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April 22, 1994

94-68

NASHVILLE -- Correction.

NORTH CAROLINA -- He weathered firing squad, found Christ at Olympics.
NORTH CAROLINA -- Many are called, few respond, Southeastern speakers say.
NORTH CAROLINA -- FMB's Jerry Rankin challenges seminarians to 'Lift up Jesus.'
NORTH CAROLINA -- Prayer opened Mongolia, FMB's Avery Willis reminds.
ATLANTA -- 'Embraced by the Light' called Mormonism disguised.
SOUTH AFRICA -- Missionaries relieved, cautious in South Africa.
WASHINGTON -- President proclaims May 5 as National Day of Prayer.
NEW MEXICO -- New Mexico board members vent feelings over Dilday dismissal.
ALABAMA -- Mission boards take most awards in BPRA competition.
ALABAMA -- Southern Baptists dominate RPRC awards competition.

CORRECTION: Please replace the first two paragraphs of the (BP) story, "Chapman says Texas proposal undermines Cooperative Program," dated 4/21/94, with the following paragraphs:

NASHVILLE (BP)--A proposal before a special Texas study committee to alter the state's participation in the Cooperative Program is "a far cry from what Southern Baptists have known, cherished and practiced."

That is the assessment of Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, who said the proposal is "an open invitation to Southern Baptist churches in Texas to become much more directly involved in SBC missions by sending their gifts directly to the SBC to support world missions and ministries."

Thanks,
Baptist Press

He weathered firing squad,
found Christ at Olympics

By Norman Miller

Baptist Press
4/22/94

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--"He was black, tall, strong, intimidating, not a Christian," said Southern Baptist foreign missionary Michael Hester, who is also pastor of the International Baptist Church in Madrid, Spain.

"His name is Francis, a 6-foot, 6-inch, 250-pound, super heavy weight Olympic boxer from Liberia."

Hester delivered his remarks concerning Southern Baptist efforts at the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, in 1992 while he preached on April 19 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., during a chapel service held in conjunction with the seminary's Global Missions Week.

"Francis' only goal was to win the gold medal, but before the Olympics came, a three-way civil war in broke out in Liberia. He tried his best to stay out of that. And finally under great intimidation, he (and eight others stood before) a firing squad.

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"Eight people were killed dead right before his eyes," Hester said. "The commander said, 'Are you with us, or are you not for us at all?' Francis said, 'I'm not with you.' The commander pulled the trigger, the gun misfired, Francis ran and hid, shaking, scared to death for days."

Hester said Francis finally did arrive in Barcelona, but not before his country had intentionally delayed him to the point he was unable to register as a competitor in the Olympics. "Can you imagine sitting in Olympic village with everything at your fingertips, watching the boxing matches on television?"

Southern Baptists "had an outreach ministry going in the Olympic village. A small, 5-foot, white woman, a missionary, a Southern Baptist missionary, came into Olympic village and saw Francis. She sat down beside him and began to share Christ with him," Hester said. "Before long, his big, ol' black hands enveloped her little white hands and he was praying to receive Jesus."

Hester said Francis told the woman "something very strong: He said, 'You know, I've never heard this story before. I came for the gold, but I found something more precious.'"

Francis did not return to Liberia but sought political asylum in Spain, and Hester said Francis also sought a church home: "He said, 'I think I'm supposed to go to church now. This lady who was a Southern Baptist missionary, have you ever heard of them? I said, 'I am one. He said, 'Well, I'm looking for an English-speaking church, I don't know Spanish. Do you know the pastor, is there such a thing?' I said, 'I am the pastor.' I baptized Francis. I never thought I'd get him out of the water."

Hester then asked his audience, "How many like Francis are out there? Where would a godly Francis be without Southern Baptists? Where would a godly Francis be without the missionary who was willing to go? Where would a guy like Francis be without a church that was willing to reach to him? You know where he'd be? Dead, without Jesus -- what a horrible thing!"

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Many are called, few respond,
Southeastern speakers say

By Jon Walker

Baptist Press
4/22/94

Wake Forest, N.C. (BP)--The fields are whiter and whiter unto harvest but the laborers are fewer and fewer, according to many missionaries sharing at the Global Missions Conference at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., April 19-21.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the three days of mission emphasis included fifty missionaries and missions administrators sharing the critical need for evangelism worldwide.

"I am convinced that 1 million people would come to Christ today, if they were only told the gospel," said Avery Willis, FMB senior vice president for overseas operations. "But how can they hear it without someone to tell them, and how can someone tell them unless he's willing to go?"

"God wants to do the same today as when he first started," Willis continued. "He wants to take a people of limited vision and send them out to the darkness of the world to reach lost people for Christ. God is on a mission, and if you want to be with him, you must be on a mission too."

Donald Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, said God pours grace into our lives so we can call others to a life in Christ.

"Grace is always a call to responsibility more than it is a call to privilege," Kammerdiener said. "If there is any desperate need among our churches and among God's people today, it is to see a demonstration in which what we profess somehow walks in sync with the way we live."

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"I know some people who can give the strongest affirmation possible as to the authority of God's Word, but they will not reflect on what the calling and grace of God really means in their lives. They've drawn some lines and said, 'Beyond this, I will not go.'"

Noting the current obsession with politically correct thinking, Kammerdiener said Christians should be more concerned with what is spiritually correct.

"I suggest that any time convenience is the motivation for our decisions on how to serve God, we're using spiritually incorrect language," he said. In addition, too many people are concerned about fulfillment in ministry, "but a servant doesn't ask about fulfillment; a servant asks what his Lord wants done.

"Whatever reasons you have for being a missionary or not being a missionary, they ought to go far beyond the consideration of convenience and fulfillment," Kammerdiener said, adding that pastors and their churches need to make as firm a commitment to missions as those going overseas.

Retired missionary Evelyn Hill said she participates in conferences such as this because there is a tremendous need to let young Christians know the importance of world evangelism. She said since coming back to the United States she has discovered "how uneducated people in America are toward the rest of the world."

"We don't really realize there are people out there who do not know Christ, who are dying and not going to heaven," she said.

"We were one of four couples who left Thailand last year and two more of the old guard have since left," Hill said, noting few replacements have come forward to reach a country where less than 1 percent of the population is Christian, including Catholics and Protestants.

Southeastern student William Burton, from Rutledge, Tenn., said the conference confirmed his call to missions.

"I am in heaven with all the missionaries here and all the excitement on campus," Burton said. "I came to Southeastern with a calling to be a church planter in Latin America, particularly Venezuela. The Lord really spoke to my heart this week and gave me a stronger affirmation that that is what God wants for me."

Missions professor Keith Eitel said: "This is a week where we created the life circumstances where God could touch the students' hearts. This week was designed to help define and refine his call upon their lives, and hopefully, these missionaries will be facilitators to help our students move on to the next stage."

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FMB's Jerry Rankin challenges
seminarians to 'Lift up Jesus' By Norman Miller

Baptist Press
4/22/94

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, shared a view of the world April 19 seldom seen in the media while speaking at the FMB-sponsored Global Missions Week at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Noting the media gives a clinical and detached view of the world, Rankin reminded a chapel audience that Americans get only "a glimpse of the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the suffering and destitution in Somalia, the latest bombings in the Middle East."

"Those of us at the (FMB) see the world in a little different light. As we become aware of the world's situation, what touches our hearts is the multitudes who do not know Christ.

"When you read of 20,000 lives being snuffed-out prematurely in Rwanda, did it occur to you that these people died without an opportunity to know the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?" Rankin asked.

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Citing India's population of 843 million, he said, "These are people bowing down to grotesque idols, believing in literally millions of deities in the name of the Hindu faith because they are still in darkness and oppression.

"We think of the 950 million Muslims stretching across North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia who still affirm there is but one god, Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet," Rankin said.

FMB research shows the world has at least 2,000 ethnic/linguistic people groups who are still unevangelized, where there are no believers or churches.

"Can you remember when you first heard about Jesus?" Rankin asked. He said FMB research "indicates 1.3 billion people have yet to hear the name of Jesus."

Reading from the Gospel of John, Rankin quoted Jesus' words: "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me." Rankin said when Jesus was lifted up on the cross, "The grace of God was released to flow across this world to draw people to salvation ... and flowed through 20 centuries so that whoever would call upon the name of the Lord might be saved.

"Because Jesus was lifted up, the grace of God is sweeping across Africa, Latin America and Asia, touching those Muslims and Hindus and peoples deprived for so many generations of knowing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The FMB employs almost 4,000 missionaries whose ministries touch 129 countries and 85 unreached people groups, Rankin said. After enumerating the various jobs of FMB missionaries, he said, "The only reason we send out missionaries ... is to lift up Jesus."

Rankin said "because Jesus was lifted up," 42,000 people in Kenya were converted to Christ in 1992, and FMB missionaries reported 262,000 baptisms worldwide in 1993, and Brazil had 63,000 baptisms and 205 new church starts in 1993.

Recounting a trip to a remote tribal area in India, where he preached at an annual associational Baptist meeting, Rankin said the host pastor told of how the tribal people would kill one of their children and sprinkle blood on the fields, hoping the gods would grant a fruitful harvest.

"But when we arrived at the conference site, we saw more than 3,000 people camped along the hillside. The people began to gather in a brush arbor, and a man leading the way would shout something, and all the people would shout back. The host pastor asked, 'Do you know what they are saying? That man is shouting, Who is the Lord? and the people are responding, Jesus is Lord.'" Rankin said a people once enslaved to superstition and child sacrifice "lifted up the name of Jesus, because Jesus had been lifted up before them."

Rankin told of Bob and Marge Wakefield, itinerant missionaries who lived out of a suitcase and served in some very remote and difficult areas of the world. While on a final missionary circuit before retirement, Rankin said the Wakefields returned to this same tribal area in India to teach the pastors of the 130-plus churches now planted there. "The Wakefields explained they were retiring and would not be coming back to India," Rankin recounted. "In their sad time of sharing and saying good-bye, one of the elderly pastors asked, 'Bob, will someone else be coming?' Bob said he choked up and couldn't answer ... then simply had to say, 'I don't know.'"

Rankin pointed the challenge of world missions to his listeners: "People all over the world are asking, 'Will someone come? Will someone come?'"

**Prayer opened Mongolia,
FMB's Avery Willis reminds**

By Jon Walker

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The prayers of Southern Baptist churches can have a significant impact on global missions, said Avery Willis, senior vice president for overseas operations at the Foreign Mission Board.

Prayer is the fundamental approach to missions strategy, Willis added, and God uses it to get the gospel where missionaries cannot go.

As an example, Willis cited Mongolia: The Women's Missionary Union in West Virginia targeted Mongolia for prayer because there were no Christians, no Bibles and no churches there. Now there are nearly 1,500 Christians in Mongolia as well as about 10 churches.

"There are over 1 billion people who have never heard of Jesus," Willis said. "Our churches can pray that God will open opportunities for those people to hear the gospel.

"I would say every church ought to adopt a people group. We have about 6,000 people groups identified that we still have not touched."

Willis said churches can write the FMB international office of prayer strategy and be assigned a people group for whom to pray. Other materials, such as prayergrams, are available to provide a church with a list of specific needs to pray about and to let them know how prayers were answered.

Missionary Cathy Ollis, who works among unreached people in India, said prayer support has been significant to her and her husband.

"We believe my husband's recovery from a critical illness while on the mission field was the direct result of people praying for him on his birthday (which was listed on an FMB prayer calendar)," Ollis said.

Willis and Ollis were among the 50 FMB participants at the Global Missions Conference April 19-21 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

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**'Embraced by the Light'
called Mormonism disguised**

By David Winfrey

**Baptist Press
4/22/94**

ATLANTA (BP)--A best-selling book by a woman claiming to have a message from Jesus is full of covert Mormon teachings and language, said Southern Baptist interfaith witness specialists.

"Embraced by the Light" by Betty J. Eadie has been on the New York Times best-seller list 49 weeks for hardcover non-fiction books, and recently it reached the No. 1 spot.

Eadie claims to have died for five hours following an operation in November 1973. During that time, she wrote, Jesus took her to heaven and gave her a message for the world.

Although she dedicates the book to "The Light, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," the ideas "revealed" to her use Mormon phrases and theology, said Tal Davis, interim director of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department.

"This thing is hard-core Mormon," Davis said. "It is purely Mormon content that is written in a style that would appeal to people who are looking for something non-threatening and non-dogmatic."

Eadie, however, never identifies herself as a Mormon in the book, said Robert McKay, associate director of Utah Missions Inc., a ministry to Mormons.

"It's very carefully sanitized to make sure there is no overt reference to the Mormon church," said McKay, a former Mormon. "It is written to sound like it is generic Christian, and yet it is not Christian at all."

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At least two Christian publications, Christianity Today and Christian Research Journal, have identified Eadie as a Mormon.

Among the books' teachings that Davis said reflect Mormon theology:

- Humans have a premortal life and assisted God in creating the world.
- Humans can become gods.

- God the Father and Jesus are two separate beings, denying the Trinity.

Whether Eadie believes she had this experience or not, she must have known her book would influence readers to be more receptive to Mormon doctrine, Davis said.

Some Baptist Book Stores sold "Embraced by the Light," but an official in Nashville said store managers have been instructed to pull it from their shelves.

"This book, clearly, is not a book that we want to be carrying in our stores," said Jim Gilliland, director of marketing services for the Baptist Sunday School Board. "We have had some managers that didn't get the message and now we are in fact going out there making sure they pull that off the shelf."

Employees have been instructed to recommend "The Life After" by Billy Graham, which will be released in August, to customers who inquire about "Embraced by the Light," he said.

McKay said Eadie is probably sincere in her writings, but mistaken. "I don't think she's making anything up. I think she really believes in what she's writing about, but at the same time I think she's dead wrong."

Davis noted that people who have near-death experiences almost always interpret them in light of their religious beliefs. "As Christians we need to interpret our experiences, whatever they may be, in light of the Bible."

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Missionaries relieved,
cautious in South Africa

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
4/22/94

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries share the general sense of relief and celebration that the Inkatha Freedom Party will participate in South Africa's historic elections April 26-28.

"We can really tell the tension level has dropped significantly -- it was like a dark cloud lifting," missionary John Gordy told Baptist Press April 22.

"We still expect some violence, but things look a lot better than they did last week."

The Zulu-led Inkatha Freedom Party had threatened for months to boycott the all-race elections. And mounting violence between Inkatha supporters and partisans of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress has left hundreds dead this year.

Civil war remains a threat, but Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's last-minute decision to participate in the elections removed the most immediate roadblock to peace -- and headed off postponement of the elections.

Southern Baptist missionaries in South Africa earlier had been offered two weeks of administrative leave if they felt they should leave the country when the danger of election-related violence was at its highest.

"As always, the person best able to determine what they should do is the individual missionary," said John Faulkner, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board area director for eastern and southern Africa.

"Our people work in many different environments in South Africa and have different family and ministry situations. So we wanted to make the administrative leave available."

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Twenty-two missionaries accepted the temporary leave, almost all going to nearby Botswana or Zimbabwe. More than 40 mission workers remain in the country, although some have left their stations for less volatile towns.

Despite the tensions, Gordy reported the missionaries had "an excellent" annual meeting in early April.

"A lot of us were under more stress than we realized and if the elections had been postponed it would have really started to show," he said.

Rick Bates of the Foreign Mission Board, who counsels missionary families, attended the meeting to lead group sessions and individual conferences with missionaries on dealing with stress.

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President proclaims May 5
as National Day of Prayer

Baptist Press
4/22/94

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Clinton has issued a proclamation recognizing May 5 as National Day of Prayer.

In the proclamation, the president encouraged Americans "to gather, each in his or her own manner, to recognize our blessings, acknowledge our wrongs, to remember the needy, to seek guidance for our challenging future, and to give thanks for the abundance we have enjoyed throughout our history."

"We need not shrink as Americans from asking for divine assistance in our continuing efforts to relieve human suffering at home and abroad, to reduce hatred, violence and abuse, and to restore families across our land," Clinton said. "By following our own beliefs while respecting the convictions of others, we can strengthen our people and
r build our Nation."

He also said, "Presidents, above all, need the power of prayer, their own and that of all Americans."

National Day of Prayer will be observed with prayer meetings and other events in Washington, D.C., and communities throughout the country.

The National Prayer Committee will hold a five-hour observance in a House of Representatives office building. On the evening before, the committee will sponsor a time of prayer for President Clinton, his family and the executive branch of the federal government. The session will be held in Lafayette Park, across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House.

In addition to other observances May 5, "Meet at City Hall" will be held in many communities. The campaign calls for citizens to meet at their local government building at 12:20 p.m. for 20 minutes of prayer.

Congress established the National Day of Prayer in 1952. In 1988, it was set on the first Thursday of May.

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New Mexico board members vent
feelings over Dilday dismissal By John Loudat

Baptist Press
4/22/94

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--Baptist Convention of New Mexico executive board members closed their April 18 meeting venting feelings about the firing of Russell H. Dilday Jr. as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Convention President Frank Zamora, pastor of First Baptist Church in Las Cruces, said he often has been asked, "What is New Mexico saying concerning this?"

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He said his response has been, "I cannot speak for the board." He then expressed his desire to list n to board members concerning the issue sparked by Dilday's firing March 26 after 16 years as president of the Fort Worth, Texas, school.

No formal action was taken by the board after various members voiced their concerns.

One individual commended Zamora on his response and suggested he continue saying the same thing. If people want to know what New Mexico Baptists think, they will have to ask individual New Mexico Baptists their opinion, the individual said.

Zamora said several individuals had remarked to him that a couple of statements in the letter of seminary trustees to Southern Baptist pastors were incorrect and unkind. Zamora said he had been unable to get a response from the trust e chairman Ralph W. Pulley Jr. of Dallas.

Another board member said he understood why it was difficult for the board to make any kind of an official statement. Personally, however, he expressed how grieved and ashamed he was to be a Southern Baptist during this time when we are "devouring one another and holding our Lord up to ridicule." He said people need to stand up for Dilday and "we shouldn't allow this mockery to continue in our convention."

Someone else expressed how uncomfortable he was with the discussion. He said he has been grateful the SBC controversy has not been an issue in New Mexico until now. He admitted that mistakes have been made, but warned that anything "that is spoken by this body will be looked upon with great esteem by the churches in New Mexico and it will become an issue in our churches." The convention's focus, he continued, should be on the lost in New Mexico communities who need Jesus. "Every ounce of energy drained off in this direction is energy that could be used in the main thing of the gospel."

The last board member to speak mentioned that the appeal has been made to be quiet because of what it will cost. He said Southwestern's trustees didn't weigh the cost before firing Dilday and "I for one will be silent no more."

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Mission boards take most
awards in BPRA competition

Baptist Press
4/22/94

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Communicators working for Southern Baptists' two missions boards received a combined total of 33 awards in the Baptist Public Relations Association's 1994 Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition.

In an awards ceremony during the group's annual workshop April 7-9 in Birmingham, Ala., Home Mission Board staffers collected a total of 19 first- and second-place awards, while Foreign Mission Board staffers won a total of 14 first- and second-place awards. In addition, HMB staffers won two of the competition's grand prizes and an FMB staffer won in another grand prize category.

Winners in the grand prize categories included Wayne Grinstead of the Home Mission Board, the Frank Burkhalter Award for Exceptional Achievement in Writing; Mark Sandlin of the Home Mission Board, the Fon H. Scofield Award for Exceptional Achievement in Publication Photography; Trish Landers of the Foreign Mission Board, the M.E. Dodd Award for Exceptional Achievement in Video Production; Charlie Warren of the Baptist Sunday School Board, the Albert McClellan Award f r Exceptional Achievement in Print Media and Design; and Kim Diahn Oakley of Carson-Newman College, the Arthur S. Davenport Award for Exceptional Achievement in Public Relations and Development.

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In the competition's writing category, first-place awards were given to Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press (tw); Bob Terry, Word and Way, state paper of Missouri Baptists; Marty Croll, Foreign Mission Board; Scott Collins, Southwestern Seminary; Craig Bird (two first-place awards), Foreign Mission Board; Wayne Grinstead, Home Mission Board; Mary E. Speidel, Foreign Mission Board; Kim Diahn Oakley, Carson-Newman College; Norman W. Jameson, Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina; and Joe Westbury, Home Mission Board.

Second-place awards were given to Greg Warner, ABP; Ken Camp, Baptist General Convention of Texas; Greg Warner, Bob Allen and Larry Chesser (joint entry), ABP; Chip Alford, Baptist Sunday School Board; C. Lacy Thompson, Louisiana Baptist Message; Phyllis Thompson, Home Mission Board; Don Martin and Mike Chute (joint entry), Foreign Mission Board; Lynn Clayton, Louisiana Baptist Message; Bill Bangham, Home Mission Board; and Shari Schubert, Word & Way.

In the photography category, first-place awards were given to Jim Veneman, Sunday School Board; Bill Bangham (two first-place awards), Home Mission Board; and Mark Sandlin (two first-place awards), Home Mission Board. Second-place winners were Jim Veneman, Sunday School Board; Don Rutledge, Foreign Mission Board; Bill Bangham (two second-place awards), Home Mission Board; and Mark Sandlin (two second-place awards), Home Mission Board.

In the print media and design category, first-place awards were given to Charlie Warren, Sunday School Board; Mark Wingfield, Western Recorder, state paper of Kentucky Baptists; Pat Centner (two first-place awards), Baptist Foundation of Arizona; Ray Furr and April Hull (joint entry), Annuity Board; Tracy King, Union University; Ray Furr and Paul W. Paul (joint entry), Annuity Board; Ray Furr, Jerilynn Armstrong and April Hull (joint entry), Annuity Board; Jeff Bowman (two first-place awards), Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; Jim Edminson and Larry Baker (joint entry), First Baptist Church of Pineville, La.; Brian K. Hardy, South Carolina Baptist Convention; Vickie Butler, Carson-Newman College; and Kathy Jennings, Home Mission Board.

Second-place winners in the print media and design category included Kathy Jennings, Home Mission Board; Lynn P. Clayton, C. Lacy Thompson and Jim Edminson (joint entry), Louisiana Baptist Message; Donna Carlson, Arizona Baptist Retirement Centers; Scott Collins, Southwestern Seminary; Cathy Humphrey, Georgia Baptist Health Care System; John Bailey, Southern Seminary; James Warren and Sowgrand Shekholeslami (joint entry), Brotherhood Commission; Jeff Bowman, David Watts and Jetta Allen (joint entry), Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; Brian Jones, Details Inc.; Mark Whiten and Karen Merrick (joint entry), Grand Canyon University; Anita Bowden, Foreign Mission Board; Mark Whiten, Grand Canyon University; Karen Merrick, Arizona Baptist Children's Services; and Mark Whiten and Christopher Potts (joint entry), Grand Canyon University.

First-place awards in the video production category were given to Scott Collins, Southwestern Seminary; Van Payne and David Walker (two first-place awards as joint entrants), Foreign Mission Board; Tyrus Woods Jr., Florida Baptist Convention; Trish Landers, Foreign Mission Board; Van Payne and Gunther Friedrichs (joint entry), Foreign Mission Board; and Douglas W. Rogers, South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Second-place winners in the video production category included Ray Fetty, Foreign Mission Board; Van Payne (two second-place awards), Foreign Mission Board; Randy Durham, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; Mark Coppenger, SBC Executive Committee; Douglas W. Rogers, South Carolina Baptist Convention; and Dutch Bickley, Annuity Board.

In the public relations and development category, first-place awards were given to Chip Alford and Barbara Brake (joint entry), Sunday School Board, and Kim Diahn Oakley, Carson-Newman College. A second-place award was given to Barbara Denman, Don Hepburn and Tyrus Woods (joint entry), Florida Baptist Convention.

The association announced scholarship recipients in two categories at the annual meeting. Kevin Knuckles, a communications major at Southwestern Seminary, was awarded a \$500 graduate scholarship.

Carol Collins, director of public relations at Shorter College in Rome, Ga., and Beth Wyatt, assistant to the president at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky., both received professional development scholarships from the association to help them with expenses in attending the annual event.

The association also elected officers for 1994-95 who will begin their duties July 1.

Those elected to serve are: president, Philip Poole, director of public relations, Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City; program vice president, Mary Jane Welch, assistant director of news and information, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; membership vice president, Diane Reasoner, associate director of public relations, Georgia Baptist Convention, Atlanta; newsletter editor, Tim Tune, editorial director, Annuity Board, Dallas; treasurer, Eddy Oliver, assistant director of promotion, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; historian, Polly House, editorial assistant, Baptist Press, Nashville; and awards chairman, Terry Barone, director of public relations, California Southern Baptist Convention, Fresno.

The association's 1995 annual workshop is scheduled April 27-30 in Williamsburg, Va.

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Southern Baptists dominate
RPRC awards competition

Baptist Press
4/22/94

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Southern Baptist communicators, led by the Foreign Mission Board, won 23 of 94 awards to dominate the annual DeRose/Hinkhouse Awards competition of the Religious Public Relations Council.

Other multiple winners in the interfaith awards competition, held April 7 in Birmingham, Ala., included Roman Catholic communicators, with 11 awards; the Baptist General Conference, with eight; Presbyterians, with six; and Episcopalians, Lutherans and Mennonites, with five each.

Among Southern Baptist competitors, the Foreign Mission Board won 12 awards, followed by the Baptist Sunday School Board, with six; the Christian Life Commission, with two; and the Executive Committee, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Missouri Baptist Convention, with one each.

Southern Baptists collected two "Best of Class" grand prizes in the competition, as well as one "Shoestring Award," which recognizes entries that are effective despite a limited budget.

Chip Alford of the Sunday School Board won three awards, including "Best of Class" and a first place for the national public relations campaign "True Love Waits" and a second place with Charles Willis for magazine feature series writing.

Willis, also of the Sunday School Board, won a first-place award for a newspaper feature series on "Southern Baptist Worship Styles."

Another "Best of Class" grand prize, along with a first-place award, went to Martha Skelton of the Foreign Mission Board's magazine, The Commission, for a magazine feature series, "Student Ministry in Canada: Touching Tomorrow."

Leland Webb of the Foreign Mission Board won a second place in the magazine category for The Commission, which he edits.

Mark Coppenger of the Executive Committee won the "Shoestring Award" for the production "Amazing Grace" in the television category.

Other Southern Baptist multiple winners:

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Trish Landers, Foreign Mission Board, first- and second-place awards in video categories; David Walker, Foreign Mission Board, a first and a second in video categories;

Louis Moore, Christian Life Commission, two seconds in photography and video categories; and Don Martin, Foreign Mission Board, two seconds in news and feature writing categories -- the latter shared with Mike Chute.

Other first-place winners:

Scott Collins, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in the booklet category for "President's Report -- Vision for Excellence;" Craig Bird, Foreign Mission Board, for his magazine feature, "Running with the Maasai;" and Jim Veneman, Sunday School Board, for photography.

Other second-place winners:

Linda Lawson, Sunday School Board, for the booklet, "The Bible Speaks -- for Such a Time as This;" Philip Poole, Missouri Baptist Convention, for the "1993 Annual Meeting Bulletin;" and Van Payne and Terry McMahon, both of the Foreign Mission Board, each for video productions.

HOUSE MAIL

(BP)

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Archives