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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 13, 1993

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Golden Gate trustees elect v.p.;  
to explore Phoenix, Denver centers

Baptist Press  
10/13/93

By Mark A. Wyatt

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary elected a new academic vice president and voted to investigate opening new centers in Arizona and Colorado at their regular meeting Oct. 11-12.

Roderick K. "Rick" Durst was elected unanimously to become vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at the Mill Valley, Calif., seminary effective Aug. 1, 1994. A native of California, Durst is a graduate of California Baptist College and has earned two degrees from Golden Gate Seminary.

Durst, 39, who will succeed Clayton Harrop who recently announced plans to retire next July, has been director of Golden Gate's Southern California campus in Brea since 1991.

Bill Crews, president of Golden Gate Seminary, told trustees: "Rick Durst has done an outstanding job of relating the Southern California campus to the needs of the local church." Crews cited Durst's "effectiveness as an administrator" and "grasp of what is being taught in the classroom."

Durst, a former pastor, also was endorsed by C.B. Hogue, executive director of California Southern Baptist Convention.

"He has the high academic skills we want to see accelerated among our students," Hogue told seminary trustees. "But he also is able to mesh the academic and the pastoral" roles, Hogue said.

Durst also was elected to the Golden Gate faculty as associate professor of Christian theology and church history.

Trustees authorized the seminary administration to "investigate the possibility of establishing new centers" in Phoenix, Ariz., and Denver. However, Crews pointed out such centers "would have to be funded in some way other than (Southern Baptists') Cooperative Program" because of a limit on enrollment that may be counted in the seminary funding formula.

Crews told trustees the seminary must begin placing "greater dependence on support from endowments" and other institutional support.

"My opinion is that the day of significant growth of the Cooperative Program is a thing of the past," Crews said.

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Golden Gate Seminary is "already in touch with people" in both locations being considered for new centers, Crews told trustees. He said the Denver program likely would be a joint venture between Golden Gate and Denver Theological Seminary. A center in Phoenix "would be in conjunction with Grand Canyon University," he said.

A report on the study is expected at the trustees' next meeting in April 1994.

Trustees authorized borrowing \$212,650 from California Baptist Foundation to meet operating expenses through December. A report presented to trustees blamed "a continuing drop in Cooperative Program" funds, lower than expected income from the annual fund drive and budget over-expenditures for a \$111,000 budget deficit during 1992-93.

The loan is scheduled to be repaid through the sale of residential lots in the Seminary Ridge Development on the seminary campus overlooking San Francisco Bay. Sixteen lots and a condominium site remain to be sold as part of the project which also will help create a housing fund to help seminary employees buy homes in the expensive Bay area.

Six lots sold by the seminary at an average price of \$402,000 represented 11 percent of the residential lot sales in all of pricey Marin County during the past year, according to a real estate broker representing the seminary.

A five-year strategic plan for the seminary received unanimous trustee support and prompted a challenge to trustees from Roetta Hudson of Artesia, N.M.

Hudson, who chairs the trustee finance and property committee, reported each of the committee members "not only endorses these objectives, but personally is committed to financially supporting them." She said during their meeting finance committee members pledged nearly \$5,000 in personal financial support for the seminary, and encouraged other trustees to make similar commitments.

"We really feel a need to be responsible for these objectives," Hudson explained. "We want to be investors, not just overseers."

In other business seminary trustees:

-- approved one-year sabbaticals for professors Leroy Gainey, 1994-95, and Stan Nelson, 1993-94.

-- approved receiving a report from a Chicago firm, Jerold Panas, Linzy & Partners, Inc., which will conduct a feasibility study for a planned capital campaign. Based on the findings of that report, trustees authorized Crews to "retain fund-raising counsel" to raise money for the seminary.

-- heard a preliminary enrollment report showing nearly half the students at Golden Gate's three centers are non-Anglo. Mike Thompson, vice president for student affairs, noted Anglo students comprised only 8 percent of the entering class at the seminary's Southern California campus. That compares to 95 percent new Anglo enrollment this year at the Northwest campus in Portland, Ore.

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5-year Golden Gate plan  
gets trustee approval

By Mark A. Wyatt

Baptist Press  
10/13/93

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--A five-year strategic plan developed for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary received unanimous support from seminary trustees at their regular meeting in Mill Valley, Calif., Oct. 11-12.

The plan establishes major strategic goals and objectives to guide seminary faculty and administrators through 1998. The plan is the product of a process started in August 1992 to help Golden Gate "become the seminary God intends," according to an introductory statement.

Discussion of the strategic plan included a challenge that trustees commit their personal finances to help fund the seminary, which reported a \$111,000 deficit during the school's 1992-93 budget year.

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Roetta Hudson, trustee from Artesia, N.M., issued the challenge. Hudson chairs the trustee finance and property committee. She reported each member of the committee "not only endorses these objectives, but personally is committed to financially supporting them."

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Durst new academic v.p.  
at Golden Gate Seminary

Baptist Press  
10/13/93

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Roderick K. "Rick" Durst, a seminary administrator and former California pastor, will become the next academic vice president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Trustees unanimously elected Durst to the seminary's top academic post during their regular fall meeting Oct. 11-12 at Mill Valley, Calif.

Durst will become vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Golden Gate Seminary effective Aug. 1, 1994. He will succeed Clayton Harrop who recently announced plans to retire next July.

A native of California, Durst also was elected to the Golden Gate faculty as associate professor of Christian theology and church history.

Durst, 39, has been director of Golden Gate's Southern California campus in Brea since 1991. He previously was pastor of Castlewood Baptist Church in Vallejo and Coddington Baptist Church in Santa Rosa.

Bill Crews, president of Golden Gate Seminary, told trustees: "Rick Durst has done an outstanding job of relating the Southern California campus to the needs of the local church." Crews cited Durst's "effectiveness as an administrator" and "grasp of what is being taught in the classroom."

Durst, a former California state convention executive board member, also was endorsed by C.B. Hogue, executive director of California Southern Baptist Convention.

"He has the high academic skills we want to see accelerated among our students," Hogue told seminary trustees. "But he also is able to mesh the academic and the pastoral" roles, Hogue said.

Following his election, Durst expressed confidence in the seminary's administration, faculty and trustees. He thanked trustees "for the honor and the opportunity to serve the Savior and the churches" through the seminary.

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"For all of us, especially in the West and around the world, God is giving us a gift of opportunity," Durst declared. "My nature is to seize opportunity, risk in the name of the Lord by faith, with wise counsel, and go forward."

Durst, who earned two degrees from Golden Gate Seminary, also is a graduate of California Baptist College.

He and his wife, Kristina Kay, have three children: Matthew, 12, Lindsay, 9, and Leesa, 4.

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**HMB begins enlistment  
for Cross Over Orlando**

**By Kelly Capers**

**Baptist Press  
10/13/93**

ATLANTA (BP)--As a result of Cross Over Orlando enlistment banquets, 58 churches have committed to participate in evangelistic events preceding the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention.

Jerry Pipes, national missionary for the Home Mission Board's evangelism division, estimated 65 percent of the churches in the six central Florida associations were represented.

The six banquets held in central Florida introduced plans for the evangelistic event to 229 pastors, staff members and key laymen.

"The banquets were extremely positive," Pipes said. "The goal of the banquets was to inform pastors of component parts of Cross Over Orlando and to encourage participation."

Cross Over events have been held prior to annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings since 1989 to demonstrate different approaches to evangelism.

Like preceding events, the event in Florida will include block parties, rallies and door-to-door witnessing. Last year's event in Houston resulted in 1,267 professions of faith. Pipes hopes to have 150 central Florida churches solidly committed to participate.

"We have worked hard with directors of missions in Orlando to build a network of accountability of committed churches," Pipes said. "Our dream is that for every church in central Florida that participates, an evangelistic church elsewhere in the nation will send a team of volunteers to help."

Pipes encourages evangelistic churches to consider Cross Over Orlando a mission project. He says it is a great place for Christians who have not witnessed before to begin.

"People are often afraid to approach others with the gospel. Some don't think they can. The materials for Cross Over Orlando are simple. It is a great place for someone to get started," Pipes said.

Not only does the material offer a good starting place, but seeing the results as people respond to the Word of God is encouraging to Christians new at sharing their faith, he said.

"When they see the responsiveness to the gospel," Pipes said, "they will realize the people in Orlando are no different from the people they meet at work or school or the grocery store. They will see the need to be constant witnesses because there are hurting people everywhere."

Churches and individuals interested in participating in Cross Over Orlando can register by contacting Bobby Sunderland at the Home Mission Board, (404) 898-7688.

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**EDITORS' NOTE:** The style for the 1994 emphasis is three words: Cross Over Orlando.

### Alabama pastor to become dean at Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Alabama pastor Douglas C. Walker III has been named dean of students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Walker, who begins duties at the Louisville, Ky., seminary Dec. 1, has served as pastor of Ruhama Baptist Church in Birmingham since 1990. Previously, the 35 year-old Midland, Texas, native was pastor of Mansfield (Ga.) Baptist Church for three years.

Walker will assume many of the responsibilities held previously by Elisabeth E. Lambert who resigned last summer as vice president for student services.

Lambert has moved to West Lafayette, Ind., to join her husband who is a professor at Purdue University. While Walker will be known primarily as dean of students, he also will carry the title of vice president for student services, according to seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.

The administrative areas Walker will supervise include student life, financial aid, health and recreation, admissions and placement. Admissions and placement have been added to the student services division as part of the reorganization of the seminary's administrative structure. Two areas formerly in that division, housing and food services, have been moved to the business services division.

"My intent was to appoint a dean of students who would combine a pastor's heart, theological substance and concern for the development of discipleship among students," Mohler said. "Dr. Walker has these qualities. He is a gifted pastor who combines a love for the local church and deep evangelical conviction. He will love students and lead them by example."

Walker holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and the Ph.D. degree from Southern Seminary.

While serving as pastor in Birmingham, Walker has been teaching as an adjunct professor at Samford University.

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### Pastor's hearing loss kindles new ministry

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press  
10/13/93

PARIS, Tenn. (BP)--When pastor David Mitchell began losing his hearing more than 20 years ago, it would have been easy for him to feel sorry for himself and give up his ministry.

Yet, he felt without a doubt God had called him to preach. Using the promises of Romans 8:28 and Matthew 6:33 as his strength, Mitchell and his wife, Marsha, began to let God prepare them for working with the deaf.

After his hearing loss became so bad he had to resign the pastorate of Willingham Baptist Church in Ridgely, Tenn., the Mitchells moved to Seymour where they took sign language classes at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy.

The couple also received training from First Baptist Church in Knoxville, where they became heavily involved in the church's deaf ministry. After almost four years of preparation for working with the deaf, the Mitchells discovered where God was leading.

They went to Puerto Rico in 1984 to work with the deaf and were astonished to learn there were such large numbers of deaf people on the small island, only 35 miles by 100 miles. They soon felt God was calling them to serve in Puerto Rico.

The Mitchells became Mission Service Corps volunteers through the Home Mission Board. The program is designed to supplement the work of full-time missionaries with volunteers.

Unlike career missionaries, the Mitchells must raise funds for their support in Puerto Rico. They are helped by numerous churches in Tennessee and elsewhere in the South.

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Since 1985, the couple has seen 241 deaf people accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and 95 people baptized. There are now 127,000 deaf people in Puerto Rico, but only one other pastor to the deaf besides Mitchell.

Mitchell serves as pastor of the Deaf Mission in Ponce and director of the deaf department of the Puerto Rico Baptist Association and consultant on deaf work for the Home Mission Board's Caribbean office.

Mitchell and his wife work together to train and develop leadership in the 10 deaf churches. Marsha also writes and prepares Bible lessons for classes.

Mitchell usually returns to the States at least twice a year to raise funds and enlist volunteers for a variety of tasks ranging from mechanic work on the vans used to transport the deaf to teaching in deaf camps.

At a World Missions Conference recently in Tennessee's Western District Baptist Association, the Mitchells described their ministry to the deaf in Puerto Rico and their families.

He said the deaf in Puerto Rico are "pushed to the wayside of life" and discarded.

Through the Mitchells, the deaf are finding someone who can communicate with them. "They see our love for them," the couple said.

Mitchell is not bitter about his deafness. At first he felt he lost "a sense of purpose" with his hearing loss. Now, he realizes, "we found great purpose" with the deafness.

"Without the hearing loss I would not have known of the great needs (in Puerto Rico)," Mitchell said. "I reached a point where I could thank the Lord for the affliction."

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**Marriage speakers say oneness  
needed spiritually, sexually**

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press  
10/13/93

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The oneness that comes from a person's sexual relationship with a spouse is a symbol of a Christian's relationship to God, Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. and his wife, Carol Ann, emphasized during a Fall Festival of Marriage retreat Oct. 8-10 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"To understand our relationship with God, we have to understand our relationship with each other," Jimmy Draper said. "God made sex and called it a symbol of our relationship with him. Humans view sex as just a physical part of our being, but Christians have to understand that sex is part of a divine plan in God's creation" to be relational to him.

Carol Ann Draper said a sexual relationship with one's spouse is not just OK but vital. "It is related to our understanding of God and our relationship with God."

"Celebrating Sex in Your Marriage" is the theme for this year's 20 Fall Festival of Marriage conferences, sponsored by the board's discipleship and family adult department.

The Fall Festival theme book, "Celebrating Sex in Your Marriage," by Dan and Sandra McGee, is one in a series of Christian sex education resources released by the board this year.

Christian couples can have spiritual intimacy just as they can have sexual intimacy, a couple leading a Fall Festival workshop on "Oneness in Spirit" said.

Both types of intimacy take work in the areas of communication, sharing and vulnerability, according to Tan and Janet Flippin.

But unlike sexual intimacy, "spiritual intimacy requires that both parts of the couple be Christians," said Tan Flippin, an editor in the youth section of BSSB discipleship and family development division.

"Fortunately, it is not necessary for both to be on the same spiritual level," Janet Flippin added.

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Spiritual intimacy within a marriage requires five elements of togetherness, Tan Flippin said, including talking, praying, studying, serving and dreaming.

"Communication is such a key way to improve spiritual intimacy," Flippin said. He offered suggestions such as sharing what each other learned during Bible study and quiet times, sharing lessons learned during worship services or sharing questions about Christianity or each other's spiritual life.

When one spouse is trying to communicate, Janet Flippin said, it is important for the other to actually listen.

She said barriers to listening include reading while the other is talking, ignoring or not holding eye contact, condemning instead of accepting, bad timing, interrupting and defensiveness.

"When sharing with your spouse about your spiritual life, don't just share the wonderful, moving times, but share the times when you feel you need forgiveness," she said. "When you are vulnerable in your spiritual life, the other spouse might not feel intimidated about being vulnerable."

Praying with or for a spouse increases spiritual oneness, Tan Flippin said. "Pray for them during your quiet time, when you're in the bathroom or on the way to work. Cut off your radio and spend that time you drive to work praying instead."

Studying together might include reading the Bible or preparing Sunday school lessons together, reading a devotional or self-help book together or taking a discipleship course together, he said.

Serving might include visiting a neighbor or leading a class together, Janet Flippin said.

To dream about the spiritual future is a good way to enhance spiritual intimacy, Tan Flippin said.

Couples could dream about taking mission trips, starting family worship time, planning for spiritual outings or beginning a community ministry, he suggested.

"While it is also good to have spiritual time alone with God," he said, "try to always be thinking about what you can do together to enhance your spiritual lives as a couple."

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