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October 15, 1993

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Graham missions, evangelism school
highlights Mohler inaugural worship

Baptist Press
10/15/93

By Art Toalston

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The inaugural worship service for R. Albert Mohler Jr. as Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's new president also provided a platform for announcing, with evangelist Billy Graham looking on, a new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at the Louisville, Ky., seminary.

Mohler, addressing nearly 9,000 people at the Oct. 14 service that featured a message by Graham, announced trustee approval of the new school during an executive session Oct. 13.

"This school -- the only one of its kind in the Southern Baptist Convention -- will put Southern Seminary on the cutting edge and in its rightful place of leadership in this denomination ... and of the larger evangelical world," Mohler said.

The service, in Louisville's 20,000-seat Freedom Hall, also included a word of greeting from Kentucky Gov. Brereton Jones and music by a 400-voice choir and full orchestra.

Graham, who led a crusade in the same auditorium in the 1950s, said the Oct. 14-15 inaugural events at the seminary, signify time has come "to hand the torch to a new generation."

"You have elected a young man here with a tremendous vision, not only for the future of this theological seminary but the future of evangelism and missions in the Southern Baptist Convention and in the world," Graham said.

"I support him with all my heart and will pray for him daily from now on," he said.

Graham, who emphasized in his message "the greatest need that we have in America at this hour is a spiritual awakening that will change our moral value system," said such a movement of the Holy Spirit also could involve "a reconciliation and unity within the Southern Baptist Convention."

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"We need to love one another," Graham said. "We can disagree, of course. But we need to love one another.

"And some of the things that people have said on all sides, and the controversies that have gone on, I cannot believe would be from the mouth of Jesus," the evangelist said.

"I think that we need a love that we've never known before. And I'm praying for a baptism of love that will sweep this convention.

"And it can start at Louisville, at the seminary," Graham said. "This seminary is looked on as the leading educational institution perhaps in the world for Baptists. You have a tremendous responsibility. That doesn't mean that you give up your convictions at all. There come times when you have to stand. There come times when there has to be confrontation. But it must be done in a spirit of love. And I think that it can be -- I think that can be recovered by the Holy Spirit."

Mohler, 33, became the ninth president of Southern Baptists' oldest seminary Aug. 1, succeeding Roy L. Honeycutt, who had led Southern since 1982. Mohler was approved by trustees during a March 25-26 special meeting in Atlanta after being recommended by a seven-member search committee.

Credited as an articulate conservative Southern Baptist spokesman and theologian, Mohler is the fourth man in his 30s to lead the seminary since its founding in 1859 by James Boyce, then 32. The seminary now has 3,000 students; a full-time faculty of 74; and a full-time staff of 250.

Mohler, who was editor of Georgia Baptist's Christian Index newsjournal from 1989 until August, is a master of divinity and systematic theology Ph.D. graduate from Southern and, under Honeycutt, was the seminary's coordinator of foundation support from 1983-87 and director of capital funding from 1987-89.

The new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth will become the seminary's fifth graduate school.

According to a seminary news release, the school is the first in America for which Graham has allowed use of his name and the first among Southern Baptist seminaries with a status equal to schools of theology, Christian education or music. It will offer master of divinity and theology degrees and doctor of ministry and philosophy degrees, with a doctor of missiology to be added at a later date.

Mohler also announced Faye Stone, widow of the late Judge A.P. Stone of Springfield, Mo., had committed a \$2.7 million estate gift to endow the new school and that a component of the school will be named in memory of her husband.

During the 1960s, Southern Seminary endowed a chair of evangelism in honor of Graham; a decade later the seminary established the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism which hosts conferences and provides other helps to evangelistic ministries.

Preliminary plans call for the new Graham school to have four departments and eight to 10 full-time faculty members. Current seminary programs in evangelism and missions will each become a department, to be joined with new departments of church growth and "church, world and society."

In a "testimony of friendship," Timothy McCoy, pastor of Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., said he and Mohler first became friends 10 years ago when both were students at the seminary and later as staff colleagues at the seminary.

"I've come to know a man for whom I have the greatest respect, a man who is fully prepared for such a time as this," McCoy said. "Al Mohler is a man who epitomizes integrity in both his personal life and in his public ministry. ... Al Mohler is clearly a man upon whom God has bestowed superior intellectual gifts, but they are gifts that have been sharpened by years of serious study, gifts that have been brought captive to the Word of God and surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and gifts that are regularly marshalled to articulate a compelling and consistent world view."

McCoy added, "Almost from the very first conversation that we had as students ... I recognized that deep within Al there burned a passion for Southern Seminary," which stirred him to become "a walking repository of information about the seminary's history and heritage."

Mohler's passion is not just for the seminary's past, McCoy said, noting, "He literally pulsates with the possibilities that are in the seminary's future."

"There will come difficult times," Graham said of the seminary's presidency. "There are many decisions that you have to make. And one of the things that will be difficult for Dr. Mohler will be the great expectancy there is of him at this moment. And he'll have to make hard decisions. And it won't be a decision that everybody will like. There's no decision that you can make in that work that will please everybody."

Even so, Graham quipped, Mohler "has come young enough to be here at least 40 years."

In denominational life, Mohler chaired the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Resolutions in 1992 and was a member of the committee the previous year.

He is the author of "Evangelical Theology and Karl Barth," released this year by Eerdmans, and general editor of "The Gods of the Age or the God of the Ages?: Essays by Carl F.H. Henry," to be released next year by Broadman.

Mohler, a native of Lakeland, Fla., considers First Baptist Church of Pompano Beach his home church, where he was licensed to preach in 1978 and ordained to the ministry in 1982.

Before attending Southern, Mohler graduated magna cum laude from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., in 1980. He was pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church in Bedford, Ky., during five years of his studies at Southern. As part of his doctoral work, he studied at Oxford University in England and St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana.

He and his wife, Mary, have a daughter, Mary Katherine, 4, and a son, Christopher Albert, 1.

In addition to Graham's statements of support for Mohler, Gov. Jones in his greetings noted Graham had come "to give his very special stamp of approval" for Mohler as the seminary's new president and that leaders like Graham and Mohler will provide needed spiritual leadership at the outset of the 21st century.

Graham associate evangelist T.W. Wilson, prior to a prayer of commitment for Mohler, commented on the new president's age by reminding that the one in whose name the seminary operates "was only 33 when he died."

Other parts of the service included an invocation by Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.; benediction by Duke K. McCall, Honeycutt's predecessor; a hymn penned by Phillip Landgrave, Southern's V.V. Cooke Professor of Church Music; congregational singing led by Lloyd Mims, acting dean of the seminary's school of church music.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southern Seminary's news office.

Mohler's inaugural address states
his vision for Southern Seminary

Baptist Press
10/15/93

By Art Toalston & Michael Duduit

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--In the face of sudden missions opportunities abroad and a culture shift at home, R. Albert Mohler Jr. voiced vision of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as a "fresh and fertile fountain of truth for the world" in his Oct. 15 inaugural address as the ninth president of Southern Baptists' oldest seminary.

The inaugural ceremony in the chapel of the Louisville, Ky., seminary was part of Oct. 14-15 events in honor of Mohler, who assumed office Aug. 1 after the retirement of Roy L. Honeycutt, the institution's president since 1982.

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Evangelist Billy Graham addressed an inaugural worship service the evening of Oct. 14, which drew nearly 9,000 people to the city's Freedom Hall.

With Mohler's announcement that night of the seminary trustees' action creating a Billy Graham School for Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth as one of the seminary's five graduate schools, the new president declared the school will "launch this institution into a new century with a readiness and a determination to serve as a center for gospel advance in the United States and throughout the globe."

Pointing to the current "disarray" in American theological education, the new president argued that Southern Seminary is uniquely positioned to help theological education "find itself." In his address, Mohler identified various principles the seminary must maintain and steps it must take to chart its future and its place in theological education.

One key step, Mohler said, is to "reaffirm our central purpose to train, educate and prepare ministers of the gospel for the churches."

Southern Seminary must not fall prey to the trend in much of theological education toward professionalization and specialization, Mohler emphasized. He also decried the "devaluation and even debasement of ministry" at some seminaries.

"The ministry is not less than a profession, but it is far more than a profession," Mohler said. "The minister is known first and foremost by identity with the gospel and not by duties assigned. ... It is the God-ordained instrument for the leadership of his church on earth."

Another goal Mohler cited for Southern Seminary is to re-establish the place of theology at the center of seminary education and, in turn, church life.

Theological truth claims have been "swept aside in some circles by the acids of modernity and ... the allure of pragmatism," Mohler said. "The result is an eventual abdication of the faith."

Pointing out the seminary's founding faculty held deep theological conviction, the president declared "our aim must be to see a comprehensive Christian worldview develop among our students that it might develop among our churches."

Mohler reaffirmed the local congregation as the primary focus of seminary education. "Our focus must be on preparing real ministers for real churches," he maintained.

He also challenged the seminary to "true excellence in scholarship" within a confessional framework.

"This seminary is a precommitted institution," Mohler stated. "We do not teach and operate in a value-neutral environment. The eternal truths of the Christian faith are not up for question or deconstruction."

This "pre-commitment," Mohler asserted, is not unique but is shared by all institutions, including those within the secular world.

"The question is to what convictional claim and worldview is the institution committed?" Mohler asked. "The secular academy is not uncommitted. It is fervently and evangelistically committed to anti-supernaturalism and a host of competing ideologies. We will not apologize for our own theological and moral precommitments."

Mohler reaffirmed the seminary's denominational identity, emphasizing its responsibility to "foster, nourish and develop the denominational consciousness and commitment of our students -- the future ministers of Southern Baptist churches."

Although some characterize the 1990s as a "post-denominational age," Mohler said he believes Southern Baptists can experience a "new denominational age" of progress and renewal.

As the church enters its third millennium, Mohler noted, "We are now at a great turning point in history. We know not whether the future holds a new world order or centuries of disorder. But we do know by whose providence the world still turns and by whose command the church still preaches the eternal truth of the gospel."

Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, in one of several charges issued to Mohler, said, "This is a significantly happy day for Southern Baptists in this generation and, I am confident, for the generations to come.

"It is my prayer," Chapman said, "that historians will one day marvel at the fruitfulness of Southern Seminary in these days, that they will be driven to ask, 'What was that which generated so many anointed ministers ... in that era?' As they look closer, they will find a school in love with Jesus and with his Holy Word."

James Merritt, a Southern graduate and pastor of First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga., speaking in behalf of the SBC's churches, said, "Let it be said that when one graduates from this institution he will have been taught to have the same love and reverence for Scripture as the Lord Jesus Christ who said, 'Thy word is truth.'" He charged Mohler to lead the seminary in producing graduates ready to "declare their faith and demonstrate their faith."

Merritt noted, "I have never been more proud that (Southern Seminary) is my alma mater than today" and, speaking to Mohler, that "under your administration her greatest days are yet to come."

Timothy George, dean of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., in his charge to Mohler reminded, "This school was never intended to be an advanced center for the academic study of religion, but rather a school of the prophets committed without reservation to the total truthfulness of Holy Scripture and the great principles of historic Christian orthodoxy.

"May no student ever be mocked or put down for believing that the Bible is the Word of God," George said.

"Throughout its history (Southern Seminary) has been known far and wide as a place of scholarly excellence and rigorous learning," George noted, telling Mohler, "May you lead this faculty to continue and indeed exceed its high reputation in cultivating excellence in every theological discipline.

"There is no contradiction between firm faith and free research," George continued, "so long as both are done under the lordship of Jesus Christ and in full confidence of the authority of his Holy Word."

Howard Cobble, president of the seminary's alumni association and pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., recounted the names of the seminary's eight previous presidents and said, "Now the name of Mohler is added to that list of distinguished leaders."

Cobble told Mohler, "You have both the past and future of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in your hands. ... May your obedience be to him (God) and no other ... and the past will be but a prologue to a brighter future."

Seminary trustee Larry L. Adams, administrator of the Baptist Retirement Center in Oklahoma City, quipped in his charge, "The thing that characterizes Dr. Mohler for me is defined by the Timex commercial, 'He can take a licking and keep on ticking.'

"I charge you to maintain a fearless leadership before us ... and lead us into the 21st century," Adams said.

Adams also exhorted Mohler "to be a minister to your family" because, "Wives and children spell love from a dad, 'T-I-M-E.'"

Other parts of the service included an invocation by Honeycutt, now serving as the seminary's chancellor; prayer of dedication by Charles Q. Carter, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Ga.; presentation of the seminary medallion by Richard D. White, seminary trustee chairman and pastor of First Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn.; resolutions of greeting to Mohler adopted by the faculty, read by Diana R. Garland, dean of the seminary's Carver School of Social Work, and by the Student Government Association, read by its president, Thomas S. Fitzgerald; and benediction by David S. Dockery, vice president for academic administration and dean of the school of theology.

**SBC urged to boycott Disney
for Touchstone 'NYPD Blue' ads** By David Winfrey

ATLANTA (BP)--A Texas layman said Southern Baptists should boycott Walt Disney World during next year's annual meeting in Orlando unless a subsidiary of the theme park's parent company stops advertising on ABC's controversial show "NYPD Blue."

"I love Goofy, but they shouldn't put him in charge of their advertising," said Walter Carpenter, a Houston attorney and member of Second Baptist Church of Houston.

The challenge comes, however, at the same time that Southern Baptist Convention leaders are working to offer incentives to messengers planning to visit the theme park during their trip.

Carpenter said the Walt Disney Company showed "blatant hypocrisy" by supporting the show when its subsidiary, Touchstone Pictures, bought advertising on NYPD Blue for one of its movies.

"I'm hoping that unless Disney issues a retraction and an apology and says they won't do it anymore then Southern Baptists will boycott Disney World in June and will cancel the Disney Channel on their cable and will just in every way boycott Disney," said Carpenter, editor of the Texas Baptist, a journal of the conservative group Baptists with a Mission.

Carpenter said he hopes a successful boycott of Disney will cause other advertisers to withdraw from the show. "If you knock over one windmill the others will fall easier."

But SBC planners for the June meeting are working with Walt Disney World to offer ticket packages that are more appealing to messengers if they visit the Magic Kingdom on days when there are no convention business meetings.

"My whole focus, following the request of the president (SBC president Ed Young), is to try to keep the people at the convention Tuesday and Wednesday," said Jack Wilkerson, vice president of business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee.

"We're not trying to promote Disney in any way at all," he said, noting the convention is not pursuing a similar deal with Sea World, which is owned by a brewing company.

Last year's convention drew 17,888 messengers, not including children or non-registered family members, he said. That figure is likely to be surpassed next year because of the resort setting, he said.

Carpenter said he doesn't expect his plans to conflict with the convention's. He said he will contact Young, who is his pastor, and those talking with Disney to reach "a common meeting of the minds."

Janice Gretemeyer, vice president of public relations for ABC, said 46 of the network's 225 stations have declined to air the show, criticized for its nudity and offensive language. Those stations represent about 8 percent of the nation's viewers, she said.

Meanwhile, ABC this week offered the show to independent stations in markets where the network station would not air the show, Gretemeyer said.

So far, independent stations in Dallas; Harrisburg, Ill.; Norfolk, Va.; Lexington, Ky.; and El Paso, Texas, have picked up the show, she said.

Baptist Press attempts to reach Disney officials for comment were unsuccessful.

Southwestern trustees inaugurate
institute, approve special studies

By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Inauguration of the Scarborough Institute for Effective Church Leadership, the election of two faculty members and a plan to study links between Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship topped the fall meeting of the school's board of trustees Oct. 11-13 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Scarborough Institute, proposed by Southwestern President Russell H. Dilday and approved by trustees last year, is envisioned by Dilday as becoming a leader in church growth and the development of church leaders into the next century. The institute will focus on research in church growth issues and provide practical experience for students.

Robert E. Coleman, director of the school of world missions and evangelism at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., delivered the inaugural address.

Two new faculty members elected by trustees: Steve Lyons, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Venezuela, as professor of pastoral ministry, and Marcia McQuitty as assistant professor of childhood education.

Trustees approved a special study dealing with ways Southwestern should relate to the CBF, an organization of Baptist moderates. The study will be conducted by the board's executive committee.

Trustees approved the study after lengthy discussion about alumni exhibits at the annual CBF meeting and the involvement of a husband and wife selected to receive the seminary's B.H. Carroll Award in March 1994. The couple, C.J. and Ophelia Humphrey, of Amarillo, Texas, was identified by trustees as being involved with Texas Baptists Committed, an organization linked to moderates in Texas.

A motion to rescind the award was made pending investigation into the Humphreys' involvement with the CBF.

The B.H. Carroll Award is presented annually by Southwestern to recognize "outstanding contributions to the life of the seminary." The Humphreys have been influential in funding Southwestern's evangelism practicum program, which sends students across the United States to lead revivals in pioneer areas of Southern Baptist work.

After trustees voted to give the award to the Humphreys and Lee and Delores McKellar, of Mount Pleasant, Texas, seminary administrators were asked if either couple was involved in any way with the CBF.

Dilday told trustees it was not seminary procedure to investigate "denominational political ties" of donors.

When the issue was raised the next day, the motion to rescind the award from the Humphreys was withdrawn.

The issue of seminary alumni exhibits at the CBF annual meeting was referred to all six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries as a result of a motion at the SBC in June. The motion, from messenger Jerry Brown of Oklahoma, asked that "alumni associations of our seminaries which have exhibited at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship gatherings be discouraged from doing so." Brown's motion asks that Cooperative Program funds be withheld from seminaries whose alumni associations continue to exhibit at the CBF.

Trustees rejected a response proposed by Dilday which stated that Southwestern considers "it important to relate appropriately to all of our alumni across the world."

A substitute response proposed by Don Taylor, trustee from North Carolina, was tabled until March when the report of the board's executive committee study on CBF links is due.

In his substitute response, Taylor stated "that the CBF exists for the purpose of maliciously creating a chilling and adversarial relationship within the Southern Baptist Convention for the purpose of depriving the SBC of the needed funds to finance the Cooperative Program missionary endeavors."

Approval was given for a 99-year ground lease with the Institute for Biblical Research for the construction of a research library on Southwestern property. Calling the choice of Southwestern a "coup," Dilday said "the research library, similar to Tyndale House in England, will be an important enhancement in our efforts to make Southwestern a center for conservative evangelical scholarship."

During his report to the board, Dilday said enrollment for the 1992-93 academic year was up. He also reported an increase in the current semester's enrollment.

In other business, trustees:

-- approved a motion by T. Bob Davis of Dallas that the board's executive committee meet with seminary administrators to update the job description for the dean of the school of church music and to devise a profile for a new dean. James McKinney, dean of the school 37 years, has announced plans to retire. The committee also will review the selection process of deans and vice presidents.

-- approved a motion by Ralph Pulley of Dallas that a special committee of the board "review and study all documents and files" the committee selects related to gifts made to Southwestern. Pulley also requested that all future gifts involving "agreements, oral or written," be reviewed by trustees.

-- approved the promotion of Roy Fish to distinguished professor of evangelism and granted tenure to Dan Crawford, associate professor of missions and evangelism, and Allen Lott, associate professor of church music history.

-- celebrated reaching the trustee division goal of \$100,000 for the seminary's Vision for Excellence Campaign. Trustees have given and/or pledged \$136,000 so far.

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Southwestern Seminary inaugurates
Scarborough Institute for Leadership

By Bob Murdaugh & Scott Collins

Baptist Press
10/15/93

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Effective church leadership always grows out of vision, an evangelism expert told trustees, students and faculty attending the inauguration of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Scarborough Institute for Effective Church Leadership Oct. 12.

Robert E. Coleman, director of the school of world missions and evangelism at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., delivered the address during the inauguration held in conjunction with the fall meeting of the seminary's board of trustees.

The Scarborough Institute is named for L.R. Scarborough, Southwestern's second president. The institute, initiated by seminary President Russell H. Dilday, is designed to "complement classroom instruction in equipping leaders to grow theologically sound and culturally relevant churches now and into the 21st century."

The new institute's primary work will be in research of modern church growth issues. Southwestern students will participate in mentorships for academic credit through practical experience in church planting, multi-housing ministries, church revitalization and church growth with healthy churches. Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions, has been named director of the institute.

Coleman, who directs the Institute of Evangelism at the Billy Graham Center in Wheaton, Ill., and serves as dean of the International Schools of Evangelism, said during his address that vision is crucial in leading churches in evangelism.

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"One can not lead without seeing the objective and knowing how to get there," Coleman said. He listed four aspects of vision basic to leadership: seeing the potential of the harvest, seeing workers for the harvest, demonstrating commitment in equipping workers and seeing the joy of the harvest.

God commands evangelism be all Christians' lifestyle, Coleman reminded Southwesterners.

"We must see people as made to become sons of God, and we must go into the world (to evangelize) with a sense of urgency," he said. "Pray for workers -- men and women who have the qualities of caring shepherds. Multiply such workers and you will win the world."

In equipping church members for evangelism, leaders are to follow the example of Christ by seeking to minister, not to be ministered to, Coleman said.

"I hear a lot about self-fulfillment nowadays but not much about self-denial," Coleman said. "Where is the obedience of the cross?"

The sweat and toil of evangelism are "nothing compared to the harvest of eternal life," Coleman said. "Whatever may come, whatever adversity we face, the name of Christ shall be glorified."

During a luncheon to celebrate the inauguration, former Southwestern trustee Ron Lewis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas, cautioned leaders of the seminary and the institute to follow through with their vision.

"This will either become a model or it will become like any other institute and be just another good idea that somebody had," Lewis said.

Lewis said the aim of the institute should be to produce "blue-collar Christians with a white-collar intellect."

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary.

Ethics prof's election, pay raise
approved by Southeastern trustees

Baptist Press
10/15/93

By Norman Miller

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees, during their Oct. 11-12 meeting in Wake Forest, N.C., elected an ethics professor to the faculty and gave the seminary's administration, staff and faculty a salary increase.

Daniel J. Heimbach, who served on President George Bush's staff, was elected associate professor of Christian ethics. Heimbach holds a Ph.D. in law, politics and Christian ethics from Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Trustees approved a raise for Southeastern's administration, staff and faculty, representing their first pay increase in five years. The board also dispatched two motions referred to it by the SBC which met in June in Houston.

Seminary President Paige Patterson delivered his report, the highlight of which was a city-wide evangelistic blitz in which more than 150 students and staff of the seminary went door-to-door Oct. 9, inviting Wake Forest citizens to Southeastern's first annual "Sandy Creek Week Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting."

"Three persons accepted Christ and numerous opportunities to share the Gospel occurred," Patterson said.

In other business, trustees re-elected without opposition their current officers: Ned Mathews, pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C., chairman; Dale Thompson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark., vice chairman; Ken Stevens, pastor of Orchard Hills Baptist Church in Novi, Mich., secretary; and Cecil Rhodes, a retired doctor from Wilson, N.C., treasurer.

In closing the meeting, Mathews noted the importance for praying for the seminary "since we all believe God is doing a great and mighty work on this campus," he said.

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Dan Johnston, pastor of Mt. Pleasant (S.C.) Baptist Church, added a note of thanksgiving in referring to the meeting: "It's simply been beautiful, beautiful harmony, and I want to thank God for it."

Trustees and other observers in the room joined their hands in prayer to end the meeting.

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Southern Seminary trustees show
unity at Mohler's first meeting

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press
10/15/93

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--In a meeting marked by a consistent show of unity, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's trustees named three faculty members to endowed chairs and passed resolutions urging trustee and faculty support of the Cooperative Program.

The Oct. 12-13 meeting was the first for seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. in his new role as the Louisville, Ky., school's highest ranking officer. Trustees welcomed him by passing every major item of business with little or no dissension. For the first time in recent memory, the board, which is now solidly in the hands of conservatives, finished its business a day ahead of schedule. Activities surrounding the inauguration of Mohler as the seminary's ninth president began the day after the trustees concluded their semi-annual session.

During the meeting, the board unanimously elected William Cromer to the Gaines S. Dobbins chair of Christian education, Gerald Keown to the Mildred and Talmage Rogers chair of Old Testament and Craig Loscalzo to the Victor and Louise Lester chair of Christian preaching.

Academic personnel committee chairman O. Carroll Karkalits of Lake Charles, La., told trustees they had a fiduciary responsibility to fill endowed professorships. "Election to a chair does not constitute a promotion," he said, noting the seminary president wants to have every professor's position in the seminary endowed.

In another proposal from the academic personnel committee, trustees passed a resolution encouraging faculty to support the Cooperative Program and to "encourage those churches of which they are a member to focus their giving through the Cooperative Program." At previous meetings, some trustees have expressed concern regarding faculty members who hold membership in churches that channeled their missions giving through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a group founded by Southern Baptist moderates.

While the trustees action has no binding effect on faculty, one trustee commented that the board wanted to go on record as positively encouraging professors to support the Cooperative Program. Trustees in a separate resolution affirmed their own support of the Cooperative Program.

In other action, trustees approved a series of possible disciplinary measures for trustees whose conduct is deemed inappropriate. The measures range from "calling a member to order" to recommending that the SBC remove the trustee from office.

Trustees also established a board of overseers for the seminary's Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry. The 16-member board will give advice and counsel to the seminary administration on matters related to the seminary's program of study which serves Southern Baptists in the Northeast.

In an effort to address the seminary's future direction, trustees initiated a plan to develop a new seminary mission statement. A committee had been established earlier, but trustees decided the change in seminary administration necessitated a new process be established.

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A total of 14 new trustees attended their first meeting of the 63-member board. Three of the new members, Stephen D.C. Corts of Charleston, S.C.; Richard L. Holcombe of St. Charles, Mo.; and John D. Pennington of Douglasville, Ga., were elected during the meeting to fill unexpired terms of trustees who have resigned. They will serve until the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Following the meeting, trustees expressed optimism about the future of the seminary and the board. "It was the most positive meeting since I have been a trustee," said board chairman Richard White of Franklin, Tenn. "A spirit of unity and cooperation existed within the board. The contact with faculty was exceptionally positive and so were several private conversations with students."

Mohler said a "remarkable demonstration in unity" was exhibited at the meeting. "The trustees and I are moving together on the basis of common conviction, focus and a determination to see this institution fulfill its mission."

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Ed Young book offers sizzle
for 'Romancing the Home'

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
10/15/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--Any marriage can sizzle when it's well done, Ed Young believes, but the Texas pastor quickly adds success doesn't come without a lot of hard work.

"So many husbands and wives expect (their spouse) to meet all their needs, but they often don't even know what each other's needs are," Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston and current president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said. "Men and women are different. Their needs are very, very different."

Young, who has been married to his wife, JoBeth, 34 years, writes about some of the differences between the sexes and gives suggestions for improving marital relationships in his book, "Romancing the Home, How to Have a Marriage That Sizzles," released last summer by Broadman & Holman Publishers.

The book caught the attention of Christian author James Dobson who asked Young to appear on his "Focus on the Family" radio show. A segment on Young's book was taped in September and is expected to air early next year on approximately 2,000 radio stations nationwide.

One of the keys to marital success is learning to distinguish the different needs of the sexes, Young said. In his book, he cites marriage and family therapist Willard Harley's observations about the top five needs of husbands and wives.

Affection tops the list for wives, followed by conversation, honesty and openness, financial support and family commitment. In contrast, sexual fulfillment is the No. 1 need of husbands, followed by recreational companionship, an attractive spouse, domestic support and admiration.

"A woman's need for affection is so strong that the unfulfilled desire for it can lead to an extramarital affair," Young writes. "Most professional counselors agree that women are unfaithful for completely different reasons than men. While lust can cause many a man to stray, a woman can literally be hugged into an affair if her marriage is void of affection."

During the radio show taping, Dobson told Young one of the most frequent complaints about men he hears from women is "that they don't talk." Young addresses that issue in his book, pointing out part of showing wives affection is "communicating with them -- talking, and really listening."

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"I do not believe there is a marriage in existence today that would not benefit from both partners asking themselves: 'What is it like being married to me?' Honest answers to this question could set a real-life romance in motion that would fulfill its partners, inspire countless others and glorify God who gave man and woman to one another in the beginning. And the home is the perfect setting for such a romance."

Young addresses a variety of other topics in his book, such as God's design for marriage, the call to sacrificial love, reasons marriages "fizzle," goal-setting, sexual fulfillment and handling conflict. He also cautions both marriage partners against expecting too much from one another.

"I tell the thousands of single adults in our church fellowship every chance I get that marriage is not the solution to anyone's problems, nor can it fulfill all of their desires," Young writes. "Marriage does not make you whole. Jesus Christ makes you whole. He and he alone is the solution to man's needs for security and significance."

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

SBC, state convention named
in lawsuit against church

By Bob Allen

Baptist Press
10/15/93

BALTIMORE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware are among defendants named in a \$60 million lawsuit filed Sept. 20 in Baltimore.

The suit, filed by plaintiffs under assumed names, seeks damages for sexual abuse alleged against a former part-time minister of music at North Point Baptist Church in Dundalk, Md. The minister, James Reed, 53, was convicted last year of child abuse and molestation of three brothers who attended the church and is serving an 18-month sentence at the Baltimore County Detention Center.

The civil suit charges Reed with battery, assault, intentional infliction of emotional distress, fraud and negligence. It also names the church, its pastor, Baltimore Baptist Association, the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware and the Southern Baptist Convention, adding allegations of negligence in hiring, retention and supervision of Reed.

State convention attorney Alan Stocksdale predicted charges will be dismissed against the conventions and association.

"Each Baptist church is an autonomous body and merely affiliates with the convention," Stocksdale said. "The convention has no means of control over the employment practices of any church."

SBC legal counsel James P. Guenther, a Nashville attorney, said he knows nothing about the facts of the case.

"The SBC has been named a defendant in this case on the erroneous theory that the minister of music was the employee of the SBC or that the SBC had the power to supervise the minister of music," Guenther said. "Of course, the SBC has no right in regard to a church's decisions to employ its ministerial staff, to retain those the church has employed or to supervise or discipline or in any way regulate the church staff."

Guenther said there has been a "stream of cases in which plaintiffs have tried to impute to the SBC liability for alleged wrongdoing of employees of churches affiliated with the convention."

"In each instance the courts have dismissed the SBC. We are confident the court will dismiss the SBC from this case," Guenther told Baptist Press.

North Point pastor Dwight Evans said he has been advised not to comment until after an initial meeting with an attorney. He said his retirement from the church, announced Sept. 5, is "totally unrelated" to the case. An Oct. 9 celebration formally ending his service coincided with the 17th anniversary of his coming to the pastorate, he said.

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The plaintiff family alleges Evans and the church hired Reed in 1980 despite knowing about a 20-year-old sex offense conviction and allegations of impropriety at a nearby church and failed to address earlier allegations of abuse at North Point. They claim Reed abused and/or raped their three sons in separate incidents occurring on church property and in his home.

The family attended North Point almost 13 years. Since Reed's arrest they have moved from the area.

The suit seeks \$30 million compensatory and \$30 million punitive damages.

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Herb Hollinger of the Nashville office of Baptist Press contributed to this story.

BSSB customer service
representative honored

Baptist Press
10/15/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--Charlotte Hamrick, customer service representative in the Baptist Sunday School Board's sales and customer service department, received the Customer Service Representative of the Year award Oct. 7 from the Tennessee/Kentucky International Customer Service Association.

Receiving the award, Hamrick said, "I love my job, and it's easy when God is your boss."

During a BSSB chapel service in connection with Customer Service Week, Oct. 11-15., five customer service representatives emphasized their jobs often involve more than product numbers and sales figures. Conversations with customers often include personal ministry.

Kenny Adams of sales and customer service department said he has been able to help churches experiencing problems by sharing how he has grown spiritually as a result of studying and then leading the BSSB-produced "Experiencing God" course.

Jean Hardison, also of sales and customer service, said she is able to share with customers her personal success story of losing weight through the board's "First Place" health program.

Hardison, who has lost 80 pounds since January, teaches the course at her church and routinely answers questions from customers who call the board's 1-800 line.

"It's just a blessing to help people who are hurting and offer them a product that can change their lives," she said.

Carole Smith said some of her time is spent as a lay counselor.

"I can always take a few minutes out of my day to talk with (callers) and pray for them," she explained. "All callers are not customers, but they are people."

Susan Dawson of the trade telephone sales department handles some overseas accounts which require cultural sensitivity and knowledge of customs. While the work is sometimes tedious, "it's rewarding," she said, adding the board's products and services are reaching "little niches all over the world."

Renee Shinn of retail marketing services said she often deals with customers who are unhappy or upset over an ordering or billing problem. But she sometimes goes beyond dealing with their account problem. Talking with a woman who called one Saturday, Shinn said she felt "there was more going on in her life. I found out she was handicapped and was going blind. And her church was falling apart."

The two women ended up talking 45 minutes and Shinn helped her arrange transportation to attend a singles conference at Ridgcrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

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People call about products but they often share their problems as well, Shinn said. "They're hurting and they just need an ear. ... That's what we're here for. ... It's not just the numbers."

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

CORRECTION:

In (BP) story titled "Rankin wins unanimous support for FMB organizational changes," dated 10/14/93, please DELETE the 32nd paragraph, which begins with "Board leaders have talked" It contains incorrect information.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

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