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-- 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 70420,17
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232, CompuServe 70420,17
NASHVILLE Linda Lawson, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300, CompuServe 70420,17
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151, CompuServe 70420,17
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223, CompuServe 70420,17

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

May 4, 1995

95-75

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TEXAS--Lea elected SWBTS theology dean; trustees reduce '95-'96 budget' photos.

WASHINGTON--Black Christians should oppose Foster, Baptist pastor says.

TENNESSEE--10 Sunday school priorities listed by BSSB's Bill Taylor.

WASHINGTON--Psychiatric manual opens door to adult-child sex, group says.

DALLAS--PowerPoint marks 1st year of broadcasting nationwide.

ARIZONA--Arizona youth anticipates Baptist musical adventure; photo.

ALABAMA--Nursing group establishes fund honoring Marjorie Grober.

EDITORS' NOTE: Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry's appointments to key SBC committees and nominations for various SBC boards and committees will be reported Friday, May 5, in Baptist Press, in keeping with the traditional announcement of the appointments and nominations at least 45 days before the annual meeting of the SBC.

**Lea elected SWBTS theology dean;
trustees reduce '95-'96 budget** By Jan Johnsonius

**Baptist Press
5/4/95**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Tommy Lea, longtime professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was unanimously elected dean of the school of theology May 3 as the seminary's board of trustees met in regular spring session.

In other action, trustees approved a 1995-96 balanced budget of \$22,904,304, which reflected a decrease of \$574,060 from the 1994-95 fiscal year. Included in that budget is a \$135 per semester increase in the student matriculation fee, the first such rise in fees since the 1993-94 academic year.

The increase in student fees, according to Hubert Martin, the seminary's chief financial officer, is reflected in a \$135 increase in the matriculation fee, from \$115 per semester to \$250 per semester. Tuition remains at \$80 per hour, with a cap of 10 hours. Under the cap, a student's tuition cannot exceed \$800 per semester, no matter how many hours a student takes each semester.

In recommending Lea to trustees, President Ken Hemphill noted discussions with both faculty and trustees revealed their strong approval of Lea as the new "stackpole" dean at the world's largest theological seminary. Lea, who has taught at the seminary 16 years, received both his master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern.

"Dr. Lea is the finest candidate we could have come across," Hemphill said. "He is well-known to Texas Baptists and Southern Baptists and respected across all three schools at Southwestern.

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"Dr. Lea is known as a man of notable Christian character and integrity, one with pastoral experience and a clear, strong theological stand. He's also known as a peacemaker, but at the same time he will not compromise his beliefs," Hemphill added.

Lea will assume his new post June 1 as Bruce Corley leaves that role to join the faculty of Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

Corley noted he is pleased to turn the mantle over to Lea, saying it was of "paramount importance that a person inside the faculty be appointed as dean.

"The selection process clearly pinpointed Dr. Lea, and I know the faculty will endorse his selection and see it as an encouragement to them," Corley stated.

Selecting someone from inside the seminary, Hemphill noted, indicates he and the trustees have trust and confidence in the faculty.

In response to his selection, Lea said he looks forward to working with Hemphill, a man with "an energetic spirit, vision and eagerness to learn." He emphasized, however, the many challenges he will face.

"There is the challenge of repackaging theological education in methods that make it more accessible, the challenge of finding replacements for retiring faculty, the challenge of representing concerns of faculty to the administration and trustees, and providing a good, harmonious environment that encourages people to make a lifetime commitment to staying here," Lea said, emphasizing such a commitment has characterized Southwestern through the years.

Lea added one way to encourage the faculty is to understand their concerns and deal with them effectively. "We want to define and preserve a good environment of academic freedom."

Lea said he recognizes the fine job of planning already implemented. "I have an incredible legacy on which to build."

In presenting the pared-down budget to trustees, Martin noted the institution is "rock solid" in its finances. "We have no debt, and many institutions are in financial bondage because of debt."

Expenditures for 1995-96 were decreased through consolidation of administrative positions, Martin reported. "This was strictly achieved through natural attrition, not terminations," he emphasized.

He attributed the decrease in revenue to a reduction in the student population and the seminary's move to phase out a \$3 million "spending plan." That plan, implemented in 1992, was to supplement the annual budget each year for five years. Under the original plan the supplement was to be \$800,000 for 1995-96, but this was pared to \$400,000 to phase out what was viewed as a non-sustainable source of income.

Although the budget was trimmed for 1995-96, faculty and staff will be able to receive a 4 percent salary increase, Martin said.

In other business, trustees elected representatives to an ombudsman committee of trustees, faculty and students. The committee was designed to answer specific concerns surrounding the seminary's probation, instituted by the accrediting arm of the Association of Theological Schools, Hemphill said. ATS placed Southwestern on two years' probation, effective January 1995.

"This gives us a mediation committee that also protects confidentiality," Hemphill said, adding he has been in contact with ATS and received their direction and encouragement in forming the committee.

According to Hemphill, the trustees are so pleased with the committee and its emphasis on open communication they have asked for its continuance beyond the lifting of probation.

Trustees were informed of the retirement of Darrel Baergen, professor of communication arts and director of the Center for Christian Communication Studies. Baergen had served in that post since 1981. He will be joining the faculty of Hardin-Simmons University this fall as professor and head of the department of communication. Baergen's retirement from Southwestern is effective July 31.

Trustees also approved the addition of four new faculty members: Robert Garrett Jr. as professor of missions; John Babler as assistant professor of social work; Howard G. Aultman as associate professor of music theory; and Fang-Lan Hsieh as music librarian with faculty status.

Faculty promotions approved by the trustees included Stephen M. Stookey, assistant professor of church history; James W. Walter Jr., professor of adult education; Charles A. Tidwell, distinguished professor of administration; Angela Faith Cofer, associate professor of voice; and Sue B. King, professor of voice.

Tenure was granted to Rhonda Edge Buescher, associate professor of church music education.

In other action, trustees also approved a change in the official catalog, under the topic "Ownership and Objectives," adding the word "Christian" to the statement "Qualified students of all Christian denominations, nationalities and races are eligible for admittance to the seminary, with the primary emphasis on Southern Baptist students."

Chairman Ralph W. Pulley Jr., vice chairman Lee Weaver and secretary T. Bob Davis were re-elected by the board to those positions.

Also approved in the meeting was a strategic plan, "Empowering for Ministry," for the years 1995-2000.

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(BP) photos available on SBCNet and upon request from Southwestern's office of public relations.

**Black Christians should oppose
Foster, Baptist pastor says**

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
5/4/95

WASHINGTON (BP)--An African-American pastor of a Southern Baptist church in New York has challenged fellow black Christians to approach the nomination of Henry Foster as surgeon general from a biblical perspective rather than a racial one.

As a result, he hopes other black pastors and Christians will oppose Foster's confirmation, said Rickey Armstrong, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Syracuse, N.Y.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee questioned Foster, who is black, on his nomination in a hearing May 3 and 4. It is expected the committee will vote on Foster in the next few weeks.

"I believe that his philosophies with regard to human sexuality are absolutely antithetical to evangelical Christian ethics," Armstrong wrote in an opinion piece submitted to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"There are large contingents of black Christians and black people in general who believe that abortion is the soapbox of right-wing fundamentalist, white Christians," he wrote. Abortion "must not be approached as a white issue or a black issue but rather a Christian issue because it is a moral issue. Christians are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. There is no reason for the salt to be insipid when it comes to addressing the abortion crisis in the black community. Yes, I referred to it as a crisis, and if people like Henry Foster and Joycelyn Elders have their way, this crisis will become (the African-American) community's moral disaster."

African Americans do not need a surgeon general whose policies will undermine parental values and result in more teen-age pregnancies and abortions in their community, Armstrong wrote. They also do not need a surgeon general who "will target black communities and schools" with clinics operated by Planned Parenthood, he wrote. Armstrong called the clinics "contraceptive distribution centers" and Planned Parenthood an "advocating agency for racial cleansing."

While African Americans constitute about 12 percent of the United States population, 33 percent of the abortions performed in 1992 were to black women, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Armstrong wrote he was disturbed at the response given by Foster's home church to the surgeon general designat 's defens from the pulpit of the First Baptist Church of Capitol Hill in Nashville, Tenn. On a news report, Armstrong heard Foster say "he believed in a woman's right to choose" and wanted abortions to be "safe, legal but rare." Foster's comments received applause and a chorus of amens, Armstrong said.

Are black Christians "so intense in their efforts to refute racism that they overlook obvious violations of sound biblical teachings?" Armstrong wrote. "Are we in the black church so obsessed with the racial demon until we refuse to raise the moral question: 'Is the practice of abortion, even if it is performed under the conditions of Dr. Foster's rhetoric (safe, legal but race), morally right?'"

Not only does he believe abortion is morally wrong, Armstrong wrote, but he believes "when a church will allow an abortionist to defend his practice to the extent that the church applauds and affirms what is said with hearty amens, that church is also guilty of joining the abortionist in premeditated murder and the devaluation of human life."

He wrote he was not addressing Foster's nomination as a political activist or public policy expert but as a pastor and gospel preacher.

In a telephone interview May 4, Armstrong said there is division in his own church over Foster.

Some of "our members are sort of skeptical about not supporting him, and then some of my members are very strong in their opposition to the nomination," Armstrong said. That response is "pretty typical of a lot of black Baptist churches."

He said he desires for African-American believers to "seek to have a clear biblical and Christian identity," not just a cultural one, Armstrong said.

About 99 percent of the 170-member church is African American, he said. The church, which Armstrong has led more than six years, averages about 70 in Sunday school and 100 in morning worship, he said.

Foster served as dean of the school of medicine and acting president at Meharry Medical College in Nashville but was on sabbatical at the time of his nomination by President Clinton. Several senators, including members of the Labor Committee, have announced opposition to Foster on the basis of such issues as his changing accounts of how many abortions he has performed, his participation on Planned Parenthood boards and his supervision of a study in which more than 50 women had abortions by use of experimental vaginal suppositories.

Elders, the previous surgeon general, also is African American. Clinton fired her in December after learning she had made comments apparently in support of teaching masturbation. It was the final controversial statement in a stormy 15-month tenure as surgeon general.

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10 Sunday school priorities
listed by BSSB's Bill Taylor

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
5/4/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Bill Taylor has spent his first five months at the Baptist Sunday School Board listening, observing and talking Sunday school -- with personnel in the Bible teaching-reaching division which he directs, with state convention Sunday school directors, associational directors of missions and church leaders throughout the nation.

In the process, he has been formulating priorities to guide his leadership in helping churches strengthen their Bible teaching-reaching ministries, enabling people to forge roots into the foundation of God's Word and develop wings to become all God has created them to be.

"Roots without wings restricts," Taylor emphasized, "but wings without roots dissipates. Because we have failed to help people become strongly grounded in their faith, we have some leaders today who have wings but lack roots."

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Taylor joined the board Nov. 1 after serving as minister of education in several large churches, including University Baptist Church, Coral Gables, Fla.; Prestonwood, Dallas; and North Phoenix, Phoenix, Ariz. He brings to his new position a burning desire to lead Southern Baptists to apply the tried-and-true principles of reaching people with the good news of the gospel while using the latest methods and technology to carry out the tasks.

Effectively organized and staffed, the Sunday school should be for the local church a Bible seminary, a teaching/learning center, evangelism center, compassion center, employment agency for church leadership, church growth center and world missions pipeline, Taylor said.

He has identified 10 priorities to position Southern Baptist Sunday schools for ministry into the 21st century.

Priority No. 1 for Taylor is working with BSSB personnel and state convention, associational and church leaders to realistically analyze the kind of Bible teaching-reaching ministry needed in the 21st century.

"Some foster the thought that the Sunday school is obsolete and that the only hope is to try to discover a more contemporary paradigm which meets the needs of 'boomers' and 'busters,'" Taylor acknowledged. "Others talk about returning to the basics and believe the Sunday school is still the most effective way of reaching people. Probably between both of these thoughts lies the truth.

"The Sunday school continues to be a powerful tool to reach, teach, win and develop people in this generation, but we must be open to continual improvement and even totally new directions," he added.

Second, Taylor intends for his efforts to be focused on lifting up the ministry of education in Southern Baptist churches.

"The greatest need in our churches right now is educators who do what Jesus did in teaching God's Word so people can understand it and apply it in their daily lives," Taylor said.

Third, he said the "benchmarks of excellence must be raised, challenging churches and leaders to greater efforts in teaching biblical truth and transforming lives."

While businesses and other institutions in society are raising their standards and pursuing excellence, Taylor said too many churches continue to lower the requirements in leadership. The demise in quality in the average weekly workers meeting is a testimony to the lowering of standards in our Bible study organizations."

Leadership development is Taylor's fourth priority.

"You improve the work by first improving the worker," he emphasized.

In addition to increased attention to leadership training at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist conference centers, state convention conference centers and other events, Taylor envisions a world-class leadership university held periodically at the BSSB "where a pastor, minister of education or Sunday school leader could come and be re-tooled.

"They would spend a week interacting with the finest Southern Baptist educators, ministers, chief executives and business leaders. They would see the latest in BSSB literature, learn how it is produced and consider the best ways to use it in their churches. They would see the latest in computer hardware and software and other technologies for enhancing teaching and learning," he said.

A 21st century approach to information gathering is Taylor's fifth priority.

"When a person misses four consecutive Sundays and receives no contact from anyone at the church, then the church has said, 'You don't count in this place,'" Taylor noted.

"Just as successful businesses must know their strengths and weaknesses to make decisions that affect their bottom lines, so must churches know the persons they are reaching, how often they attend, what their needs are and how the church can meet them.

"Some of the most important people in the church in the next 15 years may be those I call information specialists," Taylor said.

Giving emphasis to expansion principles is his sixth priority.

While some have suggested Southern Baptist Sunday schools have flourished primarily because of their priority time slot on Sunday morning, Taylor differs.

"The hallmark of Southern Baptist Sunday schools has always been its emphasis on reaching and teaching," he said. He expressed concern that workers in some churches are focusing on teaching to nurture their members without seeing the Sunday school as an outreach arm of the church. A renewed focus on expansion principles will lead some churches to experiment with Bible study at alternative times and formats, he predicted.

He cited the 1.5.4 concept of church growth developed by Gene Mims, BSSB vice president of the church growth group as an excellent tool for effective use of expansion principles. It begins with the Great Commission, identifies five essential functions for church growth and four results.

A seventh priority for Taylor is forging new networks and capitalizing on present networks.

For example, he envisions such possibilities as larger, growing churches working with smaller churches that need to reorganize their Sunday schools or need help in reaching non-Christians.

Also, he noted, the denomination's 1,200 associations with their close links to the churches represent an area of great potential. "People at every level of the denomination must explore new ways to work together to involve people in Bible study that transforms their lives."

While many methods must change to meet current needs, some proven growth vehicles must be maximized, Taylor emphasized in his eighth priority.

He cited Vacation Bible School as one example, along with enlargement campaigns, weekly workers meetings, winter Bible studies, outreach visitation and confrontational evangelism.

Ninth, Taylor said Southern Baptists must be among the foremost leaders in effective use of emerging technologies for ministry.

Taylor affirmed the current use of SBCNet, the Southern Baptist data communications network, as a vehicle for transmitting lesson application helps related to current events.

"The so-called 'information highway' is an inviting approach which will enable churches to communicate the gospel as never before," he said. "Let it always be said that the 'modus operandi' of Southern Baptist leaders will be on the cutting edge of effective ministry."

Finally, Taylor called for bridging contemporary learning styles on biblical foundations.

"The truths of the Word of God never change," Taylor said, "but the methods of learning do." For example, greater emphasis on applying Bible truths to life is a necessity for meeting the needs of today's Sunday school members and prospects.

To effectively move into the future, Taylor called for creative thinking and courage to try new methods to meet needs.

"Building on the foundation of the past while attempting to move creatively into the future presents the kinds of challenges that only can be undertaken through the leadership of the Holy Spirit," Taylor said.

He is expanding on his priorities in a new book, "21 Truths, Traditions, and Trends," to be released in September.

"I want to be one who would say a good word about this God-blessed, God-led system of reaching, teaching, winning and developing people for Christ," he said.

Psychiatric manual opens door
to adult-child sex, group says By Mark Kelly

WASHINGTON (BP)--"Normal" sex between adults and small children is the next step in America's sexual revolution, warns an organization involved in research and treatment of homosexuality.

Citing "alarming changes" in the American Psychiatric Association's definition of pedophilia, the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) believes APA activists are attempting to eliminate pedophilia as a sexual disorder much as homosexuality was "de-pathologized" in the 1970s.

The editor of the APA's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual," however, flatly contradicts NARTH's claim, while one leader in the pedophile movement applauds the shift but says he doubts the APA's motives and credibility on the issue.

The May 1994 fourth edition of the diagnostic manual, known as "DSM-IV," recommends a diagnosis of pedophilia when pedophilic fantasies, urges or behaviors "cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas of functioning."

However, the third edition of the manual, revised in 1987, diagnosed a pedophilic disorder if the person "has acted out" such urges.

"According to DSM-IV, a person is no longer a pedophile simply because he molests children or fantasizes about molesting children," said NARTH spokesman Joseph Nicolosi. "He is a pedophile only if he feels bad or anxious about what he's doing, or if it impairs him in an important area of functioning."

"These changes are particularly dangerous because they are a re-enactment of the pattern which led to the de-pathologizing of homosexuality," Nicolosi said. Recommending diagnosis of a homosexual disorder only in cases of distress or impairment in DSM-III (1973) was a prelude to entirely eliminating homosexuality as a disorder in 1987, he asserted.

Focusing on distress and impairment, however, does not signal any shift of APA opinion on adults who engage in sex with children under 13 years of age, said DSM-IV editor Michael First.

Nicolosi and other critics are misinterpreting the criteria and ignoring explanatory text that clearly states denial is part of the disorder, said First, who is an assistant professor of psychiatry at Columbia University in New York City.

"Everybody agrees that pedophilia is a perversion," he said. "Studies have shown over and over again that exposing a young child to sex causes psychopathology. It's inherently taking advantage of and exploiting a child. Pedophiles who claim anything else are just trying to deny the implications of what they are doing."

The changes were made for the sake of psychiatrists dealing with other behaviors, such as fetishism or voyeurism, that may involve sexual activity between consenting adults, First said. Removing behavior as a diagnostic criterion gives the psychiatrist the freedom to stop short of unfairly labeling a patient, he said.

Whatever the APA's reasoning for the new criteria, the changes reflect "the continuing massive erosion of moral standards" among APA psychiatrists that began in the 1960s, said Jeffrey Satinover, a member of Focus on the Family's Physicians Research Council.

"Most mental health professionals are now convinced there exist no objective criteria by which to define homosexuals as ill," Satinover said. The new diagnostic criteria lay the foundation for "full acceptance of all sexual perversions as normal variants of sexuality -- pedophilia included."

Bill Andriette, a spokesman for the North American Man-Boy Love Association, a pedophile group, voiced a mixed reaction: "While I would view (the changes in DSM-IV) as correct and a step in the right direction, the criteria by which the APA makes these decisions are so obviously political that to give this any sort of medical or scientific credence is crazy.

"If you look at the process by which homosexuality per se was declared not an illness, you find it was a purely political process," Andriette said. The APA eliminated homosexuality as a disorder not only because of pressure from homosexual activists but also because "there were lots of gay psychiatrists who were finally coming out of the closet within professional circles," he said.

American society no longer shares any moral values that allow it to discern right from wrong, said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"When you don't have a prevailing ethic that defines moral and immoral behavior, you are left with nothing but opinion polls to determine what's normal and what's abnormal," he said. "Even when it comes to something as grotesque as pedophilia, we evidently cannot force ourselves to say, 'This is wrong; everybody knows it's wrong; and we're going to treat it that way.'"

Satinover noted if pedophilia is no longer considered abnormal, only age of consent laws prevent open adult-child sexual relations. "Youth emancipation" is on the political agenda not only of pedophile groups but also of front-line liberal activists, he said.

"The next step will be a strong effort to lower the age of consent," Land asserted. "In Scandinavia and certain parts of Europe we have seen a softening of the laws concerning sex between adults and children and an attempt to autonomize the child, lowering the age of consent and thus decriminalizing sex acts between adults and children.

"The North American Man-Boy Love Association, for one, has argued for this vigorously," he said. "One motto of pedophiles is 'After 8, it's too late.'"

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PowerPoint marks 1st year
of broadcasting nationwide

By C.C. Risenhoover

Baptist Press
5/4/95

DALLAS (BP)--Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, believes strongly in media ministry as an extension of the local church.

"A media ministry is one of the most effective ways to broaden the witness of a local church," said Graham, whose program "PowerPoint" celebrated its first year of broadcasting nationally in the spring of 1995.

"PowerPoint" is carried by the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission-operated networks ACTS and FamilyNet, by TBN and by a number of independent stations.

"TV is just another avenue of advancing the message of Christ," Graham said. "I don't consider myself a television preacher. I'm a pastor. And I never play to the TV audience. I simply invite the TV audience to participate in our worship."

That invitation to participate, he said, has resulted in the realization thousands upon thousands of people are watching.

"The response has been amazing," Graham said. "You often wonder who's watching and listening, but we're learning through our 800 number and letters just how many people there are who are out there and hurting. Last Easter our phone counselors dealt with seven people who wanted to receive Christ and hundreds more who were interested in a Bible study."

He said the "PowerPoint" mailing list grew from 3,000 names to 13,000 in just one year.

"There's a vast Christian and non-Christian audience hungry for spiritual nourishment," Graham said, "and they enjoy being part of a ministry like this one. We've heard from every state in the nation, from Canada and the Caribbean.

"The audience for evangelism is huge, and God prepares some people to hear in this way."

The pastor said he is still a "local church man" and people have a high degree of confidence in local churches.

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"We try to put the people who contact us from across the country with a local, Bible-believing church," he said. "With a local church, there is the ability to be involved, which is critical to a person's spiritual growth and well-being."

Graham said with a national broadcast he is sensitive to "stepping on the toes of local churches," and such conflict can be avoided with the proper emphasis.

"I think the future of Christianity through media is dependent on local churches," he said. "When a local church produces Christ-centered programs for media, God will use the media to take the Christ-centered message of such programs to the masses."

Graham said he is optimistic about the future of Christian television, that with the media scandals surrounding some televangelists there has been a purging of the medium.

"While we might see some isolated cases of charlatans bilking people under the guise of Christianity in the future, I think the majority of ministries today have integrity," he said. "If they're of God, I know they do. And I think there is a growing confidence in ministries."

Graham said the Prestonwood Baptist Church budget supports "PowerPoint."

"It's a Prestonwood Baptist Church ministry," he said. "The program is incorporated and has a local board, but all the board members are members of the church. The program is directed by the church and supported in the same way as our other mission strategies. We do have a Founders Circle, which is composed of church members who have a particular interest in our media ministry."

"I don't want the program to be independent. I want it to be viably connected to, and accountable to, the church. I want the viewing audience to also support it. Right now, though, Prestonwood Baptist Church is carrying the bulk of the financial load as we build support with a national audience."

Graham said through media the "world is at our doorstep," and his prayer is the new president of the proposed North American Mission Board, recommended to encompass the work of the RTVC as part of an SBC-wide restructuring, will be a strong advocate of media ministry.

"As a convention, we have to decide whether we're committed to a strong media ministry," he said. "My prayer is that Southern Baptists will not only commit to a strong media ministry but will also make a larger commitment to marketing the programs that we produce."

"We have outrageous opportunities, not only with radio and television, but also to be on-line with computer response. With so many families having a computer as well as television set, that connection provides all sorts of opportunity for ministry in homes. Technology is opening the door for us to present the message of Christ to the masses. The problem is that this opportunity requires a major commitment of dollars. My prayer is that the Southern Baptist Convention will make a major investment in this opportunity."

Graham said in committing to a media ministry, it was important the SBC got its priorities in order.

"People, saved and lost, still want to hear preaching," he said. "The Bible says, 'it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.' And that's the part of our churches that is strong, viable and credible."

Graham said when it was decided not to allow RTVC-produced ministry programs to raise funds on the air, it was an overreaction to what a few charlatans were doing.

"It was a critical mistake and it has severely limited our outreach for Christ," he said. "The policy and procedure must be changed to be more viable."

"We have to have funding to do more and to do it better. God has provided us tremendous tools and resources for ministry. And if we don't use them, we're going to be held accountable."

The pastor said every week people come forward and give testimony they became acquainted with Prestonwood Baptist Church through television.

"A radio or TV ministry is like an electronic billboard," he said. "It provides tremendous outreach. That's why I think more of our churches should get on local affiliates."

Arizona youth anticipates
Baptist musical adventure

By Charles Willis

WHITERIVER, Ariz. (BP)--Christy Lee is going to Scotland and England this summer.

For some, such a plan might constitute a long-awaited dream vacation. For more affluent people, the choice might be the result of selecting from among a number of foreign travel options.

But Christy is not going on a pure vacation trip, and she does not fit the definition of wealthy. She is a high school senior in the small town of Whit river, Ariz., member of a small Southern Baptist church and a talented musician.

Christy is one of more than 100 high school juniors and seniors from across the United States who plan to meet in Atlanta this June for the beginning of a two-week Youth Hymnody Heritage Choir Tour, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board and marking the Southern Baptist Convention's founding in Augusta, Ga., in 1845.

Christy attends school in a town that is alleged to have 24 different youth gangs, some of which are reported to require commission of a felony as a requirement for membership. The suicide rate is said to be among the highest in the nation.

She knows too well the realities of life, including the death of one friend by murder and another by suicide. But Christy knows the good side of life, too, including her faith in God and the love of her church family.

The only Arizona member of the choir, she was selected after recommendation from her pastor and a taped audition. Like other students chosen for this once-in-a-lifetime experience, she is required to provide her own financial support, approximately \$2,500 for tour costs, passport, uniform and transportation from Whiteriver to begin the adventure in Atlanta.

Christy knew she would attempt the choir trip last summer when she learned about the tour during Church Music Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Her mother, Eileen Lee, was at Glorieta with her and recalls blurting out, "You're going!" Today, she laughs with a bit of embarrassment that she really was not "ordering her to go."

Eileen Lee and her husband, Clifford, have led the way in musicianship for the family. She is pianist and he is music director for Lakeside (Ariz.) Baptist Church in the town neighboring Whiteriver. She is a fifth-grade special education teacher and he is high school counselor, both on the Apache Reservation at Whiteriver.

Christy, 17, has had an interest in Scotland because of family ancestry, and her love of music and hymns made the trip a perfect match for her interests.

Each member of the choir must memorize 21 pieces of music for the tour, which is designed to provide a musical/missions experience for Baptist youth, "focusing on Baptist heritage and on music that has made us a great congregational singing denomination," according to Jim Hawkins, tour host and a music consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn.

The choir will sing first at the SBC Church Music Conference and for the Tuesday night session of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 20 in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The choir will leave from Atlanta for Scotland, where they will sing a joint concert with the Scottish Baptist Youth Choir. Their itinerary will include important hymn-related sites, such as Bedford, where John Newton wrote "Amazing Grace." A concert will be sung at Stirling Baptist Church in Stirling, Scotland.

On several occasions in England, the choir will divide into as many as four separate groups to sing simultaneous programs in Baptist churches in central England and in the London area.

In addition to her vocal talents, Christy also plays French horn. She has been involved in music activities at church since age 7, and expects to continue that involvement as an adult. With a partial music scholarship to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, she plans a secondary education major.

"Maybe I'll end up teaching band," she said.

The Lee family, as well as the Lakeside Baptist Church family, has prayed about the financial need for Christy's trip, and the money has been in place as each installment toward the tour has been due.

An unexpected inheritance, support from the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention and gifts from individuals have helped meet the goal thus far.

"Some of the contributions have been so out-of-the-blue," Eileen Lee observed, "I feel God wants her to go."

Jerry Lilly, bivocational pastor of Lakeside church, said Christy "has a tremendous potential for leadership. She is creative in putting together skits and is part of our church's praise team. She has done a lot of 'friendship evangelism,' bringing friends to church. She has been the one who keeps the youth group together."

Since Lilly is also a hospice chaplain and a nursing student, he said the congregation of approximately 60 people "have learned to do a lot of things without the pastor. Christy is a part of that in connection with the youth."

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(BP) photo (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press.

**Nursing group establishes
fund honoring Marjorie Grober** **By Teresa Dickens**

**Baptist Press
5/4/95**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--The national Baptist Nursing Fellowship has established the Marjorie Grober Special Projects Fund to assist members involved in missions projects at home and overseas.

The BNF, sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, named the fund in memory of the late Marjorie Grober, who was president-elect of BNF when she and her husband, Glendon, were killed in an automobile accident in July 1994.

The Grobers served for 30 years as missionaries to Brazil before moving to Arkansas where they remained active in missions. At his death, he was in his 10th year as director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department. She had just completed a five-year term as president of the Arkansas WMU.

Launched in February at BNF's annual meeting, gifts to the Grober fund totaled \$5,897 at the end of April. Included in that amount is a \$2,000 gift from the Arkansas WMU.

The first project the fund will help sponsor also is in memory of Grober. One of her goals as president-elect was to establish an international BNF organization, a project she was negotiating at the time of her death.

In July, six members will represent BNF at the executive leadership conference of the Baptist World Alliance's women's department in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Their goal will be to launch BNF, International.

The purpose of BNF, International will be the same as the domestic organization: to provide nurses with Christian professional fellowship, promote continuing professional education for its members and missionary nurses, and encourage nursing service evolving from a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Contributions to the Grober fund may be sent to: BNF, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

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