

**(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

October 26, 1993

93-181

**ATLANTA** -- Leazer's speech to Masons leads to resignation request.  
**DALLAS** -- Texas Baptists reject defunding of Baylor; elect McBride president.  
**TENNESSEE** -- Brotherhood trustees approve revised program statement; photos.  
**NASHVILLE** -- Cloning of human embryos stirs ethical concern, debate.  
**BURUNDI** -- Missing missionary OK in Burundi after coup.  
**BALTIMORE** -- Women encouraged to shine as lights in darkness.  
**IOWA** -- Iowa Baptists vote increase in Cooperative Program giving.  
**MISSISSIPPI** -- Baptist college to crown first black homecoming queen.  
**FLORIDA** -- ABP directors OK fund drive, discuss CBF's 48 percent of budget.

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

**Leazer's speech to Masons  
leads to resignation request**

**By Martin King**

**Baptist Press  
10/26/93**

**ATLANTA (BP)**--Gary Leazer, assistant director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department, resigned Oct. 22 following publication of a speech he gave to a regional Masonic convention in August.

HMB President Larry Lewis told Baptist Press he requested Leazer's resignation for "gross insubordination" stemming from an address Leazer gave Aug. 6 to the Southeast Masonic Conference meeting in Atlanta. A transcript of Leazer's speech was printed in the October issue of "The Masonic Messenger," a publication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

Last year, Leazer led the department in writing a "Study of Freemasonry" as directed by the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis. The lengthy study was submitted to HMB directors who then drafted their own brief "Report on Freemasonry." A concluding paragraph of the board's report was adopted overwhelmingly by SBC messengers in Houston.

"After he was relieved of duties as director of the interfaith department last March, Dr. Leazer was directed to refrain from any and all involvement in the Freemasonry issue," Lewis explained. "He has clearly violated that directive and in doing so has demonstrated his unwillingness to submit to the authority of his supervisors."

Leazer declined comment to Baptist Press on his resignation.

In the transcript, which Lewis said Leazer confirmed as accurately reflecting his remarks, Leazer criticized HMB administrators and the board of directors for their handling of the Masonic issue.

"My study does not agree with the conclusions in the Home Mission Board report ... (The report) does not reflect my conclusions as a non-Mason and I feel certain it does not reflect yours," he said.

Leazer also criticized a number of Freemasonry opponents. Lewis said, "Dr. Leazer's name-calling and disparaging remarks about several individuals is inexcusable."

--more--

Throughout the transcript, Leazer encouraged Masons to take action concerning the HMB report. "You should not be satisfied with the report. I hope you will respond clearly and quickly ... you simply cannot afford to ignore the report," Leazer urged. Lewis responded that Leazer's "outright advocacy for the Masonic Lodge is extremely unprofessional and calls into question his ability or willingness at this point to be objective."

Leazer also charges in the transcript that "none of my supervisors asked me for my side of the story," which according to Lewis "simply is not true. Obviously Gary discussed these matters at length on a number of occasions with myself and Dr. Darrell Robinson, his immediate supervisor at that time. He was even given the opportunity to address the entire board of directors."

Leazer claimed the study was so altered by administrators and given "a more negative spin ... that I requested my name not be attached to the study."

Leazer's name was improperly included on the first draft and subsequently removed, Lewis recounted. "The study was not intended to be Gary Leazer's work but a production of the interfaith witness department."

Lewis emphasized neither Leazer's remarks nor his termination should reflect negatively on either the department's study or the board's report.

"Southern Baptists can be assured that both these documents are reliable; neither has been seriously challenged and, in fact, each has been praised by proponents on both sides of the issue," Lewis said.

Lewis termed the action requesting Leazer's resignation "most unfortunate" but said, "I have conferred with my staff as well as the administrative committee of our board and am confident this is the right course of action." He asked Southern Baptists to remember Leazer and his family in prayer as they face this transition time.

--30--

Texas Baptists reject defunding  
of Baylor; elect McBride president By Ken Camp

Baptist Press  
10/26/93

DALLAS (BP)--Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas for the second year in a row decisively rejected attempts to defund Baylor University and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, overwhelmingly adopting a \$63.5 million basic Cooperative Program budget for 1994.

The 108th annual BGCT, which drew more than 5,200 registered messengers to the Dallas Convention Center, Oct. 25-26, also elected Jerold McBride, pastor of First Baptist Church in San Angelo as president. McBride received 3,142 votes, and Wayne Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton, received 1,539 votes.

Messengers elected Maurice Johnston of First Baptist Church of San Antonio, a former president of Texas Woman's Missionary Union, as first vice president. David Becker, pastor of University Heights Baptist Church in Huntsville, was elected second vice president. McBride, Johnston and Becker all had been endorsed by the Baylor Alumni Association and the moderate Texas Baptists Committed organization.

By an overwhelming margin, messengers defeated an amendment to the budget which would have reduced from \$4.05 million to \$1.78 million the allocation for Baylor University and distributed the balance proportionately to other Texas Baptist schools.

Three years ago, the Baylor board of trustees changed the university's charter to create a virtually self-perpetuating governing board of regents. Previously, the school had been governed by a 48-member board of trustees elected by the BGCT. Under a relationship agreement approved by BGCT messengers in 1991, the convention elects 25 percent of each class of Baylor's governing board, and Baylor elects the remaining 75 percent.

In extended discussion, speakers supporting the amendment reducing Baylor's funding called the proposed reduction "only fair," and speakers opposing the amendment said BGCT funding for Baylor is "a bargain for Texas Baptists."

--more--

After turning aside the amendment, messengers also rejected an amendment to the budget which would have deleted the \$63,000 allocation for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The Washington-based religious liberty organization -- which has strongly opposed state-sanctioned public school prayers and parochial school vouchers -- was defunded in 1988 by the national Southern Baptist Convention.

The 1994 Cooperative Program budget for missionary, benevolent and educational causes includes a two-phase \$5.3 million challenge budget above the basic requirements for a total \$68.8 million giving goal.

Funds will be distributed according to a formula that again sends 36.65 percent of undesignated Cooperative Program receipts to the Southern Baptist Convention for worldwide causes. The 63.35 percent retained in Texas provides support for state missions, eight universities, seven hospital systems and homes for children and the aging in multiple locations.

In his post-election news conference, newly elected BGCT President McBride said Texas Baptists need to "stay on the right track and not get distracted" by controversy. He pledged to be inclusive in his appointments, saying he had "no campaign, no hidden agenda, no vendetta against anybody."

"Don't mess with Texas. We don't need that here," he said of the 15-year-long controversy within the national Southern Baptist Convention.

Rather than focusing on the avenues of missions support -- whether through the SBC or the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship -- Texas Baptists should continue emphasizing the work of missions and evangelism, said McBride, pastor of the San Angelo church for the last 23 years.

"I'm a pretty radical pragmatist" when it comes to reaching people with the gospel, he said.

First Baptist Church of San Angelo, supports the Texas Baptist missions causes through the Cooperative Program unified budget, but it gives members the option of directing their worldwide missions support through either the Southern Baptist Executive Committee or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In 1992, the church gave \$82,599 to the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and it gave \$47,786 through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and \$10,543 through the SBC Executive Committee.

"Don't fence me in," characterizes his church's brand of West Texas rugged individualism and his own views on political labels, McBride said.

Rejecting any "top-down" church hierarchy, McBride said, "It's none of my business or my concern how your church chooses to give its missions support.

"The Texas Baptist Convention is not a farm team of the SBC. The SBC doesn't make Texas Baptists possible. Texas Baptists make the SBC possible."

McBride rejected the "moderate" label, saying, he could "out-fundamentalize any fundamentalist."

"I don't ever want to be considered anything other than a theological conservative," McBride said.

As evidence of his inclusive nature, McBride pointed out he recently served in Russia as an adjunct professor of preaching for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has twice taught preaching at Golden Gate Seminary without remuneration and recently joined other pastors from across the political spectrum in enlisting support for the 1993 Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

"I can work with anybody," he said.

In other business, Texas convention messengers rejected a motion instructing the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission to rewrite its statement on abortion to bring it in line with the position of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The Texas CLC abortion statement strongly affirms the sanctity of human life but allows for abortion in such extreme circumstances as rape, incest, severe fetal deformity incompatible with life, and threats to the life and health of the mother. The Southern Baptist CLC condemns abortion in all situations except to save the life of the mother.

Texas Baptist convention messengers approved resolutions opposing the spread of gambling in Texas, commending bivocational ministers and their families, and opposing television programs that promote immorality and urging boycotts of the stations that broadcast and the advertisers who sponsor them.

The 1994 BGCT annual meeting will be Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in Amarillo.

--30--

Brotherhood trustees approve  
revised program statement

By Steve Barber

Baptist Press  
10/26/93

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission approved an enlargement of the agency's Purpose and Program Statement at their Oct. 22-23 meeting that officials said would "clarify and strengthen" the commission's working relationships with other Southern Baptist agencies.

However, the new document's guiding principle -- that the Brotherhood Commission's purpose is to "help churches involve their members, primarily men and boys, in missions" -- remains unchanged.

While the current program statement calls only for a program of Brotherhood promotion and support services for that promotion, the revisions outline broader program assignments in developing missions education organizations and resources and in encouraging personal missions involvement.

The revisions also provide more detail regarding the agency's relationships with other agencies, state conventions, and local churches as Brotherhood plans and provides programs, services and products.

Mike Day, associate to the president at the commission, said the approach emphasizes "what we as Southern Baptists can and should do together, not what one agency could do by itself."

The new statement will be presented to state convention executive directors and leaders of other SBC agencies for their comments, and then to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in February 1994. Upon approval, the statement will be considered by SBC messengers in Orlando, Fla., next June.

The trustees also approved a request of \$1,074,904 from the basic Southern Baptist Cooperative Program budget for the budget year 1994-95, representing a 10 percent increase over the 1993-94 allocation.

"I realize this is a significant increase," said James D. Williams, commission president. "I made this request based on the fact that our volunteers' work alone last year saved Southern Baptists at least \$100 million in construction and personnel costs, which approaches the amount received by all of the SBC agencies from the Cooperative Program."

"I think we are worthy of this kind of consideration," he added.

The trustees also were informed of the agency's plans to recover a 1992-93 budget shortfall of \$123,502, or about three percent of the \$4.2 million total. Several cost-saving steps instituted in August will continue at least until finances are reviewed again in January. They include a hiring freeze, a 15 percent reduction in staff travel, and executive staff approval for any non-routine expenditures. In addition, several line items in the 1993-94 budget were reduced including health insurance premiums, which are now projected to be lower than first anticipated.

Williams said much of the budget shortfall was due to income expected from new publications and products that were not ready for introduction as originally planned.

"Though I was disappointed in the July and August income figures, the strong September and October sales helped affirm to us that this shortfall is only a temporary setback," Williams added. "And with these new products that are now being released, and with more accurate sales forecasting, I'm confident this (1993-94) will be the best financial year in our history."

In other action the trustees:

--more--

-- heard a progress report on the agency's \$10 million Opportunity Now capital campaign that will soon begin making appeals to individuals taking part in Brotherhood programs and projects.

-- reviewed the program and curriculum design for Challengers, a new missions education program for young men in grades 7 through 12 to begin in October 1994.

-- received information regarding the agency's partnership agreement with the Foreign Mission Board and the Japan Baptist Mission to enlist volunteers for construction projects in Japan.

-- elected new officers. They are Bob Hill, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Cleveland, Miss., chairman; Donley Brown, retired military management analyst, Jefferson City, Mo., vice-chairman; and John Whitman, retired state Brotherhood director, Springfield, Ill., recording secretary.

-- welcomed four new trustees. They are Dan Banghart of Elko, Nev.; Charles Brown, Aurora, Colo.; Mark Lassiter of Germantown, Tenn.; and James Owens of Charleston, S.C.

The next meeting of the Brotherhood Commission trustees is scheduled for April 22-23, 1994 in Memphis.

--30--

(BP) photo specials of new officers and trustees mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Brotherhood Commission.

Cloning of human embryos  
stirs ethical concerns, debate

By Louis Moore

Baptist Press  
10/26/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--The cloning of human beings raises all sorts of ethical and moral questions, says medical ethicist C. Ben Mitchell of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Mitchell made the remarks in the wake of reports that scientists at George Washington University Medical Center were able to actually clone human embryos. The Washington Times reported the Washington scientists cloned the human embryos into identical twin or triplet embryos, using methods similar to those used to clone rabbits.

The report said, however, the human embryos were abnormal and did not develop into human beings. Even though the technique failed after it first succeeded, it indicates the process is possible within a few years, school representatives said.

Cloning is a process of splitting embryos into twins, triplets or quadruplets. Animal breeders have used the process for a number of years. The term "cloning" has been popularized in science fiction movies and books for decades, but until the development at George Washington University the process in humans was only speculative.

"This development really is not surprising," said Mitchell. "Rather prescientifically, fiction writers and ethicists have predicted cloning human beings would be possible before the turn of the century. In the 1950s and 1960s, Christian ethicists Paul Ramsey and Joseph Fletcher discussed the potential for cloning. Here is another reminder that science fiction can quickly become science fact."

Among the issues surrounding cloning are those that focus on why parents would want to clone their children at conception. Presumably, cloned human embryos could be frozen and used at a later date, making it possible for parents to have a child and then, some time later, give birth to an identical twin," said Mitchell. "Parents could also keep a frozen embryo in storage for later use as an organ donor or replacement in case their child died.

"It is difficult to see how this technology could be used without devaluing the sanctity of human life," Mitchell said. "Human beings are more than the sum of their genetic parts. We are made in the image and likeness of our Creator and even genetically identical twins differ in many respects.

--more--

"The notion of producing a child for replacement parts is deeply troubling," he said. "We should resist every effort to view human beings or their body parts as commodities which can be easily replaced. Human beings simply are not to be used as means to an end. Parents should not have children to 'replace' siblings who die nor as human organ farms."

--30--

Missing missionary OK  
in Burundi after coup

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press  
10/26/93

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Dennis McCall, out of contact with his family and other missionaries for two days after a coup in Burundi, is safe.

McCall was working in his room at a guest house in the Burundi capital of Bujumbura when the army overthrew the government of President Melchior Ndadaye Oct. 21 and sealed off part of the town.

Earlier in the afternoon McCall, an agricultural evangelist from Vicksburg, Miss., had told fellow missionary Jeff Polglase he was leaving for the two-hour drive to his home in Rutana. But McCall remembered some other tasks and delayed his departure.

That decision meant he wasn't on the road when troops and artillery moved against the government. But it also cut him off from contact with his family and missionary colleagues.

Coup leaders sealed the central African country's borders and cut off most phone service, so McCall couldn't get in touch with his wife, Margaret, and three children until Oct. 23.

Polglase, however, was able to telephone across the border to Rwanda and talk to missionary David Hooten, who in turn called mission administrators in Kenya. American embassies in Burundi, Rwanda and Kenya were enlisted in trying to locate McCall.

Four other Southern Baptist missionary couples working in Burundi reported they were safe within the first few hours after the coup.

Ousted President Ndadaye won the small country's first democratic elections six months ago. He is from the Hutu tribe, which makes up about 80 percent of the population but has been ruled for centuries by the Tutsi tribe. The Tutsi retain control of the military.

Rumors of massacres by the army have sent tens of thousands of refugees swarming into neighboring Hutu-ruled Rwanda, which has endured its own civil war between the two tribes since 1990.

The fate of Ndadaye was unclear Oct. 25 but some ministers of his party who fled to Rwanda have established a government in exile. France led other European countries in suspending aid to Burundi and seeking to isolate the coup leaders politically and economically.

A self-styled National Salvation Committee of coup leaders in Burundi said it has accepted that Ndadaye's party "will continue to lead Burundi." But it is asking for amnesty before giving up power.

The committee didn't comment on rumors that Ndadaye was executed along with many of his ministers.

--30--

Women encouraged to shine  
as lights in darkness

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press  
10/26/93

BALTIMORE (BP)--Focusing on their role as light in the darkness, 226 women were challenged to increase the wattage of their Christian testimony during Dayspring, an evangelism conference for women.

--more--

Seminars and worship services stressed women's role in discipleship, ministry and evangelism. The conference was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Baptist conventions in Virginia, D.C. and Maryland/Delaware.

With a natural tendency to nurture, women are especially equipped for discipleship, said Phyllis Adams, home missionary and church and community ministries director for Long Island (N.Y.) Baptist Association.

"When God places someone in our lives, it is probably because he wants us to walk hand in hand with them ... to open ourselves up enough to say I'll hurt with you, laugh with you, cry with you and be there to be the support you need," Adams said.

The most important part of nurturing, Adams said, is to bring the person to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

While nurturing may come easily, being light in darkness means becoming agents of change, said Beverly Scott, professor emerita from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Scott encouraged women to be involved in "touching" ministries that include words, prayers and physical touches, offering healing for the person's body, mind and soul.

If Christians understand and appreciate themselves, they will have more courage to share their faith, said Ruth Ward, author and marriage and family counselor from York, Pa.

Each person has a God-given temperament, such as being introverted or extroverted and making decisions based on emotions or logic. Rather than expecting everyone to be alike, Christians need to affirm people for who they are and celebrate differences, Ward said.

Apathy and fear can keep Christians from sharing their faith, said Earlene Jessee, executive director-treasurer of Virginia's Woman's Missionary Union. Too many "action plans" can also keep people from being involved in lifestyle witnessing, she said. "We're so busy learning to evangelize the world we're too busy to do it."

Several speakers stressed the priority of an intimate relationship with God. "We forget that we're called to a relationship, not an activity," said Esther Burroughs, Home Mission Board evangelism consultant for women.

Houston author and speaker Marge Caldwell said delighting in the Lord means knowing him as Savior, being filled with the Holy Spirit, being pure and being available and obedient.

Sheila West, president and chief executive officer of an advertising company in Monroe, Mich., said pleasing God means seeking his kingdom first and keeping his perspective. "It doesn't matter that I'm finite and fallible, because he's infinite and infallible," she said. "Your call is not dependent on your equipment but the equipper, not what you bring to the table but who prepared the table."

--30--

Iowa Baptists vote increase  
in Cooperative Program giving

Baptist Press  
10/26/93

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (BP)--The Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship increased its Cooperative Program giving by 1 percent and began the process of becoming a state convention during its Oct. 22-23 annual meeting.

The fellowship, attended by 117 messengers at Immanuel Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids, approved a 1994 Cooperative Program budget of \$1,197,515, increasing the portion of the budget for national and international Southern Baptist ministries to 21 percent, from 20 percent.

--more--

The fellowship's vice president, Ed Gregory, pastor of Immanuel in Cedar Rapids who was re-elected to a second term, made a motion in behalf of the new convention committee, which he chairs, that the fellowship "begin the process of planning and preparation that will conclude with the Fellowship constituting as a Convention at the 1995 Annual Meeting." Messengers unanimously approved the motion.

Currently the fellowship encompasses 66 churches, 16 missions and eight Bible fellowships with about 12,000 members.

Also re-elected to a second term was the fellowship's president, David Newcom, a layman from Trinity Baptist Chapel in Waterloo. Jonette Appleton, a fellowship staff member and member of First Baptist Church in Johnston, was elected recording secretary.

The 1994 meeting will be Oct. 21-22 at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Davenport.

--30--

Jonette Appleton contributed to this story.

Baptist college to crown  
first black homecoming queen

Baptist Press  
10/26/93

CLINTON, Miss. (BP)--Donetta McCullum will be crowned Oct. 30 as Mississippi College's first African-American homecoming queen.

McCullum, a 21-year-old biology pre-med senior, won a student vote at the Baptist-related college in a contest with 12 other candidates Oct. 13.

The Laurel, Miss., native told the Jackson Clarion-Ledger she attributed her victory to votes from both white and black friends and to becoming involved in more social activities.

McCullum is a staff member of the student newspaper, vice president of the Black Student Association Plus and a member of the college's gospel choir.

African Americans at Mississippi College number 13 percent of this year's record enrollment of 3,781 students.

--30--

ABP directors OK fund drive,  
discuss CBF's 48 percent of budget

Baptist Press  
10/26/93

By Barbara Denman

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--The approval of a \$100,000 fund solicitation campaign and the naming of new directors were among business conducted during the semiannual board of directors meeting of Associated Baptist Press.

Throughout the Oct. 23 meeting, the directors also spoke of ABP experiencing "a second stage of life" with the hiring of Bob Allen, editor of the Maryland/Delaware Baptist True Union, as associate executive editor, said R.G. Puckett, ABP chairman.

Implicit in that second stage was the need to formulate an employee policy manual, discover new revenue sources and provide some organization to the board itself.

Associated Baptist Press is a news service formed in 1990 by several state Baptist paper editors and others following the firing of two Baptist Press editors by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Baptist Press is the daily news service of the SBC.

ABP directors also wrestled with their growing financial dependence on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and their desire to remain as an independent news service.

--more--

"So much is based on the Fellowship," said Hugh Green, senior vice president for the Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville. "It bothers me that we hinge on that."

Year-to-date revenues indicated that CBF, an organization of moderate Southern Baptists, has provided 48 percent of ABP's income.

The \$100,000 fund solicitation campaign was one part of a proposal made by the fund-raising committee "to move with due haste to spread out revenue sources to support this organization," according to Carl Kell, Western Kentucky University communications professor.

Also authorized in that proposal was the employing of a grant writer to solicit money from "amiable" foundations. Additionally, universities and colleges interested in providing ABP interns will be encouraged to subscribe to the news service.

Some of the directors expressed a growing frustration with their inability to solicit funds for the organization. Green said he has "approached dozens of people" sympathetic to ABP's function but consider their CBF contributions as sufficient as long as the Fellowship continues underwriting the news service.

The directors agreed to "jump start" the solicitation through their own donations and by approaching a "short list" of donors, said Kell. "This is something that we cannot avoid any longer in the time and life of this organization. Every organization is having to do this."

In other action, a proposed 1994 budget of \$254,000, which represents a 27 percent increase over the 1993 budget, was adopted by the directors.

ABP Executive Editor Greg Warner told the board ABP's financial picture was "in good shape at this point in the year" adding ABP has "money in the bank."

"Income continues to grow at a slow and steady pace," Warner said.

Other than CBF, the news service receives contributions from three state conventions -- North Carolina, Texas and Virginia. These states are projected to contribute 30 percent of the budget in 1993. About a dozen Southern Baptist churches are expected to provide nearly \$12,000. Another 10 percent of income includes service fees.

During the meeting, the 20-member self-perpetuating board established staggered three-year board term limits. Three new directors were named: James Sawyer, dentist from Little Rock, Ark.; Gracie Hatfield Hilton, a public relations professional from Arlington, Texas; and Judy Schmeltekopf of Waco, Texas. A fourth director will be named later. Four directors were elected to a second term: Catherine Allen of Birmingham, Ala.; Ardelle Clemons of Greenville, S.C.; James Pleitz of Dallas; and Donald L. Sharp of Chicago.

Resolutions of appreciation were approved for two directors who resigned for personal reasons: Judy Strother of Mountain Home, Ark., and Anna Bannister of Augusta, Ga.

A proposal to approach the SBC Executive Committee for exhibit space at the annual SBC meeting in Orlando this June also was approved.

The directors heard a report that only 72 people had subscribed to ABP's bimonthly newsletter "Newswatch." After discussion the board decided to terminate the direct mail piece unless 250 subscribers are enlisted in the next 90 days.

In a report on production and usage, Warner noted ABP published 549 stories from September 1992 through August 1993, which is slightly more than the 538 published the prior year. Reprints of ABP articles in state papers and other publications increased to 2,029 from 1,620. Nine state papers used more than 100 articles each.

The board re-elected last year's officers to another one-year term. R.G. Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder, North Carolina's newsjournal, will continue to serve as board chairman. Other re-elected officers include Kell, vice chairman; Jeff Mobley, an attorney from Nashville, secretary; and Don McGregor, retired editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record, treasurer.

The next ABP directors meeting will be May 5, 1994, in Greensboro, N.C., just prior to the CBF's annual meeting.

HOUSE MAIL



**BAPTIST PRESS**

901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

HOUSE MAIL

Lynn May  
Historical Commission  
901 Commerce  
Nashville, TN 37203