

(BP)

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# 70420,171

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-8919
CompuServe ID# 70420,171

BUREAUS

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

January 27, 1995

95-16

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

- TENNESSEE--Correction on minister's tax story.
- TENNESSEE--SBC structure study committee has unanimous recommendation.
- MISSISSIPPI--Former college president arrested after disappearance.
- TENNESSEE--Volunteers needed soon to teach English in China.
- ARIZONA--Golden Gate Seminary to open Arizona campus.
- DALLAS--Vols build home for Nicaragua's first Baptist home missionary.
- ZAMBIA--News Advisory: Zambian judge delays trial on missionary work permits.
- KENTUCKY--Youth also get attention in Here's Hope campaign.
- ALABAMA--WMU names Acteens panelists, top teens.
- ALABAMA--Jay Barker credited God, team after key comeback on ESPN.
- NORTH CAROLINA--Prof: Bible interpretation is human/divine endeavor.
- KENTUCKY--Southern professor interviewed by CBS.

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Ministers, churches in for change as tax filing season approaches," dated 1/26/95, please correct the story by deleting the fifth paragraph (Hammar said the seven factors established by the tax court are:) and substituting in its place the following six paragraphs:

If a pastor has received Form W-2 from his church and reports that income on Line 7 of Form 1040 this year, then he is likely filing correctly as an employee.

Most pastors have a "dual status" when filing their annual tax returns:

- On the one hand, they are self-employed for Social Security purposes, because they do not have Social Security withheld from their paychecks. Instead they pay their own self-employment tax, which is calculated on Schedule SE.
- On the other hand, they are employees for purposes of income tax, which is calculated mostly on Form 1040. Although pastors are employees for income tax purposes, they are eligible for such tax breaks as housing allowance.

Further, unlike the average taxpayer employee in America, most pastors do not have federal income tax withheld from their paychecks. Instead, they pay quarterly tax estimates to the IRS.

According to Hammar, the seven factors established by the tax court to determine whether a minister should file as an employee for income tax purposes are:

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Thanks,
Baptist Press

SBC structure study committee
has unanimous recommendation

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press
1/27/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The seven-member study committee looking at the programs and structure of the Southern Baptist Convention has a unanimous recommendation it will present at the Executive Committee meeting Feb. 20 in Nashville, Tenn.

--more--

However, what that recommendation is and what changes are proposed for the nation's largest evangelical denomination are questions the committee does not want to answer until the Feb. 20 release date.

"The Program and Structure Study Committee has worked prayerfully and carefully, considering how the SBC might best help the churches to reach the world for Christ," said Mark Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., and chairman of the committee, in a release to Baptist Press Jan. 27.

"Through a long series of productive meetings, the committee has moved toward consensus and closure. We are now prepared and eager to bring a unanimous report and recommendation to the Executive Committee We thank Southern Baptists for all their prayers and look forward to sharing our vision in the days ahead," Brister said.

The study committee was appointed by the chairman of the Executive Committee in September 1993 in response to a motion referred from the 1993 SBC annual meeting. That SBC motion, made by now-retired California state convention executive C.B. Hogue, asked that the SBC president appoint a seven-member study committee with three from the Executive Committee, three from the convention at-large and a chairman from either group. Hogue's motion was referred to the Executive Committee by messengers in that SBC annual meeting in Houston, June 15-17, 1993.

Under SBC bylaw 20(5)(m), the Executive Committee "shall present to the convention recommendations required to clarify the responsibilities of the agencies for programs and other functions, to eliminate overlapping assignments of responsibility, and to authorize the assignment of new responsibilities for programs or functions to agencies."

Hogue's proposal said the purpose was to "study the program statements of SBC agencies and institutions, and evaluate existing structures which are required to effectively implement such programs."

The Executive Committee appointed the study committee, with the same purpose as Hogue's proposal, and included four Executive Committee members and three members, including the chairman, from the convention at-large. The study committee was to report its findings to the Executive Committee.

If the recommendations of the study committee are approved by the 80-member Executive Committee, they will be recommended to the messengers at the June annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta, celebrating the SBC's 150th anniversary. Any constitutional changes would require a two-thirds approval vote from two consecutive annual meetings.

Bylaw changes do not require two annual meetings and could be made and approved at the Atlanta meeting with the exception of bylaw 15 which lists the agencies, institutions, commissions and auxiliary of the convention. It can be changed by a simple majority vote but requires two consecutive convention meetings.

There are 19 agencies, institutions and commissions -- including the SBC Executive Committee -- and one auxiliary, Woman's Missionary Union, of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC is a huge entity: more than 38,000 affiliated churches with 15-plus million members. The convention's agencies have budgets totaling more than \$630 million (1994-95) with thousands of employees.

Members of the study committee are Brister, chairman; Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.; William Hall, registered investments advisor, San Clemente, Calif.; Robert Sorrell, associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova (Memphis), Tenn.; Rex Terry, attorney, Fort Smith, Ark.; Greg Horton, corporate executive, Simpsonville, S.C.; and R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Floyd, Hall, Sorrell and Terry are members of the SBC Executive Committee.

**Former college president
arrested after disappearance**

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles, facing federal charges of stealing \$1.7 million from the Baptist-affiliated institution, was arrested in San Francisco between 11 p.m. and midnight Jan. 26 after failing to appear for a court hearing in Jackson, Miss., 14 hours earlier.

Nobles, 69, had last been seen in Mississippi on Jan. 24, according to a report in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger. His 1992 Oldsmobile 98 was found Jan. 26 at the Memphis International Airport.

U.S. District Judge William Barbour issued a warrant for Nobles' arrest after he missed the 9 a.m. Jan. 26 hearing. The newspaper reported the hearing had been scheduled by his attorneys to suppress evidence in the 20-count federal indictment he faces, with trial slated Feb. 7.

The FBI subsequently held a 3 p.m. news conference to broadcast Nobles' name and likeness and seek assistance from the public in his arrest, the newspaper reported. Nobles' name and picture also went out on FBI bulletins nationwide under the title "Wanted Fugitive."

Nobles, who had been president of Mississippi College for more than two decades, had been free on \$15,000 personal recognizance bond since a Sept. 22 arraignment on federal charges he faces, including six counts of mail fraud, five counts of money laundering and four counts involving prostitution-related charges.

Authorities made no statement Jan. 27 whether Nobles was attempting to flee the country.

Failure to appear for court is a separate offense punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, The Clarion-Ledger reported.

--30--

**Volunteers needed soon
to teach English in China**

By Steve Barber

**Baptist Press
1/27/95**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--In the 150th anniversary year of Southern Baptists' international ministries, the call is being sounded for unprecedented numbers of volunteers to serve as English teachers in schools and colleges across China.

"Teachers to China" is a cooperative project of outreach departments of the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Cooperative Services International, Southern Baptists' channel for Christian service in developing countries.

"The Brotherhood Commission has established a close relationship with a network of potential volunteers organized in vocational fellowships, and we are delighted they will be a liaison to mobilize this network," said Jerry Rankin, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president. "There are almost unlimited opportunities for teaching English in China, and surely God is glorified as we work together in partnership to seize this opportunity."

Volunteers will teach an intensive immersion program in conversational English in urban and rural settings across mainland China. Contact with students, which includes extracurricular recreational activities, will average more than 30 hours per week.

In most cases, certification and experience in classroom teaching or group leadership is required. Training in English as a Second Language (ESL) and experience in working with international students is desirable.

Travel begins on July 4, with volunteers returning to the United States on Aug. 15. The cost, which is subject to change, is \$2,225 per person and includes transportation from Los Angeles plus housing, meals, teaching materials and orientation upon arrival in China.

The Teachers to China project is another example of cooperative international ministry by various Southern Baptist agencies. The Brotherhood Commission is now taking primary responsibility for recruiting volunteers for service overseas.

--more--

"This project is another step toward more fully utilizing the great potential of Southern Baptist laypeople in missions," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president. "We are delighted to work in concert with the FMB in this effort."

Prospective volunteers are urged to contact the Brotherhood Commission's adults in missions department immediately at (901) 272-2461 or 1-800-280-1891. Tim Yarbrough, the Brotherhood Commission's manager for the Teachers to China project, has set April 3 as the target date for enlisting all volunteers.

--30--

Golden Gate Seminary
to open Arizona campus By Elizabeth Young & Cameron Crabtree

Baptist Press
1/27/95

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--An Arizona regional campus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will officially open this spring.

The Arizona campus will be based at Arizona Southern Baptists' Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, but class offerings will not be limited to that campus or the Phoenix area in the future.

The Arizona campus, which will offer master's level degree programs, is a cooperative effort of Golden Gate and Grand Canyon University, with the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention executive board and Baptist Foundation of Arizona participating in start-up costs.

"The goal of providing Golden Gate's ministry in growing centers of mission outreach in the West is well known," said Golden Gate President William O. Crews. "This will enhance ongoing efforts of Arizona Baptists to develop Christian leaders in their own ministry context."

"Golden Gate's philosophy of tying theological education closely to the ministry setting rather than centralizing it at a 'main' campus has proven itself. We are committed to demonstrating that in Arizona as well."

Golden Gate currently operates three campuses along the Pacific Coast, more than 25 ethnic leadership development centers in the western states and a new master's level teaching site in New Mexico.

Golden Gate's Northwest regional campus, located in Portland, Ore., was established in 1980, while Dan C. Stringer, current ASBC executive director-treasurer, was executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention. That center has been a boon to Baptist leadership in the Northwest, Stringer said.

"At the present," he said, "about one-half the persons serving on the executive board in that convention are graduates of Golden Gate through instruction received at the Portland campus. Eighty-eight have graduated from Golden Gate through the Portland campus. Nearly all serve in the Northwest. About one-half of the students have come from outside the Northwest, but have remained to serve in that area."

Stringer said he hopes the Arizona campus will have a similar benefit for Arizona Southern Baptists. "Many of our fine Arizona young people have left our state to receive a Southern Baptist seminary education and have not returned to Arizona upon the completion of their advanced preparation," he said. "The future needs of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention have been examined, and trained leadership for present and future churches is a high priority."

Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program money is unavailable to help pay for the new campus, since, with its existing regional campuses, Golden Gate Seminary already exceeds the funding limitations in the SBC seminary funding formula.

Nevertheless, said seminary Academic Vice President Rodrick Durst, the seminary is committed to studying the feasibility of regional campuses in state conventions where local Baptist leaders invite the seminary to come and can help supply sufficient number of students and supporting resources.

"This partnership depends both on the vision of the seminary and the vision of Arizona Baptists," he said.

--more--

Funds for the first year of operation will be jointly provided by Grand Canyon University, the ASBC executive board and a charitable trust administered by the Baptist Foundation of Arizona, in addition to fees from students. The ASBC board voted Jan. 12 to contribute up to \$30,466.66 for the first-year cost of operation.

Course offerings at the Arizona campus will be scheduled so that a master of divinity degree can be completed in four years and a master of arts of divinity degree from Golden Gate in six years, rather than the normal seven years.

A spring course, Models of Church Leadership, taught by Durst, will launch the seminary's new efforts in Arizona. Dates for the Friday/Saturday intensive course are April 21-22, May 12-13 and June 2-3.

Fall 1995 course offerings are: Foundations for Ministry, Foundations for Biblical Studies, Principles of Church Growth, Introduction to Greek, Church History I and Foundations for Christian Education.

Spring 1996 course offerings are: Principles and Practices of Bible Teaching, Introduction to Preaching, Church History II, Introduction to Mission, Introduction to the Old Testament, Greek Exegesis of Ephesians and Life Span Development.

Fees for Southern Baptists students taking less than 10 units per semester are \$100 per unit. Fees for Southern Baptists taking 10 units or more are \$900 per semester.

Fees for non-Southern Baptists taking less than 10 units per semester are \$225 per unit. Fees for non-Southern Baptist students taking more than 10 units per semester are \$2,000.

For more information, call Linda Ford or Dina Sitin Golden Gate's office of admissions, 1-800-735-5060 ext. 251 or write GGBTS, 201 Seminary Drive, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

--30--

Vols build home for Nicaragua's
first Baptist home missionary

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
1/27/95

DALLAS (BP)--A church was revived and outreach efforts to a largely unreached people group advanced by a 10-member missions building team who returned recently from Nicaragua.

Nine Texas Baptists and one North Carolina Baptist worked two weeks building a multi-purpose home for the first home missionary appointed by the Nicaragua Baptist Convention. The missionary, who is due to arrive in February, will work primarily with Miskito Indians along the Coco River in northeastern Nicaragua.

He also will serve as pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, Puerto Cabazes, a church that almost became a casualty of the civil war between Sandinistas and Contras in the 1980s.

"The church had almost died out," said Leo W. Smith, pastor of Highlands Baptist Church, LaMarque, Texas, who led the missions building team.

Smith was told Sandinistas had confiscated the property of families in the church, and only a few elderly women remained.

"Those women who had wept and prayed for their church to come alive saw it resurrected in the two weeks we were there," he said.

The missionary house is strategically located at the corner of Puerto Cabazes' busy downtown market, and the construction project "became the topic of conversation of the whole town," Smith said.

Texas Baptist Men had organized the building project at the invitation of Jim Palmer, Southern Baptist missionary to Nicaragua. Building supplies were purchased by the Foreign Mission Board through Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds and by TBM.

TBM also provided a boat for Southern Baptist missionaries and Nicaraguan Baptist pastors along the Coco River, allowing them to bring food, medical supplies and the gospel to isolated Miskito villages.

Many of the tools for the building project, including unfamiliar power tools that captured the attention of local residents, were provided by Royal Ambassadors throughout Texas who collected them last year.

--more--

The volunteer builders "dried in" the building in 10 days -- a job that would have taken six months with the simple tools available to local builders, one Puerto Cabazes resident told the missions team.

"I believe this was a tremendous help to the church at Puerto Cabazes, as well as that whole Miskito area," Smith said. "We were able to sense the spiritual needs, and we feel that what we did will strengthen the work in great ways."

As work progressed on the building, interest in Olivet Baptist Church increased in the community and among area villagers who shopped at the town's market.

"There were men who rode eight hours on the back of a truck to come to worship and women who walked two hours to church and then walked back home in the dark after the services," Smith said. "It touched my heart to see people so hungry to worship and so eager to get the gospel out."

--30--

NEWS ADVISORY

Zambian judge delays trial
on mission permits again

Baptist Press
1/27/95

LUSAKA, Zambia (BP)--A judge has again postponed a trial that will decide the future of Southern Baptist mission efforts in the African country of Zambia. The court case, which began in mid-November, concerns the refusal of Zambian immigration officials to renew work permits or issue new ones to Southern Baptist missionaries without the approval of the Baptist Convention of Zambia. The mission organization, a legally separate entity, protested the decision and filed a lawsuit after other appeals failed. The case, rescheduled for Jan. 26, was postponed again until Feb. 8 -- the third delay in the trial. No missionaries have had to leave the country so far. The most extreme potential outcome: All 47 missionaries assigned to Zambia would have to leave the country and all mission property -- including cars, houses and institutions -- would be turned over to the convention.

--30--

Youth also get attention
in Here's Hope campaign

By Ken Walker

Baptist Press
1/25/95

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The first salvations reported at Campbellsville (Ky.) Baptist Church during the "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" campaign touched close to home.

Two couples have led their children to profess faith in Jesus Christ using "Here's Hope" materials.

"I thought it was wonderful," said Linda Ward, who led her 8-year-old son, Matthew, through the children's "Here's Hope" tract the first week of the campaign.

Ward said she treasures the "sweet" moment in the office of pastor James Jones, when she and her son went to talk with the pastor about his decision. "He said a prayer and had Matthew repeat it, and then had him look at each of us and tell us he was saved. I think Matt knows what he's talking about."

Her husband, Jim, said their son had been asking questions about church for several weeks, particularly about who could take communion. He said the "Here's Hope" tract was helpful in leading their youngest child to Jesus.

"I like going directly and letting them know exactly what it takes to be saved," said the deacon and Royal Ambassador worker. "I know that had a bearing on Matt's decision."

The Wards, who led their 12-year-old daughter to Christ five years ago, hope soon to share their faith with other young people. Linda teaches kindergarten at Campbellsville Elementary School, while Jim is the industrial arts teacher and baseball coach at Campbellsville High School.

--more--

"I think this campaign is good," Jim said of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board-initiated effort. "I've given it some thought. There are a lot of kids I'd like to talk to at school, but it's hard sometimes to mix it in there."

David McCullough, band director at Campbellsville College, reported a similar experience with his daughter, leading her to profess faith in Christ through a "Here's Hope" tract.

Pastor Jones said those reports and an increased awareness of witnessing have caused a stir in the church, which averages 550 in Sunday school attendance.

Jones estimated 70 percent of the congregation has agreed to witness about their faith as part of the "Here's Hope" campaign.

The church already has had to reorder supplies because the first 600 Bibles, 500 children's tracts and 1,000 youth tracts they ordered were nearly used up in one week.

"It's caused a lot of excitement," Jones said. "We've gotten our deacons behind it and I see excitement in our association about it."

Taylor County Baptist Association has tackled the campaign aggressively and recently was featured in a front-page story in the local newspaper.

Dick White, a member at Campbellsville Baptist Church, said "Here's Hope" has reminded him there's more to church than just going on Sunday. A vice president of training manufacturing for Fruit of the Loom, he was discussing "Here's Hope" recently at work with a woman from another Baptist church. Suddenly the woman sitting next to them said she wasn't saved.

White gave her a marked New Testament the next day. While she didn't accept the Lord then, he said he was arranging a follow-up visit by his pastor.

--30--

WMU names Acteens
panelists, top teens

By Teresa Dickens

Baptist Press
1/27/95

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Acteens from 10 states have been tapped by Woman's Missionary Union to serve on the 1995 National Acteens Panel and as 1995 Top Teens.

The 26 teen-agers were selected from nearly 100 Acteens members nationwide who applied to serve on the national panel. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union for girls in grades seven through 12.

Selected to serve on the six-member 1995 National Acteens Panel were Carrie Bell, Murray, Ky.; Amy Lynn Foster, Elkhart, Ill.; Amy Rebekah Hamilton, Ecu, Miss.; Kelly Hamilton, Knoxville, Tenn.; Jamie S. Mashburn, Pensacola, Fla.; and Emily McAlister, Oklahoma City.

Twenty Acteens were named 1995 National Acteens Top Teens. They are: from Alabama--Briggett Buice, Oxford; Florida--Julie Cusick, Plantation; Georgia--Stephanie Gibson, Columbus; and Shauna Malcolm, Camilla; Kentucky--Melissa Bryant, Beaver Dam; and Christella J. Carpenter, Calhoun; Illinois--Amy Jo Morgan, Springfield; and Allene Knobloch, Buffalo Hart; Mississippi--Amanda K. Richardson, Vicksburg; and Jennifer Ann Robbins, Sumrall; South Carolina--Savilla Miller, Leesville; Tennessee--Amy Lauren Briggs, Memphis; Kari Elizabeth Tullock, Morristown; and Suzanne Marie Frost and Heather K. Logan, both from Bolivar; and Texas--Megan Harbison, Houston; Stephanie Wells, Lindale; Amanda Briggs, Holliday; Michele Banks, Jacksonville; and Ruth Aneice Knotts, Sugar Land.

All of these Acteens "have an unusual grasp on ministry and witnessing," said Jan Turrentine, design editor of the Acteens magazine, Accent. "Their views of the world and its people are so refreshing and inspiring.

"Through their participation in all that the Acteens organization has to offer, they have acquired skills and developed personal talents and gifts," she noted. "They have learned that one person can make a difference when that person is committed and obedient to God and to the Christian lifestyle."

--more--

"Each application ... was a portrait of a young person with a deep faith, a bold testimony and a strong missions commitment," added Becky Nelson, design editor for youth products at WMU. "I was impressed by the creativity of these Acteens as described in their StudiAct activities.

"Their excitement about Acteens is contagious," she continued, "and their involvement in ministry locally and globally is an example each of us should follow."

Selection of panelists and top teens are based on scholastic achievement; school and church activities; and accomplishments in StudiAct, the individual achievement plan for Acteens.

In addition to their applications and written testimonies, candidates had to be recommended by their pastor and Acteens leader.

The panelists and top teens were selected by WMU, SBC, staff members, and were announced during the WMU Jan. 7-11 executive board meeting.

The panelists will be featured in the May 1995 issue of Accent, with the top teens appearing in the June/July issue.

During 1995, panelists and top teens will provide leadership in state and associational WMU-related meetings. In addition, panelists will write for Accent and serve as a pages at the June 18-19 WMU annual meeting and June 20-22 Southern Baptist Convention, both in Atlanta.

--30--

Jay Barker credited God, team
after key comeback on ESPN

By Wayne Atcheson

Baptist Press
1/27/95

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (BP)--The game had the makings of a classic.
For Georgia.

It was Oct. 1, 1994. Alabama was 4-0 and Georgia 3-1. On the arm of Georgia quarterback Eric Zeier, a leading Heisman Trophy candidate and the SEC's all-time top passer, rested the hopes of offensive fireworks for a national television audience.

He did not disappoint. With 57 seconds remaining in the first half, he had thrown three touchdown passes for a 21-7 lead, and murmurs of discontent spread among Alabama faithful.

Under the lights of a rare Bryant-Denny Stadium night game, 70,123 looked on in anxious frustration. Was Alabama about to crash and burn?

Except for a 42-point outburst against a weak Chattanooga team the first week of the season, Alabama had shown little offensive firepower.

With the defense struggling to contain an inspired and confident Zeier, there was little reason to expect Alabama to keep up, much less catch up.

Then something flickered late in the first half. Jay Barker led a 73-yard touchdown march.

Then the defense held.

Only seconds remained before the half. Barker hit Curtis Brown with 17- and 13-yard gains. He nailed Tony Johnson for 26 to the 15.

The clock was down to five seconds.

Michael Proctor kicked a 33-yard field goal to draw Alabama within 11.

The late heroics helped, but few found cause for true optimism. How many times had Alabama's defense been the guardian of victory? And was this the night that the defensive magic ran out?

The more important question on this unusually warm autumn night seemed to be about the offense. How long had it been since Alabama really opened it up? Could a suspect offensive line provide enough protection for quarterback Jay Barker to operate?

Barker had shown the ability before. He had the strong arm. No one doubted that. But would the coaches give him a green light?

In two seasons as quarterback, Alabama under Barker's leadership had won every game save two: one loss, one tie. They had played both years for the Southeastern Conference championship, winning one, and earned a national championship.

--more--

Yet the line on Jay Barker was that he was careful. He was operating in an offensive system that insisted on "careful." He was a good guy. A moral guy. A strong, spiritual Christian. The kind of fellow very mother wished her daughter would marry. He wouldn't lose a game for you.

But how much rein would he be given to fight for the win? He was not given total rein. He had had to start every season fighting for his position just like everybody else. That is the way coach Gene Stallings runs his program. Barker shouldered the questions and criticism, seemed to always prevail, even if just by narrow margins.

Thirty minutes remained for an answer.

Alabama took the ball to open the second half, and Barker stepped up to his center. His finest hour had just begun.

On that Alabama night, this tall, handsome man from the suburbs of Birmingham put the question to rest and showed a national television audience that the best quarterback in the stadium did not wear a "G" on his helmet.

On that first possession, Barker found Toderick Malone in the flat for a 35-yard touchdown to make the count 21-16.

Moments later, defensive back Tommy Johnson intercepted a Zeier pass and Barker worked Alabama close enough for a 35-yard Proctor field goal to narrow the Georgia lead at 21-19.

Zeier did not roll over. He pushed the Georgia offense 67 yards, pitching his fourth TD pass of the night. The Bulldogs were on top 28-19 as the third quarter ended.

Fifteen minutes remained.

Barker hit fullback Tarrant Lynch for 22 yards.

Then Malone got free on a post pattern, and Barker's pass covered 49 yards for a touchdown that made the score 28-26.

The teams sawed back and forth. Georgia could not score. But it mattered little since Alabama was behind.

Exactly 2:43 remained when a Bryne Diehl punt was whistled dead on the Georgia two yard line.

Alabama held. Georgia punted and from his 49-yard line with 2:10 remaining, Jay Barker took the game and his future into his hands.

On second and 10, Barker was trapped. He broke two tackles and scrambled 15 yards.

He passed to Tony Johnson for 15 yards more. Three running plays to the center of the field left the ball well positioned for Proctor. He drilled the ball through the goal posts from 32 yards away.

Alabama 29, Georgia 28.

As the clock ticked down to its last second, Bryant-Denny erupted. Excited players and fans ran onto the field. Amid the happy chaos, an ESPN television crew found Barker for a post-game interview.

Reporter Mike Adamle yelled into the microphone to be heard above the crowd.

"Jay, unofficially you had 395 yards passing and two touchdowns, and enough escapes to make Houdini proud," shouted Adamle, turning the microphone to Barker's face as the senior quarterback shook his head in amazement. "Tell us your feelings and thoughts on this great victory over Georgia."

His dark hair matted, and his face still wet with perspiration, Barker shouted to be heard. "First of all, I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ because I've had so many criticisms and the Lord says in the Bible, 'If you just humble yourself therefore under his mighty hand, he will lift you up in due time,' and this has been due time for me.

"I just thank the Lord so much for the team and defense we have, and the guys who surround me. I can't express how much I love them and I just love to win. It's been a great game for me and it was those other guys giving me protection up there. The offensive line did a great job all night long for me."

With fans swarming Jay, Adamle got in another question. "Jay, you are now 28-1-1 as a starter. You have talked about how proud you are of your record. Your thoughts on that?"

"Like I said, that's just not me. That's my whole team. I love them to death. They compete with me. We just want to win as many games as possible. We got to put this one behind us now and get focused on the next one."

Then he was gone, running for the dressing room with helmet in hand amid the roar from a crowd that refused to leave.

The Georgia performance and the Adamle interview that followed were a watershed moment for Jay Barker. His coaches must have known. And certainly his teammates. Of course, his mom and dad. They already knew.

But on this night, all of America knew. Jay Barker measured up to the ghosts that haunt every Alabama quarterback. Starr. Todd. Sloan. Stabler. Namath.

And if American youth needed a spiritual role model, they had one. In his brief moment with Adamle, Barker left no doubt: That real men can talk about morality and their Christian faith with pride and enthusiasm.

--30--

Atcheson, associate director of University of Alabama Tide Pride, is the author of a new book, "In Due Time: The Struggles and Triumphs of Alabama Quarterback Jay Barker," published by The Birmingham News, which granted reprint permission for this excerpt. Information about ordering individual copies of the book may be obtained by phoning 1-800-446-5101, while wholesale information is available from 1-800-283-4048. Barker, a Southern Baptist, is the winningest quarterback in University of Alabama history, with 35 wins as a starter from 1991-94. He led the team to the 1992 national championship, a 34-13 victory over the University of Miami in the Sugar Bowl, capping a 13-0 season. He was the 1994 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year and Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award winner as nation's top senior quarterback.

Prof: Bible interpretation
is human/divine endeavor

By Dwayne Hastings

Baptist Press
1/27/95

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The study of Scripture should not be an academic exercise simply for intellectual stimulation and entertainment, said Wayne McDill, professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The study of the Word of God, McDill said in the annual spring faculty lecture, is both a human and divine endeavor that seeks a response of faith from the reader -- that the overarching goal of the New Testament is to make God known through Jesus Christ.

"The revelation of God in the canon of Scripture is unique and complete. No new message is needed. The theological truths revealed in the New Testament are universal truths for every generation," McDill said.

Every person who reads the Bible does so with his own presuppositions and pockets of unbelief; yet when that pre-understanding overwhelms the original author's intent, Scripture no longer builds faith, he stressed during the Jan. 24 address at the Wake Forest, N.C., campus. "We must recognize that the inherent subjectivity of the interpreter continually threatens to impose a meaning on the text not intended in its original writing.

"Preaching today, though perhaps no worse than in any other generation, does not take the text nearly as seriously as effective interpretation requires," McDill noted. Many continue to suggest the search for original meaning is futile, believing the emphasis instead should be on what the contemporary reader brings to the text.

The result of this mind-set is fuzzy thinking from which nothing very precise or specific can be developed, he said, noting it is only "precise and specific truths about God and his will which evoke faith." The aim of Christian proclamation should be to produce a vital, life-changing faith in the hearers, he added.

Further, those who proclaim Scripture must beware of the "sermonizer's trap," McDill said, a tendency to skim across the top of Scripture, weighing Bible verses for their preaching potential instead of searching out the theological meaning of the text.

--more--

There is also a danger in seeking to preach and teach every text in a moralistic way, bending Scripture to fit a self-serving, institutional agenda: "Instead of beginning with his own agenda, the preacher must consciously seek to let the text speak in its own terms, even though it may not yield the message he sought in coming to it," he said. "The Bible is a mixture of 'is' material as well as 'ought' material."

"Anytime a reader allows his own agenda to dominate the text and control the meaning, he is risking the loss of the its inherent meaning in favor of a meaning more suitable to his own thinking," said McDill, author of *The Twelve Essential Skills for Great Preaching*, published by Broadman and Holman in 1994.

When scripture is used to further man's purposes over God's, the motive is carnal and will not bear fruit, McDill concluded, saying, "To the event that the word of God as revealed in scripture is proclaimed faithful, it will be effective in igniting a faith response in the hearer. Any other motive can not accomplish the work of God."

--30--

Southern professor
interviewed by CBS

Baptist Press
1/27/95

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor David P. Gushee has been interviewed by CBS News for a documentary the network is producing on cultural strife in America.

Gushee, assistant professor of Christian ethics at the Louisville, Ky., seminary, was asked during the interview about the causes of the nation's clash over values, the rise of political activism by conservative Christians and possible steps toward resolving the societal conflict. Gushee was interviewed on the seminary campus Jan. 26 by Joel Bernstein, a producer for "CBS Reports."

While no specific date has been set for the airing of the program, Bernstein said it will probably be broadcast around Labor Day.

Gushee, 32, joined the seminary faculty in 1993. He has written several journal articles and is the author of a recently released book, "The Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust." He holds degrees from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., Southern Seminary and Union Theological Seminary in New York.

--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