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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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75-187

Baptist's Home Burns;  
One Dies in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--The home of a Lebanese Baptist family burned, and a member of a Baptist family was killed in two separate incidents in troubled Beirut.

Southern Baptist missionaries remain unharmed but are at times confined to their homes. Baptist property has received only minor damage.

The family's home was burned in the fighting, but none of the family members were injured. In a separate burst of violence, a man believed to be the brother of a Baptist pastor was killed, according to James K. Ragland, one of the six Southern Baptist missionaries remaining in Beirut.

Fighting between Christians and Muslims continues to put much of Beirut at a standstill, but the Baptist Seminary continues to operate. Sunday morning services are held in most Baptist churches, with poor attendance in some. Services at the seminary are well attended, according to J.D. Hughey, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Europe and the Middle East.

Other missionaries in Beirut are Dr. and Mrs. Finlay M. Graham, Dr. and Mrs. David W. King and William O. Hern, who all teach at the seminary. Also at the seminary are volunteers, Mrs. Ann Pfaender and Miss Isabelle McLelland. Ragland remained to direct the Beirut Baptist School, which is now closed. Plans are to open the school as soon as possible. Teachers remain on the payroll.

Mrs. Ragland returned to the United States in November and is currently near her father-in-law who is ill. Mrs. Hern is also in the States.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Tome Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. James McPherson, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Tatum and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Trimble are still in Amman, Jordan. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Patton went first to Amman and are now in the States. Other missionaries are on furlough in the States.

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Pulling Plug On Quinlan  
May Set Dangerous PrecedentBaptist Press  
11/26/75

By Jack Brymer

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP)--Pulling the plug on Karen Quinlan isn't as serious as what such an act could lead to, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention said in an interview here.

"Man cannot give life and man should not take life," said Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., and a former Alabama pastor. "If taking life is sanctioned in this case, will it lead to taking the life of a baby who has some deformity?"

Weber said Baptists have a high regard for life and cited resolutions adopted in annual session by the Southern Baptist Convention opposing abortion except in cases of "rape, incest, clear evidence of severe fetal deformity and carefully ascertained evidence of the likelihood of damage to the emotional, mental, and physical health of the mother."

"The rising crime rate in America is reaction to a philosophy that is sweeping the whole world that man has no value, that human life has no value," Weber responded to a question.

He also said he felt that America's pulpits have not been prophetic enough in speaking out, in love, about what is happening in our society.

The Southern Baptist Convention, meeting next June in Norfolk, Va., will speak to the state of affairs in this country and the need for spiritual renewal, Weber said. Then he warned that the American way of life will soon be a thing of the past if we do not have a moral reawakening.

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Weber also responded to questions about the Equal Rights Amendment, saying that he believes women deserve equal pay for equal work. On the matter of ordination of women to the ministry, the Texas pastor said that matter will have to be resolved by the local church.

He criticized the United Nations resolution condemning Zionism as a form of racism, but said that the average Jew in Israel has no concept of what Zionism is.

Weber corrected a question about the resistance of Baptists to the charismatic movement by saying that all Christians are charismatic. The opposition of Baptists is to the tongues speaking movement because it is divisive in nature.

"Baptists have a keen sense of oneness," Weber said, "and since tongues speaking is practiced by so few, the larger body is excluded."

He said that most of the Baptists he knew who had been involved in such a controversy are not opposed to people speaking in tongues but feel it best if they do it in another place.

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Richardson to Succeed  
Malesovas in Texas

Baptist Press  
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DALLAS (BP)--Harold D. Richardson of Longview, Tex., has been named controller and assistant treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, effective Dec. 1.

He will succeed Billy D. Malesovas, who becomes director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville, Jan. 1.

The 41-year-old Richardson, a Certified Public Accountant, has been vice president for business affairs at LeTourneau College in Longview for the past eight years. He is a graduate of North Texas State University and is a Sunday School teacher and deacon at First Baptist Church, Longview.

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Survey Profiles Southern  
Baptist Education Ministers

By Michael D. Chute

NASHVILLE (BP)--A profile report of Southern Baptist ministers of education reveals that the majority are responsible for church work other than education, worked full-time in a secular job prior to their present position, and earn under \$10,000 annually.

Three fourths of 353 ministers of education, responding to a survey of a statistical sample taken from a list of 2,500 Southern Baptist ministers of education report they are responsible for other areas of work besides education.

The 353 ministers of education represent 73 percent of the statistical sample surveyed by the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

And about three fourths of the respondents to the questionnaire said they had secular employment before their present church work. Nearly 40 percent worked in secular positions 10 or more years, with 26 percent having worked between 10 and 19 years.

More than half the respondents reported annual salaries of less than \$10,000, excluding rental allowance, car allowance, or fringe benefits, if they receive such benefits. Approximately one-fourth reported salaries between \$10,000 and \$11,999. Nearly 12 percent earn \$12,000 to \$13,999; and 11 percent have annual salaries of \$14,000 or more.

As expected, the survey showed that ministers of education are concentrated in the larger churches. Although about two thirds of all Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches have under 300 members, less than one percent of those churches have a minister of education.

On the other hand, only 14 percent of all SBC churches have a membership of 2,000 or over, and 96 percent of these larger churches have a minister of education.

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Other approximations made from the survey indicate that seven percent of the churches with 300-999 members have a minister of education; and 59 percent of churches with a membership of 1,000-1,999 have an educational director.

In a surprising finding, nearly 14 percent of the respondents indicated they have been members of another denomination. Of the denominations represented, almost one-third were Methodist. Presbyterian and other Baptist denominations accounted for about 15 percent each.

Among the reasons for becoming a Southern Baptist, more than one-half said they "felt that Baptist beliefs were more biblically accurate." One-fourth felt they "were not saved" while a member of the other denomination. Approximately 15 percent believe their ministry in the other denomination was "not in God's will."

Fifty percent of the ministers of education responding to the survey have served on a church staff fewer than 10 years. More than three-fourths have served under 20 years.

Educational directors currently serving their first or second church total 44 percent. Another 40 percent have served three to five churches. Eleven percent have ministered to between six and nine churches, and three percent have served 10 or more churches.

Based on the survey, slightly more than half of the approximately 2,500 ministers of education serving the SBC's 34,734 churches are ordained.

Other data shows that fewer than seven percent of the ministers of education are women, and only seven percent are single. Fewer than one percent are widowed. Nearly one-half of educational directors' wives work outside the home.

The report shows that ministers of education cover a wide age span, with little difference occurring between 5-year intervals covering 25-54 years of age. However, one-third of the ministers of education are in the 30-39 age group.

Eleven percent of the respondents reported fewer than 16 years of formal education. Another 11 percent reported exactly 16 years, including a high school and college education. More than one-fourth have completed at least two years of graduate work and nearly one-fifth said they have completed 20 or more years of schooling.

According to the survey, approximately 70 percent of those continuing their education past high school hold at least a bachelor's degree, with 40 percent earning a master of religious education degree.

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Bicentennial Feature

Minister Seized By Mob  
Talks Way to Freedom

Baptist Press  
11/26/75

WOODSTOCK, Va., January, 1772 (BP)--Seldom has a minister preached with greater feeling or with better results than did John Koontz recently when he talked a mob out of hauling him away to jail.

Koontz, a Baptist evangelist, had arranged a religious meeting near here. But before he had begun his sermon a gang seized him, saying that they were taking him to prison. Anyone who preaches in Virginia without approval of the state church is subject to arrest for "disorderly conduct" or "disturbing the peace."

"Take heed what you do," Koontz warned his captors, "If I am a man of God, then you fight against God." One by one the mob desisted until Koontz was free.

He has not always been so fortunate. A gang attempted to break up a previous Baptist service conducted by the evangelist near Smith's Creek. When the congregation insisted Koontz be allowed to preach, the mob withdrew, warning him not to come back.

Koontz ignored the threat and soon returned for another service. A man hired by the mob attacked the minister with a large cane, demanding that Koontz promise not to return. When Koontz refused, his assailant beat him almost senseless, witnesses said.

Koontz escaped one thrashing intended for him, however. A man allegedly hired to beat him entered a house occupied by the minister and one of his converts. Before the assailant could be persuaded he was attacking the wrong man, he beat the convert severely.

Observers said opposition only seemed to arouse Koontz's zeal.

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