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'Ring ceremony' is reminder
of True Love Waits pledge

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press
11/9/93

OLD HICKORY, Tenn. (BP)--The youth group that kicked off the national "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence campaign reaffirmed their pledges Nov. 6 in a ring ceremony at Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Old Hickory, Tenn.

In April, 59 Tulip Grove teen-agers signed covenants pledging sexual purity until marriage during a national youth ministers conference in Nashville. Since then, thousands of youth from across the nation have signed True Love Waits covenants.

More than 200 people -- 75 youth and their parents -- participated in the Tulip Grove ceremony. For some it was a reaffirmation and recommitment of the pledge signed in April, said Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board and co-coordinator of the True Love Waits campaign. For others it was their first commitment to remain sexually pure until marriage, added Ross, who also serves as youth minister at the Old Hickory church.

Ross is an advocate of a ring ceremony, which can be done at the time of the commitment or, as in the case at Tulip Grove, a follow-up effort later.

The ring ceremony is "a concrete reminder of the commitment a teen-ager has made to God, to one's family, to one's future mate and children, and to one's self," Ross said.

He noted the vows teen-agers share as part of the ceremony "are a way for them to say out loud the same promise they already have made to God in their hearts."

Another positive aspect of the ceremony, Ross said, is it is shared by the teens with their parents. "I have been pleasantly surprised how excited our teen-agers were about experiencing a very special moment with their parents during the ring ceremony."

Ross observed parents often underestimate how important they are to their teens even though it is a given that some teens are beginning to pull away emotionally. "Preparing for the ring ceremony reminded me that even in the midst of stress, teen-agers value special moments with their parents," he said.

Ross explained the importance of the ring itself.

The rings placed by the parents on their teens' fingers will be worn all through adolescence and even into young adulthood, he said.

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"On a young person's wedding night he or she will give the ring to his or her spouse, explaining the love and commitment the ring represents," Ross said.

The ring also will serve as a reminder to teens about the commitment they made, he said. "I'm fully convinced that there are Tulip Grove teen-agers who will themselves at times be under great pressure to have sex. In those moments seeing the ring and thinking about what it means will cause most of them to say, 'No, I'll wait,'" he predicted.

Parents echoed Ross' feelings about the positive aspects of the ring ceremony and True Love Waits in general.

"It (the ceremony) gave me a sense of unity with Brandon," said his mother, Pat Bundren. She was especially pleased he wanted to do it "with no second thought. As we talked about the commitment, it never came across that we made him do it," she said.

Noting her son is only in the seventh grade, Bundren said making such an important commitment now will make it easier in his relationship with females later.

Mary Ladd, who had two teens participating in the ceremony, said it "makes me proud as a parent to see them maturing and understanding things."

She also said she is proud to see them share with their friends what their church and faith mean and to be a personal witness to them by their actions.

Ladd is cautious not to put too much pressure on the teens. If they make a commitment now and then make a mistake later, it does not make them any less a Christian, she said, noting the ring ceremony is an opportunity for parents to back their teens.

Today's teens are "a strong and bold generation and we as adults need to support them. If we can help direct that energy in the right direction, they can turn this world around," she said.

As a parent she is grateful for the True Love Waits program. "It has brought attention to the kids to let them know there is a choice and they are not alone," she said.

Ross continues to be pleased with the positive reception of True Love Waits by teens and their parents from all denominations. He estimated 15 denominations and Christian youth organizations, in addition to Southern Baptists, have become part of the True Love Waits campaign.

"The stories that we are hearing from almost all the churches are that the majority of youth groups seem ready and willing to make the commitment. In many churches, parents and church leaders have been very surprised with the number of youth making the commitment," Ross said, adding the actual number of youth who have made commitments will not be known until all covenants have been collected.

The national youth leader said he has mixed feelings about the secular media coverage. The True Love Waits campaign has been featured both on national television and in major publications such as Time magazine.

"We have been thrilled with the thoroughness of coverage by the secular media, however, it is a sad commentary on our times that (sexual) purity is now considered a newsworthy subject," Ross said.

What happens after the initial interest in True Love Waits?

Many parents and youth leaders are wanting to know if the True Love Waits campaign will be around after this year, Ross said.

"Many of us are beginning to feel that there should be an annual opportunity for teen-agers to make or recommit themselves to a pledge of abstinence," he said.

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

California college president
announces 1994 retirement

By Brenda Flowers

Baptist Press
11/9/93

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--Russell R. Tuck Jr., president of California Baptist College since 1984, has announced his retirement effective June 30, 1994.

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Tuck told the college's board of trustees during their Nov. 5-6 meeting: "My reason for retiring as president is that the college is at an all-time high in many areas. Morale is good among students, faculty and staff and my relationship with the board of trustees and the California Baptist leadership is excellent. I'm nearly 60 and it is a good time to step aside and let new leadership take the reigns."

Tuck said he has decided to retire "after a decade of unrelenting pressure and a very fast pace. I have prayerfully considered the future of the college and my leadership as its president. I believe I have given myself totally to the task, have relied on God's leadership and have maintained the pace and focus that is required of the position. Now I believe it is time for another person to lead this institution with the same vigor and commitment"

Tuck assumed the presidency in 1984 when the Riverside, Calif., college was on a downward spiral in enrollment and was suffering with a multiple-year deficit that totaled \$2 million.

For eight consecutive years of his tenure, enrollment gradually increased to its current all-time high of 850 students and finances improved as well, eliminating the deficit in 1991.

But, he said, "Of all the roles I have played as president of California Baptist College, I am proudest of my part in raising the level of academics. Though I am an administrator, I am first an educator."

During the past 10 years, the college has added a variety of programs, including the lifelong learning program known as the Evening College; the integrated humanities program required of all students; and the China exchange program, which allowed faculty and students to study in China and brought two Chinese professors to Cal Baptist's campus.

"One of the most satisfying aspects of my work has been watching the growth of the spiritual life on campus," Tuck added. "Students are pursuing their relationships with God energetically and I'm glad to have been part of setting the tone for this change."

Tuck will officially remain as president while he travels to England as a visiting fellow at Regents Park College of Oxford University, which he had planned as a sabbatical prior to his decision to retire.

"Marjorie and I plan to rest, recuperate, read and study during our stay in England," Tuck said. "Then we plan to return to Riverside where we will continue to be associated with California Baptist College in some capacity and remain active in the community."

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W.Va. Baptists report 10% hike
in Cooperative Program giving

By Rick Hatley

Baptist Press
11/9/93

BECKLEY, W.Va. (BP)--Cooperative Program giving by West Virginia Baptists has increased 10 percent during the first 10 months of 1993, messengers to the Nov. 5-6 state convention meeting were told.

The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, which drew 242 messengers representing 31,800 Baptists in 159 churches and chapels, approved a 1994 budget of \$1,660,875, a \$58,281 increase over 1993.

Included in the \$1.6 million budget is a Cooperative Program budget of \$794,471, with 28.5 percent, up .5 percent from 1993, to be forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries.

Also during the meeting at Memorial Baptist Church in Beckley, the convention elected Ron Larson, pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in Shepherdstown, as president; David Jicka, pastor of Highlawn Baptist Church in Huntington, first vice president; Don Yeager, pastor of Fairlawn Baptist Church in Parkersburg, second vice president; and Jack Dial, layman from Highlawn Baptist in Huntington, recording secretary.

West Virginia Baptists approved a long-range planning report which calls for an increase in baptisms annually to reach 2,000 by the year 2000 and an increase in churches by 10 yearly through 2000. This year, four new churches were welcomed into the convention.

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The long-range planning report also calls for help to be given local churches in communicating across the state who Southern Baptists are and what their beliefs and ministries are.

Among resolutions passed during the convention was one urging increased state regulation on obscenity and pornography.

The 1994 meeting will be Nov. 4-5 at First Baptist Church in Fairlea, W.Va.

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Penn./Jersey Baptists affirm CP,
approve plan to increase support By Randal K. Cowling

Baptist Press
11/9/93

PITTSBURGH (BP)--Despite a decline in Cooperative Program giving, Baptists from Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey adopted a 1994 budget increasing their gifts to Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries.

Messengers to the 23rd annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey approved an increase of one-tenth of 1 percent through the Cooperative Program during sessions Nov. 4-6.

A total budget of \$2,141,289 was unanimously approved, with projected receipts from Cooperative Program gifts by churches of \$630,165. The Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey will divide Cooperative Program receipts on a 77.4 percent to 22.6 percent ratio with the later, up from 1993's 22.5 percent, being forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for distribution to agencies and boards.

The 1994 budget indicates \$6,751 less in anticipated Cooperative Program gifts than a year ago when messengers approved a budget with \$636,916 in Cooperative Program gifts. Through August 1993 Cooperative Program receipts were \$347,175.03, which is \$77,435.61 under budget. Cooperative Program expenditures for the same period were \$357,246.38 or \$67,364.56 under budget.

"My dream is that one day Pennsylvania/South Jersey can be a net giver rather than a net getter," said David Waltz, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey. "There are tough days ahead but I believe adversity brings strength."

The adopted budget reflected more than \$50,000 in cuts over the previous year. Three program staff vacancies -- missions director; Woman's Missionary Union/church and community ministries director; and evangelism director -- remain unfilled.

Waltz indicated until the giving decline is turned around not all the positions would be filled. However, he suggested the state missions director position possibly could be filled in the next three to six months.

"We can be an example to the nation. God's hand is on our convention. Just at the right time volunteers have stepped in to fill in the gaps where needed. As I look back, only God could have done that," Waltz said of the vacant program positions.

Messengers unanimously approved a year-long study by the Cooperative Program Task Force which recommends a plan to increase awareness and participation in the program. The report included a recommendation that members to the state executive board "come from churches that give evidence of committed support of consistent giving to the Cooperative Program." The recommendation states, "We strongly urge each board member church to have a plan to give at least 10 percent to the Cooperative Program."

In 1992 Pennsylvania/South Jersey churches gave an average of 8.89 percent to the Cooperative Program. This compares to the national average of 9.3 percent in 1992.

Messengers elected Ray R. Wise, pastor of First Baptist Church in Hershey, Pa., convention president. Also elected were George Sanders, pastor of Altoona (Pa.) Baptist Church, first vice president, and Andrew Stabler, layman from First Southern Baptist Church in Williamsport, Pa., second vic president.

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Among resolutions unanimously adopted were: 1) urging convention churches to participate in ministry projects during the Hope For A Hurting Humanity emphasis June 19-July 31, 1994; 2) honoring Peggy Masters, former WMU/GSM director and editor of the Penn.-Jersey Baptist, state newsjournal, who retired in March; 3) thanking William A. Johnson, president of the state convention since February 1992, the first African American to be elected to the post.

One hundred and 60 messengers and 112 visitors representing 25,000 Baptists in the convention's 250 churches and chapels, attended the three-day convention. The 1994 annual meeting will be Nov. 3-5 at Valley Baptist Church in Middletown, Pa.

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**Harmonious Ohio Baptists
address budget concerns**

By Theo E. Sommerkamp

**Baptist Press
11/9/93**

TOLEDO, Ohio (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio held a quiet, harmonious meeting Nov. 2-4 in a Toledo hotel, with no affiliated church in the region able to accommodate the sessions.

The estimated 400 messengers representing 152,000-plus Baptists in the convention's 507 churches and 83 missions adopted a Cooperative Program goal of \$3,635,301 for 1994, with 40 percent again going to the Southern Baptist Convention for missions, education and other purposes outside Ohio. The budget total is only 1.05 percent above the 1993 goal to make it more reachable.

The total budget of \$5,869,794 is an increase of \$75,000 over the 1993 figure. This includes gifts from special offerings and allocations from SBC entities for shared programs.

Ohio Baptists expect to send \$2,354,621 to SBC causes, while receiving \$920,500 from SBC entities, mainly the Home Mission Board.

Three state convention staff members retiring in 1994 were honored at a reception during the convention: Gilbert Wilder, director of discipleship training; Rondel Martin, director of Brotherhood; and Theo Sommerkamp, editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger newsjournal.

An executive board committee is studying changes in staff due to the budget situation and three retirements.

Leaders said the convention is tightening up its budget and staff because income from churches is not meeting budget targets. It is done as a preventive measure, they said, so that no financial difficulty emerges.

Joe Baker, director of missions for the Greater Dayton Association, was re-elected without opposition to a second term as convention president. James Rich, pastor of East Toledo Baptist Church, was elected first vice president; Larry Allen, pastor of New Life Baptist Church in Elyria, second vice president. Dorothy Thorpe was re-elected recording secretary, a post she has held since 1980.

The convention received a proposed amendment regarding seating of messengers from churches which have been disfellowshipped for condoning homosexual practices. There was no debate; the amendment cannot be voted on until the 1994 convention.

Resolutions avoided denominational and national issues, but urged increased Cooperative Program support from churches. One pledged support to the forthcoming Ohio-Uganda 1994-95 mission partnership.

The 1994 convention will meet in Grove City, suburban Columbus, Nov. 8-10.

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**Cincinnati Baptists question
woman's ordination as deacon**

By Theo E. Sommerkamp

**Baptist Press
11/9/93**

CINCINNATI (BP)--The Cincinnati Baptist Association has asked Mt. Carmel Baptist Church to report back to the association reasons for electing a woman as deacon rather than adopting an alternate for giving recognition to women.

No time was set for fulfilling the request, approved by an 84-59 vote during the association's annual meeting in October.

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The request was non-punitive, although the original motion, made by Charles Sams, pastor of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, carried that threat.

Sams withdrew the punitive part of his motion after learning it would take a three-fourths majority to pass a motion carrying disciplinary intent.

The association, overflowing the 200-seat capacity of First Baptist Church in the Cincinnati suburb of Dent, ignored a plea from Mt. Carmel pastor Lance Cunningham that "we move on and not face this issue again."

"We love this association," Cunningham said. "We support it with money and with people" serving in various voluntary capacities. Mt. Carmel gives 4.5 of its budget income to the association. The church's pastor emeritus is Joseph Crumpler, who remains a member of the church with his wife, Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The issue arose after Mt. Carmel ordained a woman as deacon last March, apparently the first and only such ordination among churches in the association, which has 50 affiliated churches with a combined membership of 18,000.

The woman is single, in her 30s and a medical doctor who was said to have grown up in church and met Mt. Carmel's qualifications for deacon. The ordination took place one week before Cunningham came as pastor, although he knew it was to happen.

The association's credentials committee was instructed last April to report to the fall meeting "concerning the withdrawal or non-fellowship with churches that endorse that practice" of ordaining women as deacons.

The credentials committee, headed by retired Cincinnati pastor E.M. Helton, reported the "Baptist Faith and Message" statement of the Southern Baptist Convention "does not in any way deal with the policies of ordination." The association uses the SBC statement as its own guideline.

The association's existing documents deal with the ordination of ministers and pastors but do not mention deacons, the committee continued.

"We have found no clear statement in Scripture that forbids the ordination of women. Neither have we found a clear statement which suggests or authorizes the ordination of women deacons," it added.

It recommended, "... that, consistent with our denomination's deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, that the practice of ordaining deacons be a local church matter."

A motion to delete the recommendation of the committee and receive the rest of its report "as information" failed on a 57-76 vote.

No challenge was made to Mt. Carmel when the association took the standard action of seating messengers from various member churches. Mt. Carmel had the maximum allowed 10 messengers present.

Sams attempted to present his motion as an amendment to the credentials committee report, but it was ruled it must be treated separately during miscellaneous business.

Helton defended the report against criticism that it went beyond its assignment from the association, saying, "... this committee did exactly what it was supposed to do. You did not give us guidelines. We did a good job." Applause followed.

The association spent more than an hour dealing with the credentials committee report and, later, the motion that was approved calling on Mt. Carmel to make some kind of statement.

The associational action was not discussed during the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio's annual meeting, Nov. 2-4 in Toledo.

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Ukrainian's diagnosis saved
student's life in Kazakhstan

By Gomer Lesch

Baptist Press
11/9/93

CHETEK, Wis. (BP)--Tim Moore, of St. Paul, Minn., was a student summer worker in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, in the summer of 1992. At the end of July, two weeks before he was scheduled to leave the country, he was stricken with acute pains during the night. A nurse who was called in the morning suspected appendicitis and referred the 23-year-old Moore to the clinic attached to his hostel-like accommodation.

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From there he endured a long trip by ambulance to a hospital, only to be faced with 10 and a half more hours of severe pain.

The only person at the hospital who spoke English was a 24-year-old anesthesiologist, a native Ukrainian named Dmitri Sintsov. A hospital surgeon on Moore's case was unsure whether the American was suffering from appendicitis or kidney stones. Sintsov, however, calling on his education in surgery, argued Moore needed immediate surgery. After a heated discussion, the hospital surgeon was convinced to proceed. As soon as the appendix was removed, it burst. Further delay would have been fatal to Moore.

That's why Moore and Sintsov were sticking together like brothers Oct. 29-31 this year at the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention BSU Retreat at Chetek Baptist Assembly in Wisconsin.

Not only did they participate in the retreat, they modeled the theme: "Towels and Basins," examples of practical servanthood. Sintsov's ministering to Moore did not end when he completed his work as anesthetist during surgery. He brought food from home that his mother had prepared three times a day for the 10 days Moore was hospitalized. This is a hospital Moore describes as "straight out of the scenes you've seen in M*A*S*H!" Patients' families provided their food. Cabbage soup was all that was available at the hospital, "not sufficient," Sintsov says with understatement, "for good recovery."

The ruptured appendix wasn't the only frightening thing about the operation. "During surgery, Tim's blood pressure went to zero," says Sintsov. "He had been taking many drugs for problems, and I could only try medicines to bring him around. A nurse found some Soviet medicine that had been put away at the hospital and I was able to use it to help bring Tim through the operation."

Moore invited Sintsov to this country in August of this year. "We stayed with my parents in Deer Park, Wis., for a while but now have an apartment in St. Paul, Minn.," he says. "Dmitri is studying English at Hamline University in St. Paul, which is where I graduated, and wants to work toward taking a medical proficiency examination in order to practice medicine in this country."

Moore's family and church friends have been helping to finance the Ukrainian. "There is no future in Kazakhstan," says Sintsov. "I earn the equivalent of \$20 a month as a doctor. I would have to work at three jobs to survive. A shop assistant makes a much better salary than a doctor. Also, since I am a Ukrainian, I have other problems. In Kazakhstan today, there is only a place for Kazakhs and Muslims. Outsiders are not welcome. I hope I can one day earn my way in the United States."

How does he feel about Baptist church services? The young man who has been Russian Orthodox since childhood says: "There is a difference in the worship service. But we worship the same Jesus, the same God. I like the preaching. It is very clear." The two friends attend Amery First Baptist Church in Amery, Wis.

From Alma-Ata to Chetek is a tremendous distance, but Dmitri and his newfound friends at the student retreat believe their prayers will bridge an even greater distance and lead to something substantial that God has planned for this life-saving young physician.

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Minn.-Wis. Baptists greet
new executive director

By Gomer Lesch

Baptist Press
11/9/93

KENOSHA, Wis. (BP)--The 120 messengers and 90 visitors to the 10th annual meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention heard the first report of their new executive director, William C. Tinsley, and experienced worshipful sessions at Temple Baptist Church in Kenosha, Wis., Nov. 4-6.

Elected as officers were: president, Grant Hignight, pastor of Brown Deer Baptist Church in Milwaukee; first vice president, Glen Land, pastor of Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, Wis.; second vice president, Jeff McBeth, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pewaukee, Wis.; and assistant secretary, Paul Berthiaume, pastor of Superior (Wis.) Baptist Church. Re-elected secretary was Becky Dodson, layperson from Wausau, Wis.

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Hignight has been suffering from cancer for more than a year, but permitted his nomination saying he now feels capable of fulfilling his duties and voicing appreciation for the power of prayer on his behalf.

A 1994 budget of \$1,679,988 was passed, compared to the 1993 budget of \$1,711,305. The anticipated 1994 Cooperative Program budget of \$347,165 is down from 1993's \$357,542. However, the same 26 percent of the CP budget will be forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries.

Speakers from Texas, a state convention with a strong Minnesota-Wisconsin partnership through the years, were James Semple, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas state missions commission; Ken Coffee, associate director of the commission and liaison between the conventions; and Herb Pedersen, director of the BGCT missions division, who led five sessions of Bible study from the New Testament Book of Romans.

Ten resolutions were passed unanimously and with little discussion. One affirmed "the biblical prohibition against the taking of human life" and called Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptists "to work for the adoption of pro-life legislation." It further urged work "with equal fervor to compassionately encourage and assist girls and women with unplanned and unwanted pregnancies to carry their children to term and to prepare for the best life possible for their children." It opposed "all efforts by the United States Congress to limit the rights of states to restrict abortion-on-demand" and called on Congress "to maintain current pro-life policies which prohibit the use of federal funds to encourage, promote, or perform abortions."

One resolution encouraged support of the Cooperative Program, acknowledging churches currently give about 7.64 per cent of their undesignated receipts through the CP and encouraging them to increase giving to 9.26 per cent of undesignated receipts. Another resolution urged prayer for President Clinton and Vice President Gore.

Resolutions of appreciation included Coy Finley, director of missions for the Northwoods Baptist Association who is retiring June 1, 1994; Tom Biles, state missions director, who becomes director of missions for the Tampa Bay Baptist Association Nov. 15; Bill Williamson, retiring as director of chaplaincy and minister relations; James Abernathy and Gomer Lesch, completing interims as, respectively, director of evangelism/stewardship and state newspaper editor.

Next year's meeting will be Oct. 27-29 at Southtown Baptist Church in Bloomington, Minn.

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N.Y. Baptists continue
with missions emphasis

By Quentin Lockwood Jr.

Baptist Press
11/9/93

CORNING, N.Y. (BP)--"Declare Missions Advance" was the theme of the 24th annual session of the Baptist Convention of New York Nov. 4-5 at the Hilton Hotel in Corning, N.Y.

The emphasis for the gathering -- a continuation of the Missions Declaration adopted by the 1993 annual session in Albany -- was based on pioneer missionary William Carey's admonition: "Expect great things. Attempt great things."

The 191 registered messengers and 54 visitors in attendance saw home missions efforts highlighted by a parade of flags of the states and a missions venture display provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Featured speakers were Larry Lewis, HMB president, and Mildred McWhorter, retired Baptist mission center director from Houston.

Recognition also was given to the partnership between the New York and North Carolina conventions and the expertise available in both.

In connection with the partnership, however, it was noted Beth Ward, who has served as a volunteer for Woman's Missionary Union in the Baptist Convention of New York for nearly a year, has been employed by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to work in its office of partnership coordination.

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A 1994 budget of \$2,808,900 was adopted by the convention, a 4.4 percent increase over 1993. The budget is mainly unchanged from the previous year except for a 4 percent increase in staff compensation. As in past years, the convention increased the percentage of its \$627,800 Cooperative Program budget to be sent to Southern Baptist mission causes by .25 percent, to 26.25 percent of undesignated receipts.

In other action, a resolution was adopted deploring the suffering of the people of Haiti, particularly Haitian Christians, and calling for an end to the violations of basic human rights. The convention recording secretary was instructed to send the resolution to the U.S. State Department and to the government of Haiti.

Other resolutions voiced appreciation for convention Executive Director R. Quinn Pugh who is beginning his 10th year of leadership and challenged the people and churches of the Baptist Convention of New York to a renewed commitment to missions advancement.

Larry Pridmore, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Whitehall, N.Y., was re-elected president. Nancy Ryals, a member of Madison (N.J.) Baptist Church, was elected first vice president and Ondra Black, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Flanders, N.J., second vice president. Steve Blake, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Kingston, N.Y., was re-elected recording secretary.

The convention also voted to devote at least one afternoon of the 1995 evangelism conference in a planned witnessing event in the Syracuse area where the conference will be held.

The 25th anniversary of the constitution of the Baptist Convention of New York will be celebrated during the Nov. 3-4, 1994 meeting in Syracuse.

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**Former HMB interfaith leader
receives T.B. Maston award**

**Baptist Press
11/9/93**

DALLAS (BP)--A. Jase Jones, retired regional director for the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department, received the T.B. Maston Christian Ethics Award Nov. 4.

Named after T.B. Maston who taught Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for nearly 50 years, the award is presented biennially to a person who exemplifies the spirit and ministry of T.B. Maston.

The award was presented during the T.B. Maston Foundation trustee meeting in Dallas.

Jones was chairman of the T.B. Maston Foundation from its inception in 1981 until 1992. Jones was a missionary in the HMB's interfaith witness department from 1969 until retiring in 1978.

Previously he was director of Jewish evangelism for Dallas and Tarrant Baptist associations in Texas and for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He also served with the Kansas City (Missouri) Baptist Association as director of the department of work related to nonevangelicals. He was a pastor of churches in Texas for 16 years.

Jones is a graduate of the University of Texas and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, receiving a doctor of theology degree there in 1956. He also is a retired U.S. Army chaplain, with the rank of colonel. He and his wife, Vivian, reside in Austin, Texas.

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