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NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2350
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-8911
CompuServe ID# 70420,1

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522, CompuServe 70420,250
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232, CompuServe 70420,115
NASHVILLE Linda Lawson, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300, CompuServe 70420,57
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151, CompuServe 70420,72
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223, CompuServe 71173,316

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Losing a son stirred dad
to find faith in Christ

By Ken Walker

Baptist Press
5/27/94

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Nearly three years have passed, yet the image is freshly etched in Michael Harris' mind. The doctor walked into the waiting room and shook his head, "This is serious. We haven't been able to revive him."

Harris' youngest son, Adam, then 6, had gone to a pool party with an older brother. When the host called everyone to dinner, the youngster came near the house, then ran around the corner to retrieve a ball.

Seeing it in the pool, the adventuresome boy jumped in after it. Two minutes later, adults who went to see why Adam was missing pulled his body from the bottom of the pool.

"My whole world tore apart," Harris said. "I never had someone that close to me die."

"I went through all the emotions, mainly guilt for letting him go. I had always told him I would be there and wouldn't let him get hurt. And then I wasn't there."

Ironically, two months before his son's death the Louisville, Ky., native came face to face with his own mortality. The stress of long hours as a computer operations supervisor overwhelmed him; he felt so bad he thought it might be the end.

That touched off a time of family togetherness. Although Harris attended the Catholic church of his youth and the rest of the family went to a Baptist church, at home they started daily devotions.

Through these Bible studies and teaching at church, Adam accepted Christ as his Savior before his sudden death.

"God knows you and he knows what makes you work," Harris said. "With me it was always physical, sports and things like that. When I thought I was dying that got my attention. My body was not what he was interested in. It could go at any moment."

Actually, his spiritual search was already under way. After living together for years with Vivian, her Christian upbringing bothered her conscience. She issued an ultimatum: What we're doing is wrong; we either change or break up.

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The firmness of her decision -- they soon married -- and the consistency he saw in her life led him to consider what faith in Christ meant. Although he said he holds no animosity for the Catholic church, he said mass was a meaningless ritual to him that never spelled out his Christian responsibilities.

Still, he dragged his feet until his son's death. The weeks after proved painful. Harris often contemplated suicide. One day he wandered into the middle of heavy traffic, not caring if someone ran him over.

The death put strain on his marriage, too, and Harris knew he needed something greater than himself to survive the pressure.

"I changed first out of desperation, because I had lost my child," he said. "I realized Christ was the only way I knew I would be guaranteed to see him again. It was selfish. But my wife kept reiterating, 'Christ just want wants you to give your life to him and let him start working.'"

As part of their spiritual search, the Harrises began looking at the environment they wanted for their other children's formative years. That spurred them to forsake southern California for their Kentucky roots.

It wasn't easy coming back home. For more than a year, Harris' only work came through temporary employment agencies. And the family still was going two separate ways on Sunday mornings.

This year, he accompanied his nephew to a church basketball game at Highview Baptist. The coach was an old friend from Walnut Street Baptist, where he had coached Harris as a teen-ager.

Soon after that he came home one afternoon and Vivian and her sister were raving about a pastor they heard on the radio.

"He was preaching from the Bible and he was accurate!" his wife said. "The name of the place was ... Highview. Isn't that where you played basketball?"

In October of last year the Harrises attended their first service there. A month later they announced their desire to make the Louisville church their new home.

Although baptized as an infant, Harris said he saw he needed to enter the waters on his own free will. That decision didn't come easily, he said.

"When I decided to join the church I started to think about Christ and who he was and what he's done for me," Harris recounted. "I realized how blessed I've been in my life and that I hadn't done anything for him. That made me feel worthless. But I saw this was my opportunity to go forward and live my life for him. I felt God tugging at me, saying, 'Do it.'"

His personal relationship with Christ offers many benefits, he said, including:

- Better control of his temper. Although in the past he was fairly easy to get along with, he said he learned to manipulate others by selectively "blowing up" at someone to get his own way.

- An awareness of how his actions represent Christ: "Every day that goes by and I don't curse I count as a victory. I've learned that my Christian walk, attitude and the things I say matter."

- Finding permanent employment four months after his baptism and being true to his faith at work. It is only by God's power that he avoids swearing and other bad habits surrounding him, he explained.

- Becoming the head of his household, particularly by leading the way to church instead of being dragged along. "I still have a struggle between my time and church time, but it outweighs what I used to be."

Life is not perfect, he added. He said he finds it hard to yield control of his life to Christ, yet he knows Jesus is best qualified to lead it because of his sacrifice on the cross.

"The main issue with me is that he loved me first. That just blows me away," Harris said. "No matter what sins I've committed or what will happen. I can't even begin to understand that. That keeps me going straight and forward for Christ."

Convention board OKs statement
on 'North Carolina Baptist Way'

ASHEBORO, N.C. (BP)--A statement challenging the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979 was adopted by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's general board during its May 24-25 meeting.

The statement, titled "Cooperation in Autonomy, Reaffirming the North Carolina Baptist Way," was presented to the board's executive committee the morning of May 24. It was approved without dissension and sent to the full board for action May 25 at Caraway Conference Center in Asheboro.

After the presentation of the statement by general board President Jack Causey, brief discussion followed. When the vote was taken, the "Ayes" were strong; there were some "Nos," an undetermined number because of the voice vote.

Meanwhile, Roy J. Smith, the convention's executive director-treasurer, has written a letter to trustee chairman Ralph W. Pulley Jr. of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, expressing dismay over SBC-state convention cooperation in the wake of the March 9 firing of Russell Dilday as seminary president.

The North Carolina convention general board statement begins, "When in the course of Baptist events, there arise attitudes, conduct, and deeds that destroy trust, dismantle institutions, and shatter lives, it becomes necessary for a voice to reaffirm the principles of our heritage."

Turning to the SBC conservative resurgence, the statement continued, "We note with more than grave concern that since 1979 when current Southern Baptist Convention leadership came to power, there have been ongoing occurrences that adversely affect our fellowship and impair our witness.

"Every agency/institution/board of the SBC has suffered some degree of discord and disruption. Typical, but not limited to these, have been: the recent firing without cause of Russell Dilday at Southwestern seminary; the February 1994 attack upon the Annuity Board and Paul Powell by members of the SBC Executive Committee; the unprecedented assailing of the Biblical Recorder and its editor, R.G. Puckett, by the SBC Christian Life Commission in March 1994; and, the systematic exclusion of Baptists unwilling to support the redirection of the SBC since 1979.

"Therefore," the board voted to "express our keen disapproval of and disappointment in those events"

Addressing the North Carolina context, the board noted, "... we do hereby reaffirm and recommit ourselves to the principle of autonomy, from which emerges all other guiding principles of our state convention, the North Carolina Baptist way."

"Our supreme loyalty and obligation are not to human institutions but to the One who sets us free. We are free to follow our Lord's directions in the doing of missions, evangelism, education, and benevolences. We totally and completely reject any form of hierarchal structure which enables any Baptist entity to coerce, threaten, or control the beliefs, programs, and priorities of any other Baptist body.

"We reaffirm our commitment to local church autonomy in the matter of cooperative giving as it relates to the work of the state convention, and in support of other Baptist entities beyond North Carolina through whatever channel the church may choose. No giving is of greater or lesser value because of the channel chosen.

"Concurrently, as an autonomous entity the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina reserves its long-standing right to determine the distribution of 100 percent of its funding, including the percentage currently allocated for the SBC and/or any other percentages related to support of Baptist bodies outside of North Carolina.

"In addition, we reaffirm our commitment to cooperation through autonomy in serving Christ. Baptists are a diverse people. We seek unity in servanthood under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, not uniformity of theological perspective."

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During discussion before the voice vote, Ronald Brookshire, pastor of Rocky Face Baptist Church in Taylorsville, stated, "I find a lot of anger in this statement." As the first of two persons to speak against the document, Brookshire compared the situation to that of his sons who often quarrel with one another. He appealed to the board to avoid inflammatory rhetoric and referred to Proverbs and Ephesians which instruct Christians to give soft answers to avoid wrath and anger. Brookshire said he appreciates "The North Carolina Baptist Way" but is concerned about "The Jesus Way."

Alfred T. Asycue, president of the Baptist State Convention and pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, responded to Brookshire by saying, "I see a lot of pain in the statement, not anger.

"We have watched for 15 years as the Southern Baptist Convention has been damaged and our witness and ministry harmed," Asycue said.

"There are defining moments in the lives of persons, churches and Baptist institutions. I think we are there and this statement is an expression of who we are as North Carolina Baptists."

Larry Locklear, pastor of the Island Grove Baptist Church in Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, compared the Baptist situation to what he experienced as a child growing up.

Reared by his grandmother, Locklear said at age 7 or 8, he had a desire to live with his biological mother but he did not want to leave his grandmother.

"At times I feel 'disassociated' from North Carolina Baptist life. We need to quit trying to lay blame on others for the problems we are having," he said. "At times, some of us felt like doing what the North Carolina Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has done, but we didn't. We have not disassociated ourselves from the Baptist State Convention."

"I identify with the brothers' sense of pain," began Michael Taylor, a lawyer in Albemarle, "but how can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?"

The grandson of a Baptist pastor and son of a Baptist missionary and one whose sister is on the mission field, Taylor added, "I thought the Southern Baptist Convention was God's land. I feel a sense of pain that the Southern Baptist Convention has been taken from me. I have been systematically excluded, shut out."

"We need to send a message to Nashville that the natives are restless. I don't think the language is strong enough, but I won't offer any amendments," he said.

Smith, in his letter to Pulley, "I write this letter, not merely to add my name to the list of those displeased with your actions, but to address what may be an equally important concern: the task of state executive directors to promote the entire Southern Baptist denominational program. As you know, it has historically been the primary responsibility of the state conventions to promote the total Southern Baptist mission programs and solicit the support for those programs through both the undesignated and designated offerings. In a phrase, we have been the 'collection agency' for both state and national Baptist programs. Your recent actions make that task extremely difficult."

Smith continued, "Southern Baptist Convention leaders are encouraging state conventions to increase their allocation to SBC ministries. By the way, North Carolina had set a goal to increase SBC support only a few years ago. Returning to this goal is now virtually impossible. I had hoped that much of the 'blood letting' in the Southern Baptist Convention had ceased -- at least for a while. It seems, however, that when we take one step forward -- attempting to come together and increase our support of world missions -- that we take two steps backwards -- as illustrated by the firing of Dr. Dilday."

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Smith concluded, "We in North Carolina are proud of our support of world missions, both through the Cooperative Program and special offerings. Our people want to remain loyal to Southern Baptists' mission work around the world. However, the actions of the elected and employed leaders in the SBC continue to frustrate a growing number of Southern Baptists in North Carolina. Again, I want to bring our family back together. I want North Carolina to continue to lead in the support of world missions. But since the firing of Dr. Dilday, this will indeed be a much more difficult task."

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Art Toalston compiled this story based on reporting by R.G. Puckett.

N.C. Baptist Men to coordinate
Ruschlikon relocation to Prague

Baptist Press
5/27/94

ASHEBORO, N.C. (BP)--North Carolina Baptist Men have agreed to serve as stateside coordinator for the building and renovation of Baptist Theological Seminary facilities in the international institution's relocation from Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to Prague, Czech Republic.

The announcement was made by Maurice Cook, president of the Baptist Men organization, during the May 24-25 meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's general board in Asheboro.

The European Baptist Federation is in the process of selling the Swiss property and moving to a site in northwest Prague. The EBF has owned the seminary since it was severed from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1992. The European Baptist Federation is the organization of Baptist groups (unions) in Europe.

According to Cook and Richard Brunson, executive director of Baptist Men, the relocation project is to be an international project.

"The seminary is asking us to be stateside coordinators only," Brunson told the general board. "Other Baptist groups in the United States and in several other countries will have a part in the project."

There will be no solicitation of funds or materials for the project, the Baptist Men leaders said. The primary goal will be to recruit volunteer workers with the skills needed during the project. The volunteers will be asked to cover their own travel expenses.

The seminary hopes to open for classes in Prague by the fall of 1995. The renovation project is expected to last three years, Cook said.

There are approximately 15 acres in the facility which consists of 22 buildings originally constructed to serve as a retirement home for invalid officers of the Czech army. Many of the buildings are usable for the seminary while others must be demolished. Some of the buildings are 150 years old, built in typical European style to last forever, Brunson said.

The Baptist Theological Seminary has been located in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, since 1949.

Also during the board meeting, Randy K. Kilby was named president of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute upon recommendation of the Fruitland board of directors. Fruitland is an agency of the general board, not the Baptist State Convention, and thus is governed by a board of directors through the general board.

Kilby is currently vice president for enrollment management at Georgetown (Ky.) College and formerly was associate vice president and dean of admissions and enrollment management at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs.

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Church recreation program,
resources to be redesigned

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Baptist Sunday School Board's administration of the church recreation program and its published materials will be redesigned this summer as the first in a series of steps to reorganize the church leadership, worship and ministry division.

The changes will result in the elimination of positions filled by 10 of the 13 persons in the present organization. Between July 1 and Sept. 30, eight professional positions and two support staff positions will be deleted from the organization, church recreation personnel were told on May 24. Affected employees will receive career transition and outplacement assistance, along with severance pay based on years of service.

Mike Miller, division director, said plans call for moving the church recreation program to the board's church leadership department in a newly created position in line with other church staff relationships.

Tommy Yessick will continue to be program director, Miller said, in a role to parallel consultants who relate to church staff persons in other program areas, such as Christian education and youth ministry.

Yessick will work with Joe Stacker, director of the church leadership department, to plan the program's new design to include one other staff person, John Garner, who has been coordinator of field service projects with the program since 1990. Miller said he anticipates the two professionals "will multiply themselves through networking with other recreators who will help conduct field service events."

In a related change, a new position to consult with drama ministers will be created, Miller said, also to parallel consultants who relate to other church staff.

As a part of the overall church recreation program study, a redesign is under way for a new format and schedule to provide church recreation materials to church staff and volunteers.

Miller said "Church Recreation" magazine will be provided through January 1995, with a different format for distribution of program information to be introduced following the publication's last issue.

"Only the magazine format is being replaced," Miller said. "The same resources and program helps will be provided in a newer format. Church Recreation Digest, a publication sent to people representing varied levels of recreational interests, will be evaluated also," he said. "The church recreation program will continue to offer materials and products to meet church needs."

Miller said the assessment and reorganization of programs in the church leadership, worship and ministry division, is being done "in the spirit of the board's church growth group to achieve greater economy while retaining the most effective field services and materials needed by churches."

The church worship, leadership and ministry division includes the Southern Baptist Convention-assigned programs of church music, church administration, church media library and church recreation development as well as the program of church architecture service.

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Colorado pays back mission
funds used for operations

Baptist Press
5/27/94

DENVER (BP)--Colorado Baptist General Convention officials are elated with the recent payment of \$25,000 which completed a payback to "designated mission funds" used for operating the convention.

Colorado had faced more than a decade of financial problems ever since the convention's foundation failed and left the state \$1.5 million in debt.

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Churches' designated mission gifts had been used to operate the convention but an April 5 check received in a presentation to executive board chairman Doug Lohrey and new executive director David Bunch was the final payment of the longstanding debt.

Calling it "good news," Bunch, longtime Southern Baptist Home Mission Board administrator who was elected executive director earlier this year, said in addition to the final debt payment the convention Cooperative Program receipts are over budget. In his column in the state paper, Rocky Mountain Baptist, Bunch nicknamed the Colorado Baptist General Convention "The Good News Convention."

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Tour DuPont outreach
targets internationals

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
5/27/94

ROANOKE, Va. (BP)--Somewhere near a curve toward the close of a grinding day in the 1994 international Tour DuPont bicycle race in May, photographer-cyclist Drew Cuter positioned himself and started photographing.

During the next several minutes of picture snapping on a green mountainside climbing 2,500 feet high -- called "Twelve O'Clock Knob" -- Cuter made his contribution to Southern Baptists' Tour DuPont Outreach. The outreach is an effort to identify riders from all over the world seeking the gospel truth and link them to missionaries working in their home countries.

Media consultant Mark Snowden at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will send Cuter's photos to racers as a complimentary gift and souvenir from the Tour DuPont, along with a letter introducing the gospel.

Participants in the 11-stage Tour DuPont course this year started in Dover, Del., racing over flatlands of the Mid-Atlantic region and then turning west and snaking along the Virginia and North Carolina mountain ridges and finally into Winston-Salem, N.C. -- about 1,060 miles. Seventeen teams, including 12 professional and five amateur ones, competed for approximately \$200,000 in prizes.

Team members -- sponsored by such companies as Motorola, Saturn, WordPerfect and Chevrolet -- listed their native countries as anywhere from Mexico or Uzbekistan to Russia, Holland or France. Viatcheslav Ekimov, a Russian on the WordPerfect team from Holland, won this year's event.

Baptists' Tour DuPont outreach program operated in the background, among other things mobilizing prayer for riders through local churches in cities along the course. In some areas local church members passed out tracts and made contacts with cyclists and support crews traveling with them.

In Asheville, N.C., for example, the Buncombe Baptist Association distributed 367 English-language tracts and two Bibles. More than 1,000 tracts and nearly 50 Bibles were distributed during the 11-day event.

In Wilmington, Del., Jim McBride, director of missions for the Delaware Baptist Association, obtained Latvian-language Christian materials from a Latvian Baptist church in Philadelphia for an injured Latvian rider.

If possible, McBride's wife, Daphne, will follow up with the rider, Juris Silovs, when she visits Latvia as a Foreign Mission Board volunteer this summer in the Maryland-Delaware Convention's partnership with the former Soviet republic.

Snowden said he hopes to expand the outreach even more next year along the lines of other Southern Baptist sports outreach programs.

Foreign Mission Board representatives and local church volunteers have been deeply involved during the past several years in such events as the Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain; the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway; and the Indian Ocean Island Games in Madagascar off the coast of Africa. The board also assigns sports evangelist missionaries to design ongoing programs for outreach related to a variety of sports, including the use of professional sports figures to help communicate the gospel.

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In many ways sports evangelism has burst onto the scene as a legitimate gospel witness as international sports events have garnered increasing attention from business and media. Sports evangelism offers an opportunity to bridge cultural, ethnic, political and religious barriers as sports figures become increasingly important as role models.

Snowden, a former summer missionary in 1978, started cycling as an outlet during his wife's bout with leukemia, and has himself completed two two-day 120 mile tours to raise money for leukemia research. As his interest in cycling has grown more avid, he has looked for ways to meld it with another of his drives: evangelism.

In past years, the Tour DuPont's course has taken riders directly past the Foreign Mission Board's office on Monument Avenue in Richmond. Last year Snowden started envisioning the race as an opportunity to reach internationals.

Foreign Mission Board officials turned him loose to develop the idea. The Home Mission Board immediately took to it, helping put together a network of Baptist associations along the route to support the outreach. The home board appropriated nearly \$1,000 to print tracts in French, Spanish and English. Snowden secured six Russian Bibles from G.C. Harbuck, a home missionary in the Richmond, Va., area.

The International Christian Cycling Club also helped. It supplied a box of 28 Sports New Testaments like the ones used in Barcelona for handouts. It identified for Snowden about a dozen Christian cyclists along the route. One of them was Cuter, the photographer.

Another was Darrell Wargo, of Gaithersburg, Md. In the front of the Radisson Hotel in Richmond, Wargo greeted defending tour champion Raul Alcala and handed him a Sports Bible.

One of the highlights of the Sports Bible is a section of introduction aimed at soccer fans. Alcala, a Mexican who finished ninth in this year's Tour DuPont and won the week-long Tour of Mexico, seemed excited about his gift because of his interest in soccer.

Fred Rodriguez, leader of the American Amateur team, told Snowden he hadn't ever been overly interested in his Roman Catholic faith. But he promised to read the Bible and tract Snowden handed him. Before the race out of Richmond began the next morning, Rodriguez made it a point to tell Snowden he was keeping it close to him.

Bob Fowler, a member of Gayton Baptist Church outside of Richmond, gave one rider a Spanish Bible.

"He (the rider) at first just said, 'Gracias,'" said Snowden. "Then he looked down again and realized what it was.

Then he said more emphatically, 'GRACIAS!' He put it in his jersey pocket and rode away."

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(BP) photos (two, horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutlines available on SBCNet Newsroom.

SBCNet enrollment totals
double in eight months

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
5/27/94

NASHVILLE (BP)--The number of SBCNet users has doubled in just over eight months from 1,000 on Sept. 1, 1993, to 2,000 on May 19, 1994. At the same time, the number of on-line hours per week within SBCNet has tripled from an average of 218 to 678.

According to David Haywood, coordinator of Southern Baptists' data communications network, new users have been added to SBCNet at an average of 8 percent each month since last fall. The increase in enrollment and average number of hours on-line each week, he said, is attributed to a corresponding increase in services in the past year.

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Services available on SBCNet for both church staff and lay leaders include supplemental teaching helps for adult and youth Sunday school lessons in Life and Work, Bible Book and Convention Uniform series; Baptist Press; News Room, offering news and feature stories from Southern Baptist agencies and state conventions; Facts & Trends, the Baptist Sunday School Board's newsletter for church and denominational leaders; Facts & Trends Information Service, news briefs from the Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board with usage suggestions for church newsletters.

Also included are life application handouts in the Acrobat format for fifth- and sixth-grade children using "Bible Searchers;" Clip Art, a collection of ready-to-use art pieces; Bold Mission Prayer, requests for prayer from home and foreign missionaries; DiscipleLife Plus, a youth discipleship supplement; "Powerline;" Innovative Ministry Library; and Minister's Corner, a collection of sermons and illustrations.

Among the 60 CompuServe Basic Services available to SBCNet subscribers are Communications Exchange, which provides the opportunity to read classified ads, support forums and the member directory; News, Sports and Weather, which provides Associated Press Online, Accu-Weather Maps/reports, National Weather Service and "U.S. News & World Report" magazine; Travel Services; Shopping Services; Games and Entertainment; Reference Library; and Money Talks, including stock quotes and other financial services.

Cost of SBCNet is a flat rate of \$7.95 monthly, plus CompuServe charges. Users must choose between CompuServe's standard plan, which provides unlimited access to basic services at \$8.95 monthly or the alternate plan at \$2.50 monthly, plus time on line.

SBCNet may be accessed by using a computer, modem and a membership kit distributed by the Sunday School Board. Kits, at \$20 each, contain software, account information and a \$15 credit toward usage, plus a free month of CompuServe's basic services. Kits are available in DOS, Macintosh and Windows versions and may be ordered by calling 1-800-458-2772. Additional information about SBCNet may be ordered by calling Haywood at 1-800-325-7749, ext. 2895.

People who already are members of CompuServe may join SBCNet by simply typing "GO SBCNet" at any CompuServe prompt without purchasing a kit.

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Cal Baptist trustees move
to control 'budget crisis'

By Mark A. Wyatt

Baptist Press
5/27/94

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--California Baptist College trustees have voted to cut up to \$1 million from the school's 1995 budget and seek state Baptist convention approval to continue a line of credit that could hit \$2 million this summer.

"We try to be fiscally responsible and yet we continue to end up every year off ... between \$300,000 and \$500,000 in our cash flow," said John Funk, trustee chairman. "We can't let that happen anymore."

Trustees have authorized their executive committee to reduce the budget by an amount Funk estimated will be between \$800,000 and \$1 million. The 1995 budget takes effect July 1 at the start of the school's new fiscal year.

"We have to get back to basics, get this figured out and then go forward," Funk said. "We have to put in place certain things that will keep us from overspending."

Moves to control what one trustee called a "budget crisis" come amid reports of higher than planned spending and lower than expected income at the 900-student Riverside institution operated by California Southern Baptist Convention.

They also represent a sharp reversal from February when college administrators told trustees both the current budget and a 1995 spending plan totaling \$11,298,208 were balanced. Funk blamed the erroneous projections on a "fundamentally flawed" budgeting process that has been used by the school.

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"Part of the realization we have to come to is that we don't have a 'number of students' problem," Funk said. "Another 100 students won't solve it."

Neither is it "a CP problem" despite reduced Cooperative Program support, Funk added. "Our problem is to manage what we have," he said.

Jeff Sanders, Cal Baptist's interim chief administrative officer, acknowledged the expected shortfall and said steps are being taken to correct the problem.

"We have to continue to justify our existence. There are and will be changes coming," Sanders said.

Sanders also urged trustees to implement some staff and faculty pay raises in July, six months earlier than trustees agreed to at a previous meeting. Last February trustees delayed implementing any pay increase until early next year to make sure fall enrollment produces enough income to cover the raises.

In view of the current budget crisis, however, trustees instructed that Sanders' request be "considered" by executive committee members as they revise the 1995 budget.

Trustees voted to ask for convention executive board authorization for the college to continue using a line of credit it established with Farmers and Merchants Bank of Long Beach in 1991. The CSBC constitution forbids convention agencies from incurring "any indebtedness that cannot be repaid within three years from regular reserves" without such approval.

Meanwhile, trustees raised the cap on the line of credit from \$1.5 million to \$2 million to meet expected cash flow needs during the summer. Contrary to earlier projections which showed the line of credit being paid down substantially by June, Funk told trustees the line of credit would "not only go over a million, but could be pushing \$2 million by the end of the summer."

Trustees plan to review the line of credit at their next meeting in November.

In his report to trustees, Sanders noted some mixed conditions contributing to the school's fiscal turmoil. He said the college is working to collect a sizeable amount of money owed by students.

"We have \$400,000 out there that's 180 days old or over," Sanders said. "It bothers me that it's still out there. We need that cash, I don't need to tell you."

Sanders said the school is "making some inroads" on collecting the overdue tuition and fees. He also reported spring enrollment "is approximately 1 percent less in head count and \$28,000 more in tuition fees compared to the same period last year."

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\$15 disaster preparedness fee
to be assessed at Cal Baptist

By Mark A. Wyatt

Baptist Press
5/27/94

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--A \$15 disaster preparedness fee will be assessed to California Baptist College students beginning next fall to pay for emergency survival kits in case of earthquakes or other disasters.

Each survival kit will contain a space-age mylar blanket, first aid items, a three-day supply of drinking water, emergency food rations and a flashlight and radio with batteries.

The new fee, to be assessed each semester, was approved by Cal Baptist trustees during their May meeting at the Riverside campus.

Under a plan developed by a committee of Cal Baptist faculty and staff members, kits will be purchased for each student registered at the main campus. In addition, a portable storage unit will be purchased to stockpile the supplies until needed.

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Trustees also instructed college administrators to continue examining various options for earthquake preparedness. Although Cal Baptist already had an emergency preparedness plan, school officials began updating disaster procedures after the Jan. 17 Northridge earthquake. The quake caused scores of deaths and damage in the billions of dollars across Southern California. Only minor damage was reported at Cal Baptist, however.

College officials told trustees only one of seven insurance companies contacted was willing to insure Cal Baptist against earthquake damage. But after learning that a \$10 million policy could cost \$200,000 a year, trustees decided against purchasing earthquake insurance at the present time.

Other options to be studied include the possibility of retrofitting college buildings to bring them up to earthquake standards.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Trustee asks SBC leaders to support Dilday firing," dated 5/25/94, please add the following two paragraphs before the 10th paragraph, which begins "Vines said the statement also ... ":

However, Vines told Baptist Press he didn't receive Collins' letter until May 12, while the newsletter column had been written the week before. The newsletter went to the printer May 10, Vines said, and was mailed immediately thereafter.

The newsletter column was not in reaction to Collins' letter, Vines said. "I did not have his letter in hand."

Thanks,
Baptist Press

HOUSE MAIL

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, TN 37203

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