



---FEATURES

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Texas Baptist Ministers
Applaud Heart Transplants

By Vy Malik and Billy Keith
Baptist Press Staff Writers

With meticulous, high speed surgical technique an elite medical team removes the patient's diseased heart leaving only part of the back chambers--the open right and left atria.

The donor heart, removed whole and split open at the back of the atria to provide overlapping tissue for fitting, is placed beside the remnants of the recipient's heart. Careful surveillance is given to the heartbeat nerve control center. The two left atria, then the two right, are sewn together and blood channeled through them.

If the heart fails to beat automatically, electric shock is applied. Thus a transplant is born!

This operation, taking from 30 minutes to two hours, offers the possibility of life for one when only moments before death was inevitable for two. Historically believed impossible, and today still considered a miracle, heart transplants are performed throughout the world.

With anything new comes the built-in necessity of proving itself, and when dealing with human life, this takes time. Only hours, days, months and perhaps years can reveal if the newly-placed heart will accept its strange environment and continue its vital processes.

As heart transplants become nearly a regular routine for some surgeons, they also have become a source of question and debate concerning the ethics of giving and taking life.

Because of such controversy a Baptist opinion poll, instituted by the public relations department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was conducted recently to receive and evaluate the opinions of Texas Baptist ministers.

Results of the more than 500 questionnaires indicate a general approval and even enthusiasm for such strides in modern medicine among Texas Baptist ministers.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, and now president of the Southern Baptist Convention, answered the query concerning the ethics of heart transplants by saying, "Modern science is advancing at such an accelerated pace that even the most dedicated Christian is occasionally at a loss to explain the advance in terms of God's will.

"Transplant surgery as it is now practiced does not seem to be in conflict with Christian ethics as long as the doctor involved maintains strict conformity with his hippocratic oath, with its safeguards for human life and correct doctor-patient relationships."

He added, "in consonance with our long-standing belief that the essence of man, his soul; cannot be altered by any mortal action, there is apparently no conflict between modern surgical techniques and our Christian values.

"We applaud new techniques employed in the hope of prolonging human life or alleviating suffering, as long as Christian concern is in evidence for recipient and donor alike."

Some pastors answering the poll expressed equal appreciation for the medical advance but said they believed there may be a future need for legal guidelines in the performance of the operation.

In answering the opinion poll, ministers often cited the published opinions of both clergy and physicians, and said their personal opinions were the same.

Dr. Michael Debakey, famous Houston surgeon, active Baptist layman, and professor at Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston, was often quoted in his defense of the transplant.

He has said, "the heart has always been a special organ. It has been considered the seat of the soul, the source of courage. But I look upon the heart only as a pump, a servant of the brain. Once the brain is gone, the heart becomes unemployed. Then we must find it other employment."

Some ministers quoted Billy Graham who says he can find nothing in the scriptures for or against surgical transplants.

Ministers were asked if they believed there were religious or moral implications to be considered in the performance of the human heart transplants. More than half of the respondents answered, "No." Reasons varied, but most of them said they saw no difference between heart transplants and the transplants of other organs.

Slightly more than one-third of the respondents said they believed there were religious or moral implications. Of these respondents, some indicated the implications were positive while others opposed the surgery because of negative implications.

One such positive reply was, "The only implication is at the point of the preservation of life. I think it would be morally wrong not to make the transplant if a life could be saved."

One voiced the negative view, saying, "Man's highest achievement must not be an attempt to sustain physical life, but prepare for the promised life eternal."

A third answer expressed the overall view of many of those queried: "I believe anything which has to do with man and his existence, physically and spiritually, has religious and moral implications."

Ministers were questioned concerning the scriptural word usage of "heart." All but one said they considered it only a figure of speech used to indicate the essence of being.

When asked if they believed there was a difference in religious and moral implications in comparing liver or kidney transplants with heart transplants, provided that in each case transplant was vital for life, nearly all said they saw no difference.

Those polled were also asked if they would voluntarily submit to a heart transplant. Approximately one-third said they would as a donor but not as a recipient. Another one-third said they would participate as either. The remainder of the respondents said either they could not decide until the matter became reality or that they would not participate in either.

One answered, "From moral or religious reasons I would not hesitate for one moment. From a medical standpoint there are many factors that would influence my decisions such as age, general health. etc."

One who said he would be either a donor or recipient answered: "I think it would be wonderful to die in the happy thought that my heart had been kept in good shape and therefore would be usable to extend life for another who in turn I hope would be a good steward of same...as a service unto God and hopefully unto fellow man."

One minister replied firmly that he would not participate in either. He said, "My heart is a part of me. While the facts are true that the human body cells are constantly in a process of change and Christianity teaches not the absolute identity of the resurrection body with the present body but rather continuity; therefore I do not want anyone's heart but mine, nor do I want anyone to have mine."

Answers were divided on the question of whether the human heart transplant contradicted personal beliefs concerning God's supreme control over life and death, but the majority said there was no contradiction.

The minority answered affirmatively. One such reply was, "Modern man, in his efforts to cast God and the Bible out of his life, has turned to medical science to sustain his physical life in a man-made eternity."

Those who said the new surgery caused no personal philosophical conflict agreed that God would not be limited by any of man's actions.

One respondent answered, "My doctrine of God is big enough and all-inclusive enough to encompass this phenomenal medical breakthrough and other medical achievements."

Another said, "There is no conflict. The physician merely stands ready for him who controls life, and at the given moment determines whether there might be life for another."

Ministers were asked what they believed to be the most difficult point in considering the ethics of human heart transplants. Nearly all agreed the two most difficult points were timing in taking the heart of the donor and deciding who should be given the heart.

In addition to these repeated answers, one respondent summed up what seemed to be the overall attitude of the majority of the Texas Baptist ministers polled as he said: "When we are being drowned in a sea of drunkenness, choked by narcotics, facing universal adultery and law-breaking, why should we question the actions of good men who are trying to save lives through God-given abilities?"

The modern medical miracle faces squarely religious philosophy and is found by the majority of Texas Baptist ministers polled to be a God-given miracle; therefore, they respect, some support, and some applaud the new victory in medicine.



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Georgia Baptists Consider
College Report, Pastors' Jobs

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ATLANTA (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention took initial steps here toward creating local, regional and state committees to help pastorless churches and churchless pastors to get together, and acted on numerous recommendations dealing with Georgia Baptist colleges.

The recommendations dealing with both the problem of pastor-church relationships and the report of a Georgia Baptist Convention study on Christian education and Baptist colleges will be considered by the state convention when it meets in Macon, Ga., Nov. 11-13.

The report on pastor-church relations asked the convention to consider three proposals--- that Baptist associations set up pastor-church relations committees; that a state convention committee be set up to include laymen and pastors from eight regions; and that staff help in this area be provided by the convention "as it is possible to make the necessary budget provisions and organization for such services."

The proposal spelled out that such committees would function only upon request of churches and pastors and that "care will be exercised that the service be fair to all."

Most of the other actions of the Executive Committee dealt with the area of Christian education, including the recommendations of a committee appointed to study the "Campbell Report", a detailed analysis of the status and needs of Georgia Baptist schools made by Doak S. Campbell and his educational consultants in Tallahassee, Fla.

The report calls for increased emphasis on established methods of financial support for the schools, without recommending any drastic changes in the nature or number of Georgia Baptist schools.

It further recommends that Baptist colleges be authorized to seek money from new sources which "do not compromise the integrity of the colleges or the convention" and that the colleges be encouraged to "seek gifts and grants from friends foundations and business firms." It does not deal with the question of federal grants or loans.

The report recommends that increased support be given to the Cooperative Program, the Georgia Baptist Foundation, the Capital Improvements and Endowment Program, and special gifts among alumni and foundations.

The Executive Committee voted to ask further study on an item in the report which would have called on the schools and colleges to submit projected budgets and new programs to the Education Commission of the Georgia convention prior to the meeting of the Cooperative Program budget committee.

It authorized the chairman of the Education Commission to appoint a committee from the Executive Committee to consider restructuring of the commission.

The Executive Committee also heard a progress report from the convention's executive secretary-treasurer on steps toward compiling the convention's first statement of purpose for Georgia Baptist schools and colleges.

A resolution was accepted from Norman Junior College (Baptist) in Norman Park, Ga., reaffirming the school's determination to expand and grow, and to stay within the Baptist family.

In another major action, the Executive Committee voted to recommend a Cooperative Program budget for 1969 of \$5.3 million, an increase of \$407,400 over the 1968 budget. The budget must be approved by the state convention in Macon.

The committee also initiated plans for the 150th anniversary in 1972 of the Georgia Baptist Convention and The Christian Index; authorized Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta to borrow up to \$6 million to add 250 beds and other facilities; changed the charter of Georgia Baptist Children's Home to place more emphasis on family casework and foster care, and authorized budget transfer of funds for Truett-McConnell Junior College and Tift College.

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Alabama School Baptist Student
Survey Shows Divided Opinion

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TROY, Ala. (BP)--"Is the Baptist Student Union of Troy State University effective?"

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Response to this question from a broad cross section of the school's student body indicates an almost equally divided opinion, with the majority saying "Sometimes".

Views on the effectiveness of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) were revealed in a survey entitled "Troy State University Students 'Speak Out'" conducted "to discover the image of the BSU so that we might sharpen our program of witness and ministry to the students," said Phil Royce, Baptist student director here.

In response to the question concerning the effectiveness of the BSU, 26.3 per cent indicated "yes," while exactly the same percentage replied in the negative. The percentage replying "sometimes" was 38.2 while 9.2 per cent stated, "no opinion."

On the plus side, students rated the BSU "enthusiastic," (40.7 per cent said "yes," and 14.5 per cent, "no,"); "growing," (44.7 to 23.7 per cent); and "cooperative" (64.4 to 5.3 per cent).

The students also replied that the BSU was neither too intellectual (81.6 per cent said it was not) nor anti-intellectual (72.4 per cent said it was not).

However, 44.8 per cent felt the BSU was "cliquish" as opposed to 25 per cent who did not. Also, 39.5 per cent registered opinions that the BSU was not "dynamic", while 17.1 per cent said that it was.

"The survey points to several areas needing emphasis," Royce said. He pointed specifically to the need to adapt to meet individual needs and to show concern for the problems of individual students.

The survey disclosed that 36.9 disagreed with a statement in the questionnaire which said, "The BSU adapts to meet individual needs," while only 28.9 per cent agreed.

The BSU fared only slightly better on the question: "The BSU is concerned with the problems of individual students." A bare majority disagreed, with 39.5 per cent indicating they did not agree, and 36.9 per cent agreeing.

The survey also indicated that 15.8 per cent believed that the BSU is an organization for Baptists only (it is not). Seventy-one per cent disagreed and 13.2 stated no opinion.

To the final question, "The BSU program helps students find a deeper faith in God," 61.9 per cent agreed and 18.4 disagreed.

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Lottie Moon Mission Goal
Set At \$15 Million In '68

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(9/12/68)

RICHMOND (BP)--Southern Baptists will be asked to contribute \$15 million to the 1968 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

The entire amount of the offering will be used by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here for missions overseas.

Brotherhood (laymen's) and Woman's Missionary Union organizations in local Baptist churches will have the task of bringing overseas mission needs to the attention of church members and overseeing the collection of the offering. Most of the 34,000 churches in the SBC will have goals in the annual offering.

About 2,200 foreign missionaries currently are employed in the Baptist foreign missions effort in 67 countries. All of these fields benefit from the Lottie Moon Offering.

Last year, there were more than 46,000 baptisms and more than 11,000 centers of worship and witness related to the Southern Baptist foreign missions effort. Church membership in the 67 countries among Baptists exceeds 500,000.

The Lottie Moon Offering is part of a month-long foreign mission emphasis in Southern Baptist churches. The month begins with the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, Dec. 1-8.

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Church Loans Expand;
New Field Man Added

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ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist church loans operation, currently enlarging its outreach to struggling new congregations, has expanded its staff to help carry the growing load.

William T. Updike, longtime California pastor and denominational worker, has been named field representative for the west coast district.

In this new position, Updike will make appraisals and counsel with new Southern Baptist churches and missions that make application with the SBC Home Mission Board here for church site or building funds.

This field contact approach, with loan officers responsible for territorial assignments, was initiated in the winter of 1966 by church loans director Robert H. Kilgore. Updike is the fourth field representative to be employed and completes the roster of expansion positions in the division.

Pat McDaniel of Michigan, W. C. Dudley of Ohio and Billy T. Hargrove of Missouri were employed earlier to implement the expansion of the Church Loans Division into field representatives structure with territorial assignments.

Kilgore said the borrowing program authority voted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1967 is now operational. Three loans aggregating \$3 million have been made from a life insurance firm, permitting the Home Mission Board to enlarge its resources for church loans.

"As additional funds have been needed by the churches, the SBC has given the Board authority to enlarge its borrowing program further to the extent of approximately \$10 million," Kilgore said.

Along with more available money, applications have increased. At the most recent monthly session of the Home Missions Board directors, 18 new church loans were processed aggregating about \$600,000.

Kilgore said Updike rounded out a staff diverse in background and experience.

"We have someone who can speak with authority in almost every field of work related to the church financing industry," he said.

The background of the eight staff members, he said, include law, banking, accounting, wholesale building supply, mortgage financing, real estate appraising, metropolitan planning, the ministry (four are ordained ministers) and state Baptist convention staff experience.

"We sought Updike because of his added emphasis as superintendent of missions, his experience in architectural counseling and his demonstrated judgment in the development of mission enterprise," Kilgore said.

Updike has a varied California Baptist background, he has been pastor of churches in Ridgecrest and Merced, Calif., and a decade ago served as associate Sunday School secretary and church architectural consultant for the California Baptist Convention. He was vice president of the state convention in 1958.

The Marshall, Mo., native also has been pastor of churches in Mart and Desoto, Tex., and served as superintendent of missions of the Limestone Baptist Association in Texas. He is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

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Texas Board Dismisses
Loan "Watchdog" Agency

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DALLAS (BP)--The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas abolished the special committee which has been administering the affairs of the convention's Church Loan Board for the past year.

Termination of the "watchdog" agency was proposed by a special committee headed by J. T. Luther, prominent Fort Worth businessman and Baptist layman, and approved by the 192-member Executive Board meeting here.

Luther assured the Texas Baptist leaders assembled at the First Baptist Church here that the Church Loan Board was capable of re-assuming normal operations. "They still have a few problems, but they know what they are," he stated.

Special committee administration of the Church Loan Board resulted from criticism of real estate transactions voiced at the 1967 meeting of the convention in Lubbock. The agency also employed a new chief executive office, Don Singletary of Fort Worth, last spring.

In other major actions, the Texas Baptist Executive Board reviewed and recommended a record \$13½ million budget to be presented during the state convention in November.

The board tabled a motion by J. E. Lafferty, pastor of First Baptist Church in Cameron, Tex., which would limit financing for projects sponsored of Texas Baptist Men, Inc., to either a special state-wide fund campaign, or to the Cooperative Program; but not both.

A minor change in name for one agency was approved, allowing Baptist Memorial Geriatric Hospital in San Angelo, Tex., to become Baptist Memorial Geriatric Center.

Re-organization of the board's Stewardship Division was approved, creating new departments from the former endowment and capital giving department, and naming two staff associates in the former department to head the two new departments. They are W. F. Vanderburg, named secretary of the new estate stewardship department; and Robert D. Longshore, named secretary of the new development department.

Five new staff members were elected to fill vacancies in the public relations department. They are Robert J. O'Brien, former assistant editor of Ambassador Life magazine in Memphis, and John Carter, former U.S. Air Force information officer, both named press representatives; Mrs. Vy Malcik, recent graduate of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, as features editor; Mrs. Lynn Yarbrough, former Dallas free lance designer, as art director; and Bryan Price, former Dallas free lance photographer, as audio visual director.

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Baptist Hospital Executive
Wins Top Administration Award

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(9-13-68)

ATLANTIC CITY, (BP)--Frank S. Groner, administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, received the top award for excellence in hospital administration from the American College of Hospital Administrators meeting here.

The Gold Medal Award cited the hospital's growth from 500 to 1400 beds and the expansion of educational and research programs during Groner's administration since 1947.

Groner is past president of the organization which granted the award, and is also past president of the American Hospital Association, state and regional hospital associations. He is the only individual ever to have received all three top awards from the American Hospital Association, the Blue Cross Association and the American College of Hospital Administrators.

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