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October 18, 1993

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MARYLAND -- Falwell predicts joint efforts by independent, Southern Baptists.  
TEXAS -- Hispanic Seminary inaugurates Pachecano as 6th president; photos.  
VIRGINIA -- Pastors ask for closer ties with FMB staff, missionaries.  
GERMANY -- English-language churches increase in Europe despite U.S. cutbacks.  
KENTUCKY -- Henry calls for return to biblical orthodoxy.  
KENTUCKY -- Southern Seminary announces gifts of nearly \$5 million.  
TENNESSEE -- Chaplain, head coach expand university's sports ministry.  
NASHVILLE -- Correction.

Falwell predicts joint efforts  
by independent, Southern Baptists By Art Toalston

Baptist Press  
10/18/93

ROCKVILLE, Md. (BP)--The Washington Post reported Oct. 16 that H. Edwin Young, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Jerry Falwell, an independent Baptist known for the now-defunct Moral Majority he led, shared an Oct. 12-13 Bible conference on "Building Bridges to Bible-Believing Churches and to a Lost World."

The conference, at Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville, Md., was attended by 1,500 Baptist ministers and lay people, the newspaper reported.

Falwell said in an interview after the conference more cooperative meetings, such as Bible conferences and crusades, are ahead for independent Baptists and Southern Baptists, the newspaper reported.

"I would say we're a couple of years away ... but I don't think there's any question that we're heading toward some major mergers that will probably surprise a lot of people," Falwell was quoted as saying. "The agreement that is now developing between Bible-believing churches, particularly Baptists of all stripes, is such that they will be moving and planning and praying in concert, but probably not reporting to the same headquarters."

Young was not quoted by the newspaper. He could not be reached by Baptist Press Oct. 18 for comment.

Falwell is pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.; Young is pastor of Houston's Second Baptist Church.

Bob Crowley, pastor of the 3,300-member Montrose church, said of the newspaper account, "It was a completely accurate report."

"I think that it's significant that the impetus for this move actually came from some independent churches that expressed a desire to have fellowship with us," Crowley said.

The Bible conference -- the church's seventh annual -- was advertised throughout the area with a mailing of 90,000 brochures.

Other speakers at the conference were Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., and Tim Lee, evangelist from Garland, Texas.

Hispanic Seminary inaugurates  
Pachecano as 6th president

By Chuck Lutke

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--Omar H. Pachecano was inaugurated Oct. 15 as the sixth president of Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in a traditional laying-on-of-hands ceremony at Baptist Temple in San Antonio, Texas.

Pachecano capped the ceremony with a call to Texas Baptists to celebrate their heritage, take hold of the present and challenge the future.

The new president, 58, former director of missions for the El Paso (Texas) Baptist Association, pledged to develop leaders for Hispanic churches who have an evangelistic burden for the world without losing a sense of social compassion.

"We will develop a curriculum," Pachecano said, "which enables ministers to become bold and powerful in preaching the Word of God without losing the ability to relate humbly with people.

"Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary will be a seminary which provides practical, hands-on experience in ministry while also pursuing the very best of theological preparation," he said.

William M. Pinson Jr., executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, issued a charge to the new president to be faithful to God's preparation in his life; faithful to the task of training ministers for Hispanic churches; and to be always aware of the vastness of the mission field facing Texas Baptists.

In his inaugural address, Pachecano recalled a comic scene from the 1966 Norman Jewison film, "The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!" in which a confused, small-town constable issues a traffic citation to an invading Soviet nuclear submarine. Pachecano likened the episode to those who meet their greatest challenges with simple but inadequate methods. He said Baptists must refrain from "reaching back and repeating every action we have ever taken before, only with a little more intensity to it."

Pachecano recited a list of notable seminary figures who had influenced his life and guided in his career. The list included seminary founder Paul J. Siebenmann; President Emeritus H.B. Ramsour; and his own 97-year-old father, Natividad Pachecano, one of the seminary's first students, who was recognized and applauded by the audience.

Although his speech concentrated on uplift and unity, Pachecano spoke of the dangers he sees ahead for Texas Baptists.

He lamented a new generation of "denominational illiterates" who espouse a philosophy contrary to Baptist doctrinal beliefs of the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church.

"We want to prepare ministers with skills of leadership which are true to our faith and our heritage of freedom," he said.

Pachecano dispensed with the use of academic gowns and other traditions in a move to signal a progressive spirit for his administration of the seminary.

Pachecano was born in San Antonio and received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Dallas Baptist University where he will be honored in November as a distinguished alumnus.

In addition to having served on numerous boards and committees in the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Pachecano presently is chairman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's trustee Americas committee, which oversees missionary endeavors for much of the western hemisphere.

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Lutke is the seminary's development director. (BP) photos available from the seminary at (210) 924-4338.

Pastors ask for closer ties  
with FMB staff, missionaries

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Relationships: They're what larger churches want from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

That's what 18 pastors and missions ministers from eight states told Foreign Mission Board staff during a Creative Access Projects Conference Oct. 13-14 in Richmond, Va.

The response they got from the board's new president, Jerry Rankin, was just what they wanted to hear. The biblical Great Commission to carry the message of Jesus Christ around the world, Rankin said, wasn't given to the Foreign Mission Board but to individual Christians and churches.

"We as an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention exist to serve as a channel for your church to fulfill its mission in reaching the lost world," Rankin said. "I want to open up the channels to serve you, the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Just how open those channels might be was demonstrated by Bill Morgan, FMB assistant vice president for mission personnel. He offered to send addresses and phone numbers for mission area offices directing work in various parts of the world and encouraged participants to call them directly about projects.

He also brought three mission area directors before the group to share needs from their part of the world.

Morgan acknowledged the conference participants, who paid their own way to attend, come from churches already active in missions -- although not always through Foreign Mission Board channels. He hopes the meeting will bring greater cooperation.

"We need you," Morgan told the church leaders. "We are your Foreign Mission Board. I hope there are some ways we can be of service to you."

Morgan directs the new Creative Access Project emphasis, which links selected churches with overseas needs to focus prayer and other resources on those needs.

The Foreign Mission Board especially hopes to help churches personalize missions by getting members to participate in overseas missions, Morgan said.

"We don't want you to stop anything you're doing," added John Floyd, area director for Europe, where several of the churches represented have sent volunteers outside FMB channels. Instead, FMB staff and missionaries want to help churches do what they're already doing even better.

Floyd admitted he had heard complaints from volunteers who went to the former Soviet Union and got no help from Southern Baptist missionaries there.

But in almost every case, he said, no missionaries lived in the cities where the volunteers went. Those who were there hadn't yet learned the language and how to operate in a new culture. But that's changing, Floyd said. In St. Petersburg, for instance, a missionary couple now stands ready to work with volunteer groups.

FMB missionaries also will be urged to cooperate more closely with Southern Baptists who go to the mission field on their own or through non-convention channels, Rankin said. But he asked for patience during a time of transition for missionaries and staff.

Conference participants asked for assurance Foreign Mission Board work would not duplicate efforts of groups they're already involved with. They were told that few para-church groups duplicate the Foreign Mission Board's basic work of starting churches.

Mike Stroope, area director for Cooperative Services International, which targets areas where missionaries can't work, said para-church groups do many good things, such as Scripture translation. But few plant churches. Many para-church groups work well only in the context of local churches -- often churches Foreign Mission Board missionaries helped start, Floyd added.

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The word "relationship" popped up repeatedly throughout the meeting. In a session on mission financing, participants assured FMB staffers they trust the Foreign Mission Board uses its money well. But they want their church members to have the world missions vision that comes from knowing missionaries and participating in missions themselves.

Following the meeting, five participants offered to help open channels by sponsoring similar conferences for churches in their areas.

"You can count on my support and my church's support," said Todd Wright, pastor of 2,000-member Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Ga. "I'm greatly encouraged and will pass on the encouragement to others."

Harvey Kneisel, missions minister at Houston's First Baptist Church, suggested the board help organize an annual meeting where ministers can exchange ideas they've used to give their congregations a missions vision.

Others named additional ministers Morgan might invite to a second CAP conference tentatively scheduled for next August.

The first meeting drew ministers from churches in Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, Alabama and Texas.

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English-language churches increase  
in Europe despite U.S. cutbacks By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press  
10/18/93

WIESBADEN, Germany (BP)--Three more English-speaking Baptist churches in Europe have closed as U.S. military force cutbacks continue to drain congregations affiliated with the European Baptist Convention.

But a strong church-starting campaign reaching English-speaking internationals is reducing the impact of the withdrawal, EBC leaders say.

So many Europeans either speak or want to learn English that English-speaking churches can play a key role in evangelizing Europe, they predict.

Thirteen English-speaking Baptist congregations have closed since the fall of the Berlin Wall signaled the end of the Cold War. But 17 new churches have started during the same period as the European convention shifts its ministry focus to include all English-speaking internationals, not just Americans living in Europe. Some of those new churches are in Eastern Europe.

About half the convention's approximately 60 congregations already call themselves "international" and focus their ministry on English speakers from anywhere in the world. A mid-1993 survey showed that people from 94 nations attend EBC churches on a routine Sunday.

Interest in the English language across Europe, especially Eastern Europe, provides a standing invitation in many places to start an English-language church, said Southern Baptist missionary Ray Reynolds. He and his wife, Helen, serve as EBC church-planting consultants. They have conducted surveys in major European cities and pinpointed dozens of strategic places to plant churches. Earlier Reynolds was pastor of an EBC congregation in Belgium.

"The future has never looked brighter," Reynolds said. "Everywhere we look we see open doors for planting new churches and we're excited. I think we'll see great things from the EBC across Europe in the next few years."

Reynolds cites English-language classes as a key to church outreach. A survey in Milan, Italy, one of Europe's great fashion capitals, revealed more than 100 schools that teach English. In Bratislava, capital of the Slovakian Republic, a single English-language school has 2,000 students. It's three blocks from Palisady Baptist Church, where an English-language congregation meets. The school's director told Reynolds he will promote the church as a place to hear English.

The European Baptist Convention has close ties to Southern Baptists and most of its pastors come from Southern Baptist backgrounds. EBC staffers are Southern Baptist missionaries or volunteers.

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During the last several decades EBC churches have ministered mostly to Americans in Europe with the U.S. military. Up to 350,000 American troops were in Europe a decade ago, with families and support personnel pushing the total far higher. American military leaders now expect fewer than 100,000 soldiers to be on the continent by 1995.

News programs on the U.S. armed forces radio and television network routinely report the closing of bases, hospitals and other military-related businesses. Many private businesses that depend on soldiers and their families as customers also are folding.

Closing military bases accounted for the closing of the three EBC churches this year -- Friendship Baptist Church in Melton, England; Border Baptist Church in Fulda, Germany; and San Vito Baptist Church, San Vito, Italy.

Other EBC churches have lost so many members that they have been left much weaker, said John Merritt, Southern Baptist missionary and EBC general secretary. Some churches, once self-supporting, now plead for financial help. Weakened churches in Augsburg and Berlin, Germany, also have asked the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for missionaries or volunteers to serve as pastors.

EBC finances also have dipped this year, although income is still expected to exceed expenditures, Merritt said. Traditionally, EBC churches have had per capita giving rates much higher than Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

Despite such temporary problems, Merritt believes the convention's future remains bright. Despite the three churches closings this year, three others have opened in Germany, Norway and the Slovakian Republic.

Since the Cold War ended, other new EBC churches have begun in Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Germany and Spain.

Some of those churches have grown surprisingly fast, Merritt said. Churches in Cologne and Darmstadt, Germany, and Sofia, Bulgaria, already average 60 to 100 people in attendance, for example. Southern Baptist volunteers in Moscow hope to organize an English-language church there in November.

At the International Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria, members include students from Nigeria and Cambodia, British citizens in Sofia for business, workers with several U.S.-based Christian ministries and a growing number of English-speaking Bulgarians, said pastor James Duke.

A Texan who led Southern Baptist churches in Arkansas and Kansas, Duke and his wife, Audrey, receive support from the United States via the EBC.

Some EBC churches are self-supporting and call their own pastors. Others are led by Southern Baptist foreign missionaries or volunteers. But increasingly, EBC churches will seek pastors who can support themselves through retirement pensions or other income, Merritt said.

Arkansas Baptists will join with the EBC during the next several years in a partnership to provide volunteers to help train church leaders, conduct revivals and offer prayer support.

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Henry calls for return  
to biblical orthodoxy

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
10/18/93

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A firm belief in the Bible and the historic truths of the Christian faith are needed for America to emerge from the chaos of contemporary culture, according to evangelical theologian Carl F.H. Henry.

Social critics are beginning to take seriously warnings that "the present cultural ordeal might really signal the end time for America and the West," said Henry in an Oct. 15 address in Louisville, Ky. Henry spoke at a luncheon which concluded activities surrounding the inauguration of R. Albert Mohler Jr. as the ninth president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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"We read of the crisis of values, the crisis of law, the crisis of philosophy, the crisis of the family and the crisis of the self and, do I dare say it, the crisis of theology, something we thought neo-orthodoxy had cured shortly after the First World War," Henry said.

The nation desperately needs committed Christians who will herald God's truth, Henry stressed. "From you in whom the Word of God has become alive, the world waits for a message that throbs with the heart of God," he said.

America, Henry said, still has hope if it turns to Christ and his Word. He expressed his hope that Southern Seminary would chart a course that emphasizes theological reflection and moral power. He emphasized, "... it is time for reville and Louisville can again lead the way."

During the luncheon, Mohler announced the seminary's second major gift in a period of two days. Walter and Georgia Chiles of Eustis, Fla., committed \$2 million to the seminary. Earlier during the inaugural activities, the seminary announced a \$2.7 million estate gift from Faye Stone, widow of Judge A.P. Stone of Springfield, Mo., which will endow the seminary's new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.

The Chiles' gift has not yet been designated, according to Thomas F. Mabe, vice president for institutional advancement. In December, the Chileses donated \$2.2 million to the seminary to endow faculty chairs and to fund scholarships for international students.

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Southern Seminary announces  
gifts of nearly \$5 million

Baptist Press  
10/18/93

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Amid activities surrounding the inauguration of its ninth president, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary announced gifts totalling nearly \$5 million.

The Louisville, Ky., school announced Oct. 14 a \$2.7 million pledge from Faye Stone, widow of Judge A.P. Stone of Springfield, Mo., to endow the seminary's new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.

The next day Walter and Georgia Chiles of Eustis, Fla., committed \$2 million to the seminary. This gift is the couple's second significant financial contribution to the seminary within the past year. In December, the Chileses committed \$2.2 million for endowed professorships and a scholarship fund for international students. Their most recent gift has not yet been designated, according to Thomas F. Mabe, vice president for institutional advancement.

"We are delighted with these tremendous expressions of support during these days of transition in leadership," said seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. "In terms of securing financial resources, this may well be the most significant week in the history of Southern Baptist theological education."

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Chaplain, head coach expand  
university's sports ministry By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Baptist Press  
10/18/93

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Weekends for Larry Fields are very busy, even for a pastor. Although he is in the pulpit at Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Tenn., on Sundays, he's also hard at work on Saturdays.

Fields is chaplain to the University of Tennessee football team, a role he says he enjoys and takes seriously as an encourager and counselor to team players and coaches. He also coordinates events and meetings involving the players, coaches and support ministers.

Fields voices appreciation to head football coach Phil Fulmer who has helped begin a chapel for the players last fall and assisted in creating a Volunteer Christian Fellowship along with pastors and supporting coaches.

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The new fellowship has as its objective providing Christian services and support to athletes.

The fellowship is a kind of "umbrella" that unites the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Athletes in Action and Campus Crusade for Christ into a single cooperative effort.

Fulmer says the united effort can be better focused and thus avoid competition between the groups.

He says the athletic groups always have supported each individual ministry, but this kind of effort allows even more support.

Referring to the athletes, Fulmer says "they are more than just football players. They are people who need guidance, support and strength."

Fields coordinates a ministry now that includes a support group of several ministers, and Fulmer has asked several coaches to help.

Fields is responsible for a weekly Bible study. He also organizes a chapel service before each game -- all voluntary, but the leaders encourage students to participate. The group is growing, with sometimes as many as 40-45 attending the Bible study.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Octogenarian leads conferences for senior adults at Glorieta," dated 10/14/93, in the next to last paragraph, please change the name of Wedle's wife to Nita, not Nora as reported.

Thanks,  
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