



Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Art Toalston, Editor
Fax (615) 782-8738
CompuServe ID # 70420,17

July 22, 1996

96-126

- ATLANTA--Baptists taking advantage of Olympic opportunities.
- PENNSYLVANIA--Church mourns town's loss in wake of jetliner crash.
- TENNESSEE--First Baptist mission team rebuilding more than a church.
- ARKANSAS--RTVC trustee joins staff of Arkansas Gov. Huckabee.
- SALT LAKE CITY--Salt Lake Baptists preparing for 1998 SBC annual meeting.
- NEW MEXICO--Ministry years can be cut short from poor self care, prof says.
- ANGOLA--No problem too big for God in missionary's relief effort.
- NORTH CAROLINA--Southeastern romance yields ready-made evangelistic team.
- NORTH CAROLINA--Prayer added credence to his 'Trust me' line.
- TENNESSEE--Correction.

Baptists taking advantage of Olympic opportunities

By Sarah Zimmerman

**Baptist Press
7/22/96**

ATLANTA (BP)--To Southern Baptists, this year's Olympics are a 17-day block party with an international guest list -- a "Crossover World" of sorts.

The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce predicts 2.4 million visitors and athletes from 197 countries will be in Atlanta during the course of the Olympics which began July 19. The 93 percent increase in Atlanta's population means traffic nightmares, shipping delays, potential electrical brownouts and incredible mission opportunities.

Much of the ministry involves hospitality and entertainment coordinated by Atlanta International Ministries '96, which is supported by local associations, the Georgia Baptist Convention and Home Mission Board. Under the direction of home missionary Linda Johnson, AIM' 96 has recruited 557 teams from 33 states and Canada to use creative ways of sharing the gospel with Olympic spectators.

With temperatures in the mid-90s plus draining humidity, spectators welcome nothing more than a cold drink. A Georgia church along the Olympic torch relay route gave away 15,200 ounces of orange juice and apple juice in one afternoon. With entrepreneurs charging for water, the free offer from Southern Baptists is an easy conversation starter.

Eighty percent of the games are held in a three-mile radius near downtown Atlanta known as the Olympic ring. Within the Olympic ring, AIM '96 hosts a ministry center that serves as a rest stop for pedestrians. The center has a coffeehouse environment where guests can sit down, enjoy a cup of water and hear the gospel. The center opened June 28, and 47 people made professions of faith there before the Olympics began.

Two blocks from the Olympic ring, Atlanta's First Baptist Church is hosting "Reach-Out '96." In cooperation with Lay Witnesses for Christ, other area churches and the HMB evangelism office, the ministry features Christian athletes sharing their testimonies in five church rallies plus a hospitality tent at First Baptist. Organizers expect 2,500 volunteers from six countries and 15 states to help with the ministry.

Since area hotels are booked and some are charging \$700 a night for a room, local churches have opened their doors for volunteer groups. With sleeping bags and air mattresses, gyms and educational spaces serve as temporary dormitories.

Church members are opening their homes to athletes' families from around the world through a program called Atlanta HOST (Homes for Olympics Stay). Coordinated by an ecumenical group and AT&T, the program places athletes' parents, spouses and sometimes coaches with Atlanta residents who provide a room, breakfast and a ride to a public transportation station. Nearly 2,000 Atlanta families are participating.

Another hospitality ministry matches security officers with Atlanta residents who meet the officers when they are off duty. Lowell Lawson, HMB chaplaincy consultant, coordinated the program as part of a chaplaincy outreach to security teams. Already volunteers have reported meeting security officers who they believe will be lifelong friends.

In each of the ministry sites, the "More Than Gold" evangelistic tract that includes a guide to the Olympic games is in demand. The guide lists world and Olympic records for each Olympic event.

First Baptist Church of Lilburn, Ga., mailed 18,000 copies of the guide to homes in its area. The guides were mailed in plain envelopes marked "Free Commemorative '96 summer game material enclosed" rather than envelopes with the church logo so nonchurched people would at least open them, said Linda Yarbrough, education/outreach secretary. A letter with the guides introduced the church to readers.

The church has received positive response to the guides, Yarbrough said. Some people asked for more copies, and one woman said she had driven by the church several times but now she planned to visit. Only one person called the church to ask to be taken off the mailing list.

--30--

EDITORS' NOTE: A set of photos related to Olympic ministries will be posted on SBCNet this week. Editors who want photos mailed to them should call Sarah Zimmerman in the HMB news office at (770) 410-6533. Feature stories about ministries mentioned in this story will be posted on Baptist Press during the next two weeks.

Church mourns town's loss in wake of jetliner crash

By Karen L. Willoughby

Baptist Press
7/22/96

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (BP)--Tears flowed freely at First Southern Baptist Church on the Sunday after the July 17 crash of a TWA jetliner in the Atlantic Ocean that killed 230 people, including 21 Williamsport, Pa., residents.

Sixteen French Club members from Montoursville (Pa.) High School and five adult sponsors are missing and presumed among the dead in the nation's worst air tragedy since 1979. The Trans World Airlines plane, en route from Kennedy International Airport to Paris, exploded into two fireballs while still within sight of the New York City skyline.

"So many people knew somebody," associate pastor Kenton Hunt said. "In both of our Sunday morning services, we gave the church members a time to talk about what they're feeling.

"It seems that we've been the focus of national attention too much," Hunt continued. "The flooding in January and then this big plane crash -- it's a small town being clobbered by tragedy. That's the way people feel now. I did say today that God might be trying to get our attention. Why Montoursville, I don't know."

First Southern Baptist Church in Williamsport is about five miles from Montoursville High School and about four hours from New York City. The church has been without a senior pastor for more than a year.

"One church member was housesitting for the couple that was killed" who were French Club sponsors, Hunt said. "Her children play with their children. Now that these kids have lost their parents, their guardian will be an aunt who lives in Lancaster. These church members lose their neighbors, and these children lose their friends."

There were many similar stories that reflected the congregation's shock, grief and sense of loss, the associate pastor said.

"I urged them to not let this damage their faith in God, but to look for what God might be teaching them," Hunt said. "I still believe in the sovereignty of God, Romans 8:28. Though I can't understand why, and can't begin to explain why God would allow something like this to happen, I still believe God loves these people very much.

"That's the solid fact I'm going on," he said. "God still loves me. God still loves these people."

Prayer closed out the time of grief-sharing. The congregation then sang "It is Well With My Soul" and Hunt told the story of how Horatio Spafford penned the words to the song as the ocean liner on which he was traveling passed over the place where his family had been lost at sea the previous year.

--more--

The morning message, presented by guest speaker Leroy Wion -- scheduled before the jetliner crash -- referred to the need of Christians to reach out to the hurting people around them. Wion works in the 80,000-population Williamsport area with the American Rescue Workers, an organization similar to the British-founded Salvation Army.

"We made a big push to the congregation to keep their eyes open, to be ready to minister at a moment's notice," Hunt said. "The way it stands now, our main ministry is to be praying. There have been many, many people calling for prayer."

People on Long Island also have been calling for prayer, said Bob Pohlman, bivocational pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Riverhead, N.Y. Pohlman's home is located about eight miles from Moriches Inlet, site of frenzied search and recovery activity in the wake of the jetliner explosion.

Pohlman started ministering to Long Islanders during the first hours after the crash, when people in fishing and recreation boats were reeling from the shock of recovering bodies and body parts from unexpectedly placid ocean waters.

Pohlman preached the Sunday after the tragedy from John 15.

"We were preaching on how we must abide in him and the necessity of having love that is sacrificial for our fellow man," Pohlman said. "We're trying to motivate these people to realize there's a lot of hurt right here even without this major tragedy."

"God places you here to have compassion," the pastor continued. "You'll find your strength increasing as you give what you have to others -- if you abide in Christ."

Long Islanders processed their grief through a series of ecumenical prayer services, Pohlman said. One was in a maintenance hangar at Kennedy International Airport. Others were scattered across the island.

"People instinctively reach out for God when they get beyond what they can handle," Pohlman said. "God is a refuge for those who hurt."

--30--

**First Baptist mission team
rebuilding more than a church**

By Dwayne Hastings

**Baptist Press
7/22/96**

FRUITLAND, Tenn. (BP)--The screech of a circular saw joined the uneven cadence of hammers in cracking the sultry calm of a summer morning. To the unknowing observer, these were simply the sounds of a carpentry crew at work, but those in this community outside of Humboldt, Tenn., realized there was more than construction taking place on this west Tennessee site.

Gingerly traversing rafters above the worship center, scaling scaffolding to hoist siding skyward and precariously perched on ladders to drive home one more nail, members of First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., were doing their part to provide members of Salem Baptist Church a new church home.

The church, founded in 1872, was reduced to rubble Dec. 30, 1995, as flames devoured the brick-and-frame building -- one of eight African American churches burned in Tennessee in the last 18 months.

"Though we lost the building, the church never stopped," said Rick Booth, a member of the church in Fruitland, Tenn. "It was just a prelude to bigger and better things -- things God had in store for his people here."

The church actually suffered two fires: The week before the entire structure burned to the ground, a small outbuilding was torched. That building, made of cement block, still stands -- its charred interior an ashen reminder of the hate which visited Salem Baptist that Saturday night in December.

Dorothy Jackson, also a member of the rural church, said the memory of the event remains etched in her mind: "It was a real hurtin' feeling, just that somebody could be so mean and so disrespectful to the Lord's house. Out here in this community, we are like one big family. It was like somebody came in and took a family member away."

Yet church members have moved beyond the feelings of "total shock," said Booth, who has been a member of the church 16 years. "Of course, there were tears of sadness but as the songwriter said, 'Joy comes in the morning.'"

--more--

Church members have been nearly overwhelmed by the prayers and words of encouragement from "total strangers," Jackson said. "The togetherness and the support that has been shown has allowed us to rise above this incident," she continued. "People of different racial and ethnic backgrounds have come together to stand by us."

Telephone calls and cards of support have been received from Hong Kong, Germany, the Netherlands and every state in the nation. A man traveled from England just to see the church and a Japanese television crew was at the construction site July 17, Booth said.

The outpouring of support has reinforced church members' faith, Booth added. "We never felt bitter because we are strong believers that what everything God does -- there is good in it -- even the bad things. Through the fire and the heartaches, there was good to come.

"It's a good feeling, a real good feeling, just to know that we are on our way back home and with the help of people we don't even know," Booth said. "It has to be God working through them because people have come from all walks of life, all races and all denominations."

First Baptist Church of Nashville was the first church to contact Salem Baptist Church after the fire. Mark Edwards, FBC's minister of music, saw the news report of the fire and knew immediately he had to do something to help Salem Baptist.

The church's first need was Sunday school material for children, so First Baptist sent teaching materials, chairs, hymnals and Bibles to replace those lost in the tragedy. Edwards, who said the fire has fostered a long-term relationship between the two churches, said the offering collected during FBC's sanctuary choir's spring concert, nearly \$4,000, was earmarked for Salem's recovery assistance.

And June 15-19, more than 20 members of the Nashville church traveled to the west Tennessee site to assist in rebuilding the Salem facility. Nashville's mission team, which included among others, a salesman, college student, investment banker, flight attendant, a handful of retirees and a local residential contractor, followed a similar construction crew from a Henderson, Texas, church.

The reconstruction of the church began in late May, but progress was delayed by wet weather in June. Church members hope to be back in their church by the end of summer.

The Nashville construction team found the mission trip an effective means to show their conviction to racial reconciliation.

The youngest member of the team, Josh Moody, graduated from high school in June. Recalling Jesus' words in John 17, where Jesus prayed his followers would be unified in him, Moody suggested one of the biggest needs in the church remains bridging the racial divide.

"Any way that I can contribute to that goal being accomplished gives me joy," Moody said.

--30--

**RTVC trustee joins staff
of Arkansas Gov. Huckabee**

By C.C. Risenhoover

**Baptist Press
7/22/96**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--When Gary Underwood joined Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's staff in July, it marked the second time Huckabee has asked Underwood to join him in a difficult and challenging undertaking.

When Huckabee -- sworn in as governor of Arkansas July 15 when Jim Guy Tucker resigned after two Whitewater convictions -- was pastor of Beech Street First Baptist Church in Texarkana, Ark., he sought Underwood's help in building a Christian television station as a mission ministry of the church. Beech Street Communications, formed in 1987, began operating a TV station KBSC (now KLFJ) in 1988 that soon became one of the most successful ACTS (American Christian Television Service) affiliates in the nation.

ACTS, carried on the Faith and Values Channel, is the cable TV service of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Until joining the governor's staff as director of media operations, Underwood served as executive vice president of Beech Street Communications. He also serves as a trustee of the RTVC and in 1997 will be a trustee of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) when the RTVC becomes part of the new entity. In addition, he is one of the incorporators of the NAMB.

--more--

"People have asked me how I can go from ministry into politics," Underwood said. "But actually, I'm not going anywhere. I may not be working directly for a church or ministry, but I'm still a minister. I'm not leaving my Christian walk behind. I'm simply taking my Christian lifestyle into the political work place just as if I were going to the mission field."

It was the desire to be a missionary that brought Underwood to Beech Street Communications.

In 1981 he joined the staff of Elmdale Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., as minister of music and youth. In 1984 Elmdale also gave him the responsibility of starting a Christian TV channel in Springdale.

"Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., had started a Christian television channel and Elmdale Baptist wanted to start one in Springdale," Underwood said. "It was a very challenging, exciting time for me."

Smiling, he said, "And guess who was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff? Mike Huckabee, of course."

It was during this period that Underwood began working with Huckabee on statewide Baptist projects through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"We formed a group of five churches to become ACTS of Arkansas," he said. "Today in Arkansas there are probably as many as 20 affiliates of ACTS or FamilyNet."

FamilyNet is the broadcast television service of the RTVC.

Huckabee became pastor of Beech Street First Baptist Church in 1986 and soon began talking to Underwood about developing a Christian television station for Texarkana.

"It was Mike's conviction that if the church built a mission in Texarkana it would reach a hundred or so people a week," Underwood said, "but that a Christian television station would reach thousands every week. He wanted the TV station to be the church's mission project."

In 1987 Underwood and his wife, Susan, went on a mission trip to Brazil. The couple felt God was leading them into a mission endeavor.

"Christian television became our mission endeavor," he said. "When Mike (Huckabee) said he wanted the television station in Texarkana to be a mission project, that clicked with me. But my decision to manage the station was made only after much prayer. With what has been, and is being, accomplished through Christian television in Texarkana, I know that it was the right decision."

It was in March 1988 that Underwood moved to Texarkana and began managing what was then the ACTS cable channel.

"We went on the air June 1," he said, "and were called ACTS of Texarkana. When we got our low-power permit, we became a broadcast station, so we changed from ACTS to FamilyNet in 1991. KLFI is no longer just one cable channel. The station broadcasts on UHF on Channel 35, is carried on Post-Newsweek (Channel 10) and on ChannelVision, which covers rural Miller County on Channel 36."

KLFI works off a mixture of Christian-related satellite feeds, but its primary network is FamilyNet. Except for local programming, 90 percent or more of KLFI programming is from FamilyNet.

During the past eight years, the station has received eight ACTS awards and a national Covenant award.

"It was only after much prayer that I took this new position in state government," Underwood said. "Again, I've asked for God's leadership and believe what I'm doing is in his plan for my life. I also believe God has opened a door for Mike Huckabee to bring a new era of traditional Christian family values and morality to state government in Arkansas."

Underwood said Huckabee, dubbed "Mr. Clean" by the media, makes no apology in declaring the Bible to be his mooring. The new governor told WORLD magazine, "I have long depended on Scripture not only as a refuge but also for direction. Since I was 18, I've read a chapter in Proverbs every morning, getting through the whole book each month. For me, that's a source of daily inspiration and guidance. I really believe most good, sound management decisions can be gleaned from the principles you'll find in the book of Proverbs and in other passages, such as the Sermon on the Mount."

About the new governor, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette wrote: "When he first appeared in the public lists, they dismissed Mike Huckabee as somebody clearly out of his league. Not only did he talk in that small-town, churchly, low-watt radio way, but he hadn't gone to Yale or Harvard or even Georgetown. And -- here's another humorous aside -- he was a Republican to boot. Who did this yokel think he was and where did he think he was going?"

"... This strange decision to take the governor's job seriously is only Mike Huckabee's latest blow to the conventional wisdom, or rather to the conventional cynicism. Obviously the man has no idea of what politics is about; he seems to associate with quaint ideas like keeping his promises and doing his duty."

In addition to establishing television stations in Pine Bluff and Texarkana, Huckabee produced documentaries in Central America and the Middle East. Over the years he served as pastor of several churches and was president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in 1989.

In 1992, he resigned as pastor of Beech Street First Baptist Church to run for the U.S. Senate. He lost, but Underwood said it was a positive beginning.

He won a special election for the lieutenant governor's seat in 1993, then won re-election in 1994 in a 60-percent landslide.

Underwood said the governing establishment did not take kindly to a Republican winning a statewide election. So when Huckabee arrived at the Arkansas capitol in 1993, he found the door to his office had been nailed shut by the secretary of state.

Underwood said Huckabee is not a vindictive person, but one who is more interested in cleaning things up and rebuilding.

"Mike (Huckabee) loves Arkansas more than he loves any political party," he said. "It's his feeling that the people sent him to the capitol with a constitution and mandate to bring good government to the state in an orderly and methodical way.

"Some people will call him bigoted because of his stance on same-sex marriage and abortion, but conscience more than popular support will always dictate what he does."

Ironically, Huckabee and his wife of 22 years, Janet, are both natives of Hope, Ark. -- Bill Clinton's birthplace. There the similarities end.

Huckabee is a magna cum laude graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., where he earned a four-year degree in just two years. He also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Huckabees have three children. Mark, 18, is a freshman at Ouachita Baptist; David, 14, worked at a Boy Scout camp this summer; and Sarah, 11, will be a freshman in high school this fall.

Underwood, who was raised in Lawton, Okla., by his mother and grandparents, said he grew up with a song in his heart.

"I think I knew what I wanted to be when I was 3 or 4 years old," he said. "I didn't play guns and war games. By the time I was in the second grade, my friends and I were playing church on my grandmother's porch. I would borrow my grandmother's hymnal and lead the singing."

As a youth, his long-term goal was to become a member of the Bison Glee Club, a choir at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. He realized that dream following graduation from high school in 1971, going on to major in church music at OBU.

Underwood served as minister of music at three small churches while in college. Following his junior year, he married his wife, Susan, an elementary education major.

The day he graduated, the couple loaded a trailer and moved to Gallup, N.M., where Underwood served as minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church. He then served at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Farmington prior to moving to Elmdale Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark.

Underwood and his wife have two children, a daughter, Kerri, who graduated from high school this year, and a son, Kurt, who will be a sophomore in high school this fall.

"Though I'm involved in state government, I'm never going to lose my sense of ministry," Underwood said. "Whatever talents I possess, musical or otherwise, they're totally dedicated to the Lord. I hope churches throughout Arkansas understand that and won't hesitate to ask me to give witness to Jesus Christ."

--30--

**Salt Lake Baptists preparing
for 1998 SBC annual meeting**

By Keith Hinson

**Baptist Press
7/22/96**

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)--In two years, Southern Baptists will gather in Salt Lake City, Utah -- the world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, better known as Mormons.

Would a "Crossover Salt Lake City" witnessing emphasis be significantly different from past evangelism efforts in Las Vegas, New Orleans, Atlanta, Indianapolis or Orlando, which have included taking the gospel door-to-door?

--more--

"I think it's probably too early to be too specific about that," said Jim Harding, executive director of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention since May 1995.

One of the first things Harding did when he assumed his current post was to launch a long-range planning study on how best to prepare for the 1998 meeting.

Harding, who was the convention's religious education director for five years before being elected executive director, said he and other Utah-Idaho Baptists are working with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in the planning process.

But the choice of Salt Lake City for the '98 meeting wasn't unanimous or without reservations on the part of some Southern Baptists.

In meetings a few years ago to choose the site for the '98 meeting, Harding recalled one man asking him, "Why hold the Southern Baptist Convention in Utah?"

"I asked him what other places were being considered," Harding said. "Two places mentioned were St. Louis and Kansas City. I said that as someone who grew up in Missouri, I think I'm able to speak on this issue. I've been to countless conventions in both cities.

"If we are who we claim to be -- mission-minded people who are on mission for the Lord -- we need to realize that Salt Lake City is the very cutting edge of the home mission field," Harding declared.

Michael McCullough, editor of The Nevada Baptist, said similar questions were raised about the choice of Las Vegas for the 1989 SBC meeting.

"We got a lot of letters asking, 'Why are we coming to Las Vegas?' One letter from the Deep South said Las Vegas is a city that is 100 miles beyond the Great Commission," McCullough said.

"There were obviously a lot of people who were negative about coming to Las Vegas," said David F. Meacham, executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention since May 1995. "I think quite a few of those people stayed home.

"But I heard a lot of people who came to Las Vegas -- the ones who were able to get out into our neighborhoods, knock on doors and be in our churches -- realized that Las Vegas is a lot more than just casinos," said Meacham, who formerly was director of missions for Southern Nevada Baptist Association 11 years.

If there is another convention in Las Vegas, the decision may not be so controversial next time as it was in 1989, McCullough predicted. The reason is "in 1989, casino gambling was not as pervasive outside Nevada as it is today. Maybe the fact that 48 out of 50 states have some form of legalized gambling will take some of the stigmas from Las Vegas. Obviously we (as Nevada Baptists) don't support the gambling industry, and yet it's a fact of life in America today."

McCullough recalled another letter "that asked why we would meet in a city that is wholly committed to sin. I wrote the gentleman back and told him that he had identified many thousands of his brothers and sisters in Christ as being wholly committed to sin."

Likewise, Salt Lake City is home to many evangelical Christians as well. In fact, Southeast Baptist Church in the predominantly Mormon city averages 1,150 in morning worship services.

Mike Gray, the church's pastor, said, "I think the greatest thing that is going to happen is the exposure to the city's residents of who Southern Baptists are. There's just such a closed society here, even though it's opened up a lot in the years we've been here. I think (the '98 meeting) will be a dynamic time, and I'm excited about it."

Meacham said the biggest impact in Las Vegas "was the door-to-door campaign, and it did a lot to create an awareness of who Southern Baptists are. We were identified with evangelism and as being basically positive."

The news media were most interested in why Southern Baptists were coming to the city, Meacham said. But local residents were more interested in the fact that Southern Baptists were willing to knock on doors and share their faith in the city, he said.

Gray advised Southern Baptists from other states to attend the Salt Lake City meeting with an awareness of the distinctives of Mormonism.

Mormons, Gray said, "use so much of the terminology. If you talk to them on the surface, it sounds like they're talking about the same thing: atonement, Jesus as Savior and being born again. SBC messengers need to be informed about what Baptists believe."

"They have come to regard themselves as Christians, and they are publicizing themselves as so," Meacham notes. "We regard them as other than Christian, but they regard themselves as another denomination of Christians.

"What they're saying locally is, 'We believe in Jesus Christ, and therefore that makes us Christian,'" Meacham said.

"Of course it has been pointed out that they are polytheistic. I go back to what the Bible teaches -- that there is one God and only one God. They clearly teach a polytheistic god, which has been regarded through history as paganism."

In a recent meeting with HMB representatives, a Mormon official "was very clear that they have, as he said, both a monotheistic and polytheistic view of God," said Phil Roberts, director of the HMB interfaith witness department. "I suppose for the first time in history a general authority of the LDS, one of the top 70 leaders in the church, spoke to a group of Southern Baptists and described in his own words some of the essential doctrines and teachings of the Mormon church."

Addressing the question of whether Mormonism is Christian permeated the entire conference.

"The LDS church is obviously not an orthodox Christian group," Roberts said. "It does not in any way advocate biblical Christianity, a biblical view of God, of Jesus, of the Holy Spirit or of salvation. Nor does it hold a biblical view of authority because they claim that the LDS church with its prophet/president is the only true church and spiritual authority on the earth. So there are vast differences between historic orthodox Christianity and Mormonism."

Harding cautioned against drawing exact parallels between Las Vegas and Salt Lake City but acknowledged both are "mission fields. I think there's also a uniqueness about the West -- an area the two cities would share. Westerners are very different. It's a subculture. People are very strongly independent, like their ancestors who settled this part of the country as pioneers."

"Showing up at somebody's door, going in, sitting down, witnessing and them accepting Christ on the spot is almost unheard of with Mormons," Harding said. "Becoming a Christian means coming out of a religion that holds quite a stranglehold on them, especially here. If you leave Mormonism, you're liable to be disinherited by your family, lose your job or have your business blacklisted or boycotted."

Harding said developing relationships with Mormons is a critical factor in sharing the gospel with them.

Regarding the decision to meet in Salt Lake City in 1998, Meacham said, "Westerners appreciate the Southern Baptist Convention coming to our area. Just in general, we appreciate having it west of the Rocky Mountains once in a while.

"Don't underestimate the fact that Southern Baptists did make a positive impact on Las Vegas. I would hope the same would be true in Salt Lake City."

--30--

Ministry years can be cut short from poor self care, prof says

By Charles Willis

**Baptist Press
7/22/96**

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--People who fail to take care of their physical needs may cut their ministry years short, an expert in nutrition and exercise told participants in the National Conference for Church Leadership at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

From headaches to heart attacks -- even death -- stress can take its toll on the bodies of church leaders just as it does everyone else, said Dick Couey, professor of health sciences at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Caring for one's health has a biblical basis, he said, citing 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 as the Scripture to which he has dedicated his life.

"These verses deal with the principle of ownership, occupancy and obedience," he said. "Many people think, 'This is my body, God will take care of me and I'm doing God's work.'

"It's God's body," Couey said, "and we should be good stewards of it, exercising, feeding and resting it from the first breath to the last breath."

The principle of occupancy deals with "who is in your body," he said. "We carry the Holy Spirit to bring people to the Lord."

Obedience deals with "loving God, loving our neighbors and glorifying God in our bodies," he continued. "We can serve him longer and better with healthy bodies, if the word serve means worship."

--more--

Both physiological and psychological stressors can affect overall health, he said. Overeating can be a physiological stress for the body, for example, while the emotional toll of a family death or any other significant loss can result in psychological stress.

Among the body's responses to unmanaged negative stress -- distress -- are shrinking of the thymus gland and the lymphatic system, enlargement of the adrenal gland, disappearance of white blood cells and, eventually, bleeding ulcers.

Couey said the stages of response to distress are alarm, resistance and exhaustion. It is the resistance stage that can channel stress to one's weakest organ. And exhaustion can lead to death, in extreme cases.

"Develop good, positive self-talk," he told church staff people and lay leaders. "Use your faith, and use humor to deal with stress."

Nutrition plays a significant role in the body's ability to cope with stress, he said.

"Get in five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, drink six to eight glasses of water, and consume carbohydrates, fat and protein in the proper amounts.

"Forty percent of Americans are on the verge of dehydration," he said. "Constipation and kidney stones result from lack of water."

He recommended a daily diet consisting of 65 percent carbohydrates (fruits, vegetables and starches), 20 percent fat and 15 percent protein. While today's emphasis on low-fat foods is good, he said, the body needs some fat to maintain health.

"God made fat," he said, "and if you don't get enough fat in your diet, you will have health problems or you will die."

Couey said he prefers to see people get the nutrients their bodies require through a balanced diet, rather than through vitamin tablets. Eating the right foods in moderation and variety should provide the nine amino acids, 13 vitamins, 19 minerals, carbohydrates, fat, protein and water necessary for good health.

Regular exercise improves every part of the body's performance, he said. And rest and relaxation are equally important. In Mark 6:31, he reminded them, Jesus encouraged the apostles to find a secluded place to rest from their work.

"I don't think you can be the best minister if you aren't fit," he said. "You may be good and efficient, but you can't be the best."

Classes in nutrition, exercise, wellness and stress were offered as the first training sessions on wellness in the Baptist Sunday School Board's LeaderCare strategy of personal development.

People interested in information related to wellness may contact Tommy Yessick, (615) 251-3846, in the board's pastor-staff leadership department.

National Conferences on 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.

--30--

**No problem too big for God
in missionary's relief effort**

By Mark Kelly

**Baptist Press
7/22/96**

LUANDA, Angola (BP)--Mark Hatfield knew it would be a hard week. He just didn't know how hard it would be.

Hatfield coordinates human needs ministries in Angola and Mozambique from a base in Harare, Zimbabwe. Until civil war forced their evacuation in 1992, he and his wife, Susan, were missionaries in Angola, a southern African nation of 11.5 million.

A fragile cease-fire in Angola -- monitored by 7,000 United Nations peacekeepers -- has largely ended 20 years of conflict that claimed 500,000 lives and left millions maimed, homeless or hungry. An estimated 10 million land mines buried during the war continue to exact their toll on innocent civilians and make travel extremely hazardous in the country, which is divided into rebel and government territories.

With the economy wrecked by war and driven by 700 percent inflation, hundreds of thousands of Angolans are hungry. Their dire need has created ministry opportunities for Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries and their Angolan Baptist partners. Hunger gifts from Southern Baptist churches have funded feeding centers for malnourished children and distribution of seed and hoes.

--more--

The challenge Hatfield faced was to get 5,000 African digging hoes moved into eight cities in seven days -- traveling into rebel territory, overcoming communication and transportation problems and defying the if-anything-can-go-wrong-it-will fact of life in Africa.

"For us to complete the distribution in the few days I had in the country, everything would have to go like clockwork," Hatfield said. "This rarely happens in Angola. Just a few days earlier, a refueling truck at the airport had lost the nozzle, stopping all flights."

At 6 a.m. on the initial day, a Saturday, Hatfield's crew loads 600 hoes on one of two airplanes to be used in the project. He learns mechanical problems have grounded one of the planes. Two crews will have to take turns using the one plane to reach the eight cities.

Hatfield and the pilot wait for permission to take off. Time is critical, because the pilot must drop this load and return to Luanda for the second crew and their cargo. Hatfield is nervous because the man who is to help him transport the hoes at their destination has not arrived. He faces the prospect of singlehandedly delivering the hoes in a town he has never visited, where he would have to find a local pastor to help.

At the moment, the point is moot. The tower won't give his pilot permission to take off.

"I told the pilot many people were praying and if God wanted us to go we would go," Hatfield said. "If not, God had a reason, though we might never learn what it was.

"I also remember remarking that when the director arrived we probably would get permission to take off."

Sure enough, the director arrived, and less than a minute later they had permission to take off, he said.

"The entire week went like that," Hatfield said. "We landed in areas where the strips were in poor condition. We drove on roads marked with land mines. We were closely supervised by rebel security guards.

"There were times when I didn't think we'd be able to get to a distribution site, but in each situation God provided whatever we needed. We were able to distribute the hoes as a witness of the love of Christ to 5,000 families."

After the last of the hoes were delivered, Hatfield began the three-hour drive back to the city of Huambo. On the way, he began to feel sick. Four days later, at home in Zimbabwe, he learned he had hepatitis.

"I thank God I could distribute the hoes before coming down with this sickness," Hatfield said. "It took about six weeks before I regained energy sufficient to do any physical work.

"When someone asks me if God is big enough to take care of my needs, all I have to think about is a week in Angola in February 1996 and say, 'He is much bigger than any need I will ever have.'"

--30--

EDITORS' NOTE: Hatfield is a native of Ashland, Ky., and a graduate of the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Prior to appointment, he worked as a soil conservationist in Ironton, Ohio, and Glasgow, Ky. He and his wife, Susan, have two children, Richard and Rachel.

**Southeastern romance yields
ready-made evangelistic team**

By Lee Weeks

**Baptist Press
7/22/96**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Throughout much of their lives Scott Smith and Scarlett Morgan headed in different directions.

Both accepted Christ before entering high school, but Smith, at age 16, answered God's call to preach after returning from a mission trip in Panama City, Fla., while Morgan as a youth aspired to be an opera singer.

After high school, Smith attended a Bible college while working as a youth minister at a church in Georgia. Morgan majored in music at a small private college in North Carolina.

In 1990, Smith worked as a summer youth missionary touring with evangelist Bailey Smith. Meanwhile, Morgan, who was Miss North Carolina 1990, toured the state talking about the sanctity of life.

After college, Smith enrolled at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Morgan set off for the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.

--more--

Smith honed his preaching skills. Morgan polished her singing talent, completing the two-year course in a year.

During seminary, Smith began to receive more and more opportunities to preach. Morgan, meanwhile, sat by the phone waiting for a call from her agent, anticipating her show biz break.

The call never came.

Morgan left New York and moved back to North Carolina to seek God's will for her life.

"It was a rude awakening for me," she said.

Then in May 1994, Morgan met Gary Galeotti, Old Testament professor at Southeastern. She was singing in a revival service at a church in Clemmons, N.C., where Galeotti was preaching.

After the service, Galeotti said, God told him to ask Morgan if she had considered enrolling at Southeastern to prepare for full-time ministry.

At the time, Galeotti did not know Morgan personally but was impressed by her testimony and musical gifts.

"The Lord just without question impressed me to ask her," the professor said.

Morgan enrolled at Southeastern in August 1994.

"I was really at a time in my life when I just wanted to be with the Lord," Morgan said.

Now, two years later, Smith, 25, and Morgan, 27, have united their lives in marriage and ministry.

"We know that we are put together by God," Smith said.

Galeotti officiated at the couple's wedding March 25 in the seminary's Binkley Chapel. He said the Smith duo should make a great evangelistic team.

"They both have a yearning, a driving compelling desire to serve the Lord and bring honor and glory to him," Galeotti said.

Smith graduated from Southeastern in December and is now serving as staff evangelist at Roebuck Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala. Morgan has postponed completing her final year of seminary.

"I believe the best way I can help Scott is being his wife," she said. "That is my highest calling."

Smith and Morgan say they have a burden for ministering to youth.

"I want to challenge Generation X," Smith said. "There's a cause to die for and a cause to live for."

Wayne McDill, professor of preaching at Southeastern, said Smith's preaching skills are advanced for his age. His expository style of preaching sprinkled with humor and straightforwardness is quite effective, McDill said. "He has a great rapport with people. He's so down-to-earth. They (the congregation) immediately identify with him."

"I'm an evangelist with a pastor's heart," Smith said. "The Lord wants me to minister to people and be a foot-washer."

The Smith evangelism team is currently ministering throughout the country in preaching and music.

The driving force behind their ministry, the Smiths said, is reflected in Ephesians 3:20, that God is "able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us."

"God has an agenda," Smith said. "God has a plan and we want to find out what that is and glorify him through it."

--30--

Reprinted from The Olive Press, Southeastern Seminary newsjournal.

**Prayer added credence
to his 'Trust me' line**

By Lee Weeks

**Baptist Press
7/22/96**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Scarlett Morgan had heard all the one-liners.

Years of experience fending off hormone-driven men had taught her to spot a come-on from a mile away.

But this one was different.

"I have a mystery that I need you to help me solve," Scott Smith told Morgan as the two Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary students stood in the lobby of the school's Ledford Center weight room.

"Trust me," Smith said, assuring her their meeting that night (Feb. 14, 1995) would not be considered a date, after several previous attempts by Smith to lure Morgan on a romantic evening with a meal or movie had failed.

--more--

This time, however, Morgan agreed to meet Smith for coffee after a missionary commissioning service on campus.

After all, Smith was not a total stranger, Morgan reasoned to herself before accepting his invitation. The two had participated in a couple of revival services together. She sang. He preached.

"Scott had always hit me as a different person," Morgan said.

Morgan first met Smith in September 1994 when he boldly approached her on a sidewalk on the seminary campus and introduced himself.

For Morgan, spontaneous introductions from strangers had become routine following her crowning as Miss North Carolina in 1990. And besides, Morgan said, everyone at seminary was always friendly.

But when Smith bought her a cup of coffee in the seminary cafe and handed her a list of 30 qualities he desired in his future wife, Morgan was speechless.

"When I saw the list, I said to myself, 'I cannot believe this, Lord, what are you doing?'" she said. "I had been praying about the Lord's direction in my life."

Smith told Morgan he also had been praying for nine months that God would send him wife.

Smith's criteria for a mate included characteristics such as ministry-minded, people-oriented, musically talented, adaptable and adventurous.

"I just ask that you prayerfully consider what you've heard," Smith told Morgan.

"At the end she didn't give me a response," Smith said. "I came away that night with a clear realization that she didn't say anything."

Still, he said, he knew he had done the right thing. He said he had prayed fervently for several days before asking Morgan to meet with him. Earlier, he had even sought the advice of one his preaching professors, Wayne McDill, who suggested he make the list of characteristics he desired in a wife.

"I had 30 things on that list and I knew she matched" all of them, Smith said.

Smith said he had felt compelled to share the desires of his heart with Morgan after receiving a sign from God following a revival service in November 1994 that affirmed his continued pursuit of Morgan despite her repeated rejections.

"I put out a fleece," Smith said. "I prayed if there is anything to be expected after that match (with his list of characteristics of a wife) then Billie Kay Tsika will offer me hot tea." Smith said that he had no idea whether Tsika, wife of evangelist Paul Tsika, even drank hot tea. But following a revival service in Elberton, Ga., Smith said, Billie Kay invited him to visit their new bus and promptly asked him would he like some hot tea.

"I just could not run from the thought of her (Morgan)," Smith said.

Smith shared his answered prayer with Morgan as well.

Morgan said, however, not once during their three-hour conversation did she think that Smith was trying to convince her to date him.

"I was just overwhelmed by his faith in God," Morgan said. "After that night, I knew God had something in mind."

Two weeks later Smith and Morgan went out on their first official date. Three months later they were engaged. Smith and Morgan were married in March.

"I know that this is a match made in heaven," Morgan said.

Smith said his marriage with Morgan will serve as a constant reminder that God blesses a fervent prayer life.

For Smith, Feb. 14, 1995 will be a stone for remembrance.

"It was a divine appointment."

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Businessman tailors ministry to preachers, missionaries," dated 7/19/96, please correct a name in the seventh paragraph to Stephen Olford, not Steven Alford.

HOUSE MAIL

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, TN 37234

F
I
R
S
T

C
L
A
S
S

Southern Baptist Library
and Archives