

In another development, an effort to schedule a special trustee meeting has fallen short of the necessary 20 trustees requesting the meeting, according to an April 18 report by Associated Baptist Press.

The mailing by Dilday supporters is to include:

-- a faculty statement adopted April 13 -- which the faculty also paid to publish as a full-page ad in the Texas Baptist Standard -- defending Dilday in the wake of the trustee officers' mailing which contained various charges against Dilday.

-- a point-by-point refutation by Dilday of the trustee mailing.

-- a statement by the school of music faculty countering criticisms of the school in the wake of Dilday's firing.

Among the organizers of the mailing were Kenneth Cooper of Dallas, internationally known for sparking the aerobics movement and immediate past chairman of the seminary's Southwestern Council fund-raising arm who resigned in protest after Dilday's firing; John McNaughton, a Fort Worth businessman and current Southwestern Council chairman; and Jerold McBride, a San Angelo, Texas, pastor and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

A cover letter, from "Friends of Southwestern Seminary," claims that the trustee mailing "contains gross inaccuracies, distortions and misrepresentations. ... Friends of Southwestern believe these false charges cannot go unchallenged."

The faculty, in their "Open Letter to Southern Baptists," voiced "dismay and offense" at the letter sent by trustee officers to Southern Baptist churches.

The faculty said the trustees' letter implied Dilday "holds liberal views of Scripture and uses 'higher criticism' in destructive ways."

"Both charges are false," the faculty letter reads. "We respond not just to defend Dr. Dilday, but also to affirm valid methods of Bible study among Southern Baptists."

After the faculty adopted its open letter, Ralph W. Pulley Jr., a Dallas attorney and trustee chairman, defended the trustees' analysis as accurate as written in their letter. "We respect the right of faculty to express their views, any way they see fit," Pulley said in response to the faculty letter. However, "we did not accuse Dilday of being a liberal nor did we imply that," he said.

At issue in both the trustee and faculty letters are their views of sections addressing the matter of biblical inerrancy in Dilday's 1982 book, "The Doctrine of Biblical Authority."

Pulley cited specific pages in the Dilday book he said reflect a view of Scripture at odds with its inerrancy.

Also, trustees in their letter charged that, "from a decidedly biased position, ... Dilday is dedicated to berate, misrepresent and assail those who hold the Bible to be God's inerrant, infallible and authoritative Word."

Not so, faculty responded in their open letter. "In fact, he has repeatedly urged us to avoid such practices. We are dismayed and offended by misrepresentations, distortions, and the use of guilt by association in the letter from the trustee officers."

The effort for a special meeting of trustees was being spearheaded by Robert Anderson, a Baton Rouge, La., pastor who told Associated Baptist Press he and others had agreed the meeting would not involve an effort to reinstate Dilday but would be a discussion of such matters as uncertainties over Dilday's severance agreement and offering Dilday some sort of long-term role with Southwestern, perhaps as chancellor.

Pulley was quoted as saying the effort for a special meeting "won't amount to anything," while Anderson, who voted against Dilday's firing, said he hopes the effort for a special meeting "will be reborn," despite the shortfall of two trustee votes to call it.

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Art Toalston compiled this story.

**Southwestern music faculty
defend efforts with trustees By Art Toalston**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The school of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has issued a two-page refutation of criticisms of the music program aired in the wake of Russell H. Dilday Jr.'s firing as seminary president.

"The School of Church Music has been given no opportunity to defend itself r attempt to refute this criticism," said the school of church music's dean, James McKinney. "At the unanimous request of the music faculty I have been asked to respond to this negative press."

A cover letter by McKinney is signed by 23 Southwestern music faculty members.

Citing trustee criticisms of the school of church music aired in a Texas Baptist Standard March 23 report and a letter by trustee officers to Southern Baptist pastors and directors of missions, McKinney said the statements "at best are inaccurate and at worst are deliberate misrepresentations of the truth."

The report in the Texas Baptist Standard in part noted:

"... Southwestern's approach is 'far behind what is going on in churches today,' said trustee T. Bob Davis, a Dallas dentist who backed Dilday's firing. Trustees have pushed for 'a new approach to a broad-based teaching of music,' but have found the current music school faculty unresponsive to their concerns, said Davis, who is active in the music ministry at Prestonwood Church in Dallas. Surveys done by the seminary 'overwhelmingly indicate a need for a balanced teaching in the music area' including 'liturgical, traditional, gospel, contemporary, even seeker-service type music,' Davis said. ... 'Let's be honest, after awhile you realize you are being stonewalled,' Davis said. 'The trust es wanted another approach, but Russell and the entrenched old guard was bound and determined to foil any effort to succeed.'"

Trustee officers in their letter stated:

"... There has been a continuing difference of opinion on the kind of training ministers of music for our churches should receive at the seminary. The music curriculum is excellent but is often out of step with church music as revered and sung in most Southern Baptist congregations."

McKinney said the music faculty began discussing trustee concerns in 1987 and undertook a study in 1988 to determine "how our training of church musicians was perceived by different groups and what we might do to improve that training. A survey was sent to a broad spectrum of people asking them for their opinion. The results were overwhelmingly supportive of the church music work offered at Southwestern. ... Serious consideration was given to the survey results and the following are some of the special courses which have been offered during the past three years: Evangelistic Music, Use of Electronic Media, Senior Adult Ministry, Dramatic Music Presentations (Pageants, etc.), Sound Reinforcement for Music, Evangelistic Piano Playing, and Instrumental Arranging for the Church Musician."

McKinney cited other steps he said the school of church music took to be responsive to its Southern Baptist constituency.

He also noted, "Three years ago members of the Music Ministry department faculty and I met with two trustees, T. Bob Davis and John McKay, for a discussion of trustee concerns. Davis and McKay were then invited to visit any music classes and speak to students or faculty. After the visit they made an extremely favorable report to the full trustee body in March 1992, expressing no concerns and making no suggestions for improvement."

According to seminary records, however, the report was made in March 1991 and noted, "T. Bob Davis gave an affirming report on working with the School of Church Music in meeting the needs of Southern Baptist churches. Dr. Davis commended Dean McKinney on the Public Image Questionnaire, Report, and follow-up committee."

McKinney said, "A summary report of what the School of Church Music has done since 1988 to meet trustee concerns is availabl to anyone who would like a copy."

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Targeting Davis, McKinney added, "Perhaps it should be pointed out that these harsh criticisms were made by a person who has never served as a fulltime minister of music in a church, who has no undergraduate academic preparation in music, who plays the piano in a style that was fashionable in the 1950s, who has limited music reading ability, but who has set himself up as judge and jury on how to train church musicians."

Davis, a Southwestern trustee the past eight years, issued a statement, noting, "We have an excellent basic curriculum in the music school. However, the majority of the board has expressed a need for some additions in courses and people to enlarge and broaden the scope of academics and music styles."

"I authored the resolution passed by the board of trustees honoring Dr. McKinney for his long tenure, more than 38 years, as dean of the school of church music," Davis said. "We have great confidence about the future of the school of church music."

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EDITORS' NOTE: The following story may be used in conjunction with the Baptist Press story, "Shooting Victim, BSSB battle guns, senseless violence," dated 4/15/94 and with stories on violence posted in SBCNet News Room.

Statistics prove Baptist teens
aware of effects of violence

Baptist Press
4/18/94

NASHVILLE (BP)--The following statistics were compiled from a 1992 "Youth Questionnaire on Violence," designed by the youth section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division. The surveys were given to more than 2,000 Southern Baptist teens who attended youth conferences at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgcrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Centers.

These and other statistics may be found in the workbook, "Violence: the Desensitized Generation," produced by the BSSB.

Personal Involvement with Violence

-- 27 percent indicated they had been involved in a physical attack on another person.

-- Approximately 25 percent have participated in the destruction of both private and public property.

-- A noticeable majority have personally observed others involved in violence. The violence they observed occurred at school by male teens.

-- Approximately 20 percent of the observed violence was influenced by either drugs or alcohol.

-- Approximately 30 percent have carried weapons and seven out of 10 have observed youth at their schools with guns, knives or other weapons.

-- 22 percent of the youth have been personally attacked.

-- 69 percent indicated they learned violent behaviors from the media.

Friends was a close followed by parents and school.

Violence in the Media

-- More than 90 percent of the youth notice violence in movies, TV shows and music videos.

-- 58 percent of the youth feel this violence to be, to some degree, acceptable.

-- Approximately 75 percent agree violence in the media affects a person's behavior.

-- 16 percent reported media violence had affected their own behavior.

Violence in the Home

-- 22 percent of the youth have observed violent behaviors in their homes.

-- The father is most likely to have exhibited these behaviors. Brothers are a close second.

-- 77 percent of the youth reported there was a gun in their house.

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Gangs

- 52 percent of the youth reported gangs exist in their local schools.
- 21 percent reported gangs exist in their neighborhoods.
- Only 5 percent have participated in gangs.

Violence and Authority Figures

- 10 percent indicated they had been physically attacked by a person in authority.
- The majority indicated they had seen at least one person react violently to someone in authority.

Violence and Personal Feelings

- 22 percent of the youth have observed violent behaviors in their homes.
- 47 percent indicated they hold their anger inside -- and try to forget it.
- Approximately 30 percent indicated they feel a need for help in coping with anger.
- 25 percent of the youth have recently felt they were in danger of being attacked.

Sexual Violence

- 9 percent have personally experienced sexual violence, which occurred on a date or at school.
- 4 percent indicated they had been raped.

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Baptist crew members aboard
interdenominational Mercy Ships By Andy Butcher

Baptist Press
4/18/94

DAKAR, Senegal (BP)--Gallo arrived at the West African dockside with a grapefruit-size tumor in his lower face.

It had developed for want of simple early medical treatment costing just a few dollars. But in this impoverished country it might as well have been a million.

The invading mass had eaten into Gallo's jaw and was filling his mouth, making it increasingly hard to eat. Untreated, it inevitably would block his windpipe, slowly strangling him to death.

Working in the port of Dakar, Gallo learned about the visiting white ship and its Western doctors. Maybe they could help.

Within a few days the 42-year-old Muslim was undergoing a six-hour operation to remove the tumor and reconstruct his jaw and face. All for a token payment.

As Gallo lay anaesthetized in a small operating room inside the 522-foot ship moored in the Senegal capital, surgeon Gary Parker and his team paused to pray for their patient to be touched by the love of Jesus during his treatment.

In the recovery days that followed in the ward on the deck below, Gallo learned more about why these people had come to his country. Like the several hundred others helped by workers on the former cruise liner Anastasis during the three months it was docked in Dakar, he was told the help and healing were in the name of Jesus.

Weighing anchor in Senegal, the world's largest independent hospital ship and flagship of the three-strong Mercy Ships missionary fleet set sail for the United States to bring a firsthand report of its work among the world's needy.

For four months, the Anastasis is visiting the East Coast ports of call Jacksonville, Fla.; Wilmington, N.C.; Norfolk, Va.; Philadelphia; and Albany, N.Y.

Founded in 1978, Mercy Ships -- a division of Youth With A Mission -- combine medical and relief care with evangelism in developing countries. Donations of equipment and supplies from the West undergird the work.

In its years at sea the Anastasis has visited more than 60 ports. Usually its medical skills and aid are given free; the Senegalese government required a token charge, which the Anastasis left behind in the form of donated medicines.

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A typical day in Senegal -- where more than 90 per cent of the population is Muslim -- saw eye and facial surgeries on board, dental and primary health care in two outlying villages and establishing clean water holes, construction of a clinic and evangelism through personal visits and open air dramas.

The wide range of activities mirrors the international and interdenominational mix of the crew of around 400 representing 30 countries and even more church affiliations.

According to Mercy Ships founder Don Stephens, it often is "a powerful witness to people ... that it is possible to retain our distinctives of culture and church tradition while agreeing to concentrate on the more central things we hold in common".

As well as ship's crew, the roll includes doctors, dentists, nurses, health workers, agriculturalists, engineers, evangelists, school and Bible teachers and translators.

Everyone in the organization is unpaid, both full-time and short-term volunteers who join for two weeks to five months. They actually pay for being on board, around \$200 a month in "crew fees".

Among the complement of Southern Baptists aboard the Anastasis is nurse Debby Jones, who joined the ship four years ago with her husband, Lawrence, who leads ship tours when docked and is involved in discipleship of crew members.

Formerly on the staff at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, Jones welcomed the chance to combine her professional skills with a longing to "tell people about God's love".

A member of Forsyth Park Baptist Church in Winston-Salem where she grew up, she currently has put her nursing uniform aside to concentrate on raising their two young sons, Denson, 3, and Brandon, 1.

The confines of ship life aren't always easy for a young family, but Jones does not count it as a sacrifice. "It comes down to the fact that God has blessed us with so much in the West," she said, "and the people in the developing world didn't do anything bad to be born into the conditions they face. ... (I)t is only right to try to help them out."

And even small gestures can speak volumes. Like the time in the Dominican Republic when she and her husband were able to visit the home of a family they had befriended.

"It was a tiny little shack that had about five people in it. We were able to take a bit of money so they could buy a chicken and some beans and rice. I don't think they had ever eaten chicken before."

Looking forward to introducing some of her overseas shipmates to the United States, she said she values the crew's diverse background of countries and churches.

"To me it's God's miracle. We don't seem to disagree or have problems because the main thing is that we don't focus on the minor issues, but the major ones -- and we are all agreed on them."

Sam Coffman, a member of Houston's Richmond Plaza Baptist Church, said he anticipates the "homecoming tour" (the ship's last U.S. visit was four years ago) because of the impact seeing the ship in person can have in stirring a call to missions.

Coffman visited the Anastasis when it was in Houston in 1989. A warehouse supervisor and self-confessed quiet and unlikely candidate for evangelist, he said he "told God that I would be willing to serve him, but I knew it was impossible".

The next day he learned he was losing his job of 15 years, and within a year he was aboard the Anastasis as medical supplies coordinator, ensuring the operating rooms and ward have such needed items each week as bandages, gauze, IV fluids, tubing, gloves, gowns, syringes and needles.

Coffman voices satisfaction with his behind-the-scenes support role. "Ever since I became a Christian in 1974 there was always a pull towards missions but I could never see myself standing on a soapbox on the street corner," he said. "Here I can do my part without having to have lots of people staring at me!"

Terri Walters, from Houston's Tallowood Baptist Church, is the ship's assistant purser, handling immigration papers and visas for the crew -- a constant shuffle, with different requirements for different countries.

"It's amazing. There is such a blend and balance of different personalities and skills that somehow go together to make it all work," Walters said. "You get people with talents you would never think would fit into the ship, and then you see how there is a place for them after all."

Walter's previous career in teaching -- she had been a music therapist -- fit in well when she first arrived in 1991; she spent her first year teaching in the ship's school, where a team of a dozen meet the educational needs of 50 or so children of crew members. She continues to help lead Ship's Kids, in which the youngsters join in sharing the gospel in music and dance.

Her attitudes towards material possessions have changed over the past few years, Walters said, partly through the things she has seen and force of circumstances.

With three women sharing a small cabin, "you have to get really creative at storing things," Walters said. "You become a lot less concerned about holding on to things, somehow. There just isn't the space, so somehow things that used to be really important just don't matter anymore. You give them away."

One of the more recent Baptist arrivals on board is Beverly Chambers, from Houston's Winchester Baptist Church. She arrived to take part in one of the five-month discipleship training schools run on ship each year combining classroom teaching on the character of God and missions with hands-on ministry.

A graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and former short-term missions volunteer in the States, Chambers said she was attracted by the blending of the practical with proclamation.

"I really like the aspect of the marriage of the two through the ship," Chambers said. "I used to work in missions centers where we provided help and training, everything was combined with teaching the Bible."

"Too frequently now you tend to see the concern is all social needs but no one is putting the Word of God into people's lives, or where it is all words with no practicing going on. To be in a place where that is all put together is exciting."

After its East Coast tour -- to welcome visitors and gather supplies and materials -- the ship will sail to Ghana for a five-month outreach.

Unusually, the medical team already know of one case they may be dealing with:

Gallo intends to find a friendly ship to take him down around Cape Palmas for follow-up surgery to use a slice of hip bone to fashion a new, permanent jaw.

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(BP) photos available upon request from BP's central office in Nashville.

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