



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

## NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Herb Hollinger, Vice President  
Fax (615) 742-8919  
CompuServe ID# 70420,17

### BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522, CompuServe 70420,250  
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232, CompuServe 70420,115  
NASHVILLE Linda Lawson, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300, CompuServe 70420,57  
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151, CompuServe 70420,72  
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223, CompuServe 71173,346

November 29, 1994

94-193

HOUSTON--Transportation ministry helps 600th missionary.  
ALABAMA--Alabama paper's associate editor named acting editor by board.  
KENTUCKY--Time chooses Albert Mohler as one of 50 promising leaders.  
LOUISIANA--Louisiana Baptists tap first black officer.  
SALT LAKE CITY--Utah-Idaho Baptists hear executive's resignation.  
ARIZONA--Arizona executive director gives retirement notice.  
ST. LOUIS--R. Alton Lacey new president of Missouri Baptist College.

Transportation ministry  
helps 600th missionary

By Mark Kelly

Baptist Press  
11/29/94

HOUSTON (BP)--A Southern Baptist group organized to meet a pressing transportation need of furloughing missionaries has assisted its 600th family.

The Macedonian Call Foundation was organized in 1979 to provide automobiles for Southern Baptist foreign missionaries on furlough, according to one of the group's founders, Harvey Kneisel of Houston. Missionary Don Phelps became the group's 600th beneficiary when he accepted the keys to a 1981 Oldsmobile 98 at a Nov. 20 ceremony in Houston.

"We thank the Lord for Macedonian Call," said Phelps, who serves with his wife, Linda, and four daughters as a church planter in the Philippines. "On a short-term basis these cars meet a vital need for furloughing missionaries."

Missionaries in the United States on furlough need dependable transportation for the extensive travel often involved in their speaking schedules, Phelps said. Yet most missionaries can't afford to buy a car and then resell it at a loss a few months later when they return to the field.

"Macedonian Call takes a lot of worry off the missionary," he said. "The cars help us spread the message about the work the Lord is doing all over the world. It's not only a vehicle for travel, but it's also a vehicle for missions encouragement and support."

The car Phelps received was donated by Jim and Norma Pickett, who for 10 years have been members at First Baptist Church, Houston, where Kneisel, the foundation president, is minister of missions.

"I could see how getting a car could be a financial burden on a missionary coming back for furlough," said Pickett, a retired petroleum research engineer. "We felt like this was a good service. We're always glad to help missionaries any chance we get."

Kneisel and two friends, Jack Edwards of Tupelo, Miss., and Lane McCartney of Montgomery, Texas, organized the foundation in 1979 when Kneisel was pastor of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Houston.

The group receives cars, repairs them and licenses them before turning them over to missionaries, who are responsible for insuring and maintaining them, said Kneisel, formerly a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary in Guyana and India.

Missionaries return the cars to the group when they go back to their fields of service. Serviceable cars are reassigned to other furloughing missionaries.

--more--

Some of the cars serve several missionaries before being retired, Kneisel said. On such automobile, a Chevrolet Caprice, was donated with 32,000 miles on the odometer. Five missionaries have used the car, and it is still going strong, he said.

Other vehicles are more valuable for resale, Kneisel said. A doctor donated a one-year-old BMW with 16,000 miles on it. The group sold the BMW and used the proceeds to buy three other cars, which have served several missionaries each. Another car, a 1950 Buick Roadmaster with 21,000 actual miles, sold for enough to buy two other vehicles, Kneisel said.

Macedonian Call Foundation serves a five-state area -- Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico -- Kneisel said. A Baptist Men's group in Georgia operates a similar project under the same name and Kneisel hopes other groups also will adopt the idea.

--30--

Alabama paper's associate editor  
named acting editor by board

By Keith Hinson

Baptist Press  
11/29/94

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Johnnie W. Sentell Jr., associate editor of The Alabama Baptist, has been named acting editor by the newspaper's board of directors.

In a called meeting Nov. 21 -- four days after the death of longtime editor Hudson Baggett -- the board voted unanimously to appoint Sentell.

During the first part of the meeting, The Alabama Baptist staff was asked to be present for moments of reflection and prayer. "This is a historic and also tragic day," said Mike Shaw, the board's chairman and pastor of First Baptist Church, Pelham, "because this is the first time in over 28 years that The Alabama Baptist board has met without the leadership of Dr. Hudson Baggett."

In other action, the board unanimously voted to rename the newspaper's building -- located at 3310 Independence Drive in Homewood -- as "The Hudson Baggett Memorial Building."

Previously known as "The Alabama Baptist Building," the structure was completed in 1976 under Baggett's leadership.

Shaw said he will appoint a search committee after "a season of prayer" and the committee probably will have its first meeting in January.

The board also established "The Hudson Baggett Endowment Fund," which Shaw said was a long standing wish of Baggett.

"After the fund is built up, the board -- in consultation with Dr. Baggett's family -- will use it for worthwhile causes to be determined later," Shaw noted. (Contributions may be sent to: The Hudson Baggett Endowment Fund, c/o The Alabama Baptist, P.O. Box 59685, Birmingham, AL 35259.)

Sentell, 53, is a native of Ashland and a 1958 graduate of Clay County High School, where he was valedictorian and yearbook editor.

Sentell studied business administration at Auburn University for two years before transferring to the school of architecture and the arts. He graduated with highest honors in applied arts in 1962 and earned a master's degree at Auburn in 1963.

He served in the 117th Supply Squadron of the Alabama Air National Guard, 1963-69. After 15 years with his family's business, Sentell Oil Company, he joined The Alabama Baptist staff in 1980.

His wife, the former Melvine Hansen, is education secretary at First Baptist Church, Birmingham.

They are members of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, where he serves as a deacon. The Sentells have two children: Stuart, 23, and Sarah, 18.

--30--

**Time chooses Albert Mohler  
as one of 50 promising leaders**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. has been chosen by Time magazine as one of its "50 for the Future."

The roster of promising leaders age 40 and under is in Time's Dec. 5 issue. Others on the list include Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh, Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates, health-care entrepreneur John F. Kennedy Jr., Stanford University Provost Condoleezza Rice and talk show host Oprah Winfrey.

Time published similar lists in 1974 and 1979. In its article on the latest list of 50, Time said it made its selections after "screening hundreds of candidates" who the magazine thinks "will make a difference." As in 1979, Time employed a "standard of civic and social impact."

In Mohler's profile, Time wrote: "If clarity of purpose is a requisite of leadership, then Al Mohler has what it takes. ... (Mohler has) forcefully asserted his traditional values on the school and by inference on the entire 15 million-member Southern Baptist Convention. He also launched a school of evangelism, named after Billy Graham and raised \$7 million. ... 'My first mission is to call the church back of the truth of the gospel,' he says. 'Only then will the church be a powerful force for the transformation of society.'"

Mohler said he was "pleased and honored" by his inclusion in the list. "It is an honor to be chosen by Time for this list, but it is an honor I share with Southern Seminary and the Southern Baptist Convention," he noted. "The spiritual impoverishment of America has produced a tremendous hunger for moral and spiritual leadership. I do pray that Southern Baptists will be theologically and spiritually ready to exercise this leadership within the nation."

The Lakeland, Fla., native became the ninth president of Southern Seminary Aug. 1, 1993. Previously, he was editor of the Christian Index, the weekly newsjournal for Georgia Baptists. He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary.

Mohler has written numerous widely-circulated articles on theological, moral and cultural issues. He has been quoted in several national news publications, including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post and USA Today, and is a frequent speaker on university campuses.

--30--

**Louisiana Baptists tap  
first black officer**

**Baptist Press  
11/29/94**

SHREVEPORT, La. (BP)--Messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention upheld tradition in re-electing their denominational president while making history by electing their first-ever black officer.

Following tradition, messengers granted a second term to President Mark Sutton without opposition. Sutton is pastor of Brookwood Baptist Church, Shreveport.

In making history, they elected Fred Luter of New Orleans as second vice president, also without opposition, making him the first black officer in state convention history. Luter is pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans.

In the only contested election, messengers chose longtime pastor Clarence Young as first vice president. Young is pastor of Maplewood First Baptist Church, Sulpher.

In other business, messengers approved a 1995 budget without discussion or opposition. The budget goal is the same as the current year -- \$17.6 million. Of that, 35 percent will be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Conv ntion for national and world causes, with 65 percent remaining in Louisiana to fund state programs and agencies. Those percentages also are unchanged.

--more--

Messengers also approved several statements proposed by their resolutions committee.

A resolution against public campaigning in state convention elections was the only proposed resolution that did not pass. The statement requested "that a person seeking a convention office not publicly announce intentions until the annual session ... is convened and that no other persons or groups of persons will publicly announce someone as a candidate for any office."

Opponents argued the proposed resolution would mean the Pastors' Conference could not invite a potential candidate to speak, the convention could not allow a person to pray or read Scripture during an annual session and the Baptist Message newsjournal could not publish interviews with proposed nominees. The proposed resolution was rejected with just a handful of votes in favor of it.

Among resolutions passed by messengers, one urged Louisiana political leaders to uphold and defend existing state laws regulating and restricting abortions and to work for passage of stronger laws related to the practice.

Another resolution opposed the practice of using fetal tissue from aborted babies for medical research. The resolution decries the practice for leading women to sacrifice their unborn and for leading the nation "from the sanctity of human life into moral decay."

Doctor-assisted suicide and other forms of mercy killing were opposed by another statement, which noted doctor-assisted suicide is gaining acceptance and any society "that kills its unborn and its elderly will eventually kill others who have a 'limited quality of life,' such as the mentally retarded and those with birth defects."

A fourth statement called for local option elections on gambling and for the development of educational programs designed to discourage participation of Louisiana citizens in gaming activities. The resolution also called for development of compassionate ministries to victims of gambling.

In his presidential address to the convention, Sutton reminded Louisiana Baptists, "What God has built, man must not wreck," in reference to the convention controversy.

"My fellow Louisiana Baptists, let us keep our doors open to a lost world," Sutton said, "but let us keep our doors firmly shut to any controversy that would keep us from great fellowship with one another, from the great purpose of winning people to Jesus Christ and a great program like the Cooperative Program that God is using."

Next year's meeting will be Nov. 13-14 in Lake Charles.

--30--

Utah-Idaho Baptists hear  
executive's resignation

Baptist Press  
11/29/94

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)--Utah-Idaho Southern Baptists heard a farewell message from the convention's executive director, re-elected a Salt Lake City pastor as president and adopted a total budget about \$64,000 less than the previous year during their 1994 annual meeting Nov. 15-16.

The first session opened with the announcement of Clyde Billingsley's resignation as executive director. He has accepted a similar position with the Montana Baptist Fellowship effective Dec. 1.

"It is with mixed emotions and many thanks that Judy and I leave Utah," Billingsley said. They were honored with a reception following the close of the convention. Jim Harding, director of religious education for Utah-Idaho, has been named interim executive.

--more--

In other action: Mike Gray, pastor of Southeast Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, was elected unanimously to serve a second term as president. Steve Kern, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Boise, Idaho, was elected first vice president; Lu Gilman, pastor of Gateway Baptist Church, Pocatello, Idaho, second vice president; and Lavoid Robertson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kearns, Utah, recording secretary.

Messengers adopted a \$1,515,884 total budget for 1995, a decrease of more than \$64,000, the result of a reduction in support from the Home Mission Board. Of the total budget, Utah-Idaho Baptists will contribute \$466,457. The convention will continue to forward 21 percent to SBC Cooperative Program causes.

In a related matter, Billingsley shared a letter from Ernest Kelley, vice president for planning and finance at the Home Mission Board, citing Utah-Idaho for its increase in Cooperative Program giving. In the church year for 1993-94, the Utah-Idaho convention was first in the nation in percentage of increase -- 16.45 -- in Cooperative Program giving over the preceding year.

Special recognition was given to three individuals during the convention.

Judy Barking, an Ogden, Utah, attorney and member of First Southern Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, was presented a plaque in appreciation of her legal assistance to individuals and churches throughout the convention. Bobbie Maberry was honored for 25 years of service to the convention. She began as a volunteer answering phones, then served as a secretary until her retirement in August. Wayne Tuttle, a member of Holladay Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, was honored for 30 years of service as Holladay's volunteer director of music ministries.

Messengers approved four resolutions submitted by the resolutions committee.

The convention:

- expressed gratitude to Millcreek Baptist Church for its hospitality.
- expressed gratitude to Clyde Billingsley and his wife, Judy, for their years of devoted service to the convention and offered prayer support for their future ministry.
- commended Bobbie Maberry for her 25 years of service to the convention and wished her success in future endeavors.
- committed to the 1995 "Here's Hope" evangelistic effort to reach Utah-Idaho with a bold thrust for Christ.

In his final message to the convention meeting at Mill Creek Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, Billingsley reminded messengers, "as we celebrate 30 years, we must remember those who came ahead (of us). We're here because others have shared. We're doing a job as Utah and Idaho together that we could never, ever do alone. There is a need to move mightily into the future. How we think has a great deal to do with our success. We must be willing to show unselfish, sacrificial love for one another."

The 1995 annual meeting will be at Calvary Baptist Church, Boise, Idaho, Nov. 14-15.

--30--

Arizona executive director  
gives retirement notice

By Elizabeth Young

Baptist Press  
11/29/94

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--After four-and-a-half years at the helm of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, Dan C. Stringer has announced his retirement.

In a letter to ASBC President David Butler Nov. 10, Stringer announced his intention to retire as executive director-treasurer of the state convention, with the retirement taking effect "at the discretion of the Executive Board."

In its meeting Nov. 17 in Phoenix, the executive board took formal action extending Stringer's employment past Jan. 1, 1995, "for a mutually agreeable period of time." The action was necessary because Stringer, 67, is past the normal retirement age of 65.

--more--

"The board accepted the resignation with regret and with profound thanks for the magnificent service Dr. Stringer rendered Arizona Southern Baptists the past four-and-a-half years," Butler said. "We noted the signal accomplishments gained under his administration -- the Baptist Loan Fund solution, reorganization, streamlining of operations, putting us on a sound financial footing and advancing the cause of Christ."

Stringer's intention is to remain as executive director-treasurer until a new one is elected. However, he said he would like to meet with the executive director-treasurer search committee (yet to be appointed) every 60 days, not to find out what the committee is doing, but to ensure that progress is being made.

It will be the second stab at retirement for Stringer. He first retired as executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention in March 1989 and then came out of retirement about 18 months later to assist the financially troubled Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

Stringer took the helm of the state convention at a time when the ASBC's Baptist Loan Fund had a deficit of \$3.6 million and declining Cooperative Program receipts forced staff cuts and reductions in program funds.

"I thought that I'd just be here to deal with the immediate problem," Stringer said, "and that as soon as the direction was set I'd have release from the Lord and release from the people to leave." He later realized, he said, he needed to stay long enough to see the situation settled.

Stringer led the executive board to adopt a plan to meet the loan fund crisis. The plan included selling the Baptist Building in Phoenix and Paradise Valley Baptist Conference Center in Prescott, providing budget support for the interest owed, reducing budget allocation percentages to state convention agencies and the Southern Baptist Convention, adjusting cooperative budgeting with the Home Mission Board and reducing the interest rate paid to individuals with deposits in the loan fund.

With the sale of the Prescott camp, which became final last month, Stringer said the loan fund is within about \$250,000 of being balanced between assets and liabilities. One of the final pieces was put in place earlier this month when ASBC messengers voted to authorize the executive board to close the loan fund when the deficit is satisfied and the cash flow position is stable.

By the time the loan fund crisis was on its way to resolution, Stringer was well into developing an innovative reorganization plan for the state convention.

Earlier this month, messengers overwhelmingly adopted the plan which creates two new agencies, the Arizona Church Growth Board and the Arizona State Mission Board, and reorganizes the executive board.

"It's been a good ride," Stringer said. "It's been hard. There have been times when I've worked harder than in any other state where I worked." Before serving as executive director in Florida, he was executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention.

Stringer expresses some regret -- not enough to change his mind, though -- that he won't be on hand to see the promise of the future fulfilled.

"I believe the Arizona convention is in the best position now to move forward that it ever has been," said Stringer, who first came to Arizona in 1959 as pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Buckeye, and served in various capacities on the ASBC staff from 1966-71, including associate executive secretary.

Under the ASBC constitution adopted by messengers earlier this month, it is the responsibility of the ASBC president to appoint an executive director-treasurer search committee. The committee is to be composed of four members of the executive board, three members appointed from the membership of ASBC churches and the ASBC president, who serves as chairman.

**R. Alton Lacey new president  
of Missouri Baptist College**

**By Bob Terry**

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The trustees of Missouri Baptist College have unanimously elected R. Alton Lacey as the sixth president of the St. Louis-based institution.

The action came at a special called trustee meeting Nov. 17 on the school campus. Lacey accepted immediately and said he expects to assume his presidential duties in the latter part of January.

The election gives Missouri Baptist College a president for the first time since early September 1991. Since then, Thomas Field, retired president of William Jewell College in Liberty, has served as interim president.

Lacey currently is vice president of development at Louisiana College, a Baptist school in Pineville. Since 1979 he has supervised the work of admissions, student recruitment, financial aid, alumni, planned giving, public relations and development services. Prior to that he served three years as dean of students for the school.

Lacey is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, with a doctor of philosophy degree in psychology and counseling. He also holds the master of arts degree in religious education from the seminary. Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, awarded him the bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering in 1971.

In addition to his administrative duties, Lacey has taught psychology at Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth, at Southwestern Seminary and at Louisiana College, where he held the rank of assistant professor.

Missouri Baptist College trustees chairman Benjamin Teague, pastor of First Baptist Church, Marshall, said, "Without doubt, we believe Alton Lacey is God's man for Missouri Baptist College. We are unified and unanimous as a trustee body and ready to follow our new president. The only answer for that change is the Lord."

John Anderson, pastor of Third Baptist Church, St. Louis, and chairman of the presidential search committee, praised Lacey's "solid Southern Baptist credentials and his proven leadership in a Southern Baptist college with strong state convention ties." Louisiana College is the only Baptist college sponsored by the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Lacey's wife is the former Pat Brummett of Hobbs, N.M. She is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and holds a master's degree in music education from North Texas State University. In 1969 she represented her home state in the Miss America pageant and reached the top 10 finalists. Since that time she has continued a musical career as a soloist. She also is the founder and director of the Children's Chorus of Louisiana.

The Laceys have a 17-year-old son, Aaron, and a 10-year-old daughter, Brenna.

In addition to his work at Louisiana College, Lacey has been an active member of First Baptist Church of Pineville. He presently serves as an adult Sunday school teacher, serves on the finance committee and is a member of the church's renovation committee. He just completed two terms on the church's deacon body.

Currently, Missouri Baptist College has 790 students on its main campus. Counting extension programs and its high school Excell program, the college reports 1,913 students. The full-time equivalency number is 1,068.

**(BP)**

**BAPTIST PRESS**  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, TN 37234

F  
I  
R  
S  
T  
  
C  
L  
A  
S  
S

Southern Baptist Library  
and Archives