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**BSSB 'One Spirit' ministry
to aid women in leadership**

By Charles Willis

**Baptist Press
7/18/96**

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--"One Spirit," a ministry to women serving in ministry leadership positions, was unveiled during National Conference for Church Leadership at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center as a part of LeaderCare, the Baptist Sunday School Board's strategy of personal development for pastors and staff.

Linda Miniard, BSSB consultant in the pastor-staff leadership department's personal development section, led the introductory conference for women July 14 to launch the "touch point" at the Sunday School Board for the more than 22,000 women in ministry leadership positions in churches, associations, state conventions and national agencies.

The purpose of One Spirit, named from Philippians 1:27, Miniard said, is "to minister to women serving in ministry leadership positions for the purpose of personal, spiritual and professional affirmation, encouragement, nurture, enrichment and education as they live their call to serve Christ."

Like the overarching LeaderCare strategy, One Spirit will provide a network of personal development help. Included in resources from the BSSB will be a bimonthly newsletter, networking receptions hosted in conjunction with many state Baptist convention meetings, regional conferences, a prayer network and vacation options. A 911-type number will be added for all church staff people desiring resources and referrals for personal and career assistance, Miniard said.

Regional meetings for One Spirit beginning in 1997 will offer sessions on emotional, physical, spiritual and professional development. Vacation options, planned in response to an expressed need for fellowship among women in ministry leadership, will be offered beginning in 1997 also.

Loneliness has been cited by women as a "top issue because of the difficulty of developing peer relationships," Miniard said. "They asked us to provide the opportunity to network on a strictly recreational basis."

Choices of a cruise, an "American adventure" and an international vacation are expected to be offered, with the option for participants to travel with a friend, family member or solo as a part of the larger group.

Miniard led conference participants in a biblical study of women in ministry leadership roles, including Deborah, Abigail, Esther, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, Mary and Martha, Dorcas and Priscilla. She said their roles demonstrate servanthood, systematic obedience to God and lives with purpose.

"These women were not accidentally there," Miniard said. "They are examples for us to follow."

"You don't have to be radical, angry or militant in order to accomplish all God intended you to be," she added. "If your purpose is platform recognition and honor, you need to rethink your purpose. No matter who you are and what you do in life, you do it for God's honor."

National Conferences for Church Leadership, July 12-15 and July 15-19, focused training on leadership, ministry and worship and were sponsored by the BSSB's church leadership services division.

**Former Baptist pastor inaugurated
as Ark. governor in day of chaos****By Trennis Henderson**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--Mike Huckabee's pilgrimage from local Baptist pastor to governor of Arkansas took less than five years -- an unbelievably rapid pace for a newcomer to secular politics. By contrast, the final five hours before his inauguration seemed to last forever.

Huckabee, a former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, announced in 1991 he was resigning as pastor of Beech Street First Baptist Church in Texarkana, Ark., to run for the U.S. Senate. Although that first bid for public office in 1992 proved unsuccessful, he was elected lieutenant governor eight months later in a special election and was re-elected to a full term in 1994. He was slated to become governor July 15 following Gov. Jim Guy Tucker's recent conviction on two Whitewater-related felony charges.

Huckabee's inauguration day schedule collapsed into chaos mere minutes before he was to take the oath of office as the state's 44th governor. Five minutes before the 2 p.m. inaugural ceremony was to begin, Tucker informed Huckabee he had decided not to resign. Citing his pending legal appeals as a disability to serving as governor, Tucker opted to temporarily transfer "the powers and duties of the office" to Huckabee "until my disability shall cease."

Legislators and guests gathered for Huckabee's inauguration were visibly stunned by Tucker's letter. Entering the House chamber moments later to share "face to face and heart to heart," Huckabee described the situation as "a very critical moment in our state's history." He urged lawmakers to respond with "a caliber of calm, yet courage."

Following his brief comments, Huckabee immediately met with legislative leaders to discuss initiating impeachment proceedings against Tucker. In an attempt to stymie impeachment hearings, Tucker countered with a second letter declaring his "inability to serve as governor has ended."

Explaining Tucker's "disability continues to exist," Huckabee told reporters gathered outside his capitol office "we respectfully refuse to receive the governor's letter and will respectfully continue serving as acting governor."

During a 5:15 p.m. televised speech, Huckabee declared, "What really is at issue tonight is a simple question between right and wrong." Emphasizing the need for "clear and decisive action," he said Tucker's failure to resign unconditionally by 9 a.m. the following morning would trigger the impeachment process.

Calling his plan "one of the most painful decisions I have ever made in my life," Huckabee added, "We must act in the way that is best for our state."

Tucker responded moments later with a handwritten, one-sentence letter which stated: "This is to inform you that I hereby resign the office of governor effective at 6 p.m., July 15, 1996." That response finally cleared the way for Huckabee to take the oath of office as governor at 6:55 p.m., precisely five hours after the crisis erupted.

Huckabee stressed throughout the ordeal the response to the day's events was a nonpartisan issue. "No Republican would ever take pleasure in it, nor should any Democrat be branded with the responsibility" of Tucker's actions, he said.

"As we begin a new day in Arkansas history ... I do so with a genuine, heartfelt sense of optimism," the new governor said following his inauguration. Encouraging lawmakers to "put aside every bit of malice, hurt or hard feelings" about the previous five hours, he called on Arkansans to remember Tucker for "the things he did right."

"This is our opportunity to say good government is alive and well in Arkansas again," Huckabee declared. "It's not Republican government. It's not Democrat government. It's just good government for the people."

Prior to the afternoon's surreal developments, the morning began with a worshipful prayer service at First Baptist Church, Little Rock. Similar to the prayer service prior to Huckabee's inauguration as lieutenant governor in 1993, the interdenominational service featured inspirational music and words of encouragement for the new governor.

Keynote speaker H.D. McCarty, pastor of University Baptist Church, Fayetteville, challenged Huckabee to "take the high road" and "follow truth's agenda."

Declaring "the real issues of life are not the issues of today but the issues of eternity," McCarty called on the incoming governor to maintain an agenda of "truth and love and righteousness."

Huckabee's inauguration marks the second time a state convention president has served as Arkansas governor. James P. Eagle, who served as governor in 1889-93, was elected to 21 terms as state convention president from 1880-1904. He also served three years as Southern Baptist Convention president.

Huckabee, who served six years as pastor of Beech Street First Church, previously was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Throughout his 1992 Senate race, Huckabee faced criticism for leaving the pastorate to pursue politics. Explaining at the time his decision was based on "a compelling conviction that we were losing our country because people with convictions refused to get involved in the political process," he added, "You never make a mistake when you stand for what you believe."

During his televised address this week, Huckabee responded to those who may be uncomfortable with a Bible-quoting governor who is a former pastor. "The fact is that since my childhood, that Book and its Author have been the guiding forces in my life," he affirmed. "It would be much easier for me to give up being governor than it would be to give up taking the counsel that I have had from God and his Word."

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**Many churches, he says, worship
'go-through-the-motions'-style**

By Charles Willis

**Baptist Press
7/18/96**

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Many of the worship services in churches today are neither worship nor service, a worship consultant told participants in the National Conference for Church Leadership at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"Instead, I have found that in most of our churches our services are a come-in, get-together and go-through-the-motions activity," said Robert Wagoner of the Baptist Sunday School Board's music ministries department.

"We talk about Jesus, and that's good. We win people to Christ, and that's excellent," he continued. "But a worship service, a real worship of the Lord is never experienced in many churches across the country."

Wagoner said Scripture instructs Christians to worship God in spirit and truth, in his beauty, in his holiness, with all one's heart, mind, might and strength.

"Real worship can help you with bitterness and anger," he said. "It can help you with the sin that may be in your life and that you need to confess. All of these things can come out of our lives if we will learn to really worship him."

To worship "in spirit and in truth" means focusing on the Lord and taking focus away from everything else, he said.

"In many of our churches across the country, when people come into the worship center their minds are on a thousand and one other things," Wagoner added. "As a worship leader, my job is to lead the people to focus on Jesus. Why? Because the Lord Jesus is here! What a tragedy it would be, and is, when people come and sit through a service and miss Jesus. Especially when Jesus said, 'Wherever two or more of you are gathered in my name, there I am also.'

"We have not come together to focus on the preacher, the minister of music or worship leader, the choir, the orchestra, the soloist or on each other."

One reason Southern Baptists have trouble worshipping is "because we are afraid of what somebody else is going to think," Wagoner said. "What is the guy beside me going to think if he hears me really singing to the Lord? He's going to think I can't sing.

"We've taken all of the body language of worship out of our services," he said. "We can hardly get people to clap, kneel or even bow their heads."

Every person should prepare for public worship by having regular private worship, Wagoner said.

"The attitude of worship leaders is the biggest communicator we have," he observed. "Worship begins in the heart of the worshiper. You can't take people where you haven't been. Public worship is the overflow of private worship."

Worship can become misplaced, Wagoner said, due to a number of factors. When people worship a place, fight over the pews and other material things, worship is misplaced.

If one's focus is on a person other than Jesus Christ, worship is misplaced, he said.

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"When people find out their pastor or some other church leader is not perfect and they leave the church, who were they focusing on in worship? This puts tremendous pressure on pastors and staff members," he said. "Sooner or later they are going to mess up. They are going to make mistakes, and you are going to become disappointed. No pastor or staff member is worthy of your worship."

Misplaced worship also can occur in people seeking a position in the church more than they seek the Lord and in placing emphasis on a material thing more than the Lord. Unconfessed sin also hinders our worship, he said.

"If we are going to worship together in heaven," he said, we've got to worship together on earth."

National Conferences for Church Leadership, July 12-15 and July 15-19, focused training on leadership, ministry and worship and were sponsored by the BSSB's church leadership services division.

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**Minister, 'Can you be trusted?'
among personal ethics questions**

By Charles Willis

**Baptist Press
7/18/96**

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Personal ethics of ministers determine how they perform ethically in ministry, a pastoral care consultant told participants in the first National Conference for Church Leadership at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Neil Knierim, a pastoral care consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's pastor-staff leadership department, said one's view of call to ministry, self-esteem and values set the foundation for ethics in a ministry career.

How ministers view their calling -- the deepening inner sense of what God wants them to do with their life -- involves commitment, obedience to God and a variety of possible levels of calling to ministry.

Among the callings Christians may have in their lives are the call to salvation, discipleship, ministry, a place of service, personal evangelism, the use of assets (gifts, money, education, family, personality), building the church and meeting one's own needs.

In the area of self-esteem, Knierim said, character, strength, competency and significance are involved.

"Who you are influences what you do," he observed. "Can you be trusted? Do you do the right things? Do you stand for the right things? Can you stand up to protect yourself?"

Many people "beat themselves up," he said, comparing what may be their greatest weaknesses against the greatest strengths of others.

But he reminded participants that "we all have significance, not because of who we are, but because of what God did for us."

What people value in life must be in line with how they live, he added. If a minister says a relationship with God, integrity, a good name, their spouse and children, friends, respect, cooperation, peace and freedom are the most important values in their life, he should assess how those values are demonstrated in his life.

"If our lifestyles and our values are in conflict, there is no inner peace," Knierim said. "Ministers cannot be very effective if their lives are incongruent."

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**Inner-city New York
now grips her heart**

By Lee Weeks

**Baptist Press
7/18/96**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The black iron bars, speckled with rust, peer mercilessly from the windows of the 16-story apartment building.

Inside the rust-colored brick building, a filthy stench hangs in the air like a dark ominous cloud. Despondent cries of neglect and want echo from within the dark stairway.

Nearly a year has passed since Mary Carr completed her three-year missionary stint in New York City, but the images remain as vivid as yesterday.

Visions of lonely, parentless children starving for love and attention occupy her thoughts as she walks across Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's Wake Forest, N.C., campus or sits in a classroom taking notes on ethics or church history.

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"I miss the community up there," Carr said. "There's nobody working with my kids now. That's hard for me to accept."

But four years ago, Carr, now 28, couldn't imagine herself serving as a missionary in the inner city of a large metropolitan area.

"I couldn't do any of that stuff," she said. "I'm a country girl from Alabama. I went straight from milking cows to riding a subway. It didn't make any sense for me to be up there. I couldn't do that -- working with these homeless people and drug addicts, the gang members in my youth group and children who did not know what love was."

In August 1992, Carr moved into a tiny apartment above a small storefront splattered with graffiti situated in the middle of a Hispanic neighborhood on the lower east side of Manhattan. The storefront, which was about the size of a two-car garage, served as the Baptist mission center, appropriately called "East Seventh Baptist Ministry Graffiti."

"I was definitely the minority there," she said. "We were in the worst part of the city; nobody wanted to go down to where we were. We lived with all the thieves and all the (drug) dealers."

Carr said she kept the promises of Psalm 23 in her heart and on her lips everywhere she went. "I never was scared," she said. "I should have been at times."

The mission center, Carr said, quickly became her life's passion. She worked tirelessly running three after-school programs, a preschool program and a Tuesday night Bible study with the youth.

During her three years, the center grew from 10 children to 130, said Carr, who was affectionately known on the streets as "Alabama."

"They would ask in the beginning, 'What are you doing here?' And I would always tell them, 'I'm here because I love you.' ... They really had no idea what unconditional love is. They don't have parents. By the time you're 11 or 12, you're basically on your own there. I had first-graders that were taking care of their preschool brothers and sisters."

As a little girl growing up in Alabama, Carr dreamed of becoming a missionary. She fantasized about being one of the missionaries she read about in magazines or prayed for with her GA group at church.

"Missionaries, themselves, everything they did was so exciting to me, I thought as a child," she said. "I just thought they had a wonderful life."

At 18, Carr committed her life to missions. She earned her undergraduate degree in early childhood education and worked at a Baptist children's home for a little more than a year before applying for an assignment through the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board.

"I didn't want to go to New York City, didn't want to go to a place called Graffiti and didn't want to work with youth," she said. "I never thought anything else about that. I had other places picked out."

But God had other plans.

At 3 a.m. on the morning of her interview, Carr said, she received her marching orders from God while praying about God's will for her life.

"I just knew that's where the Lord wanted me," she said. "The Lord had changed my mind."

Since then, Carr said, her heart, mind and soul has been bent toward ministering to those people who can't see beyond their physical needs to their spiritual needs.

"You could not go up there and hand somebody a tract," she said. "You can't even go up there and say Jesus loves you. They don't know what love is and they don't know who Jesus is."

Carr said people in the inner city do not want to hear Christians talk about Jesus. She said they want to see Jesus in Christians.

Before leaving Manhattan, Carr said, she learned her greatest lesson about what it means to be a missionary.

Eight-year-old Crystal began attending the mission center when Carr arrived. Her father was an infamous drug dealer in the neighborhood, Carr said.

For three years, Carr had worked with Crystal teaching her the Bible. Then shortly before Carr was to leave, Crystal's eyes brightened one day as she recited the Easter account of Christ's resurrection.

"She (Crystal) said that's why you love me because of Jesus and I said, 'Yes, Crystal.'"

While at Southeastern, Carr is pursuing a master of arts degree in Christian education. She works at a home for autistic adults as well.

But her burden, Carr said, remains for the children she left behind in New York City.

"I know plenty of homeless people up there that will give me a box and a street corner to stay on," she said laughingly. "I don't know how all that will work out, but it will."

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Reprinted from Outlook, Summer 1996, quarterly publication of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Secular station's disc jockey
takes a stand for his faith**

By Ken Walker

**Baptist Press
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CINCINNATI (BP)--He has debated Wiccan witches. Invited noted author-apologist Norman Geisler on the air to explain the historical accuracy of Christ. Defended two-parent families during a discussion of singer Madonna's unwed pregnancy.

None of this would be considered unusual in Christian circles. But Kevin Harris expresses his views during the midday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. shift over WKRQ-FM radio. The pop music outlet ranks in the top five stations in Cincinnati.

The range of "Q-102" spreads into the suburbs of northern Kentucky, where the unconventional disc jockey serves as interim youth pastor at Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

"I see my job as a mission field," said Harris, who is married and has an 11-month-old son. "I believe more Christians need to be involved in mainstream media to be a witness and have an effect on the industry for Christ.

"My gift is evangelism, so I function better in a mainstream situation," he added. "I want to be a broadcaster and be excellent in my field, one who happens to be a Christian."

A native of Palestine, Texas, Harris grew up in Norwood Heights Baptist Church there, where both of his parents taught Sunday school. He accepted Christ as Savior at age 7.

An accomplished guitarist and singer, he was a youth and music pastor while still in college. After moving to the Cincinnati area in 1993, he soon became involved with Fort Mitchell's youth group.

Playing guitar and sometimes teaching, he also acted as the DJ for various youth parties. When the former youth pastor departed last October, Harris seemed the natural candidate to temporarily fill the position, said pastor Harry Rowland.

"He relates real well with the kids," the pastor said, pointing to a 20 percent rise in attendance. "They say they can tell he cares about them. He's able to relate to them because he knows some of the music and the culture. He doesn't necessarily agree with it, but he knows it."

Although he has teenage listeners, particularly during the summer, WKRQ primarily aims at adults ages 18-34. But regardless of age, listeners are more attuned to Billy Ocean and Traci Chapman than the contemporary Christian group, DC Talk.

But that suits Harris. Although he has worked for contemporary Christian stations over the years, he prefers having the opportunity to spread the gospel in secular arenas.

At his first job in Tyler, Texas, he organized a Christian music program for a pop station. That provided the impetus for him lobbying for more secular air play of Christian artists like Jars of Clay.

"When I saw people like Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith, I knew (contemporary Christian music) was going to happen and be used by God to reach people who wouldn't listen to Christian radio," Harris said.

"I've seen a tremendous effect on my co-workers and the audience as they listen to these artists and consider spiritual things."

His listeners hear the truth from more than music. His faith reputation has earned him invitations to provide a Christian voice when WKRQ's morning show schedules controversial guests.

In the past year, he faced off against a pair of UFO experts who believed that aliens would be humankind's salvation and a pair of Wiccan witches. One witch told him, "You sound just like Josh McDowell," a speaker known for defending the faith.

"I'll take that as a compliment," he replied.

He also stirs the phone lines with such controversial questions as what people thought of Madonna's pregnancy and why men cheat on their wives.

After hearing Harris quote C.S. Lewis while battling callers over the latter topic, Northern Kentucky University chemistry professor Wheeler Conover became a regular listener.

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"What makes him so believable is that he's willing not to bury his head in the Christian community's 'sand,'" said the member of Highland Hills Baptist Church in Ft. Thomas, Ky. "We can't listen to Christian radio and go to Christian concerts all the time. There's a world out there."

With five lines ringing steadily during call-ins, Harris can't spend too much time talking to an individual. But occasionally he will talk to them off the air or call back later to share the gospel.

"I try to let it be an outflow of who I am in Christ," Harris explained. "I feel my convictions from the Holy Spirit often play a role in what I say. I can't preach but God would certainly have me be positive."

According to Rowland, the well-known radio personality has succeeded -- and reached a media world many believers are quick to shun.

"I listen to him occasionally and he does things that are positive, not nihilistic or sacrilegious," the pastor said. "He doesn't beat his own drum but he's very conscientious about the opportunities God presents to him."

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New state evangelism director intent on nurturing passion

**Baptist Press
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OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--If you're not a Christian, and you live in Oklahoma, even you may be able to help someone else become a believer.

One thing David Clippard plans to do is interview lost people across the state to find out what their perceptions of Baptists are.

He starts Aug. 12 as evangelism director for the Baptist Convention of Oklahoma.

The interviews would be videotaped, Clippard said, "so people can hear what sinners think of Baptists and open some eyes up to the needs of lost people."

Clippard, 47, received unanimous approval by the BGCO board of directors in a special meeting July 9.

He has been pastor of Sarasota (Fla.) Baptist Church since January 1988. While there, the church has grown from 190 members to its current size of 1,300 -- more than half of whom Clippard has baptized. The church has baptized more than 100 people each year.

The Missouri native earlier was vice president of North American ministries for Evangelism Explosion III International in Fort Lauderdale. During that time he also was minister of adult education at First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale. In all, he has lived in Florida 13 years. From 1978-83 he was associate pastor of evangelism at Southcliff Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Clippard was saved at age 12 at a Royal Ambassadors camp while attending First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mo. He said his experience after salvation impacted his life for many years.

"When I was baptized, I was so excited I was sure I would go right up to heaven," he said. "But at the church I was in, the members said, 'Just wait a while and you'll cool down like the rest of us.' And I did."

At age 21 he married his high school sweetheart, Suzanna Davault, who was a Methodist but not a Christian. He said one night, during a severe thunderstorm, she became terrified. He told her there was nothing to worry about, that if they died they would "go and see Jesus."

"She said, 'How do you know?' so I took out my Bible, dusted it off and tried to show her," he recalled. "I soon realized I couldn't share my faith. I didn't know how."

While living in Chicago, she was saved during a revival, then they moved to St. Louis, where he was ordained as a deacon and then felt called into the ministry.

He became interested in soul-winning after noticing his pastor baptizing one to two people every week. The church held a soul-winning workshop, but nothing happened. Then the church used Evangelism Explosion.

"For the first time in my life, I learned how to share my faith," he said. "Then God called us" to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

"I believe that there are a lot of folks just like us, who have a desire to share the gospel, but don't know how," Clippard said. "I was 26 years old before I saw a committed Christian. It's no wonder the lost world looks at the church and thinks we're out to lunch."

Clippard was recommended for the post by Anthony Jordan, BGCO executive director-treasurer. From 1976-82, Jordan was pastor of Clippard's home church in Missouri.

Jordan said he thinks Oklahoma Baptists need training in personal evangelism and an added passion for lost people.

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"The thing that I have seen lacking across the state is a passion for lost souls," he said. "As I have walked with Dave over the years: he has a passion for souls."

"Evangelism today is not just crusades," Clippard noted. "It's meeting needs. A lot of our world looks to the government to meet needs, because they don't think the church has the answer."

"To steal a quote from Rick Warren, 'The message is the same, but the methods may change.' In the 1940s and 1950s the door to the church was Sunday school. Today it's the worship service, and you retain people through small groups."

Clippard said he is not interested in coming up with a single evangelism strategy for every church in Oklahoma. "There is no right way or only way for a church to do church," he said. "Each church has its own unique personality. The issue is more 'Who is this church? Who will we appeal to?'"

Some churches may not be willing to grow; in that case, he said "maybe the best thing they can do is start another one."

He said church services need to focus on worshiping God, no matter what size the church is.

"This doesn't mean that every church has to have an orchestra, but it can still have a worship service that is worship, not just going through the motions," he said. "Even in small towns, we are still competing against McDonalds and MTV. We are competing against recreation."

He told of a congregation in Florida that during a 24-month period knocked on every door in its town of 6,000 people, but did not grow at all. Then, one day a cold snap came through.

Since many homes in Florida do not have heating, the church turned up the heat in its gymnasium and invited the community in.

The church is now experiencing unprecedented growth, he said, because "the church met the needs of its community."

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Reported by Dave Parker

**Preacher W.O. Taylor
dies at 105 in Arkansas**

**Baptist Press
7/18/96**

MELBOURNE, Ark. (BP)--William Oscar Taylor, age 105, who was thought to be the oldest preacher in the Southern Baptist Convention, died July 7 of congestive heart failure at his home in Melbourne.

Taylor, who co-founded Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) in Walnut Ridge, Ark., and was one of its first faculty members, was later named by the college as a Distinguished Baptist Minister. A former associational missionary for Independence Baptist Association, he also founded three Baptist youth camps.

Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., granted him an honorary doctorate as he neared his 100th birthday. "His long life of service was an inspiration to all who knew him," noted OBU President Ben M. Elrod. "He frequently boasted that he personally knew every one of Ouachita's 13 presidents. To the best of our knowledge, he was the last person who could make that claim."

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee recalled that he was president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention when Taylor preached his 100th birthday sermon at First Baptist Church of Melbourne.

"Of course, Bro. Taylor was a legendary figure with Arkansas Baptists for years," Huckabee told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, "not just because of his age, which in and of itself was incredibly significant, but also because of his stature as a great, great pastor and leader. ... He was one of those people that was able to absorb the wisdom of at least three generations and knit it together like a well-fitting sweater."

Born in a log cabin near the Hillsboro community in Union County, Taylor was educated in a one-room schoolhouse, later attending high school as a boarding student in Junction City. He also attended Arkansas State Normal College in Conway (now the University of Central Arkansas), Ouachita Baptist College (now University) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Taylor, who became a Christian at age 17, preached his first sermon Oct. 12, 1912, at Caledonia Baptist Church in Union County. He was ordained in 1913 at Sweet Hill Baptist Church in Arkadelphia.

Taylor, who retired in Melbourne from the active ministry in 1969, recently celebrated his 105th birthday by preaching at his home church in Melbourne. He also was the author of three books, including "Seventy Years in the Ministry" and "The Old Timers Did It This Way."

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Memorial services will be held July 20 at First Baptist Church of Melbourne and July 21 at Caledonia Baptist Church. Survivors include four sons, O.W. Taylor of Jacksonville, Fla., James Taylor of Melbourne, Ira Taylor of LaJolla, Calif., and New York City and Jack Taylor of Flagstaff, Ariz.; four daughters, Ann Taylor Packer of Melbourne, Ida Vonne Rosa of Jonesboro, Billy Joe Tatum of Melbourne and Sammy Taylor of Benhoff Chula Vista, Calif.; two sisters; 17 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Memorials may be made to the Dr. W.O. Taylor Scholarship Fund, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR 71923.

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Baptist college among hosts for contemporary summer camps

**Baptist Press
7/18/96**

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. (BP)--For those baby boomers who might recall church summer camp as a time to leave home and learn how to shoot bow and arrows, or do belly-busters in the camp pond, times have changed.

Generation Xers are going to summer camp in a new way, so says Campbellsville University director of camps and conferences Eric Graves.

"Many more summer camps, particularly Christian-oriented ones, are being held on college and university campuses nationwide," said Graves, "and Campbellsville University is right in the middle of that growing trend."

According to Graves, more than 2,700 middle- to high-school-age youth will have "camped out" on Campbellsville University's front steps, or at least on its spacious lawn or in one of its athletic facilities before summer's end.

One of the university's major camps has been Crosspoint, a Christian sports camp developed in 1986 by the Baptist Sunday School Board for children and younger youth. In fact, Campbellsville hosts four weeks of the camp.

Crosspoint helps teach beginner-to-intermediate athletic skills to fourth- through eighth-graders. Campers are provided opportunities to develop a love for a new sport or to increase the skill level in a particular sport, Graves said.

He said Crosspoint provides every participant a chance to learn and improve their abilities in two sports. Elite athletes are welcomed but are encouraged to choose less-familiar sports.

Campbellsville also serves as Crosspoint's national staff training site at the end of each May. From there, staff are divided and are sent to 14 Crosspoint camp sites nationwide, Graves said. "They teach Bible studies; conduct sing-a-longs; facilitate meditation times, group devotions and variety shows; and provide plenty of time for recreation," Graves said.

What does Campbellsville University receive from Christian-oriented youth camps such as Crosspoint? "Plenty," Graves said.

At the end of each camp, the university provides a complimentary T-shirt to each camp participant. Marc C. Whitt, assistant to the president for public relations and marketing at Campbellsville, said that these shirts eventually become "2,700 walking billboards for the university."

"These camps help attract prime candidates as future students," Whitt said, "and we believe more of our Baptist youth need to be exposed to one of its Baptist colleges or universities in such a way.

"When they leave from our campus, they do so feeling good and positive about their experience at Campbellsville University, and they will never forget that special summer in Kentucky."

Campbellsville President Kenneth W. Winters said the university truly appreciates the cooperative spirit that has developed between the Sunday School Board's Crosspoint staff and the university. Winters described the university hosting Crosspoint as a "win-win" for both parties.

"Our doors are open to camps such as Crosspoint and churches from across our convention," Winters said. "We can provide the positive, Christian atmosphere they need and deserve."

Campbellsville University, founded in 1906, is a private, comprehensive 1,366-student institution located in south-central Kentucky and affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

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