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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 17

Baptist 'Showers Blessings'  
Of Christmas on Employees

74-100

By David Risinger

DALLAS (BP)--Mary Crowley bought \$71,360 worth of groceries last week.

But the food was not for herself.

The Dallas businesswoman and former member of the Southern Baptist Education Commission turned her 296 employes loose in several area grocery stores to gather all the non-perishable items they could gather in 30 minutes.

"God has poured out his blessing to my business this year even in times of econ mic slowdown. I can do no less than to share it with my business family," said the president of Home Interiors and Gifts, Inc.

In addition to the shopping spree, Mrs. Crowley gave each worker a \$25 gift certificate to buy additional perishable items, a cash bonus of two weeks pay, \$50 for each employes' child and a chance to win one of eight automobiles.

About 35 of Mrs. Crowley's employes are physically handicapped.

"We don't think of them as handicapped. I suppose we all have handicaps of some kind. Each worker here is hired for what they can do, not what they can't," Mrs. Crowley said.

She continued, "I feel Christianity is a way of doing all things. This includes loving each of my workers. Our whole business has been based on this."

Mrs. Crowley serves on the board of trustees at Dallas Baptist College and teaches the Parents without Partners Sunday School class at First Baptist Church here.

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R. J. Robinson Declines  
Augusta Church Pastorate

12/17/74

AUGUSTA, Ga. (BP)--R. Jack Robinson has declined an offer to become again the pastor of First Baptist Church here, where he served 21 years.

Robinson resigned the Augusta pulpit August 18, citing doctor's orders as a major reason. He was under treatment for bleeding ulcers and spent several weeks in an Augusta hospital.

In September he and Mrs. Robinson were divorced. She now lives in Houston, Tex.

In late October, the Augusta church's pulpit search committee asked Robinson for permission to recommend to the congregation that he be recalled as their pastor.

On December 15, Robinson declined the offer. He said, "I have come to the firm decision that I cannot attempt this demanding task alone.

I have discussed the matter in depth with my physician . . . I have agonized in prayer for six weeks over what is best for me personally and for our church."

He said, "My love for First Baptist Church of Augusta will remain unending." Robinson told the congregation he will take a managerial position with an Augusta business firm, January 2.

Robinson preached the June, 1974 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Dallas. He is a member of the Executive Committee, SBC, and was president of the Georgia Baptist Convention

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in 1971-72. H and his daughter Frances live in the home which the church gave the family on his 20th anniversary as pastor in 1973. She is a student at Augusta Colleg .

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3 SBC Agencies to Benefit  
From \$500,000 Fund Gift

12/17/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--An anonymous donor has established a \$500,000 charitable "remainder unitrust fund" with the Southern Baptist Foundation here for the eventual benefit of three Southern Baptist Convention agencies and two other nationally known religious organizations.

Fifty per cent of the fund will go to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission and Home Mission Boards to receive 20 per cent each, according to Kendall Berry, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Foundation.

The remainder of the fund will go to the Medical Assistance Programs, Inc., and the American Bible Society, to receive five per cent each, Berry said. Receipt will be at the donor's death, Berry noted, with the actual amount dependent on the fund's value at that time.

In agreement with the donor's wishes, the three Southern Baptist agencies will use their gifts to provide funds for studies concerning the mental health of ministers and their families. The money will also be used to set up training, counseling and guidance programs for missionaries and their families, Berry said.

The donor and the donor's spouse are both graduates of the seminary in Fort Worth.

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Mrs. Roland Q. Leavell  
Died in New Orleans

12/17/74

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Lilian Yarborough Leavell, widow of the late, former New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary president, Roland Q. Leavell, died here Friday, December 13, following a heart attack, a seminary spokesman said.

Mrs. Leavell's death came 11 days after her nephew, Landrum Leavell II of Wichita Falls, Tex., was named president of the seminary here, effective Jan. 1, 1975.

Roland Q. Leavell was president of New Orleans seminary from 1946-58 and died in 1963. Mrs. Leavell, a native of Jackson, Miss., took up residence on the New Orleans campus following her husband's death and became director of the women's division of the seminary's board of development.

Her hobby was writing poetry and hymns. The text of her "We Lift Our Hearts in Songs of Praise," will appear in the "Baptist Hymnal (1975)" to be released in March.

Landrum Leavell II conducted a special memorial service in her honor in Leavell Chapel on the seminary campus. Burial was in Oxford, Miss. She has three daughters surviving.

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SBC Has Role in Programs  
To Be Televised Nationally

12/17/74

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southern Baptists will participate in two nationally televised network programs within a two-week period.

Paul M. Stevens, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, based here, will participate in a panel discussion titled "Religion '75" on the American Broadcasting Company's (ABC) year-end "Directions" television program, to be aired (1 p.m. EST) December 30 on network stations.

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On January 5, (3 p.m., EST) the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) will present "The Golden Spring," narrated by Alexander Scourby, on the Southern Baptist Hour, as the first of NBC's 1975 network television religious programs. "The Golden Spring" was produced by NBC's Doris Ann in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission.

The ABC "Directions" panel, composed of representative persons from four faith groups recognized by ABC, will discuss such religious and moral issues of 1974 as the changes of governments in the United States, Chile and Ethiopia, the problem of international hunger and social changes.

They will consider also issues expected to confront the various faith groups in 1975 and possible methods of dealing with them.

Moderator for the ABC program will be Frank Reynolds, ABC news correspondent. Other panel members will be Russell Shaw, a layman who is secretary for public affairs for the U. S. Catholic Conference; Wolfe Kelman of New York, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; and Jorge Lara-Braud, assistant general-secretary for Faith and Order, National Council of Churches.

Stevens has been a participant on the annual ABC program for several years.

"The Golden Spring" film presents armchair tours of Florence, Venice and Rome as it details the history of those cities and the people--lawyers, merchants, bankers and artists--who made them great and contributed to a rebirth in art, education and religion.

The Florentine Cathedral of "Our Lady of Flowers" is featured as is the beauty of Venice and the treasures of Rome.

Some of the works of such artists as Giotto, who solved the mystery of perspective; Botticelli, Titian, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo are displayed, and a study is made of forces that motivated them, a Radio-TV commission release notes.

"We're excited that the "The Golden Spring" is the first religious program to be offered by the network (NBC) in 1975," said Truett Myers, senior vice president, production services for the Radio-TV Commission.