



# --- FEATURES

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'Deafness A Nuisance;'  
Deaf Conference Prexy

By Judy Touchton

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--To Dean Pritchard, president of the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf (SBCD), deafness is more of a nuisance than a handicap.

Pritchard, in her second term as president of the conference that helps plan and evaluate ministries to the deaf in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), has overcome some problems ordinarily associated with deafness--using a telephone, getting and keeping a job, maintaining an up-to-date vocabulary, rearing children.

For a telephone--to a deafperson, the "most annoying invention ever created"--she uses a teletype machine called a TTY.

Pritchard purchased her machine for \$75, but the coupler needed for hookup to the phone was an additional \$158. In Jacksonville, only 25 other persons have such a TTY setup, she notes.

The SBCD gives Pritchard and other deaf persons time to communicate and plan. In 1976 more than 500 deaf persons attended and paid their own expenses to the SBCD's annual meeting.

The conference primarily is an independent organization that meets during Home Missions Week at the SBC assemblies. The Home Mission Board provides some assistance for payments to speakers and for materials.

Like other projects Pritchard takes on, she takes the SBCD presidency in stride since she is used to dealing with both hearing and non-hearing people.

On Monday evenings, Pritchard teaches an advanced sign language class in her home. A class begun in 1970 often is combined with her intermediate class to total 26 students. Her beginners' class of 18 students, along with the others, receives academic credit at Jacksonville Junior College.

Eager to serve and to help others become aware of deaf persons' needs, Pritchard signs the early morning news on the CBS affiliate in Jacksonville for the city's deaf population.

She rises at 5:30 a.m. during her two weeks stint, to arrive at the studio in time for the 6:45 a.m. telecast. Another interpreter works the next two weeks. Then she comes on again.

To be as independent as possible, Pritchard, who speaks clearly although occasionally mispronouncing difficult words, has worked 15 years full-time for Reynolds Securities. She operates a teletypewriter that brings stock and bond quotations from the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

The most frustrating time of her life was when her two hearing sons, now both grown and away from home, were small: "I would see them whispering to friends. But when I would ask what they were saying--they would tell me only what they wanted me to hear," she says.

Pritchard lost her hearing when she was seven years old. "Deafness was such a shock," she recalls, "One morning I woke up and could not hear. It was awful. I didn't know people could lose their hearing and still live. I thought I was a freak."

Through involvement in Jacksonville's Main Street Baptist Church--she often signs special music to the deaf in the congregation--and her travel as president of the SBCD, Pritchard proves that deaf persons are not "freaks."

But, she says, often the deaf do need special considerations--like interpreted worship services or help in communicating during a time of sorrow.

Like others in the SBCD, Pritchard hopes Southern Baptists will continue to be aware of the problems of the deaf.

In 1976, Southern Baptist workers with the deaf included 13 home missionaries, 7 state program leaders, 844 volunteer interpreters and church workers, 12 ministers to the deaf (part-time and full-time) and 14 ministers to the deaf who also have secular employment.

Growing from the first Silent Bible Class in Little Rock, Ark., in 1905, SBC ministries to the deaf now include 618 deaf church groups, 14 separate deaf congregations, 1 Southern Baptist church building managed and owned by the deaf (First Baptist Church of the Deaf in Portland, Ore.) and 2 deaf churches that cooperate with the SBC.

More and more, hearing people have become involved in deaf ministries. "They've found signing is fun," says one deaf man. But to deaf persons signing is a way of life--not especially fun and sometimes a nuisance.

Pritchard is sometimes self-conscious and unsure of her own voice but isn't afraid to speak out about Southern Baptists' duty to provide deaf persons with an open communication line in Southern Baptist churches.

She agrees with one deaf man who signed, "The deaf are going as far as they can--they are waiting for a hearing person to meet them halfway."

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Adapted from March, 1977, Home Missions magazine

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Gaddy Leaving CLC,  
To Assume Pastorate

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NASHVILLE (BP)--C. Welton Gaddy, director of Christian citizen development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission (CLC), has accepted the pastorate of the 5,000 member Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex., effective May 29.

Gaddy succeeds John Claypool, a former CLC chairman, who left the Broadway church pastorate in December 1976 to become pastor of Northminister Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss. The CLC staffer will be the Fort Worth church's 17th pastor.

A native of Paris, Tenn., Gaddy has been with the commission since January 1973. Previously, he was a pastor in Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee, served as a college instructor, and was instructor of Christian preaching at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

He was graduated from Union University, Jackson, Tn., with the bachelor of arts degree, and earned the bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary.

The former Kentucky Baptist leader is the author of four books, contributed to several others and has written numerous articles.

He is married to the former Miss Julia Mae Grabiell. They have two children, John Paul and James Welton.

Foy Valentine, executive director of the Nashville-based CLC, said of Gaddy:

"He is a 10-talent man. He has worked with absolute excellence as director of Christian citizenship development among Southern Baptists. His God-given endowments uniquely qualify him to serve with distinction as pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church, but he and his family will be sorely missed in the CLC's ongoing life and work."

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Church Renewal Movement  
Anti-Church, Says Chafin

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The church renewal movement is essentially anti-church, a leading Southern Baptist pastor and former director of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said here.

The renewal movement primarily was formed from people who were "sick of the church . . . who liked to get together to tell each other how sick they really were of the church," Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Tex., told more than 500 participants in a national seminar on moral concerns, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission.

"I think all along the renewal movement was anti-church. You cannot renew what you cannot like," Chafin said, in urging Southern Baptists to remain church centered.

Chafin, who was active in the renewal movement for several years, said the movement was characterized by small groups.

"The patron saint was Keith Miller," he said, adding Miller, of Austin, Tex., was author of a number of books on the renewal movement.

"The movement will still be around for many years, but I think it's effectiveness is gone," Chafin said.

He added, "The biggest problem with the renewal movement was that it drew troubled people. They were angry and hurt. The movement did not draw the solid people of the church. . . the people who carried the load.

"I'm seeing the church more and more not in terms of membership but of fellowship and self-giving love," said the former Billy Graham professor of evangelism for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who was director (1969-72) of evangelism for the Home Mission Board, before becoming pastor of the Houston church.

"We live in a world where people are more and more anonymous," he said: "I don't believe we understand the enormity of what God has done in giving us an earthly community.

"I want to urge you not to ignore the healing power of the church."

Chafin, whose church has won "Guideposts" magazine's Church of the Year Award for its ministry to single adults and the formerly married, added, "We are evangelicals who believe there was something significant in what God did in Jesus Christ that one person can relate to and respond to and be made whole. This gospel of Jesus Christ is the only word that speaks to the deepest needs of man, to the whole person, to every relationship. It calls for radical response."

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Southwestern Trustees Adopt  
Record Budget for '77-78

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FORT WORTH (BP)--Approval of a record budget for 1977-78 and groundbreaking ceremonies for a new physical fitness center highlighted a two-day meeting here of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees.

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The trustees also approved additions to the faculty, agreed to open a third off-campus study center, and established a new chair of instruction, among other actions.

The record budget of \$6,396,434 for 1977-78 is a 13 percent increase over the current budget. Of the new budget, 74 percent will go to instructional needs, 14 percent to administration and 11 percent for the school's physical plant.

The opening night of the trustees' semi-annual meeting was keynoted at a special dinner which recognized the Fort Worth leadership in the seminary's current "Eight by Eighty" (\$8 million by 1980) fund drive.

John S. Justin Jr. was general chairman. He was assisted by two honorary chairmen, Amon G. Carter Jr. and Mrs. Charles Tandy. Co-chairman of the local campaign were William R. Sarsgard and J. T. Luther Jr.

It was reported that 90 percent or \$1.8 million of the \$2 million Fort Worth goal had been raised since last April. Nationally, 30 percent of the \$8 million goal was raised during the first year of the three-year fund drive, a seminary spokesman said.

Following the dinner, a nighttime groundbreaking ceremony for a new physical fitness center was held. The 39,000 square foot building is expected to provide for the recreational and physical fitness needs of seminary students and their families.

Funds for the \$1,356,000 building were derived from contributions received as a part of the "Eight by Eighty" campaign.

Three persons were elected to the seminary's teaching faculty for next year. C. L. Bass, currently with Oklahoma Baptist University, was named associate professor of music theory and composition. Albert L. Travis of Dallas Baptist College, was named an associate professor of organ. Michael Malek of Ft. Worth was promoted to instructor in church music education.

Named as a guest professor for 1977-78 was Thurmon Bryant of the Sao Paulo (Brazil) Baptist College's theological department.

The board voted to establish a third off-campus study center to open next year in San Antonio, Tex. The center will offer fully accredited graduate level seminary training to persons serving or area church staffs, and its program is being underwritten by nine San Antonio area Baptist associations.

Facilities are being provided by the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute and Trinity University. Since 1975 similar centers have been opened in Houston, Tex., and Shawnee, Okla.

In a related move, the board agreed to participate with three other Southern Baptist seminaries to offer doctor of ministry seminars in the Memphis, Tenn., area. The program is expected to begin in the spring, 1978.

In other action, trustees approved the establishment of a new academic chair of instruction in educational administration. To be underwritten by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, the chair's professor would focus on the program and materials of the Sunday School Board.

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AFTS to Distribute Two  
Baptist Series Overseas

Baptist Press  
3/28/77

FORT WORTH (BP)--"The Athletes" and "Listen," two television series produced for Baptists by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, have been approved for overseas distribution by the American Forces Television Service (AFTS), it was announced here.

The commission, which produces and syndicates the series, was notified that AFTS will air the two programs on its TV circuit of 82 stations abroad, and on Navy ships in the Atlantic and Pacific, said Paul M. Stevens, Radio and Television Commission president. The first films were shipped immediately, he added.

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"Listen" is a series of documentaries exploring things man has learned about his world. The show's host is Charles G. Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.

"The Athletes" series features such notables as Dallas Cowboys Coach Tom Landry, Baylor University football coach Grant Teaff, and Tommy Bell of Lexington, Ky., who retired this year after 14 years as a National Football League referee.

"Listen" and "The Athletes" were launched by the Radio and Television Commission in April. The series are already being seen in 15 major market stations across the country, including the highly-populated areas of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Atlanta, Stevens said.

AFTS programs are seen by an estimated 1.25 million servicemen, their families, civilian personnel attached to the Armed Forces, state department personnel in various countries and, in some countries, English-speaking members of the local population, according to a network spokesman.

The series were accepted by AFTS after scrutiny by a five-member board of chaplains at the Pentagon, who are members of the Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant faiths.

The AFTS spokesman said the two series were selected because they do not "propagate a particular denominational philosophy but, instead, offer spiritual insights to those of all faiths." Quality, craftsmanship of the programs and subject matter also were cited as reasons for acceptance by AFTS.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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#### CORRECTIONS

In the BP mailing of 3/25/77, page 3, story headlined, "Role of Churches Critical for Future," Toffler says, "9th graph, line 3, story should read "standardize the work force." (instead of "destandardize . . .").

In the BP mailing of 3/25/77, page 6, story headlined, "W. R. White Dies in Waco," 6th graph, in lines three and four, delete the words, "president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board" and add, "as a member of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, 1932-43."

Thanks

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