churches,'" Garrison said. "He is not closed to traditional churches but works well with aggressive, innovative churches."

--more--

The search committee chairman said Wilson is regarded as a capable administrator with good people skills, proactive in his leadership, change-oriented, a healer, excellent communicator and preacher and strong family man.

Though the newly-elected executive director has never lived in Illinois, he should be well-suited for the state, Garrison added.

"We believe that Dr. Wilson's 19 years' pastoral experience in churches in Louisiana and Texas and then his four years' experience as director of missions on the eastern growth rim of the Los Angeles basin suggests that he is a man in touch with both small-town and city churches," Garrison said.

"We believe Dr. Wilson can help rural and small-town southern Illinois churches grow and relate to churches in East St. Louis or Rockford or Chicago and help us build partnerships appropriate to the biblical truth that we are all one in Christ.

"One of our committee profile guidelines was 'conservative but inclusive,'" Garrison said. "Dr. Wilson will tell you he is a conservative theologically, but that he has avoided 'taking sides.' We see him as one who is inclusive and will try to work with all of us Illinois Baptists."

Garrison described Wilson's wife, Virginia, as both supportive of her husband and an active leader in her own right. "She has created a strong prayer ministry in the churches of Calvary-Arrowhead Association and in the surrounding area" and often speaks to churches on ways to help them develop viable prayer ministries.

Under a transition schedule worked out by the search committee, Wilson will begin his employment with IBSA Oct. 15 as executive director-elect. Swinford will remain as executive director through Oct. 31. On Nov. 1, Wilson will assume the position of executive director.

The board approved the recommendation of the search committee that Wilson's starting salary be set at \$66,000, including housing, that his moving expenses be paid and that he be provided with \$2,000 for travel and incidental expenses.

In his current role, Wilson works with 93 churches and 42 missions along the east rim of the Los Angeles growth basin. The Calvary-Arrowhead association employs a staff of five.

Wilson has been an adjunct professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Brea, Calif., and instructor at California Baptist College in Riverside, teaching courses on church growth at both.

He is a frequent speaker in the areas of metropolitan ministry and church growth.

From 1970-89, Wilson was pastor of five churches, one in Ida, La., while he worked toward a bachelor's degree from East Texas Baptist University and the other four in the Texas communities of Crowley, Porter, Pasadena and Aubrey.

A native of Arlington, Texas, Wilson grew up in Houston.

The nominee earned a master of divinity degree in 1978 and a doctor of ministry degree in 1990, both from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Wilson was recommended unanimously by the search committee, which included Garrison, Fay Bowren, James Endsley, Ray Fuller, Hill Hammock, David Hensiek and J.R. Janese, as well as ex-officio members Rodney Osborn and Charles Dampier.

--30--

New Orleans trustees
promote 3 professors

By Debbie Moore

Baptist Press
9/16/93

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees approved three faculty promotions and one faculty accession during their semiannual September meeting in New Orleans.

The 40-member board's actions also included appointing a retiring faculty member as a professor emeritus. All actions were based on recommendations from the seminary's president, Landrum P. Leavell II, and provost, Billy K. Smith.

--more--

Promoted were Landrum P. Leavell II to professor of evangelism, Don H. Stewart to professor of ministry development and Mark R. Foley to assistant professor of psychology and counseling.

The election of a new faculty member, R. Alton James, filled a vacancy created by the May retirement of A. Jack Glaze, professor of missions. James's hiring is effective Sept. 30.

Trustees granted the professor emeritus title to Paul W. Gericke, professor of communications.

Since becoming New Orleans Seminary's seventh president in January 1975, Leavell has taught a master's-level class in evangelism at least one term every year. Due to an administrative oversight many years ago, Leavell was never given trustee-approved faculty status at the seminary.

As a pastor who has set records in Sunday school enrollment, baptisms and other measures of growth in every church he has served, Leavell enjoys teaching students from his experience. He has served as pastor of five churches, including First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, 1963-74. From New Orleans Seminary, he holds the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees. A native of Newnan, Ga., Leavell turns 67 this fall.

Stewart has been director of the seminary's doctor of ministry degree program since January 1991. He came to NOBTS as an executive vice president in 1978 after 15 years at William Carey College, first as associate professor of religion and dean of men, then as professor of Bible and head of the religion department. A native of Hattiesburg, Miss., Stewart, 57, has more than 30 years of pastoral experience. He received a bachelor of arts degree from William Carey College in 1957; he earned both bachelor of divinity in 1960 and doctor of theology in 1965, both from New Orleans Seminary.

Foley has been vice president for student development at the seminary since January 1993. A member of the seminary staff since 1987, he was named director of the office of financial aid and student development in 1988; in 1991 he was named director of the student relations office. In June 1993 he was given additional responsibilities in the area of institutional research and effectiveness. A native of Wichita Falls, Texas, Foley, 43, earned the master of divinity in 1989 and doctor of philosophy in psychology and counseling in 1992, both from New Orleans Seminary. He has been active in marriage and family therapy in the New Orleans area since 1989.

R. Alton James has been named assistant professor of missions in the division of theological and historical studies. A native of Jesup, Ga., James, 35, earned the master of divinity in 1984 and doctor of theology in 1989, both from New Orleans Seminary. After serving as pastor of six churches in Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana, James was appointed in 1989 as a missionary with the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board. He has worked through the FMB in India, Singapore and most recently in the Philippines as a professor at the Philippin Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio City. James and his wife, Cathy, have three daughters, Emily, Angela and Elizabeth.

Gericke, 69, joined the NOBTS staff in 1965 as director of library services and was director of the seminary's John T. Christian Library from 1973-91. He also was a faculty member, serving as professor of communications. Originally trained as an electrical engineer, Gericke earned a bachelor of science degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1949. He went on to earn a bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1960 and a doctor of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1964.

**Retired Navy captain
to head NOBTS giving**

By Debbie Moore

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Jim Lee, a retired U.S. Navy captain, has been named director of development at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lee comes to the seminary after working since 1991 as a church administrator in Pensacola, Fla. Previously he served more than 25 years as a naval aviator, most recently as chief of defense plans for the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Md.

He also was a naval base commanding officer in Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico, and a commander in Naples, Italy. His other tours included various sea duty commands, as well as a combat tour in Vietnam and the Philippines.

Lee has extensive experience in fund-raising activities, including the Combined Federal Campaign and the Navy Relief Fund, as well as community fund drives. He has planned multi-million dollar construction projects on naval facilities and administered annual operating budgets in excess of \$5 million. His operational responsibilities in the Navy included providing community support services for up to 500 employees and their families. He has been active in churches and chapel programs around the world.

"I look forward to serving the seminary in this capacity," Lee said. "I've been blessed on the receiving end as I've observed New Orleans Seminary students in action ministering to the needs of this community. I have realized firsthand exactly how important this seminary is."

A native of Arkansas, Lee, 51, earned a bachelor of arts degree at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Lee and his wife, Carolyn, have two grown daughters, Melanie Stoff and Michele Farris. He is the son of Thurlo Lee, a pastor in Arkansas for more than 50 years.

--30--

**RTVC names Deborah Key
as first woman v.p.**

**Baptist Press
9/16/93**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The first woman vice president in the 52-year history of the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission has been named.

Deborah Little Key was named vice president of network operations at the commission's trustee meeting Sept. 13-14. She has been general manager for ACTS, the RTVC's faith and family cable television service, and for FamilyNet, its broadcast television program service.

"The decision to name Deborah a vice president was not based on gender," said Jack Johnson, president of the commission. "She has the experience, qualifications and Christian commitment necessary to keep our programming viable and in line with our stated purpose."

RTVC Executive Vice President Richard T. McCartney said, "Deborah is a proven, experienced leader. We are fortunate to have someone of her ability and to be able to promote from within the commission."

Key is a 1980 graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, with a degree in theater and a 1983 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, with a degree in communications.

Her first work experience with the commission was in 1983 as a drama coach for the children who appeared in "Sunshine Factory," an RTVC-produced children's program. Later a part-time secretarial situation at the commission developed into a position as regional coordinator for the fledgling ACTS cable television service in 1984. She helped in developing local boards through which churches could work to get ACTS on cable systems and use the channel for local programming.

--more--

Key became southwest regional manager for ACTS in 1984 while continuing to teach in the seminary's center for Christian communications studies. She became promotion manager for ACTS in January 1986 and helped develop an awards program and national prayer awakening ministry. She was promoted to central division director for ACTS in 1988 and national marketing director in 1990.

"The future of ACTS and FamilyNet lies in developing new, creative programming," Key said. "We now have a very loyal audience, but it is important that we expand that audience by providing even more programming that helps strengthen faith and family values. It is important that we provide a wholesome alternative to many of the programs that are currently being televised."

Key, a Dallas native, attended Baylor on a piano scholarship and in her senior year received the outstanding senior woman award and outstanding senior woman in theater award.

After graduation from college Key was one of 15 apprentices chosen by Actors Theater of Louisville, Ky., from a field of 1,200 applicants.

"I worked in the theater for a year and loved it," she said, "but I wasn't the type to go to New York and say, 'Here I am world.' The experience was a great transition opportunity in a controlled environment, but that year helped me realize I could live without it. To be successful in theater, you have to be consumed by it. I found there were other things I could do and be happy."

Key said she thought all along the Lord was leading her into a ministry but did not think it was necessarily local church work. She said she enrolled in seminary to help find the proper direction.

Key's husband, Milton, is development officer for Dallas Baptist University.

--30--

COMMENTARY

Herschel Hobbs tells his story
from Ala. boyhood to SBC giant

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
9/16/93

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Even denominational giants start out as little boys.

One of Southern Baptists' most revered sons, Herschel H. Hobbs, 85, recounts his history-making journey through the denomination in a new autobiography to be published Oct. 1 by Broadman & Holman Publishers.

As a child in Dry Valley, Ala., Hobbs didn't much resemble a giant in the making. He and a friend set the town cemetery on fire one afternoon while smoking rabbit-tobacco. He also got a memorable switching from his mother for enjoying -- without permission -- a prize watermelon from a neighbor's patch.

"Herschel H. Hobbs: My Faith and Message, an autobiography" contains stories from his childhood, local churches, seminary experiences and just encounters with friends. It also weaves an unmistakable pattern of growth and commitment to the denomination and the local church.

Modern-day Southern Baptists know Hobbs as pastor-emeritus of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and a member of the denominational Peace Committee.

Hobbs' record of denominational service is deep. As a self-described pastor who just couldn't say no, Hobbs touched and affected a broad variety of institutions, churches and lives.

To choose one of Hobbs' contributions as his greatest would be dangerous at best. It may be he is best known for his role as chairman of the committee to draft a statement of Baptist beliefs, a statement now known as the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. The work of that committee has become a part of the history of the denomination.

During his years of service, he was a member of the boards of trustees of the Foreign Mission Board, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

--more--

He also was president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a member of the SBC Executive Committee. The Alabama native was even elected to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

For a young man baptized in Montevallo (Ala.) Creek at the age of 11, he has travelled a long way.

While president of the Southern Baptist Convention, he visited in the White House with John F. Kennedy. He travelled around the world representing his God and Southern Baptists to share the gospel.

In his eyes, however, the most personal pride in accomplishment is in the pastorate.

"If I had 10,000 lives to live, I would want to be a pastor in every one of them," Hobbs says in his autobiography.

Hobbs says he and the late George W. Truett (longtime pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas) have one thing in common, and that is the love of the pastorate.

"We both felt that we would do our best work for God from the pastorate," he recounts. "... my desire and commitment to the pastorate has held me there. And I am convinced that my life thus far has shown that this conviction is of God. This is not to despise other areas of service. God calls people to fill them. But he called me to be a pastor."

One of the chapters of his book discusses the importance and difficulties of the pastorate. And as in other chapters, Hobbs illustrates his points with stories, frequently humorous, about encounters during his years in churches in Alabama, Indiana and Oklahoma. He reports he baptized people in creeks, ponds and even a horse-watering tank.

Hobbs and his beloved wife, Frances, were able to make ends meet during the lean college and seminary years by the fees received from performing marriages.

He went to perform a funeral in a private home one time and had to help embalm the deceased before the ceremony could be conducted.

The pastorate has changed over the 60-plus years Hobbs has been proclaiming the Word, but his devotion to the call has never wavered.

The two areas of Hobbs' ministry which brought him the most widespread ministry opportunities likely were his 20 years as the "Baptist Hour" preacher for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and his 25 years as author of "Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons."

Millions of people around the world knew Hobbs as the "Baptist Hour" preacher. He began that ministry with a three-month agreement. Another three months grew into 20 years.

Hobbs started writing lesson helps for church leaders at First Baptist in Oklahoma City. His writings became so popular that the Sunday School Board invited him to write for denomination-wide publication. After 25 years, he is still writing those lesson helps. Approximately 90,000 copies of Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons sell every quarter.

As the "only son of an only son" whose first pastorate was in Vinesville Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., Hobbs has given of himself to his denomination. Educated at Howard College (now Samford University) in the middle of the Depression and then at Southern Seminary, he has never stopped serving.

From meetings with presidents to baptisms in Alabama creeks, his devotion and duty to his chosen vocation and calling is never in doubt.

He learned at the feet of other Baptist giants -- John R. Sampey, A.T. Robinson and W.O. Carver. He has had lifelong friendships with W.A. Criswell, J.D. Grey and James L. Sullivan.

His love of people, churches and Baptists is clearly evident in his autobiography, which offers insights into how and why Hobbs chose his life's path.

--30--

Jim Lowry is a freelance writer from Franklin, Tenn.

HOUSE MAIL



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

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

HOUSE MAIL