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'Emergency--Call
The Baptist Preacher'

By Robert E. LaFavre

PRESTON, Ga. (BP)--In Webster County, when someone says:

--"My house is on fire," they call the preacher.

--"My husband has had a heart attack," they call the preacher.

--"Two cars smashed into each other on Highway 280," they call the preacher. The list goes on.

"The preacher" is J. Glenn Spivey, pastor of Preston Baptist Church for almost six years. In that time, he has led his 400-member congregation to discover what he believes to be the essence of Jesus Christ's words, "Not to be ministered unto...but to minister."

Spivey, 41, wears more hats than a quick-change artist. He is the only full-time resident pastor in Webster County, civil defense director for Webster and neighboring Stewart counties, Preston fire chief, head of the emergency ambulance service and rescue squad, and vice-moderator of Friendship Baptist Association.

The Columbus, Ga., native is also chairman of the Family and Children's Service Board for Webster County, chairman of Middle Flint Comprehensive Health Planning Agency (a federal program) and on the board of governors for his health service area.

When Spivey was a student, he held jobs rendering medical service of a sort--funeral homes, ambulance services, hospitals.

When he went to Preston, he realized one day that his neighbor was a cardiac case. He discovered too, that the nearest ambulance was 20 miles away, and there was not a doctor or hospital in his county--only the county health nurse.

When automobile accidents happened on busy U.S. 280, or one of the state highways crisscrossing the area, there was no emergency service readily available.

Spivey asked himself, "How can I help these people? How can I show them that I love them and that God loves them?"

Remembering how he had observed Baptists ministering in a hospital in Israel one summer, he found his answer. He organized a first-aid class and brought in a teacher. Then he formed an ambulance service, rescue squad, classes in emergency techniques and enlisted people to staff various programs, with possible results.

The church's laymen are part of the 16-man fire department. They help staff the ambulance service without pay, making no charge for services to those they aid.

When up to 21 inches of snow fell in February 1973, the church became the hub of rescue and aid efforts for Webster County.

Families stranded without heat or lights were brought to the church. Food was prepared by the Woman's Missionary Union. The church's Baptist Men took care of physical arrangements. Youths staffed a nursery.

While many churches have "hostesses" to prepare meals for church events, Preston Church's two hostesses have a different function. They "round up" the food for a needy family or home when a crisis presents itself.

The Baptist Men purchased three hospital beds which are loaned out to people--race and church membership are not a consideration.

If a family is burned out of its home, laypeople of Preston Church mobilize and soon food, clothing, and furniture requirements are aptly met.

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One recent day when the church's part-time secretary was keeping count, a total of 19 calls were received in one morning, each voicing a need for help and asking for "the preacher."

In the event of a major disaster or perhaps another storm like the one in '73, the church plans to rewire its buildings so a gas-powered generator can be hooked up to the facility, thus providing adequate shelter with heat and lights.

His car equipped with three radios--citizen's band, police/sheriff and civil defense--and a scanner attached to his belt taking note of calls on four channels, Spivey can be reached any time and most anywhere.

His home is equipped with all the emergency radios. He persuaded the telephone company to institute one emergency number for the county. That rings at his home, the church and the police department.

What started out as a first aid class has become a first class aid service for Webster County residents. Spivey continues to add to his expertise and many from his church join him in training.

He is now a first-aid instructor, a cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) technician, registered emergency medical technician, CPR instructor for Georgia Heart Association, instructor in defensive driver training for the National Safety Council. The minister is also the first graduate of the State of Georgia's emergency vehicle driving course, a certified fireman and rescue course graduate.

Demonstrating his congregation's support and involvement in the extension of his ministry, Spivey recalled incidents when because of a fire, a wreck or ambulance call, he would step out of his pulpit on Sunday morning. While he was rushing out the back door, a deacon or layman would step in and the service continued.

But his role as pastor of Preston church has not suffered because of his "outside" activities. In fact, the church is flourishing as it finds itself the center or responsiveness in Webster.

Last year, without a single mass evangelism effort, the church had the greatest number of additions of any year in its history.

Three times each Sunday, Spivey preaches--twice at his own church and once a month on Sunday afternoons at two quarter-time churches and a Plains nursing home.

His services at Shiloh Marion Baptist Church (11 members) and Antioch Baptist Church (about 50 members) both in Webster County, keep those churches' doors open.

At Preston Baptist Church, they believe in helping people.

"For us here in Preston it is a way of life," Spivey said.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Southern Names F.T. Jones
Director of Deferred Giving

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--Fred T. Jones, director of deferred giving for Nova University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has been named director of deferred giving for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, effective June 7.

Jones, a Baptist layman, was director of deferred giving for the University of Miami, 1967-72. He holds the bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Miami and is an alumnus of the university's School of Law.

A native of Savannah, Ga., Jones was a trust officer with City National Bank of Miami Beach, The Dania Bank, and First National Bank of Hollywood, Fla. He and his wife Eula are parents of three daughters, ages 17, 19 and 22.

The appointment of Jones will expand estate-planning services offered by the seminary, according to Wesley M. Pattillo, vice-president for development.

Paul G. Kirkland, for 13 years executive director of Southern Seminary Foundation, will continue in that post, Pattillo said.

Foreign Board Sends Aid For Typhoon Destruction

RICHMOND (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries were rendering aid and the denomination's Foreign Mission Board released \$5,000 for relief in the Philippines in the wake of two typhoons that separately struck the islands and Guam.

The board was awaiting further word on needs in Guam, where two Baptist churches were damaged, according to William R. Wakefield, the board's area secretary for Southeast Asia. Southern Baptist missionaries in both areas were reported safe, he said.

Many families were left homeless in both Guam and the Philippines, reports said. The typhoon that hit Guam did extensive damage throughout the island. A quonset hut used by the Korean congregation of Tamuning Baptist Church was blown down, and an estimated \$3,000 damage was done to Calvary Baptist Church, according to Southern Baptist missionary J. Wesley Brizendine.

Homes of the missionaries in Guam had water damage but no serious destruction, he said. The Baptist Student Center in Guam was used as shelter for 25 students for three nights while they waited out the storm.

Nearly everything on the island except concrete buildings were destroyed, said Brizendine. Guam has been declared a disaster area and is receiving aid from the U. S. Government.

Brizendine estimated it would be two weeks before water was restored and two months before electricity service resumed.

A separate typhoon brought flash floods to the Philippines, where 18 inches of rain fell within a six-hour period, according to Southern Baptist missionary Robert N. Nash. The Pasig River, which runs through the heart of Manila, has been high but is now receding. The Pampanga Basin area in Central Luzon was also badly flooded.

"The thing that makes it so tragic is that it came so unexpectedly," Nash said. Many families have been left homeless in the lower areas. One of the churches near badly damaged areas, the Quezon City Baptist Church, is trying to feed and care for 250 families who have been left homeless, Nash said.

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Crisman Succeeds Sommerkamp At SBC Annuity Board

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DALLAS (BP)--Larry S. Crisman of Brownwood, Tex., was named associate director of public relations at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annuity Board here, effective June 1.

He will serve under John D. Blsokas, vice president and director of public relations for the agency which handles retirement and insurance programs for church related vocational workers in the SBC, according to Darold H. Morgan, board president.

Crisman, 34, a native of Dallas, succeeds Theo E. Sommerkamp, who became editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger.

For the past eight years, Crisman has been assistant to the vice president of public relations at Howard Payne University, a Texas Baptist institution in Brownwood.

From 1963-69 he was a journalist on three daily newspapers in Texas and during military service. During that time he served on the reporting staffs of the Brownwood Bulletin, Fort Worth Star-Telegram and Dallas Times-Herald, was a correspondent for the Armed Services Television Network and edited a tabloid bi-weekly newspaper for a U. S. Army unit.

At Howard Payne, he directed the college news and sports information services, produced radio programs, handled photography assignments, and assisted in student recruitment.

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Crisman's duties at the Annuity Board will cover many of the same areas. He will write news and feature articles and help prepare the board's quarterly publication (The Years Ahead), advertising, and photography. He will also represent the agency at public relations and other meetings.

He holds the bachelor of arts in journalism and English and the master of arts in English, both from Howard Payne.

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Atkeison Gets Suspended
Sentences and Fines

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Henry Atkeison Jr., a former Baptist preacher who pleaded "nolo contendere" to two counts of violating federal securities law, received two two-year suspended sentences and \$20,000 in fines in U.S. district court here.

Eight other counts, charging fraud in a church bond program, were dropped on a motion from the assistant U.S. attorney.

Atkeison entered the nolo contendere plea on two counts of violating federal securities law by failing to keep accurate and current books and by not registering with the Securities and Exchange Commission the existence of a financing subsidiary to his bond brokering firm, Ambassador Church Finance Development Group, Inc.

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Baptists, Established Church
Opponents in Revolution

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RICHMOND, Va., 1780--(BP)--Baptists and the state church in America, opposed from the first, were driven further apart by the war for American independence. The state church remained loyal to the British crown while Baptists gave their support to the fight for liberty.

The established church had openly persecuted the Baptists in many places. But in their fight for religious and civil freedom the Baptists won the highest esteem of the colonists.

That the established church should side with the crown and Baptists with the patriots was inevitable. The British government supported the state church and paid the salary of the clergy with taxes.

Baptists, on the other hand, saw in the war for independence a fight for religious liberty as well. They were convinced there could be no religious freedom as long as church and state are linked.

The established church did not retreat without a struggle, however. They preached loyalty to the crown from the pulpit and accused their congregations of treason. One church was so incensed by the charges of their parson that they took him out of the building following a sermon and whipped him.

Another clergyman took his pistols into the pulpit, announced he was going to read all the prayers for the king and the royal family, and declared he would shoot anyone who tried to stop him.

Not many of the established clergy were so bold, however. Most of them closed their churches and fled, many returning to England. Only a few dared to remain in the colonies.

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