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76-113

Safety Pointers for Water
Sports Cited by Expert

By Shirley Schlinke

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Do you know how to save someone from drowning?

With millions of Americans taking in the sun and fun at beaches, lakes and pools, all should be aware of precautions to prevent accidents when swimming, fishing, boating, skiing or participating in other activities around or near water. People should also know what to do in case accidents occur.

"Most accidents occur in unguarded areas," says Elizabeth Bianchi, who teaches advanced lifesaving, water safety, canoeing and sailing, swimming, first aid and emergency procedures at Baylor University, a Baptist school here.

Most drownings occur for three reasons, Mrs. Bianchi explains: "There aren't enough people aware of danger situations, too many people have limited swimming abilities and aren't in good physical condition, and people don't know enough to help those they are swimming with."

The best advice is not to go into the water unless the person can swim, and when swimming have a buddy system and keep up with each other, she says. "Even the most experienced swimmer can get into trouble.

"When swimming in an area other than a pool, set limits on yourself. Enjoy the area, but do not risk safety for show.

"Many people say not to swim after eating, which is a good rule to follow," Mrs. Bianchi says.

"Swimming after eating probably will not kill you, but the heart must work twice as hard pumping blood to the digestive system as well as to the muscles when you eat a full meal and then swim."

It is important to "be prepared" in order to help the person who is in danger of drowning, she says, because anything can happen anytime. Have some rescue pointers in mind; otherwise most people will just panic."

The most dangerous action to take when someone is drowning is to swim toward the person and try to touch or pull the person in, unless the rescuer is trained in lifesaving techniques, Mrs. Bianchi notes.

In many situations the likelihood is great, she says, that both the victim and the would-be rescuer will drown if the rescuer is not trained. She recommends, "It's best to think first; have the presence of mind to take something with you. The rescuer should place some object between him or her and the drowning victim for both to hold on to. It could be anything such as a shirt or a stick."

The Baylor professor believes everyone should know how to swim and suggests such courses as offered through local YMCAs, YWCAs, the Red Cross, parks and recreation and school programs.

-30-

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'Church Has Adapted Cultural
Patterns, Codes as Its Own'

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--The surrounding culture has become so entrenched in the contemporary church in America that is often difficult to distinguish where one leaves off and the other begins, two Furman University professors charged here.

This is particularly seen where southern evangelical influence holds sway, said Robert W. Crapps and L. D. Johnson, who were among speakers during a public seminar on ethics at the Baptist school here.

"Southern evangelical influence especially reenforces the situation in which the church is reading its behavior code from the culture," said Crapps. He cautioned against merely having a "personal experience" in religion that is not "theologically based." Rather, he told Baptist Press, "Personal experience in Christianity must be tested in the context of the church's life, its history, biblical heritage and theology.

"Religious experience based on personal experience alone makes it easy to adapt to the (prevailing) cultural code of conduct because such requires no authority of scripture or historic experience of the Christian community to correct one's personal error," Crapps said in his seminar address.

"Along with this emphasis on personal experience often is an absence of thinking and makes me wonder whether the person is talking about God or himself," the professor added.

Johnson called for a renewal of prophetic leadership in which the authority of the Bible and the church--disestablished from cultural snares--faces ethical problems in the changing context of life.

"One of the real issues of the Christian religion in modern times is that it has failed to deal with timeless moral issues as they emerge in the context of contemporary society," he said.

"There must be bench marks for a Christian other than saving his (or her) own skin," Crapps added. "We must consider the implication and application of the gospel. If we have no definition on theological grounds of what is right and wrong, then it's easy to adapt cultural patterns as one's religious codes--particularly if you are related to the power structure in such a way as to survive."

While he saw some assurance that the spiritual leadership of the religious community can be prophetic, Johnson said he saw little other hope of introducing any ethical dimension "at the cutting edge of life."

The church today "has become so much like the world that it's hard to tell where you enter one society and leave the other. I suspect this grates on some of us that have given a lot of time to the church, Johnson said, "but the standards by which the world measures successful behavior have by and large become the standards by which the church measures success, especially among Southern Baptists... The point is, if the church becomes like the culture then obviously it has lost its soul. And to whatever extent this has happened we have blunted the ethical dimension."

America is in an ethical dilemma, Johnson continued, "because the church is unable to break away from the culture and unwilling to return to the biblical view that man is a fallen creature in need of God's redemption . . .

"Part of our ethical dilemma is that we still believe man is okay if you educate him and put a shirt and tie on him," he concluded.

Senior Adults Need Adequate
Information, Peacock Says

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)--"Possibly the greatest need that today's older adults have is the need for information," a Texas minister said here at a three-day senior adult conference.

"Senior adults today must know where to go in their community to receive help and advice in various matters, and with this help they can continue to make their own decisions," said Richard Peacock, minister to adults at First Baptist Church, Dallas.

Peacock informed the gathering at the first annual three-day Louisiana College Senior Adult Conference that "nearly every community has prepared information available to older adults about where to seek needed services, advice, and other information."

He offered several points of advice to the adults. Among the points, he said, senior adults should "live one day at a time and thank God for each day. You must continue to live in an attitude of sweetness and positivity, despite the hardships and pain." Quoting from the Bible, he said, "Bury those things that remain in the way of your service."

Peacock, who spoke three times during the conference, also told the group to stay active. "If we retire from life then life will retire from us," he said.

Other sessions at the conference included coping with prolonged illness, estate planning, church planning for senior adults, health and nutrition, crafts, Bible study and Biblical archaeology, and the 1976 presidential campaign.

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Texas Broadcasters
Honor Paul Stevens

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FORT WORTH (BP)--The Texas Association of Broadcasters honored Paul M. Stevens, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, with the TAB's second annual "Distinguished Texan Award."

U. S. Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen (D.-Tex.) presented the award to a surprised Stevens during the awards luncheon, a highlight of the TAB state convention. Bentsen, the luncheon speaker, received the first such award last year.

The honor, accompanied by a specially designed gold medallion, is bestowed on the Texan whom state broadcasters believe has "done the most to serve his fellow man, Texas and the nation."

TAB officials said Stevens has "contributed greatly to building a personal relationship between his religious group and broadcasters."

Stevens also was cited for creating the annual Abe Lincoln Awards which the Radio and Television Commission has sponsored since 1969. The Abe Lincoln Awards encourage improvement in public service broadcasting efforts.

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Heilman Named to
IAUP Council

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RICHMOND (BP)--President E. Bruce Heilman of the University of Richmond, a Baptist school here, has been named to the North American Council of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP).

Heilman also will serve on the steering committee of the council, which consists of 28 USA members representing as many states, plus 10 from Canada and five from Mexico.

The IAUP consists of seven councils. The others are South America, Europe, Mid-East, Far East, Africa and Australia.

Each council encourages its member institutions to increase the number and variety international students, initiate student-faculty exchanges create international cultural and study abroad programs, and internationalize the curriculum. They also share ideas and work toward world peace through various types of cooperation with institutions in other countries.

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