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**SBC Cooperative Program gifts
up for August, up for year**

**Baptist Press
9/1/95**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for August were up 8.35 percent from the same month a year ago, putting the totals for the year to date above the previous year by 2.55 percent, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

CP gifts for the month of August totaled \$11,836,667 compared to August 1994 of \$10,924,478, an increase of \$912,189 or 8.35 percent. For the 11 months of the SBC's fiscal year, the totals stand at \$132,859,801 compared to the same period a year ago of \$129,555,054, an increase of \$3,304,747 or 2.55 percent. The SBC's fiscal year is from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

Designated gifts for August were up 34.77 percent over the month a year ago: \$3,001,934 compared to \$2,227,428, a \$774,506 increase. That puts the year-to-date designated totals at \$130,330,099, compared to a year ago of \$125,679,914, an increase of \$4,650,184 or 3.70 percent.

The SBC's Program Allocation Budget requires \$11,378,310 each month. Thus August's gifts were 4.03 percent above the monthly budget requirement, or \$458,356. For the year to date, the CP gifts are 6.15 percent above the budget requirement, or \$7,698,382.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 1994-95 Program Allocation Budget.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, world hunger and other special gifts.

State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the Executive Committee for national and international ministries. The percentage of distribution is at the discretion of each state or regional convention.

Rankin says WMU leaders
not addressing FMB concerns

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The "anger and emotion" in reactions by two key Woman's Missionary Union leaders "clearly reflected why we felt it necessary to communicate our concern to pastors and WMU leadership in the churches," said Jerry Rankin Sept. 1.

Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, spoke by telephone with Baptist Press to respond to Aug. 31 reactions by WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien and President Carolyn Miller to a letter he mailed Aug. 25 to nearly 40,000 Southern Baptist churches across the country.

In the letter, Rankin called for prayer for the national WMU organization to reverse its plans to produce "missions education supplements" for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of Baptist moderates opposed to the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative leadership.

O'Brien, at the outset of her Aug. 31 reaction to Rankin's letter, said, "We are furious with the letter sent by Jerry Rankin, written at the encouragement of Foreign Mission Board trustees, to pastors and WMU directors. The letter is inflammatory, misleading and divisive." She then reviewed several points of concern.

Commenting on the reactions of O'Brien and Miller, Rankin said they opted against "speaking objectively to the matters of concern."

"There was no acknowledgement of the unique nature of CBF and its disruptive effects on cooperation and unity within the SBC," Rankin said. "In numerous times of dialogue with the WMU, they continue to use their 1993 program statement (of serving the churches) to justify servicing CBF. They have specifically defined their role as no longer being an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, a clear departure from their historical role that has been obscured in explanations to Southern Baptists."

O'Brien, in a telephone interview Sept. 1, said, "We feel we stated our position and we don't have anything further to add." She noted, however: "We are not in agreement with the statements in his reaction."

"We are only concerned for the support of our missionaries," Rankin said Sept. 1, "and are hopeful the positions being taken by the WMU can be discussed objectively and any misunderstandings resolved." No specific plans for such discussions have yet been proposed to WMU leaders, Rankin said.

Rankin also stated, "WMU never consulted with us or bothered to inform us of the decision" to produce the CBF materials. O'Brien, in her Aug. 31 reaction, had stated Rankin "did not show the courtesy of discussing this action" when they both were at a mid-August meeting of FMB trustees at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Rankin maintained his letter "sought to affirm the support of WMU and express confidence in our continuing partnership at all levels."

WMU announced July 12 it would produce the CBF supplements. Churches will have to specifically order the materials, to be available early next year with WMU's coed missions curriculum. In its key magazines, however, WMU said only information on FMB- and Home Mission Board-appointed missionaries will appear.

Rankin, in his Aug. 25 letter, said WMU had abandoned its "historic role of exclusive support" of FMB and HMB missionaries at a time of "evangelistic harvest and unlimited opportunities overseas." WMU's assistance to CBF, Rankin said, "undermines a cooperative spirit" among the FMB, HMB and WMU. And Rankin voiced dismay that WMU would work with the CBF after appealing to be incorporated into a new SBC structure approved during the convention's sesquicentennial in June.

In comments to Baptist Press, Rankin added, "We are confident that we still have the loyal support of the WMU in the local churches who continue to identify Southern Baptist missions with the work of the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board."

O'Brien, in her Aug. 31 reaction, predicted "the timing of this unwarranted attack" on WMU "will have negative impact on the 1995 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. When we are attempting to reach a challenging \$100 million goal, many Southern Baptists will have second thoughts about giving because of this new criticism of WMU from the Foreign Mission Board."

And O'Brien stated "it would be difficult not to imagine" that the letter's aim was to "drive a wedge" between local WMU members and the organization's national leadership.

"Ninety-nine point nine percent of what we do is, and will remain, related to the Home and Foreign Mission boards," O'Brien said. "Rather than 'promoting and publicizing' the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, we are simply responding to a request from churches for materials which include information about what the CBF is doing in missions. . . . It is our desire and purpose to equip all Southern Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission."

Miller, in her reaction, said, "I am appalled that Dr. Rankin would assume by our action that we have deviated from our historic role. We have never intended to change our relationship with the Foreign Mission Board nor our support for Southern Baptist missionaries."

Concerning the FMB's networking with various Christian ministries, Miller added, "If the Foreign Mission Board can work with evangelical groups -- some of which have been viewed in years past as 'competing' with Southern Baptist efforts -- why cannot we work with a group of Southern Baptists?"

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The text of Rankin's Sept. 1 reaction and his Aug. 25 letter are posted in SBCNet News Room.

Home Life television program
to be aired daily on FamilyNet By C.C. Risenhoover

Baptist Press
9/1/95

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--"Home Life," a television program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, will move from a once-a-week one-hour schedule to a daily half-hour.

The new 30-minute version of Home Life, produced in cooperation with the Baptist Sunday School Board, which publishes a monthly magazine by the same name, will begin airing weekdays Oct. 2 on FamilyNet at 9 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. FamilyNet is the broadcast television service of the RTVC.

Home Life producer Martin Coleman said, "The idea behind the change is to make it more feasible for our FamilyNet affiliates to find a regular slot for Home Life, and to build an audience for the program by being there every day at the same time."

Home Life will be a "must carry" for FamilyNet affiliates. Coleman said the daily format will help develop program hosts Vicki Hutson and Ralph Baker as personalities and build a more loyal audience for Home Life.

"Most programs," the producer said, "will have two guests. Our one-hour weekly program had three guests, so we'll now be introducing our audience to 10 guests each week instead of three. I think the pacing will be better and the diversity greater."

The RTVC plans to produce 85 new programs to be aired during a 17-week period. Each of the programs will be repeated twice. In addition, the 17 one-hour programs already produced will each be edited to the 30-minute format, giving the RTVC a total of 102 Home Life programs for airing.

"Because it's going to be daily, I think Home Life will become like a friend or companion to many people," Coleman said. "Viewers are going to think of it as an old friend."

"Another thing. Because the Southern Baptist Convention voted to move the RTVC to Atlanta, everyone assumes we're winding down. The truth is that we're gearing up for our greatest year ever."

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Coleman said response to the first year of Home Life programs showed there is a demand for quality programming.

"If we stay true to our mission to produce that kind of programming, our efforts will not go unnoticed," he said.

Bob Thornton, RTVC vice president of television services, said the new Home Life format "gives us five opportunities a week for ministry instead of just one. I think more stations are capable of carrying a 30-minute program and that viewership will definitely increase."

Thornton said the change also will enhance marketing opportunities for the program, which he called "positive and upbeat."

"People watch good programs, not networks," said RTVC President Jack Johnson. "Home Life is one of those good, quality programs that over the years will continually gain a larger and larger audience."

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Churches launch Web sites
to reach lost in cyberspace

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
9/1/95

DALLAS (BP)--Some Baptist churches and institutions are venturing into cyberspace to reach nerds, geeks, seekers and surfers -- not to mention just plain folks with computer modems.

"People on-line seem to fit the mold of the typical searcher who may believe some of Christianity, some of the psycho-theory spirituality, some New Age, some ancient wisdom and so forth," said Jeryl Hoover, pastor of Tarrytown Baptist Church, Austin, Texas. "The good thing is that more and more people are wanting to discuss religion intelligently, like those Paul met on Mars Hill.

"The Net is a God-given opportunity for those of us who want to engage those folks."

Tarrytown Baptist Church went on-line about five months ago, launching a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. About 1,000 visitors have "signed" the church's electronic guest register.

The Internet is a global network of more than 40,000 interconnected computer networks in government agencies, universities and varied organizations. The World Wide Web system organizes the mishmash of Internet data. It is a shortcut that allows users to explore resources from multiple entry points by pointing and clicking a mouse on a key word or picture on a Web home page.

Tarrytown's home page is a colorful, stylized map of the church campus. Browsers can point and click on such areas as "youth jam," "family park" or "kid zone," as well as an events calendar.

"We are definitely interested in reaching the 'outsider' by offering a non-threatening way of presenting the message," Hoover said.

And the Net can be a haven for outsiders. Commercial on-line services such as CompuServe -- carrier for SBCNet, a Baptist Sunday School Board-coordinated network with about 5,600 users -- are closely administered to keep them relatively "family friendly."

By contrast, content on the Internet currently is unregulated, although proposals for cleaning up cyberspace are pending in Congress. The Net's "chat rooms" can be profane and some web sites contain pornographic images.

But the same anonymity that cyberspace offers to participants in sexually explicit chat rooms also is afforded to spiritual seekers, Hoover noted. Tarrytown plans to start an "apologetics forum" where Christian beliefs can be defended and explained to a non-Christian audience.

"I believe that the primary tool of evangelism in this decade is an articulate apologetic that is honest to compare Christianity to the other alternatives," Hoover said.

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Although their numbers are still small, other Baptist churches are maintaining home pages. They range from the innovative Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., to the inner-city East 7th Street Baptist Ministry, Graffiti, in New York City, to University Baptist Church in Austin.

Baptist institutions also are setting up Web sites. Like many major schools, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, has a home page offering information to prospective students, as well as providing a link to other educational institutions.

Texas Baptist Children's Home, Round Rock, launched its home page on the Web Aug. 1 as a way to "place our own billboard on the information superhighway," according to communications associate Chuck Lutke.

"The Net is the next wave in communications, and Texas Baptist Children's Home wants to be there to interact with our supporters, friends and other browsers," he said.

A Web site enables the children's home to reach computer users who may need its services; it links the agency to other child care providers; and it enhances communication by allowing graphic files, news releases and other documents to be sent by electronic mail, Lutke said.

For both churches and institutions, the Net offers a no-risk easy entry point for anyone wanting information.

Recently, Tarrytown Baptist Church received an inquiry from an Austin-area computer user who was "testing the waters" before visiting the church.

"He said his wife was a Christian, and he was wanting to get right with the Lord," Hoover recalled. "But he said, 'I smoke cigarettes, and I drive a Harley. Would I be welcome in your church?' I tried to let him know our church wants to be open and accepting of everyone. He said he'd be here the first Sunday after Labor Day."

That was rare, Hoover acknowledged. Currently, only about 12 percent of all Texas households have access to the Internet. But Tarrytown wanted to "be in on the ground floor" of the emerging technology.

"At this point, it's not an effective marketing tool for gaining members," Hoover said. "But we hope it will be a good tool for positioning the church in people's minds. We hope they will see the forum as a place where they can get straight answers to their questions."

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**Foreign board adds Bangham,
announces communications changes**

**Baptist Press
9/1/95**

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Award-winning Home Mission Board photojournalist and magazine designer Bill Bangham will join the Foreign Mission Board's communications office Sept. 5 to direct its new presentation department.

Bangham, 51, is one of four new directors named in a reorganization announced by Louis Moore, FMB associate vice president for communications of the Southern Baptist Convention missions agency.

The reorganization, effective Sept. 1, creates four new departments in the FMB's communications office: editorial, presentation, publishing and electronic media.

Bangham will head the presentation department that combines the board's photography and graphics sections and is empowered to concentrate on "the look" of all FMB products, including on-line services, The Commission magazine, the Pastor's Update on Foreign Missions publication, other FMB publications, FMB videos and all visuals distributed through the Baptist Press national news service and other outside media.

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Communications office staffers attended a special FMB seminar in July featuring USA Today's presentation editor, Lynn Ferri, who spoke about how the "look" of a product is almost as important as its content.

Anita Bowden, director of the FMB's print department, will head the new editorial department. Dan Allen, assistant director in the print department, will lead the new publishing department. Van Payne, head of the audio-visual department, will direct the new electronic media department.

The editorial department will provide stories, articles and information for a variety of media outlets, including The Commission magazine, Baptist Press, Baptist Sunday School Board publications, secular newspapers and Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission periodicals.

The publishing department will produce FMB publications, including newsletters such as Pastor's Update on Foreign Missions and Intercom, a new line of bulletin inserts and other FMB products.

The electronic media department will coordinate the FMB's involvement in computer on-line services, such as SBCNet and Internet, and produce video, television, radio and audio products.

Moore explained the reorganization in a paper titled, "A Vision for the Future for the FMB communications office." Top FMB officials approved the changes. The paper said the "reorganization ... will better position the communications office to fulfill its mission of communicating to a variety of audiences, using a wide range of communication tools, what God is doing in the world through the Foreign Mission Board."

"This plan shifts the organization of the communications office from product-centered to function-centered," Moore said. "It positions us more flexibly to redo and redirect products and change emphases without further reorganizations."

He said the plan also calls for more fully developing the product team approach already in use for selected FMB products.

"The Commission magazine will be produced by a Commission team drawn from editorial, presentation and publishing," Moore said. "Such an arrangement would allow the Commission team to draw from the pool of talents in each of the contributing departments. The managing editor of The Commission will be based in editorial and act as team leader for the Commission team."

Veteran FMB journalist Mary Jane Welch recently was appointed managing editor of The Commission magazine.

Moore said the Richmond (foreign) bureau of Baptist Press will be operated through a Baptist Press team using staff from the editorial and presentation departments.

Likewise, he said, product teams would be created for the FMB's on-line services, new books, broadcast outlets, annual report, videos and "other products as necessary."

Bangham joined the Home Mission Board staff in 1989 as associate editor of the HMB's MissionsUSA journal. Previously at the Brotherhood Commission, he was editor of World Mission Journal. Bowden, Allen and Payne are all longtime employees of the FMB's communications office.

Commenting on the new directors, Moore said, "Each brings to the table special God-given gifts and talents in different aspects of the field of communications, and together they will help us help the Foreign Mission Board tell Southern Baptists and others how God is at work around the world bringing all peoples to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

**Texas church pledges \$100,000
to Draper Chair at Southwestern By Jan Johnsonius**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary were honored Aug. 27 as First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, pledged \$100,000 toward the million-dollar James T. Draper Chair of Pastoral Ministries at the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary.

Draper served as pastor of the Euless congregation 16 years, from 1975-1991. According to current pastor Claude Thomas, the church felt this was the best way possible to express its feelings of love, respect and appreciation to Draper and his wife, Carol Ann.

"We also felt this was an appropriate way to honor the seminary. We're excited about the leadership and direction of Southwestern and grateful to God that Dr. (Ken) Hemphill is steering that ship," Thomas said in making the pledge presentation to Hemphill in the morning services at the church.

The pledge will be paid out during the next four to five years, with the first installment this year.

"We want to thank First Baptist, Euless, for their significant role in funding this chair, for their gifts to the Cooperative Program which provides for 40 percent of each student's tuition, and for how this church models enthusiastic worship and evangelistic outreach for our seminary students," Hemphill said.

The James T. Draper Chair of Pastoral Ministries was established in 1994 and will be activated when designated endowment funds reach \$1 million. The professor who occupies the chair will be an academician of distinction, knowledgeable in all phases of pastoral ministry, having served as pastor of a local church for at least 10 years. The chair designate will be a member of Southwestern's school of theology.

Draper, who was in attendance for the pledge presentation, said he is very humbled and honored by the designation. "I have a deep love and commitment to Southwestern. My earliest memories are of life on Seminary Hill. My father studied there as did all of his sons. Words are not adequate to describe my love and confidence in Ken and Paula Hemphill as they lead Southwestern."

He went on to express his appreciation to First Baptist, Euless, and Thomas, noting each of the church's pastors during the last 50 years has been connected in some way to Southwestern. "This church has always expressed appreciation and support for the pastoral ministry."

Hemphill noted Draper has been called the "Prince of Pastors," combining a pastor's heart with a theologian's mind and a soul-winner's passion. "Jimmy has been more than a pastor, he has been a model and mentor to pastors throughout the world. It is for those reasons we have established a chair of pastoral ministries in Dr. Draper's name. No one greater exemplifies pastoral ministry in Southern Baptist life than Jimmy and Carol Ann Draper."

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

**Hemphill challenges Southwestern
to focus on 'great and awesome God' By Brian Smith**

**Baptist Press
9/1/95**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--"What will you do to see the awesome power of God unleashed on this campus?" Ken Hemphill asked Aug. 29 in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's first chapel service of the 1995-96 academic year.

Reading the story of Nehemiah's prayer as recorded in Nehemiah, chapter 1, Hemphill challenged students, faculty and staff to look to the future without being ignorant of the past.

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"Many of us grew up with the idea that ignorance is bliss. What a lie," he said. "Ignorance is not bliss. When we begin to listen to God, we're going to have to be willing to pay the price It shook Nehemiah from his comfort, from his apathy."

Hemphill described how, as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes during the last years of the exile, Nehemiah had acquired a measure of comfort. Yet when a kinsman told him the walls of Jerusalem lay in ruins, Nehemiah fell, broken before the Lord, and prayed the king would allow him to rally the Israelites to rebuild the temple.

"What is it that changed and transformed Nehemiah's life and allowed him to arouse the troops around him and move them from a point of absolute apathy and discouragement to that of zeal? What is it that moves one from apathy to zeal for the cause of the Lord?"

Hemphill answered his own question: "It begins with understanding. You see, Satan's greatest tool is ignorance."

He also said a perceived lack of resources prevents walls from being rebuilt. "How can we rebuild these walls in America? How can we rebuild the walls of value? How can we rebuild the walls of evangelism? Our resources seem so pitiful."

Hemphill reminded the audience that Artaxerxes himself provided Nehemiah the resources. But Artaxerxes was not the only king involved.

"Our foundation for hope is the great and awesome God. We are not building with our own resources," he said. "That's the most carnal thinking we have." Hemphill explained by recalling an article he recently read in which the writer had identified carnality with being backslidden.

"It came to her that the greatest sin of carnality was the attempt to do supernatural things in natural strength."

Nehemiah avoided that situation by recognizing who God is rather than asking for any particular petition, Hemphill said.

"You're going to find, as you go through the book of Nehemiah and underline the phrase, 'the great and awesome God,' that it's continually on the lips of Nehemiah. He was not deterred by the situation . . . because the first thing he did was tilt his head toward heaven and declare the great and awesome God."

Hemphill said the same recognition of God's authority is where Southwestern has to begin as a seminary, Southern Baptists have to begin as a convention and pastors have to begin in the local church: "Not what the difficulties may look like, but what is the nature of God and what he desires to do through his people."

Hemphill also noted Nehemiah focuses on prayer, beginning with a corporate confession of the sins of Israel. The prophet moves to a more personal "we," and then comes down to the absolute "I."

"It's easy to confess the sins of many," Hemphill said. "It is much more difficult when we finally come face to face with the great and awesome God to say, 'I have sinned.'"

Hemphill said such prayer has two significant roles: to know God's purpose and to help Christians obey and thus fulfill God's purpose. "You see, it's prayer that unlocks heaven," he said. "There's no chance for personal or national revival with covered sin."

He concluded his message by noting partial obedience is total disobedience.

"True repentance will always be followed by obedience, and . . . God promises he will call his people together where he has called his name to dwell," Hemphill said.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if people said about Southwestern, 'The name of the Lord dwells in that place.' Wouldn't it be wonderful if when people think about Southern Baptists they wouldn't think about our squabbles but they would think of our Lord?"

**Leavell starts new school year
with black-eyed peas, cornbread By Debbie Moore**

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Presenting what he called a "black-eyed peas and cornbread sermon," Landrum P. Leavell II, interim president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, asked students to think about a new paradigm for church work during his first chapel address of the new school year.

Leavell, who took his first pastorate in 1948, told students, "I want you to think about a new paradigm, a new way of looking at things in regard to our Southern Baptist churches.

"Most of the churches you'll serve during your seminary days will probably be highly traditional," he said, "deeply aligned with the culture of the deep South and partially aligned with some of the teachings of the New Testament.

"I don't want you to get out there and be shocked about how things are and then claim burnout and dropout," he said.

"Folks are pretty slow to change, but it's absurd to think the church cannot change in the midst of a world that's rapidly changing," said Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary for 20 years.

During Leavell's tenure at NOBTS, the seminary entered the computer age. Besides the computerization of all seminary offices and extension center campuses several years ago, the seminary is at the forefront of offering up-to-date computerized demographic information for any neighborhood in the United States through its Center for Evangelism and Church Growth, the first of its kind among Southern Baptists. Laptop computers can be found everywhere, from the shoulder of the president to every classroom and the library. NOBTS also was the first Southern Baptist seminary to offer classes by Compressed Interactive Video to its extension center students.

Besides not being afraid of using new technologies, Leavell said, "Churches must change into the new paradigm that Jesus spoke of: to love one another."

The new paradigm involves changes in how stewardship, authority and leadership are thought of, Leavell said.

Concerning stewardship, Leavell said people used to learn when they were young how to tithe, as well as "the joy that comes in giving beyond the tithe." The new generation does not think that way, but they need to be made aware "that we are a company of people who have been called out and our money and everything we have belongs to the Lord."

Concerning authority, Leavell said, "Pastors are not called to be a dictator.

"Pastors are not called to be the final word in church matters. God's already taken care of that in the lordship of Christ."

Too many pastors are following the pattern of Jim Jones, not the example of Jesus Christ, he said.

"Many preachers claim to have a direct line to God. But let me tell you, it's a conference call. You're not the only one that God speaks to.

"It may be quicker to have one person calling all the shots," he said, "but you can't do it by yourself, and God didn't call you to do it by yourself. It's not a New Testament practice."

Concerning leadership, Leavell said, "Get involved in every area of your church. Make sure that in every area of your church you are carrying out God's plan.

"It's a tightrope walk sometimes between leadership and dictatorship, but you'll always find the middle ground by loving one another.

"And that's how you make any paradigm shift, any transformational change: with love."

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