

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce
Nashville, Tennessee
(615) 241-1111
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 741-1111
CompuServe ID# 70420115

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522, CompuServe 70420250
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232, CompuServe 70420115
NASHVILLE Linda Lawson, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300, CompuServe 70420157
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151, CompuServe 70420172
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223, CompuServe 70373314

November 3, 1994

94-179

NEW ORLEANS--Southeastern leads increases in SBC seminary enrollment.
DALLAS--Wrapup: Annuity Board adopts '95 budget, responds to SBC Executive Committee.
DALLAS--Abortion, CBF responses adopted by Annuity Board.
TENNESSEE--Historical Commission's Lynn May announces retirement for 1995.
TEXAS--Wrapup: Texas Baptists vote to revise Cooperative Program definition.
TENNESSEE--SBC leaders voice appreciation, anticipation for Texans' giving.
WASHINGTON--Rwandan pastors need support, African Baptist leader reports.
TENNESSEE--First in Series: Cyberministry: Technology & Southern Baptist churches; photo, illustration.
TENNESSEE--Second in Series: SBCNet offers express lane to the Information Highway.
TENNESSEE--Third in Series: Computers: Help, hindrance or addiction for ministry?
TENNESSEE--Fourth in Series: SBC agencies tapping information highway.
TENNESSEE--Fifth in Series: Churches use technology to broaden ministries.
TENNESSEE--Sixth in Series: Christian computing: a growing industry.
TENNESSEE--Seventh in Series: Tips offered for learning how to use a computer.
TENNESSEE--Eighth in Series: Internet: still mysterious, but slowly becoming available.

Southeastern leads increases
in SBC seminary enrollment

By Debbie Moore

Baptist Press
11/3/94

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The total number of students enrolled in courses for credit at the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries is up 2.4 percent this fall, according to officials from the schools.

Four of the seminaries reported increases ranging from 32.7 percent to 3.4 percent. Only two schools experienced a decrease.

Individual seminary fall enrollments are as follows: Southwestern -- 3,254; Southern -- 1,868; New Orleans -- 1,815; Golden Gate -- 1,027; Southeastern -- 913; and Midwestern -- 441.

"In spite of the proliferation of seminaries in Baptist colleges and universities, Southern Baptist students apparently prefer the high quality education being offered in our six seminaries," said Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary since January 1975 and current chairman of the Seminary Presidents Council.

The largest increase came at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, which had a 32.7 percent increase this fall.

"We have held to the belief these last two years that if we combined a classical theological curriculum which focuses on the inerrant Word of God with aggressive evangelistic and missionary emphasis, God-called men and women would come to Southeastern to study," said Paige Patterson, president of the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary since June 1992.

New Orleans Seminary had a 7.9 percent increase. Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., grew by 6.3 percent.

--more--

"Our focus on shaping effective leaders for the churches emerging in this generation has translated into increasing student enrollment," said William O. Crews, Golden Gate's president since 1986. "Every ministry for God deserves quality leadership and we are working to close the gaps that sometimes exist between scholarship and practice of Christian ministry. Students and church leaders across America sense that and are choosing the seminaries that equip them for the real world of ministry."

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., had a 3.4 percent increase this year. "We are pleased to report this significant number of new students," said R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary since August 1993. "We see this increase as a sign that God continues to call ministers to his church and he continues to bless Southern Seminary with students ready to be fitted for ministry in the churches. This is a positive sign for Southern Baptists."

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., each reported declines in enrollment. Southwestern Seminary had a 5.9 percent decrease from enrollment this time last fall. Midwestern Seminary experienced an 11.3 percent decrease. However, both presidents are optimistic.

"God's Spirit is moving in a powerful way on the Southwestern campus," said Ken Hemphill, president of SWBTS since July. "Chapel attendance has surged, prayer groups are in evidence around the campus and there is an enthusiasm for ministry preparation among our students that is contagious. Southern Baptists can be proud to be the quality providers of seminary education in the world."

On the Midwestern campus this fall, "A spirit of revival and renewal has been present from day one," said Milton Ferguson, president since 1973. "Chapel attendance is strong, voluntary prayer groups are active and there is a level of dedication to world missions which is an inspiration to all of us."

Overall, the six seminaries reported a total of 9,318 students enrolled in courses for academic credit, an increase of 220 students from October 1993. That figure is the total non-duplicating student headcount in doctoral, master's-level and undergraduate courses.

Besides offering classes for academic credit, the six seminaries also provide non-credit courses for lay men and women and alumni. Seminary officials reported 25,450 enrolled in these classes during the 1993-94 academic year. That number represents people enrolled in continuing education programs, lay study seminars and student spouse courses; also included in this category are students who audit academic classes. Southwestern Seminary reported the largest headcount for non-credit enrollment with 19,546 participants.

--30--

WRAPUP

Annuity Board adopts '95 budget,
responds to SBC Executive Committee

Baptist Press
11/3/94

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

DALLAS (BP)--Trustees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Dallas Oct. 31-Nov. 1, prepared responses to two requests from the SBC Executive Committee and to a June 1994 action of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Trustees also approved a 1995 operating budget of \$36.65 million and heard reports of major growth in benefits and contributions.

The spending plan for 1995 represents a 5 percent increase over 1994, with much of the increase related to growth in number of participants served and expenses related to the transition to a new customer service system and other computer and software requirements. The retirement side of the budget is \$27.77 million, and the insurance segment is \$8.88 million.

The two parts of the budget, like the assets of retirement and insurance, are accounted for separately, with each major segment of Annuity Board business responsible for its own expenses. No Cooperative Program funds are received for operating costs of the board.

--more--

Trustees heard of an 18 percent increase in benefits paid through September, a total of \$123.9 million. Treasurer Harold D. Richardson told trustees it is possible total retirement and relief benefits may reach \$160 million in 1994.

Total retirement contributions were \$175.8 million through nine months, a 6.6 percent increase over the same period last year, and total assets of the board stood at \$4.472 billion on Sept. 30.

Investment performance rose substantially in the third quarter, but still reflected the generally depressed performance of stock and bond markets for the year. The Fixed Fund earned 1.42 percent in the quarter and remains on target for its estimated earnings of 5.15 percent to 6.15 percent for the year. The Balanced Fund earned 1.95 percent for the third quarter, but remains at a negative 1.74 percent year-to-date. The Variable Fund posted a 4.03 percent gain in unit value in the third quarter but remains just below the break-even point for the year. The Short-Term Fund earned 0.83 percent in the quarter, bringing its cumulative earnings to 1.85 percent for the year.

Trustees considered two messages from the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Executive Committee asked the Annuity Board to report in writing its "involvement" with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and to forward to the committee copies of all contracts with the CBF. A second action by the Executive Committee asked Annuity Board trustees to add "abortion" to the list of "industries" prohibited for investments, and to specify "contributions" of a corporation as reason to prohibit holding that company's stock.

Powell told trustees he will report the Annuity Board provides a Convention Annuity Plan and traditional group insurance products to the employees and missionaries of the CBF and would send a copy of the Convention Annuity Plan document to the Executive Committee.

In another matter related to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, trustees voted to honor the directive of the Southern Baptist Convention not to accept future relief contributions channeled by churches through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, but to accept such gifts as are currently held by the CBF as designations for the Annuity Board.

Trustees accepted the report of their investment committee to amend the investment guidelines to include abortion industry as a prohibited investment.

The trustees' relief committee considered 39 relief requests, approved 24 two-year monthly grants, one three-month grant, four two-year expense grants and four one-time grants. Six applications were declined for being outside guidelines. Relief grants are made possible by the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

The committee also made available emergency grants of up to \$2,000 for churches, associations or pastors suffering losses in recent floods inundating sections of Texas. A similar provision has provided a total of \$30,000 in aid to victims in Florida and Georgia.

Fifty-four people were added to the Adopt An Annuitant benefit roll to receive an extra \$50 per month, bringing to 1,506 the total now receiving the benefit provided by gifts made through the Annuity Board's endowment department.

The next regular meeting of Annuity Board trustees will be Feb. 27-28, 1995, in Dallas.

--30--

Abortion, CBF responses
adopted by Annuity Board

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

Baptist Press
11/3/94

DALLAS (BP)--Trustees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Dallas Oct. 31-Nov. 1, formally added abortion industry as a prohibited investment and addressed two issues related to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

--more--

Trustees considered two requests from the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. In September, the Executive Committee asked Annuity Board trustees to add "abortion" to the list of "industries" prohibited for investments and to specify "contributions" of a corporation as reason to prohibit holding that company's stock. A second action by the Executive Committee asked the Annuity Board to report in writing its "involvement" with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and to forward to the committee copies of all contracts with the CBF.

Board Chairman Richard C. Scott and President Paul W. Powell reported to trustees their appearance before the Executive Committee on Sept. 19 and briefed the trustees on the two actions of the Executive Committee.

Trustees accepted the report of their investment committee to amend the investment policy to include abortion industry as a prohibited investment, but declined to change the term "activities" to "contributions."

The restriction section of the amended policy now is:

"Investment in any company that is publicly recognized (as determined by the Annuity Board internal investment policy committee and the trustee investment committee of the Annuity Board) as being in the liquor, tobacco, gambling, pornography and abortion industries or any company whose products, services or activities are publicly recognized as being incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of the Annuity Board are prohibited."

Board chairman Scott reported his message to the Executive Committee in September in which he assured the committee of trustee opposition to abortion. "However," said Scott, "I told the Executive Committee that it is next to impossible to operationalize this opposition in the way they suggest."

Scott said he was pleased with the Executive Committee response to his assurances and believes "the majority will say we're trying to do what they want."

"We will always try to live by the spirit of our guidelines," Scott said, "but we have to be legal and we have to be faithful to our fiduciary responsibility."

Both Powell and Scott reminded trustees the Annuity Board is still searching for an alternative investment fund for the apparent limited number of participants who desire a fund that would have a much broader screening for such concerns as charitable contributions.

Concerning the CBF, Powell told trustees he will report the Annuity Board provides a Convention Annuity Plan and traditional group insurance products to the employees and missionaries of the CBF, most of whom have career-long accounts with the Annuity Board from prior church or missions service.

Powell said he would send a copy of the Convention Annuity Plan document to the committee but explained "plan supplements," which are unique to each employer, are confidential documents including such features as contribution requirements, vesting schedules and matching contribution arrangements. The plan supplement cannot be shared without permission of the employer.

In another matter related to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, trustees voted to honor the request of the Southern Baptist Convention not to accept future relief contributions from the CBF, but to accept such gifts as currently are held by the CBF for the Annuity Board.

During discussion, trustees said they did not wish to appear to oppose the action of the Southern Baptist Convention, but also wanted to honor the gifts of churches for the needy. Powell and a number of trustees voiced concern about denying the money to aged ministers and widows in desperate need.

In August, Powell spoke to trustees about CBF gifts designated by churches and informed the trustees the CBF had announced it would not send any contributions to SBC agencies after June 16.

"I thought the issue was dead," said Powell, "until I received a letter yesterday from the Fellowship saying they are holding funds designated for our relief ministry." It is not known how much money is involved, but approximately \$25,000 was given for relief through the CBF in 1993 and about \$10,000 was received through May 1994.

Historical Commission's Lynn May
announces retirement for 1995

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Lynn E. May Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1971, has announced his retirement effective Aug. 1, 1995.

His tenure as executive exceeds that of all current SBC agency executives. At retirement, May will have completed 39 years on the commission's staff, having served as research director from 1956-71. He will have served on the staff of the commission (chartered in 1951) more than 86 percent of the agency's life.

Slayden Yarbrough, commission trustee chairman and Dickinson Professor of Religion at Oklahoma Baptist University, said May "has made without question the most significant and enduring contributions to the Historical Commission of any person associated with the agency during its almost 44 years of existence," crediting him for "tireless efforts in preserving the historical records of Baptists, his commitment to the integrity of historical research and his stewardship of the resources entrusted to his care by Southern Baptists."

Under May's 23-year leadership as the agency's executive, the Historical Commission budget has grown from \$132,500 in 1971-72 to \$603,650 in 1994-95; the staff has expanded from 5 to 12.

The commission moved its offices, library and archives to the new Southern Baptist Convention Building in 1985. Significant acquisitions have resulted from the SBC's 1981 designation of the commission as the official depository for denominational archives. Microfilm, book and oral history holdings have risen substantially.

Publication and communication programs have advanced through the release of four pamphlet series, a resource kit, 18 heritage videos, a newsletter, a quarterly journal, annual support for Baptist Heritage Month, the installation of desktop publishing and strong annual meeting programs.

May said he looks forward to guiding the commission through the 1995 SBC Sesquicentennial Celebration events scheduled during the agency's May 8-10 annual meeting in Augusta, Ga., and the June 20-22 SBC meeting in Atlanta.

In the 1960s May wrote historical background studies for all SBC agencies for the convention's use in preparing original agency program statements. He authored "The First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee, 1820-1970." He contributed significantly to the development of the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists by assisting in writing and editing Vols. 1-2 (1958) and Vol. 3 (1971) and by serving as managing editor of Vol. 4 (1982). And he has served as editor of Baptist History and Heritage since 1971.

"Those who know and appreciate this quiet, humble, faithful servant of the Southern Baptist Convention," Yarbrough said, "will not let history forget Lynn May's contributions to the preservation of our Baptist heritage."

May was born in Wisner, La., Oct. 6, 1929. A graduate of Louisiana College (B.A., 1950), he also earned degrees at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (B.D., 1953; Th.D., 1956) and at Vanderbilt University (M.A., 1968).

Louisiana College named May a distinguished alumnus in 1976, as did New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1988. In 1990 the language church extension division of the Home Mission Board presented him its Mosaic Missions Award for his contribution to the development of ethnic history among Southern Baptists. In 1991 the SBC Historical Commission gave him a special Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to Baptist History and honored him by naming its study grant fund the Lynn E. May Jr. Study Grant Endowment Fund.

"Dr. May's career has advanced the cause of Southern Baptist history in extraordinary ways," says Charles Deweese, the commission's assistant executive director, who has worked alongside May for 21 years. "Conservative in theology, finances and lifestyle, he has pushed Baptist history concerns aggressively, spent Cooperative Program money wisely, treated his staff fairly and labored faithfully through 15 years of SBC controversy. He is a conscientious, disciplined, self-sacrificing administrator and churchman. I treasure his friendship."

Yarbrough has nominated and received unanimous trustee administrative committee support for the following search committee for a new executive director: Ron Martin, California, chair; Roy Myers, Mississippi; Norma Pugh, New York; Leon Hataway, Colorado; and Elizabeth Wells, Alabama. The committee invites recommendations and applications, including biographical forms. Qualifications for the position of executive director include a Ph.D. (or equivalent) in history (preferably Baptist history), an understanding of the Baptist heritage, administrative and organizational skills, and a record of publications in Baptist history.

Recommendations and applications should be sent to Ronald Martin, c/o Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce St., #400, Nashville, TN 37203-3630 before the Jan. 15, 1995 deadline.

--30--

WRAPUP

Texas Baptists vote to revise
Cooperative Program definition

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
11/3/94

AMARILLO, Texas (BP)--Texas Baptists at their annual meeting in Amarillo, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, voted to expand the definition of their Cooperative Program giving plan.

And that should send the national Southern Baptist Convention a message that Texas Baptists favor "states' rights over federal control," according to newly re-elected convention president Jerold McBride.

McBride, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Angelo, was elected by acclamation to a traditional second annual term as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Other officers elected were first vice president, Charles Davenport, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulia, and second vice president, Charles G. Dodson, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Carthage.

About 6,200 messengers to the 109th annual BGCT session approved without discussion a \$63.5 million giving goal, including a \$41 million Texas Baptist budget for 1995. Gifts will be distributed 64.5 percent to Texas causes and 35.5 percent to worldwide missions.

BGCT messengers also approved a report of their strategy council calling for Texas Baptists to "share Jesus with every person in Texas by the year 2000."

Convention messengers approved recommendations of the Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee, a 22-member committee appointed by McBride to discover ways to "enhance cooperative missions giving among all Texas Baptists."

Texas Baptists broadened the definition of Cooperative Program giving to include "Texas only" gifts or church-directed gifts to non-Southern Baptist Convention worldwide causes such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or Baptist World Alliance. The giving plan will take effect Jan. 1, 1995, the beginning of the BGCT's fiscal year.

The convention rejected both a minority report from five members of the committee and a substitute amendment from the floor.

Cecil Ray of Georgetown, chairman of the study committee, urged adoption of the committee's recommendations as a way to give "breathing room essential to keeping Texas Baptists working together."

John Hatch of Lake Jackson presented as a substitute a minority report from five members of the study committee, recommending "all gifts to the Baptist General Convention of Texas and/or the Southern Baptist Convention shall be recognized as Cooperative Program gifts."

Any "radical change" in the Cooperative Program could result in diminished missions giving, he said.

Joining Hatch in speaking in favor of the minority report were John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, and Henry Adrion III, pastor of First Baptist Church, Texas City.

Approving the full committee's recommendations for an expanded definition of Cooperative Program giving would "send shock waves across the Southern Baptist Convention," Bisagno said.

--more--

Three members of the study committee -- Dean Dickens, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas Woman's Missionary Union President Mary Humphries of San Marcos, and Davenport of Tulia -- spoke against the minority report.

Former foreign missionaries Dickens and Humphries disputed Hatch's contention that the full committee's approach would result in a drop in missions giving.

Humphries said she joined many messengers in longing for the "golden days" when all Southern Baptists gave gladly to a unified budget, but she said that does not reflect the present reality.

After the chair ruled on a show of ballots that the minority report failed, Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, offered an amendment to the full committee's recommendations.

Dean moved that the proposed definition of Cooperative Program giving be replaced with the recommendation: "That the BGCT will recognize and distribute as Cooperative Missions Giving those gifts to any other causes associated with Southern Baptists according to the instructions of the local church."

Dean termed the amendment a way to create more broad-based support for the committee report, crossing "political lines." He maintained under his approach, all gifts would be recognized as "cooperative" and treated the same way.

Russell Dilday, also a messenger from Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, spoke against his pastor's amendment, saying it "institutionalizes a divided approach" to recognizing missions support.

Dilday was fired last March after 15 years as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is distinguished professor of homiletics at George W. Truett Theological Seminary and special assistant to the president at Baylor University, Waco.

On a show of ballots, the amendment failed by a larger margin than the minority report.

The unamended full committee report was then approved by a show of ballots. The decision to proceed without a ballot count was questioned from the floor. But Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, and a supporter of the minority report, affirmed the chair's ruling.

At a news conference the next day, McBride said he would have favored a tabulated count by secret ballot. But he was advised against it by parliamentarians once the show of ballots was ruled to show a clear majority favoring the committee report.

Approval of the expanded Cooperative Program does not mean the BGCT is pulling away from the SBC, McBride said.

"It's not a distancing. But we're saying, 'It's our decision how we will give our funds.'"

McBride said he believed Dilday's firing brought the SBC controversy home to many Texas Baptists and was the "catalyst" that spurred messengers to action at this year's convention.

"When the earthquake hit Texas, we finally took it seriously," he said.

In other business, Texas Baptists rejected a move to instruct their public policy agency to draft a more restrictive statement on abortion.

Messengers voted to refer back to the Christian Life Commission a motion that would have instructed the BGCT to "renounce the exceptions for abortion" in the commission's position paper, "Abortion and the Christian Life."

The motion would have instructed the CLC to "rewrite the paper with clear biblical support for the preservation and protection of the unborn child."

The Texas CLC abortion statement strongly affirms the sanctity of human life, but it allows for abortion in such extreme circumstances as rape, incest, severe fetal deformity incompatible with life, and threats to the life, health or mental stability of the mother.

The BGCT also approved resolutions opposing the legalization of casinos in Texas, affirming church/state separation and clarifying that Texas Baptists have not endorsed the document, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together."

The document had been signed by Richard Land, executive director-treasurer, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and Larry Lewis, president, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The 1995 BGCT will be held Nov. 13-14 in San Antonio. Don Newbury, president of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, was chosen to deliver the annual convention sermon next year.

--30--

SBC leaders voice appreciation,
anticipation for Texans' giving

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
11/3/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Thanks for what you've done and what you will do, a key Southern Baptist Convention spokesman told Texas Baptist churches after that state's Baptist convention altered its Cooperative Program ties to the SBC Oct. 31.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, issued a statement Nov. 3, noting, "Texas Baptists as a whole have been extremely faithful in their giving to world missions through the traditional Cooperative Program," the channel by which local churches support the work of their state conventions and the national and international SBC missions and ministry causes.

"Although I regret that the BGCT has unilaterally redefined its participation in the Cooperative Program," Chapman continued, "I believe Texas Baptists will continue strong support of SBC missions and ministries."

In his statement, Chapman voiced concern that an air of confusion may result from the BGCT action, which allows church gifts in Texas to be counted as "Cooperative Program" to such non-SBC causes as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Baptist moderates.

"Already I am getting calls about the confusion which the new action has created. I fear that this action has established a climate of competition in Texas compared to a long-standing spirit of cooperation. I can envision the Southern Baptist churches in Texas being inundated with fund-raising efforts by all sorts of Baptist organizations," Chapman said.

Chapman also voiced disagreement with a statement by BGCT President Jerold McBride that the Texas action should send the SBC message that Texas Baptists favor states' rights over federal control.

Chapman reacted, "I am surprised about the comparison of the present situation in Texas to 'states' rights' and/or 'federal control.' The fact is that the Cooperative Program has always been a method of voluntary participation by the churches. God's people in the pews of Southern Baptist churches will do as they are led by God's Spirit. They are certainly aware that in Southern Baptist polity, the local church leads the way, not a convention of any description.

"The churches want to know if affiliation with the state convention and/or the BGCT will result in greater efforts of spreading the gospel to an unsaved world," Chapman said.

Meanwhile, Ron Chandler, executive director of the SBC Stewardship Commission, which carries responsibility in the SBC for Cooperative Program promotion, was asked for a response to the Texas action.

The Stewardship Commission, he said, "will continue to challenge Southern Baptists to support Southern Baptist missions through the channels that have historically proved themselves."

"The Baptist General Convention of Texas is an autonomous body. The action they have taken is that which the majority of messengers thought best for Texas Baptists," Chandler said.

"The Stewardship Commission will continue to promote missions support through the Cooperative Program as historically defined."

An action like the one in Texas, he acknowledged, "will make our work more difficult."

In October 1994, Texas Baptist churches channeled \$1.5 million through the Cooperative Program to fund SBC causes nationally and internationally.

--30--

Rwandan pastors need support,
African Baptist leader reports

By Wendy Ryan

WASHINGTON (BP)--Rwandan Baptist pastors need support -- both to minister in the refugee camps in Zaire and Burundi and to work for reconciliation in Rwanda, said Eleazar O. Ziherambere, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Rwanda and Africa regional secretary for the Baptist World Alliance.

The appeal was made by Ziherambere after he visited Izirangabo in Zaire, where a Baptist church has been converted to a refugee camp, and where most of the pastors are.

However, while Baptist pastors want reconciliation, many of them, now refugees, are afraid to return to Rwanda especially with the recent disappearance of one of their evangelists.

According to Ziherambere, of the 60 ordained pastors of the union, 24 are in Izirangabo, three in Goma, eight are in other camps or countries, four are known to be killed, 10 are in Rwanda and 11 are presumed to still be in the "French" safe zone.

Ziherambere asked Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the BWA, to support the displaced Rwandan pastors "who still want to serve their people and assist in meeting humanitarian, spiritual and psychological needs."

"I am proud of our displaced Rwandan pastors, how they meet regularly and have organized their camp," said Ziherambere, himself a refugee now relocated in Nairobi, Kenya.

During his Oct. 8-15 meeting with the Rwandan pastors, they told Ziherambere they needed help, not only for themselves, since they had all lost everything, but also for a few pastors who were still in Rwanda and had nothing. Some pastors also wanted to go to other camps to minister to people there.

The displaced pastors and evangelists thanked Baptists around the world for the help they already had received and said they needed help for the babies, women and children in their camps; Bibles, hymnbooks and study materials for pastors; communion dishes and cups; baptismal robes; educational materials for the children in the camps; and wood for fire and blankets for 70 families and medicines. BWAid has begun appeals for aid to help with these needs.

--30--

EDITORS' NOTE: Following are several articles and related material on technology and ministry drawn from the November issue of "Facts and Trends," a monthly newsletter for church staff members produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

FIRST IN SERIES

Cyberministry: Technology
& Southern Baptist churches

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
11/3/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Ready or not, "cyberministry" is here.

Whether it's preparing weekly sermons with a laptop computer and a Bible software package or "chatting" on-line about theology with a colleague from across the country or around the world, a growing number of ministers are taking a leap of faith into the high-tech world of computers. And while many remain reluctant travelers, they are finding their way onto America's emerging Information Highway. "I didn't know how to turn on a computer three years ago," Ron Rowe, director of the Jacksonville (Fla.) Baptist Association, said. "But I realized if I was going to stay abreast of things such as communication and cutting-edge resources, I had to learn."

Rowe began his journey by finding a "computer guru" who could serve as his guide.

--more--

"I found someone who loves computers, knows all about them and I asked him, 'Will you be my teacher?' He agreed and he did this at no charge. He came over and took two months to go over the basics with me and then I'd practice on my own and call him on the phone from time to time with questions."

Although he still doesn't consider himself a computer expert, Rowe said he is making progress. He's a frequent on-line communicator on SBCNet, the Southern Baptist computer communications network, and Leadership Network, an interdenominational computer network for pastors and church leaders.

"I simply download articles having to do with various aspects of the church and its ministry. And I use the message and conference areas to interact with people one on one or as a group about Sunday school, evangelism, a variety of topics. I've found it very helpful to me personally," he said.

Rowe's association also is setting up a data bank on a computer bulletin board service (BBS) so pastors and other church leaders can record the names of the people they have assisted with such things as food or rent. Churches then can access and add to the information 24 hours a day, allowing them to avoid duplicating services and alerting them to potential con artists who travel from church to church for unneeded financial handouts.

"It's very practical," Rowe said, "and it will save a lot of paperwork."

Several Southern Baptists are setting up their own computer bulletin boards, a means of connecting one computer to another by telephone using a device called a modem. In Brattleboro, Vt., pastor Ben Armacost started "The Mission Board BBS" which features a database of regularly updated directories for the Green Mountain Baptist Association and is being expanded to include information from all of the associations in the Baptist Convention of New England and Southern Baptist Convention agencies. Regular on-line participants also share computer software, Bible study helps and computer games and also communicate with one another by electronic mail.

"It really started out of an evangelistic desire I had to reach out in an innovative way," Armacost, pastor of Brattleboro Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist Fellowship of Hinsdale, N.H., said. "I've already received messages from all over the world -- Canada, France, Ireland, South Africa. This has the potential of becoming the international mission field of the future."

Armacost also has had an ongoing on-line dialogue with two teen-agers who have questions about Christianity. He has been able to share Scripture and words of encouragement, leading one of the teens to attend some youth-related events at the Brattleboro church.

Armacost said there are almost 500 Christian-based bulletin board services in America today. Why tap into one?

"It builds literacy in computer communications, it offers opportunities to communicate with a lot more people and you can find an abundance of useful software," he explained.

Individual churches are finding computers can help provide a personal ministry touch.

Each week, Rick Ramsey, minister of music and youth at Grace Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., sends the text of the church bulletin, newsletter and other church-related news to two blind couples who are members of the church. He sends the text files via electronic mail (E-mail) on the CompuServe computer network. The couples then download the files to their computers and use a special software package and a speech synthesizer that actually "reads" the information to them line by line.

One of the couples, James and Vicki Burke, also sing in the church choir, so Ramsey sends them the texts of hymns or anthems they will sing the following Sunday. They listen to the files and use a special machine to record the information in braille.

"It's really a pretty good way to transmit information," Vicki said. "It's been a real help to us."

Several state conventions are beginning to take advantage of computer technology, too. Four years ago, the Alabama Baptist State Convention's Sunday school department staff conceived and developed its own church growth computer software designed to help churches develop and implement a strategy for reaching more people for Christ. "Alabama ChurchGrow" is made available free of charge to cooperating Southern Baptist churches in the state.

When used in conjunction with the department's own BBS, ChurchGrow offers a variety of services, including: self-analysis of church programs, help in setting and tracking growth goals, idea and resource files on various church growth topics and access to Annual Church Profile (formerly Uniform Church Letter) and geodemographic data. It also allows churches participating in the state's Advanced Growth Spiral Program to enter and send weekly attendance statistics directly to the state Sunday school department and track their progress toward the Eagle Award.

Currently, more than 160 churches use the convention's BBS and approximately 120 are using the ChurchGrow software.

"This program allows us to analyze the growth status of a church on a day-to-day basis," department director Bruce Hose said. "It can help us determine everything from whether a church has too few parking places to how many new Sunday school classes it needs to start. It really helps us stay in touch with churches and provide them a better quality of service."

While the number of Southern Baptist churches exploring "cyberspace" continues to grow, the majority still don't use computers in their day-to-day operations.

The 1993 Annual Church Profile (formerly Uniform Church Letter) asked the following question: "Is your church using a computer for money, membership or other record keeping?" Of the 35,490 who responded, only 12,450 answered "yes."

Why aren't more ministers taking advantage of computer technology?

"The issue appears to be less a matter of fear of technology and more one of compelling need on the part of the consumer," David Haywood, SBCNet coordinator at the Baptist Sunday School Board, explained. "The technology industry as a whole has not yet provided consumers with the facts that would lead them to see personal benefits. For now, particularly with SBCNet, persons who use technology and experience its benefits are the best sales persons to convince others to come on-line."

--30--

(BP) photo (vertical) to accompany this story is posted in the SBCNet News Room and is being mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press. The outline is posted in the SBCNet News Room. A photo illustration of the Information Highway is posted in the SBCNet News Room. Prints will not be distributed.

SECOND IN SERIES

SBCNet offers express lane
to the Information Highway

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
11/3/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--SBCNet has become Southern Baptists' express lane on the Information Highway, with more than 800 hours logged on the system each week and approximately half of the user base -- far more than that of other networks -- on the system at least once during the week.

The number of people joining SBCNet made a substantial jump in a year with the addition of more than 700 new users in four months.

Total membership increased during this year from 2,000 in mid-May to 2,725 by Sept. 21, according to David Haywood, coordinator of the denomination's data communications network at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The increase followed an earlier doubling of SBCNet members in slightly more than eight months from 1,000 on Sept. 1, 1993, to 2,000 on May 19, 1994.

--more--

Among users, approximately 65 percent are churches and individuals, 15 percent are SBC agencies, 15 percent are state conventions and state Baptist newspapers and 10 percent are associations.

"A lot of pastors are kind of isolated out there," said Robert Westcott, pastor of First Baptist Church, Mims, Fla. "SBCNet provides a place to meet other ministers, discuss theology, find encouragement and new ideas. I think it can help ministers from getting stale."

Since August 1993 when the flat rate of \$7.95 per month for SBCNet charges was instituted, the number of on-line hours per week within SBCNet has increased from 116 to as high as 1,000. Individuals accessing the network during that time increased from 393 to 1,104 per week. The highest number of users in any one week came in June 1994,

during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, when 1,139 people used the service. Haywood said increased usage that week is attributed to people reading Baptist Press session updates and special reports related to the convention meeting.

He said new users have been added to SBCNet at an average of 8 percent each month since last fall. The increase in enrollment, he said, is attributed to a corresponding increase in services in the past year.

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 service; news and feature stories and photos from Southern Baptist agencies and state conventions; Facts & Trends, the Sunday School Board's newsletter for church and denominational leaders; and 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 clip art, requests for prayer from home and foreign missionaries, youth discipleship training supplementary material, Innovative Ministry Library and Minister's Corner, a collection of sermons and illustrations.

For the immediate future, new services may include forums for people in specific states and bulletin boards related to the services of SBC programs and agencies.

Haywood said he believes the greater opportunities for on-line services will include continued development of ministry resources, greater agency involvement, more on-line conferences, more use of "electronic publications" and more interaction among state conventions and agencies with CompuServe mail services.

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 are already members of CompuServe may join SBCNet by simply typing "GO SBCNet" at any CompuServe prompt.

THIRD IN SERIES

Computers: Help, hindrance
or addiction for ministry?

By Terri Lackey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Computers: Are they a ministry help or a ministry hindrance?

That's a new question church leaders are posing in this day of point-and-click technology. Most say computers can save time but self-discipline is needed.

Bill Teal feels guilty. Instead of visiting a Sunday school class member who had recently undergone surgery, he played on his computer one Sunday afternoon.

A lay leader and Sunday school teacher at Young Memorial Baptist Church, Concord, N.C., Teal said he knew he should have been ministering to the woman.

"But guess where I was? In front of that darned computer. I'm a teacher and a leader, and I shouldn't be doing that," said Teal, a network transmission supervisor for Concord Telephone Co. "While I've said to myself I won't do that anymore, I know it will probably happen again."

Matt Adams, minister of education at El Camino Baptist Church, Sacramento, Calif., believes his ministry would suffer without a computer.

"I absolutely do think computers are necessary to my ministry," he said. "I basically use it to keep track of people so I can make sure the ministry happens through correspondence. We use them to keep track of our church membership, committees, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, crises dates, things like that."

But in a message posted on the Minister's Corner bulletin board of SBCNet (Southern Baptists' own computer network), Adams wondered online if heavy computer use can eat into ministry time. Estimating he spends between 30 to 50 percent of his workday on computers, Adams asked other online ministers: "Is this too much?"

It depends, said Dan O'Donnell, pastor of Canyon Del Oro Baptist Church, Tucson, Ariz.

"There's a balance you have to have. Using computers can help and it can hinder. Discipline is necessary if you enjoy computers a lot like I do."

O'Donnell acknowledges he teeters on the brink of computer addiction. He weaned himself off the two to three hours he was spending on SBCNet (Southern Baptists' data communications network) a day. He now only logs onto "the Net" 20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes at night.

"For a lot of adults, the addiction to computers is just as real as a kid's addiction to Nintendo," he said. "Pastors have to be very careful. Because the more time they spend on computers, the more time is taken away from the people."

But O'Donnell listed more time-saving positives about computers than time-losing negatives.

Computers, he said, are essential for correspondence and record keeping, such as membership, financial giving and inactive members. And as an aid to Bible study, it is unbeatable, he said.

"With the Bible study software programs they have out now, a preacher can go into his computer and within a matter of seconds list verses he might need for certain subjects," O'Donnell said. "Instead of going into the Bible and long-hand writing down every verse, I can get it from the computer. I've cut my study time as far as research in half."

That rates a hearty "Amen" from 76-year-old Ray Dobbins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sanderson, Fla.

Dobbins said he didn't bother to learn how to use computers when he was on staff at the Florida Baptist Convention.

"When they were training people how to use computers there, I told my secretaries to go and learn how. I didn't want to. That was the biggest mistake I've ever made."

About four months ago, Dobbins decided he needed to learn computer skills.

Now besides keeping the records of his small mission church on the computer, he uses it for sermon preparation.

--more--

"I just pop in (the disk with) the copy of the Bible and sermon preparation material, and it takes me 30 minutes to do what used to take four or five days," he said.

For Dobbins, the computer is not a threat to ministry, but he said he understands how it could prevent a more enthusiastic user from spending time with his people.

"I can see where a man would have to use self-discipline. But not me. I haven't fallen in love with my computer. I like people a lot better."

--30--

FOURTH IN SERIES

SBC agencies tapping
information highway

Baptist Press
11/3/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Eager to make their way on the quickly emerging Information Highway, SBC agencies are finding multiple ways to utilize hi-tech gadgetry.

Here is just a sampling.

Simply by touching a computer screen, the 1,450 people attending the Jericho missions festival last summer could find out what foreign missionaries share their birthday, choose one, call up a screen with the latest address, print it out and take it home to write a letter to that missionary.

They also could learn the names of area directors of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and see their photos on the screen. They could choose an area of the world and see a 30-40-second video with music from the region, narration and on-screen facts and figures.

Three personal computers and a printer linked to technology equipment called a client server provided the hardware for the Windows-based interactive, multimedia exhibit developed under the auspices of the FMB management information office, directed by Bill Nance.

"This is actually our third generation of hardware and software used for missions education," said Nance. The FMB started about 10 years ago with Commodore and Atari computers and then moved up to DOS-based computer activities.

"Our emphasis is on missions education," Nance said. "The Foreign Mission Board considers that to be a very important priority."

At the SBC Annuity Board, all sales representatives travel with laptop computers and can access current information on individual accounts, according to Ray Furr, director of communications. As they work with clients, the computer data is invaluable in helping them know how much the client has put into retirement accounts, what the expected return will be and how to plan for retirement.

The Annuity Board also is studying "computerized telephony," a system that would allow people to access their account information 24 hours a day and to conduct transactions at any time.

The Home Mission Board will host quarterly teleconferences in 1995, offering missionaries, pastors and other Christian workers in inner-city areas a network to discuss ideas and challenges.

The project already has attracted leaders in 22 cities who have committed to host the conferences and recruit a core group of 10 people working in Christian ministry in the inner city, said Jane Bishop of the HMB ministry section.

Technical requirements for participating in the conferences include a satellite dish, a TV room that seats at least 10 people and a phone line.

A second test program will be broadcast Nov. 21.

At Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Rick Durst, vice president for academic affairs, led a recent faculty demonstration of "high-tech" classroom instruction which employs a variety of interactive methods and equipment. Durst told seminary trustees about one-third of Golden Gate's professors will be using interactive technology in their classrooms by end of the current semester.

--more--

Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention news service pioneered computer network technology on SBCNet, the denomination's data communications network.

Stories are transmitted electronically from bureaus and agencies to the central office where they are downloaded, edited, compiled and then transmitted electronically via SBCNet to state Baptist newspapers and other SBCNet subscribers.

State papers then can download BP stories, select which they will use, edit them and place in layouts for printing and distribution.

Baptist Press also is making both stories and photos available electronically to secular media outlets via PressLink, an international media service, and to users of the growingly popular Internet. Experiments are in process for transmitting photos to Baptist outlets via SBCNet.

At the Baptist Sunday School Board, church architecture services utilizes computer drafting to allow for adaptation and refinement of existing designs.

"It offers exciting possibilities for three-dimensional studies of proposed designs, both interior and exterior, allowing views from various vantage points," said Steve Newton, design coordinator. "Enhanced presentation drawings are often prepared on the computer for use by the church for communication and fund-raising."

In another area, in 1993, 53 percent of churches used computer software to complete their Uniform Church Letter (now Annual Church Profile). That percentage is expected to climb in 1994.

--30--

Compiled from SBC agencies and Baptist Press reports.

FIFTH IN SERIES

Churches use technology
to broaden ministries

Baptist Press
11/3/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP).--A sampling of churches and individuals revealed a variety of ways technology is being used in ministry.

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church, Mission Viejo, Calif., sends out a one-page inspirational fax called "The FAX of Life" to "anyone in the business community of Southern California who asks (for it)." It is currently faxed to more than 10,000 business people, including Disney CEO Michael Eisner; Ken Blanchard, author of "One Minute Manager;" and motivational speaker/author Anthony Robbins.

"I've found it to be a great way to get the message into places I can't be," Warren said.

Saddleback also has its own computer bulletin board service (BBS) set up as a lay ministry of the church.

In Rowland, Texas, Lake Pointe Baptist Church uses a computer and video projector to produce wall-sized projections of hymn texts and background graphics designed to help churchgoers follow the choir during services. In addition to hymnal information, the projection screen regularly features pre-service announcements of upcoming events and even sermon-related visuals.

Leaders at Lakeland Baptist Church, Lewisville, Texas, use a computer and fax machine to conduct their adult Sunday school outreach. Every Monday, church leaders fax or E-mail Sunday's prospects to the outreach leaders for each Sunday school class at their home or office. They, then, relay the prospects over fax and telephone to class members for follow-up.

At the beginning of each school year, John Garcia, associate minister to youth, college and singles at Temple Baptist Church, Durham, N.C., makes a list of the E-mail addresses of the members of his college Sunday school class. During the year, he sends them messages via his computer modem about upcoming events. He also plans to send birthday greetings, words of encouragement and possibly a preview of the following Sunday's Bible study lesson.

--more--

Paul Stevens and his Sunday school class at Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, set up a telephone conference call each week so local shut-ins can hear the weekly Sunday school lesson.

A layperson at First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, Tenn., set up a BBS earlier this year. On-line visitors can access prayer requests, the church newsletter, Sunday school lesson previews and helps, computer games and a "Bible chat forum," among other items.

With assistance from the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, the 23 churches and missions of the South Jersey Baptist Association plan to buy fax machines during the coming year. Director of missions Bob Tallent said they will be used to communicate prayer requests, urgent communiques and news about upcoming meetings.

--30--

SIXTH IN SERIES

Christian computing:
a growing industry

Baptist Press
11/3/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Did you know?

-- An estimated 13 million Christians have computers in their homes and a slew of companies have sprung up to target the estimated \$25 million Christian computer market, according to a May 10, 1993, article in Newsweek magazine.

-- About 200 companies now produce software for churches and individual Christians, the New York Times News Service reported earlier this year.

-- More Americans rate computers and technology as a source of positive influence on the country than churches, a 1992 Times Mirror survey found. Of the 3,517 people age 18 and older who responded to the poll, 85 percent said churches have a good influence on the way things are going in America, placing them ahead of most other groups, including environmentalists, newspapers, the courts and Congress, but behind computers and technology (87 percent) and people who run their own businesses (91 percent).

-- All of the nation's major computer networks -- America OnLine, CompuServe, Prodigy and GENie -- have religious offerings from information and discussion forums to religious journals.

Two examples:

1) America OnLine now offers an electronic edition of Christianity Today, the country's leading evangelical magazine. Other Christian magazines also are available on-line, as are ministry job listings and catalogs from Christian colleges and seminaries. In addition, an on-line Christian bookstore offers Bibles, Christian books, and computer software to on-line shoppers.

2) Christian Computing magazine (which has 35,000 subscribers in 45 countries) is now posted on-line on the Christian Interactive Network (CIN), a private forum on CompuServe. CIN also includes forum areas focusing on ministry outreach, Christian homeschooling and world missions.

--30--

SEVENTH IN SERIES

Tips offered for learning
how to use a computer

Baptist Press
11/3/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--For the person who is overwhelmed at the thought of learning how to use a computer, the following tips are offered:

-- Find a computer "mentor," someone who is already using the computer in a variety of ways in ministry. Meet with him or her once a week for two to three months and learn the basics.

--more--

-- Don't try to learn everything at once. Break learning times down into digestible "bytes."

-- Find out if there is a computer users group or club in your city or town. If there is, join it and ask for help. If not, consider forming one composed of people who get together twice a month to explore ways to use the latest technology.

-- Try one thing. Sometimes just getting started is the hardest part.

-- Devote 30 minutes a day to reading a "how-to" computer book for beginners.

-- Subscribe to a computer magazine (e.g. PC World, PC Magazine, Mac User, MacWorld, Christian Computing).

--30--

EIGHTH IN SERIES

Internet: still mysterious,
but slowly becoming available

Baptist Press
11/3/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A growing number of ministers are exploring the Internet, but many still don't understand it. Here are some details, according to USA Today.

Just what is the Internet?

It is a global web of 30,000 computer networks, at least 2.2 million computers and 20 million people in more than 70 countries. Get on the Internet -- enter cyberspace -- and you can tap into thousands of databases and chat electronically with experts worldwide.

Who runs it? How did it start?

No one really runs the Internet; it's kind of a cooperative in cyberspace. The Internet Society, a nonprofit group in Reston, Va., promotes use of the Internet and technology to make it easier to use. What became the Internet was established by the Defense Department in 1969 to connect the Pentagon with defense researchers in academia and business. In 1986, the National Science Foundation spurred nondefense use of the Internet by creating a special network -- NSFNet, sometimes called the "backbone" on the Internet -- connecting five new supercomputing centers across the country.

Who pays for the Internet?

Tax dollars, funneled through the National Science Foundation and some other government agencies such as NASA, have financed a big chunk of the Internet. Universities and research organizations also pay to maintain their sections. Companies, organizations and individuals who want direct access to the Internet must pay access providers to hook them up.

How do you get on the Internet?

If you have a personal computer and a modem, you can get connected to the Internet for as little as \$15 a month. Companies needing high-speed access have more expensive options, running from hundreds to thousands of dollars a month. For a free list of Internet access providers, call InterNIC Information Services at (800) 444-4345.

In November, CompuServe, the computer network which carries SBCNet, is expected to have full access to the Internet. Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, currently is available over Internet. For access information, call (BP) at (615) 244-2355.

--30--

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, TN 37234

F
I
R
S
T

C
L
A
S
S

Southern Baptist Library
and Archives