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September 20, 1995

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EDITORS' NOTE: There will be no single-story wrap-up of the SBC Executive Committee meeting Sept. 18-19. See stories posted Sept. 19, plus the story below.

Executive Committee adds v.p.,  
addresses range of SBC matters

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press  
9/20/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A welcome back was extended to David E. Hankins when the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee elected its former chairman to the new position of vice president for convention policy.

"If the Lord chooses to delay his (second) coming," Hankins told Executive Committee members in accepting the post, "I don't think there's a better time, or a better place, or a better way ... to do business until the Master returns than by being a part of the Southern Baptist missions enterprise."

Hankins, 45, was on the Executive Committee eight years, serving as chairman from 1991-93, and has been pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La., the past 10 years.

His election came during the closing session of the Executive Committee's Sept. 18-19 meeting in Nashville, Tenn. He is to assume his new duties by Jan. 1.

Morris H. Chapman, Executive Committee president, told the meeting, "I personally believe God has prepared David Hankins for this position to work with the Executive Committee intellectually, spiritually, experientially."

In his announcement of Hankins' nomination Sept. 8, Chapman said the new vice president would play a role in implementing the "Covenant for a New Century" approved during the SBC sesquicentennial last June. The convention-wide restructuring will reduce the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12 and, in a new North American Mission Board, combine the work of the current Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio and Television Commission.

The new vice president also will provide staff leadership to the Executive Committee bylaws workgroup; coordinate a denominational planning process for the 21st century; provide staff assistance to assigned standing and special committees of the SBC and Executive Committee; and review governing documents of the SBC and its entities to determine when changes should be considered.

Th Covenant for a New Century, Hankins told Executive Committee members, is "not a parochial vision, not even a regional vision, but it's an international, global vision" that can become "God's conveyance for spreading the gospel throughout the whole world."

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Reflecting on his previous tenure with the Executive Committee, Hankins said, "I've never had in all of my life, in all of my ministry any better friendship or fellowship than we enjoyed in the eight years I was able to serve with you."

Born in California, Hankins was raised in Texas where he earned a B.A. degree from Dallas Baptist University and the M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. Prior to his Lake Charles pastorate, Hankins had led churches in Dallas and Commerce, Texas.

He and his wife, Patricia, have three grown sons.

Chapman, in an address to the Executive Committee, reminded, "God has brought us to a time of transition."

The 10-member implementation task force created by the Executive Committee Sept. 18 "will be called upon to make some hard decisions," Chapman said. "But I believe they will come with a genuine care, understanding that transition represents for some more than others uncertainty, unawareness, perhaps fear. And it would be the commitment of this Executive Committee and the implementation task force and all who are involved to work with our brothers and sisters in all of our organizations in Southern Baptist life to bring about an orderly, but timely transition, trusting that he will give us wisdom daily, weekly, monthly to do what we do for his glory -- on occasions disagreeing -- and yet believing that God's hand is in it all."

In other action during its two-day meeting, the Executive Committee:

-- authorized the committee's officers to employ a new vice president for convention relations prior to the Executive Committee's next regular meeting when a vote to affirm the individual will be slated. The post has been vacant since Mark Coppenger became president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during the summer.

-- revised its policy for exhibit space at the SBC annual meeting to make sure "each entity granted exhibit space is consistent with the Mission Statement of the Southern Baptist Convention and does not condone the use of alcoholic beverages in its programs or on its properties."

-- received requests from the current 19 SBC agencies and the Baptist World Alliance for the 1996-97 Program Allocation Budget totaling \$150,809,379. According to policy, the 1996-97 budget will be based on Cooperative Program receipts in the 1994-95 fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30 and is projected to be more than \$145 million. The requests ranged from the Southern Baptist Foundation's 2.5 percent increase to the Stewardship Commission's 40.9 percent increase. The Executive Committee requested a 1996-97 SBC Operating Budget of \$3,415,254, an increase of 6.28 percent.

-- declined action on a motion referred from the 1995 annual meeting for using investment assets of SBC agencies to further the convention's moral views, with the Executive Committee noting: "... while the Executive Committee agrees with the recommendation as a moral issue, only a small percent of investment assets have proxy votes, and after considering equity holdings of all agencies and cumulative voting possibilities on those holdings, the effect of directing the votes on those shares is so minuscule as to be ineffective."

-- approved a Radio and Television Commission fund-raising campaign for up to \$350,000 annually for its "Covenant" effort to promote Christian values in the media.

-- responded to a motion encouraging all SBC agencies to make more promotional literature available in Spanish, saying it has done so. To a motion encouraging all agencies to use close captioning in their video materials, the Executive Committee responded that it will consider doing so "whenever the target audience justifies close captioning and it is deemed to be financially feasible."

Jere Phillips, executive director of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptist, told the Executive Committee of a recommendation by the state's executive board members to the upcoming annual convention of a 6 percent increase in the SBC portion of Cooperative Program giving by the state's churches over the next two years.

"They felt as a new-work state we needed to make a bold statement to the nation, but also to our own churches, to say that we must look beyond ourselves for the great missions causes around the world," Phillips said. "Although we have 1,200,000 unchurched people that we're trying to reach with a small number of folks, we believe that we have to look beyond ourselves as well."

In miscellaneous action, the Executive Committee:

-- employed Arthur Andersen & Co. as auditor for the Executive Committee for the 1995-96 fiscal year.

-- approved three new Baptist Sunday School Board publications: a men's devotional magazine; a home-oriented magazine for neighborhood outreach by churches; and a devotional magazine for young adults, ages 26-34.

-- adopted resolutions of appreciation for Don Moore, retiring executive director of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, and Presnall H. Wood, retiring editor of the Texas Baptist Standard.

To other referrals from the 1995 SBC annual meeting, the Executive Committee:

-- responded to a motion calling for an Executive Committee review of the Covenant for a New Century SBC-wide restructuring in light of financial and ministry impact and report to the SBC as soon as possible and not later than the 1996 convention, with the committee saying such a study is part of the work of the implementation task force it authorized in its Sept. 18 session.

-- responded to a motion that the Executive Committee seek ways to include all Southern Baptists in the fellowship and work of the convention, saying, "... while not all interested Southern Baptists can serve on Convention boards or committees at any given time no Southern Baptists are excluded from the fellowship and work of the Convention except through the provisions of the SBC constitution's article III titled, 'Membership.'"

-- declined action on a proposed amendment to SBC bylaw 16 to identify spouses of church and denominational employees as church and denominational employees and to bylaw 16(5) to prohibit employees of Convention entities from recommending nominees to their own board of trustees.

-- declined action on a motion that the SBC publish a national Southern Baptist Convention paper, with the Executive Committee stating it is concentrating "on getting SBC LIFE established as a widely read chronicle of Southern Baptist Convention mission, nature, contemporary issues, and accomplishments."

-- declined to coordinate the publication and free distribution of a devotional guide and prayer calendar "because of the multimillion dollar cost" to SBC entities and because current guides "meet the needs of Southern Baptist churches and individuals."

-- declined to recommend a proposed amendment to the 1990-2000 Bold Mission Thrust Denominational Emphasis Plan by adding a priority focusing on rural churches, with the Executive Committee noting "the evangelism goals adopted for this period by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1987 appropriately focus on all churches, including those in rural areas."

-- responded to a motion that all SBC entities "become knowledgeable about the historical facts of the canonization of the Scriptures and that convention textbooks be consistent with those facts, saying it does not publish textbooks but is knowledgeable of the historical facts of the canonization of the Scriptures and "uses those facts as appropriate in publications."

-- referred to the Committee on Order of Business a motion calling for the SBC to include more time for question-and-answer conferences between messengers and leaders.

-- declined action on a motion calling for the maker of a motion referred by the SBC to be given opportunity for input and be notified of the disposition of the motion, with the Executive Committee responding that the maker of a motion, with knowledge of the process of referral, may already initiate at any time communication with the entity to which the motion has been referred.

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-- continued study of a referred motion to amend th SBC bylaws to permit the convention to act on referred motions at the time they are reported to the convention, with the committee slated a review the matter during its February meeting.

-- declined action on a motion to amend the SBC mission statement to begin with the words, "In obedience to the divine will of our Heavenly Father ..."

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Baptist, Catholic theologians  
engage in new 'conversation'

By Martin King

Baptist Press  
9/20/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A team of theologians from the largest evangelical denomination in the United States, Southern Baptists, held their first meeting Sept. 14-15 with theologians from the largest church in the country, Roman Catholicism.

The 1994 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Fla., "encouraged" the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department to enter "conversations" with the Catholic Church "to foster better understanding" between the two faiths.

Although similar dialogues had been held periodically for many years, the HMB's Phil Roberts said this is a new team and a new approach.

"We are not using the word dialogue because it is often perceived to signal a willingness to negotiate doctrines. Neither Catholics nor Baptists have that intention," Roberts said.

"We (Southern Baptists) were there to represent the denomination and to faithfully witness for Jesus Christ," he explained. "Our concerns were to explain the basis of our hope for salvation as one Baptist neighbor would share it with a Catholic friend. We were able to do that."

Don Kammerdiener, Foreign Mission Board executive vice president, said the discussion was wholesome. "Each side understands the other better, and we took several opportunities to bear witness to our faith," said Kammerdiener, who served on previous teams.

"This (Southern Baptist) group is determined to clarify the Baptist evangelical stance and be persuasive about that stance," he said.

Frank Ruff, a member of the Catholic team who participated in past meetings, said the most recent conversation was much more substantive.

"This time we talked about the core beliefs of our faith rather than peripheral matters. We were talking directly about issues, not around them," Ruff said.

SBC team member Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., said the conversation was "tremendously educational."

"While it became increasingly apparent that any ecumenical goal was clearly unattainable, it was of great value in clarifying what both groups believe."

Conversation topics included the definition of dogma, the status of ecumenism and differences in church polity, but participants repeatedly returned to biblical inerrancy, according to Mark Coppenger, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

"Since much of the conversation was focused on the role of Scripture, it was reminiscent of the debate that has gripped the SBC for nearly two decades. Catholic participants were more enthusiastic about the 'historical-critical method' of Bible study than were the Southern Baptists."

Looking toward their September 1996 meeting, each team will study each group's official statements on biblical authority. Catholics will study the Chicago Stat ment on Biblical Inerrancy, while Southern Baptists will review the 1965 document "Dei Verbum," issued by the Second Vatican Council. The teams also will deal with particular Scripture passages, demonstrating their different approaches to interpretation.

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In addition to Roberts, Kammerdiener, Patterson and Coppenger, the SBC team included David Dockery, vice president for academic administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Timothy George, dean of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala.; Bill Gordon of the HMB's interfaith witness staff; and Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission.

In addition to Ruff, the Catholic team includes Lexington, Ky., Bishop J. Kendrick Williams; Loyola Marymount professor Thomas Rausch; St. John's professor Jean-Pierre Ruiz; Maryknoll Sister Joan Delaney; the Pontifical Biblical Commission's Joseph Fitzmeyer; and Jude Weisenbeck and Jeffrey Gros of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops staff.

The September conversation coincided with the release of interfaith witness' revised Belief Bulletin on Roman Catholicism. The new pamphlet includes dozens of references to the recently published Catechism of the Catholic Church and outlines differences and similarities between Southern Baptists and Catholics along with guidelines on witnessing to Catholics. The pamphlet is part of a series on other religious groups available from HMB Customer Service, 1-800-634-2462.

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Rankin, O'Brien hold talks,  
agree to missions priority

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press  
9/20/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Heads of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union said they have met privately and agreed to get on with the task of missions.

Jerry Rankin, FMB president, and Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director-treasurer, met Sept. 16 in Birmingham, Ala., in an attempt to restore the close working relationship the two executives and agencies have enjoyed for many years, they told Baptist Press Sept. 19 during the SBC Executive Committee meeting both attended in Nashville, Tenn.

Although they basically have "agreed to disagree" on the matter of WMU's printing of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship mission materials, the two executives both emphasized the need to strengthen their longtime partnership.

A dispute between the two leaders emerged recently when Rankin sent a letter to all Southern Baptist pastors and church WMU leaders asking them to pray that the decision by the WMU to print and distribute CBF missions materials would be reversed. A sharp exchange between the two leaders made media headlines.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is a four-year-old organization of Southern Baptists critical of SBC leadership.

The Birmingham meeting also included Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, and Carolyn D. Miller, WMU president.

"We're friends, always have been," Rankin told Baptist Press. "Dellanna and I are very close friends; I have a deep respect for her."

O'Brien said she was grateful for Rankin and Kammerdiener to come to Birmingham. Every family has disputes and arguments, O'Brien said, but it is "incumbent upon us" to work through the disagreement and get on with the "important task of missions."

Both were reluctant to provide further details of the four-hour meeting.

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After 30 years, Roberts retires  
as S.C. Courier editor Feb. 29

Baptist Press  
9/20/95

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--John E. Roberts has announced he will retire Feb. 29, 1996, as editor of the Baptist Courier.

Roberts will complete 30 years as editor on his projected retirement date, a longer tenure than any of previous eight Courier editors and a record among current Baptist state paper editors.

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He told the South Carolina newsjournal's board of trustees of his retirement plans in a called meeting Sept 15. Roberts had requested the special meeting, saying it was needed to give the board adequate time to choose the next editor.

"For several years I had thought of retiring at the end of 1994," he said. "But as I passed that date, I decided to complete 30 years."

Chairman Earl D. Crumpler, a retired Greenville, S.C., pastor, said the process of securing the next editor has begun. "We do not expect to replace Dr. Roberts and his accomplishments," he said, "but we must find someone to succeed him." Crumpler said the editor notified him of his plans Sept. 1, and he in turn scheduled the meeting and notified the other trustees that day. A search committee will be composed of Crumpler, two officers of the Courier's board of trustees and two selected at large.

"This is typical of our editor," Crumpler said. "The Courier bylaws ask for six months' notice of the editor's retirement or resignation plans, if possible. He has followed that requirement to the letter."

The Baptist Courier has had unprecedented growth during Roberts' 30 years as editor. Circulation has doubled, an office building was erected and the paper has won several awards for news and editorial writing. From a negative cash balance, the Courier's assets have grown to \$4 million, including more than \$2 million in endowment.

"These were my announced goals when I became editor," Roberts said Sept. 15. He said he had been surprised they were reached early in his administration.

"Circulation rose faster than we could add the names of new subscribers during those first years," he said. A 7,000-square-foot office building was erected in two phases -- in 1968 and 1979.

At that point Roberts broadened his interests. He was president of South Carolina Baptist Convention in 1980, the only Baptist editor in the nation to hold such office in at least 40 years. He was a trustee of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, serving as chairman in 1984-85. He was on a Cooperative Program Study Committee of the SBC and currently is on the board of trustees of Gardner-Webb University, a North Carolina Baptist school.

The editor praised three groups for what they have done for the publication. "We have the finest news and support staff in Baptist life today," he said, adding the trustees have through the years been outstanding in their ability and commitment.

"But the solid support of South Carolina Baptists has made all the difference," he said. "They have subscribed and read, they have criticized and encouraged, they have prayed and they have helped the Courier to become what they wanted it to be."

As subscriptions increased steadily through the years, Roberts always wanted more. At times he said he wanted the paper in every Baptist home, and it came close. It is third among all Baptist state papers in number of subscribers, with nearly 109,000. Only the Texas and Alabama papers are larger.

A native of Shelby, N.C., Roberts graduated from Gardner-Webb and from Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and earned a master's degree from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

In 1992, Gov. Carroll Campbell chose him for South Carolina's highest honor, the Order of the Palmetto.

Roberts has been in Baptist communications 42 years. He was public relations officer for Gardner-Webb from 1954-60 and editor of Charity and Children from 1960-65, a weekly newspaper with 52,000 subscribers published by the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

The editor said he will continue a busy schedule in retirement. He is president of Graphic Printing and Mailing, a family owned business in Greenville. He also is president of the Rotary Club of Greenville, the largest civic club in the Carolinas with nearly 400 members.

He will lead a tour to Israel and the Holy Land in April, one of numerous overseas tours he has led.

The trustees have asked Roberts to write a history of the Baptist Courier. He said he plans to begin the research and writing next spring. He also is compiling some of his weekly columns, "Personally," for publication as a book.

Roberts married Helen Goodwin, a Greenville native and fellow graduate of Furman. They are parents of three sons and three daughters.

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Photo of John Roberts is available upon request from the Baptist Courier office.

Family's trip to Kenya  
more than a reunion

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press  
9/20/95

MACHAKOS, Kenya (BP)--Most Southern Baptists must be named Clements. At least that must have been the impression of many folks around Machakos, Kenya, during the recent Greater Nairobi Crusade.

There were evangelist Bob Clements and his wife, Faye. Gary Clements. Jerry Clements. Tobey Clements. And Tommy and Susan Clements. Obviously all related because they talked alike. The Texas drawl was the same, and the topic of conversation was the same: the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Of course 500 Southern Baptist volunteers came to central Kenya in June and July as part of the evangelistic crusade who weren't named Clements and who also witnessed to Kenyans about their Christian faith. The effort, sponsored by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries and Kenyan Baptists, resulted in some 20,000 professions of faith and at least 64 new church starts.

Still, the impact of Bob and Faye Clements and their four Baptist minister sons (and one daughter-in-law) was significant.

"This was my 38th mission trip and 13th time to come to Kenya," said patriarch Clements, an evangelist based in Spicewood, Texas, who recently completed eight years as a Foreign Mission Board trustee.

"Three of our boys had been to Kenya with us at different times on earlier trips. But the Lord seemed to speak to me about the boys all being here with us for this evangelism effort, and we talked about how sweet it would be to get to see them all working together here.

"But it wasn't easy. They all have church responsibilities and the money was a big step -- in fact until the last it didn't seem it would work. And even when it did, we didn't have the whole two weeks together because two came early and two came late. But we had four days together. It was glorious."

All four sons talked of the "double thrill" of telling people about Jesus in Kenya and having a family reunion. They don't get the chance to get together often in the United States, was a common comment.

Gary Clements, the eldest at 45, is pastor of Del Norte (Colo.) Baptist Fellowship and New Life Baptist Mission at Fort Garland, Colo., 57 miles away. This was his first trip to Africa.

"I like missions with long-term growth into churches, but I also enjoy the short-term and door-to-door witnessing," he said. "When Dad asked me, Nancy (his wife) and I prayed about it. Then God provided the funds for me to come.

"I see a lot of similarity to Mexico," where he's done evangelism and missions. "People are receptive. I've seen several entire families come to know the Lord and no one has refused to listen to us talk about Jesus."

Jerry Clements has been pastor of Boyd Baptist Church, Bonham, Texas, for five years and is evangelism director for the Fannin Baptist Association. He came to Kenya in 1993 and started planning to return, "as soon as I left."

"We grew up on a mission field," Jerry said. His father was pastor of First Baptist Church, Brownsville, Texas, on the U.S.-Mexico border for many years.

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"Missions was a vital part of our experience. When I was a young teen-ager, I helped with feeding programs in Matamoros. Our parents taught us to love people, and we saw them, all their lives, share with all levels of people. They taught us in words and deeds to minister to people where they were.

"Getting to minister to these people where they are in Kenya -- together -- is great," he said during the crusade. "We went by a school and learned it was parents' day. They invited us to preach at their meeting. Twelve parents were saved right there!" The Clements clan also helped start several churches.

Tobey Clements wasn't sure he could leave a relatively new pastorate of 18 months at First Baptist Church, Premont, Texas, but he told some men of the church that he was praying about coming to Kenya. The next Sunday a man gave \$150 "to get you to Africa" and a woman gave him \$700.

Other gifts "dribbled in," but as the deadline neared the funds were just not there. "I told Dad that maybe the Lord didn't want me to come -- and I don't ask for people to give. I've never even asked the salary of any church I've ever gone to as pastor."

Then the woman who had given the earlier gift walked into his office and wrote out a check for \$2,000.

"It was humbling for our church to let me go for three weeks. The Monday before I left I met with the youth at 5:30 a.m. to pray before they left for youth camp -- and many church members showed up at that hour to pray with me!"

Africans' faith and kindness impressed Tobey. "I noticed a pastor I was working with had terrible shoes, and we were walking miles to witness. He never complained. I had to choose among three pairs of tennis shoes when I started packing. African Christians give up much more than we give them.

"Being here makes me want to go home and work even harder. Remembering this will get me through discouraging days" in the future.

Tommy Clements, minister of music and youth for five years at Northwood Baptist Church, Nacogdoches, Texas, was the only son whose wife could also come. He also brought three young people and a layman from his church.

He and Susan came to Kenya in 1992 and had brought in two Kenya missionaries to speak at the church's mission conference in February.

"Susan and I have had a great time, both in Nairobi and now here in the bush going boma-to-boma (home-to-home), but I've also really enjoyed watching my young people get involved. From the first day, they have jumped right in and immediately starting sharing Christ.

"We're in awe of the missionaries we've gotten to work with," he added. "To see their commitment and dedication -- we praise the Lord we have missionaries willing to make the sacrifice to be here and do this work. It blows my doors off to see what they do for God."

Faye Clements, who has accompanied her husband on most of his trips, was impressed by the generosity of the Kamba tribe. "You can't leave after you visit without them giving you gifts," she said. "These are poor people, but every day I come back to the hotel loaded down with food -- the biggest papayas I've ever seen, oranges, eggs, avocados, arrowroot.

"It's so touching how they share what they have. They're special people."

Bob Clements insists he's "winding down" his travel and revival schedule (only two revivals a month now!). "I'll be 67 soon and, after my last heart attack in 1985, doctors said I had eight more years to live if I was lucky."

So gathering his sons for this crusade was special. But he has always found Kenya special.

"One day a young man stopped me, reminded me I had witnessed to him a couple of days before but that he'd been in too big of a hurry to listen," he recounted. "But now he had time and had been looking for me to tell him about Jesus. It really takes you back. The world is full of people who won't accept Jesus and here people track you down and ask you to share."

He's convinced all Southern Baptist pastors should spend time on the mission field. The results, he insisted, would be more mission-minded churches, increased giving to mission causes and more pastors and members of their churches becoming career missionaries.

And now he can say:

"All four of my preacher sons have gone on mission trips. Why can't you?"

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(BP) photos (two vertical) mailed 9/19/95 to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Outlines available on SBCNet News Room.

Jess Moody resigns  
California church

Baptist Press  
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PORTER RANCH, Calif. (BP)--Jess Moody resigned as pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church, Porter Ranch, Calif., Sept. 15.

Moody, 70, had been pastor of the congregation, earlier known as First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, 19 years.

Announcing his resignation Aug. 27, Moody cited his age and family health concerns. In an interview with the California Baptist newsjournal, Moody said he has received several offers for future ministry, but declined to elaborate.

Moody's resignation comes as talks continue about a possible merger between Shepherd of the Hills and Hillcrest Church, an independent congregation in nearby Chatsworth. According to Moody, Shepherd of the Hills is more than \$7 million in debt, nearly half of which resulted from taxes and fees unexpectedly imposed by the City of Los Angeles during the early 1990s when the church developed its Porter Ranch site after relocating from Van Nuys.

Moody was president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference in the mid-1960s, the first president of Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., in the late 1960s and a nominee for SBC president in 1991.

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Former Fla. editor Brymer  
to head Samford publications

Baptist Press  
9/20/95

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Jack E. Brymer, former editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, has been named director of publications at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

Brymer, who has almost 30 years of editing experience, will assume the newly created position Oct. 1. He also will teach periodic journalism courses in Samford's department of journalism and mass communications.

A native of Graysville, Ala., Brymer is a 1967 graduate of Samford who holds a master of arts degree in journalism from the University of Alabama.

He served as managing editor of The Alabama Baptist newsjournal 17 years before being named editor of the Florida Baptist newspaper in 1984. He resigned in 1994 and has done free-lance writing and publications consultant work.

Brymer is immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

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