



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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## Georgia Church Ordains Woman For Chaplaincy

ROCKMART, Ga. (BP)--Mrs. Neel Aldrede Tiller was ordained to the ministry at First Baptist Church here.

She will become principle chaplain at Hazelwood Hospital, a facility for mentally retarded and multiple handicapped persons in Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. Tiller, reared in Rockmart, Ga., is a graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and has a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. She was a summer missionary in Pennsylvania-New Jersey while a student at Mercer.

Mrs. Tiller is married to Darryl Tiller of Amarillo, Tex., also a Southern Seminary alumnus, who will seek a pastorate in the Louisville area.

For the past two years the Tillers have been working in a mental health program in Columbia, S. C. They have been members at Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia.

Mrs. Tiller is believed to be the seventh woman ordained to the ministry by a Georgia Baptist church.

Sharing in her ordination service were two Georgia Baptist women who are ordained ministers and one who is an ordained deacon. Mrs. Hazel Grady, a teacher and counselor at Georgia Baptist Children's Home, gave the charge to the candidate. Mrs. Grady was the second woman ordained to the ministry in the Georgia Baptist Convention. She was ordained in 1974. Mrs. Wallace Duvall, chaplain at the Georgia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing, led the benediction. She was ordained to the ministry in 1975. Mrs. Otis Johnson gave the charge to the church. She is a deacon at First Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., and is director of business services division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Several Georgia Baptist ministers and laymen also took part in the ordination service.

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Project Reduces Surprises  
For Seminary Graduates

By Nancy McGough

Baptist Press  
8/30/77

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--What do Southern Baptist churches expect of young persons entering fulltime ministry?

"Readiness for Ministry," a project sponsored by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada with a grant of over \$1 million, has found not one, but many answers.

Last year The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here was the only Southern Baptist seminary to participate with 40 other seminaries across 47 denominations in this project. Other Southern Baptist seminaries are planning to participate, and Southern Seminary has expanded its own participation to include more students.

The project found that the most important expectations Southern Baptists have for young ministers are service without regard for acclaim, commitment to Christ, Christian example, a healthy spirituality, acknowledgement of one's own humanity, and openness to advice.

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Last year, the project evaluated 87 students at Southern Seminary on these and other characteristics (64 in all) through observations of church members, a personal interview and written responses to posed situations.

The project discloses that not all characteristics important to Southern Baptists are important to other denominations. For example, 67.3 percent of Southern Baptists said it was highly important for their minister to visit the unchurched. However, only 31 percent of all the other denominations said this was highly important.

"We are seeking to introduce the student to the strengths and weaknesses of his own style of ministry," said Harold Songer, who directs the basic studies degree program for ministers at Southern.

He pointed out Baptists place a higher value on the kind of person someone in ministry is than on any special skill (such as counseling).

"We do not necessarily want students to do everything a church expects," he emphasized, adding, "but we want him to know when something he does will be met with disapproval.

"The real goal and value of this program is to reduce the number of surprises of a beginning minister."

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Cleaned-Up 'Soap' Series  
Still Dirty, Opponents Claim

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NASHVILLE (BP)--ABC-TV has run "Soap" through the wash, but two Southern Baptist leaders who have seen the laundered episodes of the controversial new show claim it is still "prime-time pollution," and they promise to accelerate their agency's nationwide protest against the comedy series which is scheduled to premiere Sept. 13.

In a letter to ABC-TV president Fred Pierce, Foy Valentine and Harry N. Hollis Jr. of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission called for cancellation of the "morally objectionable program" and reiterated their belief that "Soap" is "vulgar" and "in bad taste" and that it is "sex miseducation" and an "assault on family life.

"The problem is not that 'Soap' deals with sex but that it treats sex in an irresponsible manner," the letter states. "It irresponsibly laughs at and shamelessly exploits the tragedies of adultery, homosexuality, impotence, incest, crime and senility."

ABC, which has tagged the show "adult comedy," revised portions of the first two segments after widespread protest from ABC affiliates and advertisers as well as a number of religious leaders who were allowed to preview the promotional videotapes.

The revised segments, however, failed to change the opinion of Valentine and Hollis, who are warning Southern Baptists "not to be misled," particularly by the slightly altered first episode.

"Some of the offensive scenes have been taken out of the first episode," said Hollis, "but in the second and third episodes, the morally offensive scenes increase. 'Soap' has not been substantially cleaned up, and it should not be on the air."

The Christian Life Commission, which is the moral and social concerns agency of the 13-million member Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), has opposed "Soap" in particular because, according to the letter to ABC, the show represents "a very significant turning point in television."

"Soap" is different from other adult shows aired by the networks during prime time, Hollis and Valentine said, because "week after week it deals with sexual themes in a crude and socially harmful fashion."

ABC, the letter states, seems to have made "a calculated attempt to change prime-time television" by putting a program labeled "adult" in a time slot when millions of children will be watching. The letter charges the network with "misusing the airwaves which belong to the American people." In addition, the letter says, ABC's persistence in showing "Soap" may have the "unfortunate result of opening the door to stultifying government action.... It is likely to pave the way for strong congressional corrective intervention."

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According to the letter, the commission will continue to carry the protest at the grass-roots level by urging individuals, churches and other concerned religious and civic groups to voice their protest to ABC and to affiliates which carry "Soap." The commission also will urge Southern Baptists to be alert to "each and every advertiser" who sponsors "Soap."

Responding to charges from the television industry and advertisers that religious groups are unduly pressuring them, Valentine said, "Americans have the right to hold the users of the public airwaves responsible for what is broadcast, and consumers have the responsibility to determine how they will spend their money. The medium must get this message."

A week earlier, commission officials said that 10 of the 11 original "Soap" sponsors listed in a television trade publication had told them they were not going to advertise on the new show, at least at the beginning.

The commission also has sent letters to every ABC affiliate, pleading with them to refuse to air the show. According to Hollis, a list of affiliates that have stated they will not carry "Soap" is being compiled and will be released soon.

A letter was sent to ABC president Pierce about seven weeks ago, Hollis said, but the commission has not received a reply.

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Businessman Now Busy For God;  
Calls For More Missionaries

Baptist Press  
8/30/77

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--If ever a man has seen his professional talents put to use in his denomination, it's Alberto Pizzicatti.

For years this sturdy-framed Argentine thrust his energies into being a management consultant to business firms and corporations, helping them to reorganize and operate in a more efficient manner. Little did he know this was paving the way for a top position among Argentine Baptists as executive secretary for their convention.

Several years ago the Baptist layman, active in the church since he was 18, left his private consultant firm to act as administrator for the International Baptist Theological Seminary here.

"I agreed to come for five years," Pizzicatti said in an interview here with Frances E. Roberts, Southern Baptist missionary press representative. "When five years were over, I agreed to stay one more year. And it was during that year that the matter came up regarding the restructuring of the Argentine Baptist Convention."

According to Pizzicatti, "The convention had grown and become very institutional. It seemed that the hour had arrived to make a new evaluation of everything and perhaps begin a new focus in the national Baptist work."

A study committee of 50 persons was named to review all phases of the convention. Pizzicatti was selected as its chairman.

"The main idea," he said, "was to unify and coordinate the work. The convention had been on the basis that each convention board was completely independent, and the young people's convention and the woman's convention were also separate conventions. There was a lack of cohesiveness in the work."

For two years Pizzicatti and the committee worked over the study but, he noted, "We felt the Lord was guiding us in our way of thinking."

It was more than just a job behind a desk for this professional consultant. It was, he said, "a job with the philosophy of reaching out to the churches, which ultimately means the progress of work. This is to say," he continued, "that the work of restructure would be of absolutely no significance, none whatsoever, if it didn't result in the conversion of many souls right away. And I believe that this is already happening."

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Meetings and a special session of the convention followed the two-year study. The report and recommendations were presented and approved, almost in their entirety, Pizzicatti said.

With the study behind, the enthusiastic Argentine, who holds a doctor's degree in economics, thought his job was over.

"But there was a new problem," he said. "Who would execute this new plan of work-- this restructure of the convention?"

"I tried to evade the issue so much that I had everything ready to move back to Rosario (his home). But the Lord stopped me in my tracks and I had to remain in Buenos Aires to put into action this new program of work."

For that reason, Pizzicatti decided in 1976 to accept the post of executive secretary of the Argentine Baptist Convention.

Pizzicatti sees exciting growth ahead for Baptists in Argentina. He expects the present total of 295 churches with 22,474 members to double in the next five years.

In the Baptist Association of Entre Rios, he pointed out, the 11 existing churches hope that within 20 years the area will have 50 to 80 churches. As keys to this future growth he sees stronger financial support, with a greater emphasis on tithing, and an increased number of church workers.

In Entre Rios and other areas, he said, interest is being shown in beginning regional Bible institutes to train people to open new work. And so many students are coming to the seminary, he said, that some are having to be turned away because there's no place for them to live.

Although nationals are taking more responsibility for evangelizing their own people, Pizzicatti sees continuing need for missionaries from the United States and other countries.

Brazilian Baptists, he noted, recently sent four missionaries to Argentina and plan to send still more.

"Let the missionaries come," he said, "for the field is great, very great. Would that hundreds would come who are willing to work along with us as a team in the Lord's work."

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(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Gardner-Webb Gets  
\$100,000 Grant

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)--Gardner-Webb College here has received a challenge gift of up to \$100,000 from Charles I. Dover and the Dover Foundation to launch the Baptist school's new "Bold Dimensions in Higher Education Program."

Gardner-Webb President Craven E. Williams said, "This is the initial gift in the current program to raise \$10.5 million to enable the college to better meet the educational needs of the region and the changing needs of society."

As a challenge gift, the money will match on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to \$100,000 in new or increased gifts from alumni and friends of the college to its Annual College Fund.

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