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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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David Button, Louis Moore chosen
for top FMB communications roles By Bob Stanley

Baptist Press
10/7/94

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--David T. Button, a 41-year-old radio executive and mayor from New York state, will be nominated Oct. 12 as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's new vice president for public relations and development.

FMB President Jerry Rankin announced Button's nomination Oct. 7 to staff members in the three offices he will supervise if elected by FMB trustees. His election will come at the closing business session of the trustees' Oct. 10-12 meeting. Button would join the FMB staff Nov. 1.

Rankin also announced Louis A. Moore Jr., 48, as the new associate vice president for communications and director of news and information, an appointive position. Moore, director of media and products for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville, will join the staff Nov. 15.

Both men, who were in Richmond for Rankin's announcement, will assume their responsibilities Jan. 1.

Rankin said adding both to the FMB staff in November will allow several weeks of orientation and overlap with Alan W. Compton, who retires Dec. 31 as vice president for communications, and Bob Stanley, retiring at the end of the year as news and information director.

Button, president of radio station WVNC-FM in Canton, N.Y., and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee since 1988, will supervise the development, communications and public affairs offices at the FMB. The board's research and marketing unit, previously under the vice president for communications, also will relate directly to him.

In his new role, Moore will divide his time between supervision of five units in the present communications office -- print, audiovisual, news and information, The Commission magazine, and media services -- and his work as director of news and information. As news and information director, Moore also will serve as chief of the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rankin said Moore's dual responsibility is in line with efforts to streamline the FMB organization.

The FMB president also said he was "impressed with God's leadership" in bringing into focus "two key individuals for our communications and promotion functions among Southern Baptists." Besides "their experience and competency, which is outstanding, both have such a passion for missions and were already seriously sensing the Lord's leadership into new opportunities for service," he said.

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Rankin emphasized the two men are his choices for the jobs and have been affirmed by the five-member trustee search committee that has worked with him in the selection process since February. Both will attend the board meeting Oct. 10-12.

He said an executive search organization, the Meridian Consulting Group of Houston, assisted in pulling together a pool of candidates and provided information on other nominations that came directly to him and to trustees. He and the committee eventually chose six people for interviews. Rankin spent two days with Button and his family in Canton and met twice individually with Moore and his wife, Kay.

Building on the foundation laid by their predecessors, the new public relations and communications leaders "can move us into a new dimension of communicating missions with Southern Baptists," Rankin said. "A lot of exciting things are happening and we want to generate more awareness of missions among Southern Baptists in this extremely challenging missions era."

He emphasized the board has a "top-notch staff" to work with this new leadership and feels together they will be effective in bringing a closer missions partnership with Southern Baptists.

Both Button and Moore expressed a sense of God's leading as they prepared to come to the board.

"A lot has already been done to meet the goals of Bold Mission Thrust," Button said. "But there's much left to be done. The thought of joining a team of people at the Foreign Mission Board that is committed to bringing the Bread of Life to all corners of the world is exciting. God is calling us to play a very special role on this team. We are confident that his grace is sufficient to equip us for this task.

"To meet the challenge, we need to help Southern Baptists catch a vision for what God has done and what he continues to do through the more than 4,000 missionaries in the field. That's a big part of what my office will be doing. The message remains the same: Christ died for us, the just for the unjust, so that we might have peace with God. But in this fast-paced world -- a world with newer and more sophisticated ways of communicating the message -- we need to marshal the most effective and efficient tools available to communicate that vision."

Moore said for the past four years he and his wife "have felt the Lord was knocking on our hearts about someday serving him through some area of foreign missions." Last spring, he said, they even talked with FMB personnel about the possibility of eventually serving in an FMB news capacity overseas.

"Thus, when Dr. Jerry Rankin approached me in September about the position of associate vice president for communications at the Foreign Mission Board, we marveled at how God had prepared our hearts for this next great adventure with him."

Button, a native of Albany, N.Y., and a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Potsdam, N.Y., has been mayor of the village of Canton, N.Y., since the fall of 1991. The village, with a population of 6,700, was a nominee in 1994 for the Conference of Mayors "Excellence in Government" Award for its development of a \$5.8 million waste water treatment and municipal golf course system proposed by Button. The village also has started a major renovation of its infrastructure in the past three years, as well as an aggressive program to promote commerce in the community -- without increasing its tax revenues.

In May, Button was elected president of the St. Lawrence Conference of Mayors. He has been invited to speak frequently on effective management and communication, leadership and innovations in government.

Since 1986 Button has been president of radio station WVNC-FM, which he and his wife, D nice, built in Canton. It is the top-rated radio station for adult listeners in St. Lawrence County, which has a population of 120,000 and nine commercial radio stations.

During his tenure on the SBC Executive Committee, Button has been chairman of the public relations workgroup and vice chairman of the budget workgroup. He has been a Southern Baptist since 1975. At Emmanuel Baptist Church in Potsdam, he teaches an adult Sunday school class and is a member of the finance and bylaws committees.

Button holds a bachelor of arts degree with a major in religion from Southern Methodist University, Dallas; a master of science degree in communications from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.; and has done postgraduate work in communications at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, and the University of Texas at Dallas.

His other professional experience includes work as an on-air broadcaster at WRPI of Troy N.Y.; public service director of KXTX-TV, Dallas; adjunct faculty teaching in the department of communications at Dallas Baptist University; assistant station manager of KCBI-FM, Dallas; general manager of KSEY AM and FM, Seymour, Texas; general manager of KFJZ, Fort Worth, and executive vice president of The Venture Group, Inc., with radio stations in Phoenix, Ariz.; Honolulu, and Seymour.

Since returning to New York to start the Canton radio station, he also has served as Canton's deputy supervisor and as an adjunct faculty member in the department of technical communications at Clarkson University in Potsdam.

He and his wife, the former Ann Denice Glascock of Dallas, have four children -- James, 17; Stephen, 15; Sarah, 12, and Rebecca, 10.

Moore, born in Houston but reared in Oklahoma City, holds a bachelor of arts in journalism degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. While at Baylor he edited the Baylor Lariat, the campus newspaper, and at Southern he was the seminary's news director for three years.

He has 16 years' secular newspaper experience. From 1972-86 he was religion editor for the Houston Chronicle and from 1986-88 edited the Plano (Texas) Star-Courier.

In 1988 he became consultant for publications, products and media relations at the Christian Life Commission. The following year he was named director of media and products for the Southern Baptist ethics agency.

While in Plano he taught journalism at Collin County Community College, and since moving to Nashville has served one semester as an adjunct professor in journalism at Belmont College.

Moore was ordained to the ministry in 1968 by Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Earlier he spent one summer as a supply pastor for Cedar Valley Baptist Church in the Caddo (Okla.) Association and was a minister-in-training at Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas.

In Nashville he is a member of First Baptist Church, where he has taught a Bible class at Nashville's Hospital Hospitality House and led support groups.

While at the Houston Chronicle he was active in the Religion Newswriters Association, a professional society for reporters who cover religion for secular daily news organizations. He served as its president from 1984-86.

His awards include the newswriter association's Schachern Memorial Award for best religion section in the United States and Canada in 1975; United Press International awards for outstanding column writing, 1984 and 1986; Communications Award from the Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1979; the Ecumenism Award, Jewish Anti-Defamation League in Texas, 1986; and a nomination by the Chronicle for the Pulitzer Prize in 1985 for a series of articles on Soviet Jews.

Moore is the author of three books published by Word Inc. With his wife, the former Kay Wheeler, also a journalist, he wrote "When You Both Go to Work," published in 1982; with then Houston Rockets basketball coach Del Harris, "Playing the Game," 1983; and with then Baylor University football coach Grant Teaff, "Winning: It's How You Play the Game," 1985. He has also edited two books with Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, published by Broadman & Holman: "The Earth Is the Lord's," 1992, and "Citizen Christians: Their Rights and Responsibilities," 1993.

The Moores have two children, Matthew Justin, 18, a student at Baylor, and Katie, 13.

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(BP) photos (two mug shots of Button and Moore) mailed to state Baptist newspapers Oct. 6 by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

**Rankin and trustee committee
in 'total consensus' on choice By Herb Hollinger**

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--It was "total consensus" that led to the nomination of David Button as Foreign Mission Board vice president for public relations and development, according to President Jerry Rankin.

Rankin told Baptist Press he was "impressed with God's leadership" in bringing the nomination of Button and in making the selection of Louis Moore as associate vice president for communications.

Emphasizing the responsibility for selecting key staff rests with him as president, Rankin said he wanted someone in place before the end of the year in order to have an overlap with Alan Compton, the vice president of communications, who retires Dec. 31.

Assisting in that process was a trustee committee appointed in February by then-trustee chairman John Jackson, California.

From the start, Rankin added, trustees on that committee affirmed the final decision on the vice presidential nominee would be his.

Committee members included: Bill Sutton, Texas, chairman; Stephen Davis, Arkansas; Sam Friend, Washington state; Paul Pressler, Texas; and Lawson Swearingen, Louisiana.

"Early on, the committee and I concluded we would need the assistance of an executive search firm to expedite the process," Rankin said. The Meridian Consulting Group, Houston, had been recommended following the company's work in executive searches with the Baptist Sunday School Board and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Arrangements were made for Les Csorba, a director of the firm, to meet with Rankin and the search committee at its June meeting in Orlando, Fla. At this meeting, Rankin said, Pressler, who is Csorba's father-in-law, offered to resign from the committee to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest but committee members and Rankin did not feel that would be necessary.

Meridian was asked to come back in six weeks with a list of candidates who would meet the profile for the new vice president. In addition to persons the firm identified, Meridian was given names of persons who had been suggested by others.

Within a relatively short time, the group had a pool of some "40 to 50 candidates to consider." From that pool, Rankin said, "we selected 15" for more serious consideration. From that point, Meridian had no more involvement in the selection process.

Finally, six were chosen to be interviewed by Rankin and the committee.

Following those interviews, Rankin said, it was a "total consensus" that Button was the person for the vice presidency.

Rankin met with Button in New York for two days and had two interviews with Moore.

"In addition to their experience and competency, which was outstanding, both had such a passion for missions and were already seriously sensing the Lord's leadership into new opportunities for service," Rankin said.

Rankin called the board's staff "top notch" and that with the new leadership they will be very effective in bringing Southern Baptists into a closer partnership with their worldwide missions efforts.

Rankin said the dual role being assumed by Louis Moore, associate vice president for communications and director of news and information, is in line with his efforts throughout the board to streamline and flatten the staff organization.

Moore will divide his time between supervision of the five units that make up the Office of Communications -- print, audiovisual, news and information, The Commission magazine, and media services -- and direct involvement as director of the news and information office. Previously, this office had a full-time director, Bob Stanley, who also is retiring Dec. 31.

Moore also will become chief of the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press, succeeding Stanley.

When the new leadership is in place, Rankin said, "We hope it can move us into a new dimension of communicating missions with Southern Baptists.

"A lot of exciting things are happening and we want to generate more awareness among Southern Baptists in this very challenging mission era."

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FMB missionaries
re-enter Rwanda

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
10/7/94

KIGALI, Rwanda (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries have re-established a physical presence in Rwanda -- more than five months after evacuating the African country in April when it plunged into ethnic bloodshed.

"We're just trying to pick up the pieces like the rest of the country," said Foreign Mission Board missionary Larry Randolph, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Rwanda.

"We're trying to get in contact with Baptist leaders, see what happened to our property and see what we can do to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the Rwandans."

At least three Baptist pastors were among the hundreds of thousands of Rwandans killed, Randolph confirmed. He also has been told that "four or five" evangelists who worked for the Baptist Union of Rwanda are dead.

Only six of the 35 ordained Rwandan Baptist pastors have been located, "though we assume, and hope, that most of them are scattered in the refugee camps," he said.

Almost all other surviving Baptist leaders also remain out of the country, and likely will for some time. So missionaries have many added tasks as they resume work.

The fate of properties has provided some good news. Most Baptist-owned buildings are pockmarked with bullets, but "at least 90 percent of the buildings in Kigali are structurally sound -- and that includes our churches, offices and homes," Randolph said.

He has visited six churches and found all of them in good shape. The compound where the Randolphins live includes a mission guest house and offices.

"It was looted and trashed, but not damaged," he said.

The home of missionaries David and Janet Hooten, Knoxville, Tenn., sustained the most damage. The entire roof and a chain-link fence were hauled away.

"Either the looters had a lot of time or there were a lot of them -- or both," Randolph said.

Randolph and his wife, Diane, began staying in Kigali for short periods of time in late August. They returned the first week of October. Missionary Katrina Knox, Columbia, Tenn., who has been working at the Baptist camp for Rwandan refugee children in Goma, Zaire, plans to return to her home and work in Butare by mid-October. The Hootens, now working in Rwandan refugee camps in Tanzania, will move back "as soon as we can find them a house," according to Randolph.

Missionaries Stan and Marlene Lee, Fort Worth, Texas, have agreed to work in Goma for six more months.

The other Foreign Mission Board missionaries who evacuated Rwanda include Martha Colwell, Athens, Ga., who is in the United States on furlough, and Vernon and Sandi Sivage, Midland and Wheeler, Texas, respectively, who have transferred to Uganda.

Two other couples appointed to Rwanda are completing language study in France. Tim and Kathy Cummins, Georgetown, Texas, and Atlanta, respectively, plan to arrive in the country in November; he will work as a mass media evangelist and she will be involved in church and home evangelism. Billy and Dana Blankenship, Weatherford, Texas, assigned to agricultural evangelism, have not finalized their plans.

The Rwanda missionaries likely will work in human needs projects for awhile, Randolph said. They have requested funds from the Foreign Mission Board to fund the children's camp in Goma through next May. Diane Randolph is developing a program to assist women made widows by the Rwandan tragedy. Hooten, an agriculturist, and Knox, a nurse, also can help meet basic needs, which are tremendous.

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"A lot of people we knew are dead and a lot we can't find, but we're thrilled just to be back home," Randolph admitted. "We had water when we went back and the electricity, and postal service was supposed to resume a couple of weeks ago. ... There's food in the markets and traders are beginning to import items.

"It will be a tough place to live and work emotionally -- but it's where we want to live and work."

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Baby boomer ministers endorse
Texas proposal on CP giving

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
10/7/94

DALLAS (BP)--A group of baby boomer ministers who say they are "weary of denominational mudslinging" have endorsed as "higher ground" a Texas Baptist study committee recommendation that could expand the definition of Cooperative Program giving.

The statement of support for recommendations of the Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee signed by 27 "younger ministers" was announced at an Oct. 5 news conference in Dallas.

Signers included David Becker, second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and pastor of University Heights Baptist Church, Huntsville, Texas.

"Texas Baptists are inclusive," Becker said. "The Cooperative Missions Giving report does not change us. It keeps us right where we have been."

Other signers ranged from pastors of First Baptist churches in small Texas towns such as Muleshoe, McGregor, Rosebud and Happy to Allen Walworth, pastor of the 8,800-member Park Cities Baptist Church of Dallas.

The statement of support was mailed to more than 100 Texas Baptist ministers for their consideration, according to Ed Hogan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Crockett, an organizer of the initiative.

Signers, identified as generally 45 years old and under, "represent the broad spectrum of who Texas Baptists are," Hogan said.

Reasons cited in the statement for supporting the study committee's recommendations were:

"We have been recipients of a great heritage of cooperation in Texas Baptist life. We want to see a renewal of cooperative trust in our state.

"We have grown up in the quagmire of power politics, and we are weary of denominational mudslinging. We believe this giving plan will move us to higher ground.

"We believe Texas Baptists can nurture cooperation by honoring unity and diversity. Unified giving grows in the garden of freedom, not in the brier patch of coercion and exclusion.

"We believe this plan is equally fair to every Texas Baptist church. It honors the autonomy of each and blesses the involvement of all.

"We believe that the viability of the Baptist General Convention of Texas as a mission force in the 21st century will be greatly enhanced by such a plan."

If messengers to the Texas state convention in Amarillo, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, approve the study committee's recommendations, the BGCT will recognize and distribute as Texas Cooperative Program contributions from churches given in any of three ways:

-- gifts to the adopted budget of the BGCT and the adopted budget of the SBC according to the annually adopted percentage allocations between the two;

-- gifts to the adopted BGCT budget only; or

-- gifts to the adopted BGCT budget and other worldwide Baptist causes as directed by the individual church. They would include gifts to the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Under the committee's recommended approach, the BGCT would continue its current practice of allowing churches to delete up to five line items from the BGCT and SBC budget and still have their contributions count as Cooperative Program.

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The committee's recommendations offer Texas Baptists an opportunity to move beyond the division that has characterized the SBC for 15 years, according to Dennis Wiles, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Garland.

"I'm 35 years old, and my entire ministry has been conducted in the shadow of the controversy," Wiles said. "I'm ready to move to higher ground."

A minority report issued by five of the 22 members of the Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee maintains the full committee's recommendations "set up unnecessary confrontation" and "drive a wedge" in the BGCT between SBC supporters and those who oppose the national convention's current direction.

Such claims ignore reality, according to Ken Massey, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Waco, who drafted the statement of support.

"The wedge" was driven by those who have controlled the national Southern Baptist Convention since 1979, and the "smoking hammer" belongs to those "who have driven a stake through the heart of Southwestern Seminary and who continue to drive the tent stakes narrower," Massey said.

John Hatch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lake Jackson, and spokesman for the five members of the study committee who drafted the minority report, said he had no comment regarding the news conference or statement of support.

Attempts were made to reach another signer of the minority report, Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, and former BGCT president, but he was not available for comment.

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SBC's '71 resolution on abortion
similar to his stance, Clinton says By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
10/7/94

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's 1971 resolution on abortion nearly matches President Bill Clinton's position on the issue, and he recently asked what in the Bible caused the country's largest non-Catholic denomination to reverse itself to a pro-life stance.

Speaking at a White House briefing arranged by the Baptist Joint Committee and attended by BJC trustees and some state Baptist newspaper editors, Clinton said the changed position of Southern Baptists underscores what he considers the Bible's lack of clarity on abortion.

In 1971, "the Southern Baptist Convention position on abortion is pretty much what mine is now," Clinton said. "So when these people come after me about this, I say, 'Well, did we learn something about the Bible in the last 23 years?'"

In response, James A. Smith of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission said, "The reason Southern Baptist Convention resolutions have changed is not because we learned something about the Bible. Instead, we elected new leaders who believe the Bible. The former leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention -- including the Christian Life Commission and Baptist Joint Committee -- rejected the clear evidence of God's revealed Word, which holds human life to be sacred and worthy of protection. These leaders have a burden to bear regarding their rejection of God's Word and acceptance of worldly wisdom."

The president is right about one thing, Smith said.

"His position on abortion is largely that of the 1971 SBC resolution," Smith said. "This is not something about which we should be proud. It is, in fact, disgraceful. The rhetoric of the resolution is shockingly similar to that of the Supreme Court's rationale in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, handed down some 18 months after the SBC meeting. In other words, Southern Baptist leaders were advancing the cause of abortion on demand in America."

The 1971 SBC resolution affirmed the sanctity of human life but encouraged Southern Baptists to support legislation allowing "the possibility of abortion under such conditions as rape, incest, clear evidence of severe fetal deformity, and carefully ascertained evidence of the likelihood of damage to the emotional, mental, and physical health of the mother."

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In 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion in its Roe v. Wade opinion.

In Roe, the court said a state could prohibit abortion in the third trimester except when the procedure is necessary to protect the health or life of the mother. In the companion Doe v. Bolton decision, however, the court defined maternal health as "all factors -- physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age -- relevant to the well-being of the patient." As a result, the opinions had the practical effect of permitting abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy for any reason.

Messengers to the 1974 SBC meeting reaffirmed the '71 resolution. The convention also passed resolutions on abortion in 1976, '77, '78 and '79, but it was 1980 before messengers adopted a strongly pro-life measure calling for legislation or a constitutional amendment banning abortion except to save the mother's life.

Clinton reiterated he holds a pro-choice position, not a pro-abortion one, because he does not believe the Bible is clear on the subject.

"I have read all the verses cited by people who say that it is self-evident that the Scripture condemns abortion. ... And I simply don't believe they're so free of ambiguity that you can say, 'Well, the only answer to this is to overturn the decision by constitutional amendment,'" Clinton said.

"I have worked on this. I have read a lot of the pro-life literature, a lot of it. This is something I take very, very seriously. I think about this all the time. I revisit this every six months or so, personally. I labor over this, because I think that no one can say that the number of abortions we have in this country is a good thing."

The CLC's Smith countered, calling the president pro-abortion rather than pro-choice.

"Bill Clinton has done more to make abortion on demand more commonplace and more acceptable in our society than any previous president," Smith said. "He has marched in step with the abortion lobby from his third day in office when he repealed by executive order five pro-life policies of the previous administrations.

"Whether it's the Freedom of Choice Act, the attempted repeal of the Hyde Amendment, the inclusion of abortion on demand in health care reform, the funding of the harvesting of baby parts through fetal tissue experimentation, the recent Cairo conference on population control -- this administration's policies clearly undercut the president's rhetoric that he is pro-choice and wants to reduce the number of abortions in America."

During the briefing, Clinton also discussed homosexuals in the military, criticism of him by evangelical Christian leaders and his spiritual life as president.

The president's comments were provided to Baptist Press in material from UPI Radio.

The Oct. 3 briefing preceded the BJC's annual board meeting. In addition to BJC staff members, trustees and some spouses, the more than 60 participants in the briefing included editors from the Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia and District of Columbia Baptist papers, as well as representatives from Associated Baptist Press, Baptists Today, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and reporters from non-Baptist news organizations.

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World Changers to work
in 19 cities in 1995

By Susan Watt

Baptist Press
10/7/94

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Twenty-two World Changers National Work Projects have been scheduled in 19 cities for 1995. Locations for projects include a balance of new and former sites.

World Changers, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, involves youth and adults in week-long missions projects. Participants work to renovate and repair homes in low income areas.

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World Changers continues to offer age-specific projects not only for senior high youth, but also for junior high, college students and senior adults.

Senior high projects are for youth who have completed one of the grades 9-12.

Dates and locations for senior high projects are:

June 10-17 -- Effingham, Ill.; Montgomery, Ala.; Orlando, Fla.; and Pittsburgh.

June 24-July 1 -- Lame Deer, Mont.; Mobile, Ala.; Bishopville, S.C.; and Danville, Va.

July 8-15 -- New Braunfels, Texas; Vicksburg, Miss.; Clinton, Tenn.; and Savannah, Ga.

July 15-22 -- Houston; Clinton, Tenn.

July 29-August 5 -- Shreveport, La.; West Memphis, Ark.; Pikeville, Ky.; and Cherokee County, N.C.

Two projects are offered July 17-22 for junior high youth in Jackson, Tenn., and Savannah, Ga. Participants in junior high projects must have completed either grades seven or eight.

A collegiate project is scheduled for June 4-10 in Charleston, S.C., and a senior adult project is scheduled for April 22-29 in Savannah, Ga. College students and senior adults may register individually or with a group.

During 1994, World Changers involved more than 5,900 youth and adults in 24 projects. Participants from 27 states painted, roofed and repaired 490 homes.

For more information about World Changers, contact the Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, (901) 272-2461.

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Rates for personal, seminarian
medical plans will not change

Baptist Press
10/7/94

DALLAS (BP)--Rates for the first six months of 1995 will not increase for participants in three Annuity Board medical plans that cover church ministers, church staffs and seminary students.

Rates will not change in the Comprehensive Medical, Major Medical and Catastrophic Medical plans, according to Annuity Board officials. Life and long-term disability rates also will not change for 1995. A decision has not yet been made about 1995 rates for participants in the PruCare HMO.

Although there is no across-the-board increase for the first half of 1995, rates may change for participants who move to ZIP Code areas with higher rates or who have birthdays that put them into higher age brackets. Participants who add a first or second dependent to their coverage will also see an increase.

There has been no rate increase in the Personal or Seminarian Comprehensive Medical Plan since July 1, 1992.

"Participants are benefiting from good claims experience and the Annuity Board's and Prudential's effective management of the plans," said Joel Mathis, an Annuity Board senior vice president and head of the insurance division. "The rate of national medical-care cost increases has also slowed over the last year," he said.

Mathis also said there will be major changes for 1995 in the Annuity Board's prescription drug program which will benefit participants in the Comprehensive Medical Plan. Specific information about the new prescription drug benefits will be sent to all participants soon.

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