



March 27, 1980

80-52

Montgomery Honors
Baptist Missionary

By Marx Knox

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Gladys Farmer finished up eight years of hard work with a big day; now she's starting over.

When she "retired" as Christian social ministries director for Montgomery Baptist Association, Mayor Emory Folmar signed a resolution which set aside a Sunday as "Miss Gladys Farmer Day" in the city.

Folmar's proclamation cited her success in leading the association to express concern for people, creating the desire among Baptist churches to teach the Bible to all people and presenting Christians with opportunities to express their love in action.

On her day, the association hosted a reception and a recognition service in her honor.

"Gladys Farmer came to Montgomery just after an era of racial turmoil afflicted the city," said Bob Lee Franklin, associational director of missions. "During her eight years with us, she has awakened the missions consciousness in our association and led Baptist churches in ministry to the inner city."

As a tribute to her work, the association named the chapel in its new office building "Gladys Farmer Chapel."

"It's just been a beautiful, climactic experience here in Montgomery," Miss Farmer said. "I feel over-honored."

She doesn't have long to dwell on those feelings, for she's agreed to move to Springfield, Tenn., and direct a weekday ministries program sponsored by Springfield Baptist Church. She'll also accept occasional assignments as a Christian social ministries "troubleshooter" for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"I hope to be able to lead people to the Lord through both jobs," she said. "The opportunity to actually be 'on the field' in Springfield will give me inspiration to help strengthen work elsewhere in the country."

Farmer is the subject of a book, "Farming the Inner City for Christ," primarily based on her work in Montgomery. She was a foreign missionary in Hawaii before it became a state and was a home missionary in South Carolina and Alabama.

**--- BAPTIST PRESS**

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Wood Warns Senate Panel
On CIA, FBI Use of Clergy

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--Warning that the use of clergy by U.S. intelligence agencies "perverts the mission of the church without accomplishing the state's objective," a Baptist spokesman urged the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to place explicit prohibitions against such practice.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, called for more restrictions on the use of clergy than are presently contained in intelligence charter legislation being considered by the Senate committee.

The "National Intelligence Act of 1980," (S.2284), introduced in February by Sen. Walter Huddleston, D-Ky., prohibits the use of clergy or religious institutions for cover, but allows their use as informants.

The committee is still considering this issue, which is only one of several disputed sections of the bill. Chances of the 172-page bill reaching the floor of both houses during this session are no better than 50 percent, according to an Intelligence Committee spokesman.

Appearing with a panel of witnesses testifying on the use of clergy, Wood told the committee that government use of clergy and missionaries would "tarnish their integrity" and "destroy their religious credibility."

"By using clergy, missionaries and church workers to serve the national interests of the United States at home and abroad, the church is made an arm of the state and the prophetic role of religion is profaned," Wood said.

Wood, who didn't find complete agreement among the panel members, also argued that the use of clergy is a "blatant affront to the separation of church and state mandated by religion clauses of the First Amendment," and poses a threat to the lives of some missionaries, clergy and church workers.

Panel members who shared Wood's concern for a legislated prohibition against the use of clergy included Eugene Stockwell, associate general secretary for overseas ministries of the National Council of Churches; John R. Houck, general secretary of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.; and Anthony Bellagamba, executive secretary of the United States Catholic Mission Council.

However, the testimony of Ernest W. Lefever, president of the Washington-based Ethics and Public Policy Center, prevented the panel from raising unanimous opposition to the use of clergy.

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Claiming that he may be speaking for the man in the pew more than some church officials, Lefever argued against a ban on the use of clergy, stating that all professions "have an equal obligation to serve the common good."

Lefever challenged religious groups to deal with the issue from within their own ranks, arguing that for church officials to ask the government to impose a religious group's discipline is to escape their own responsibility in the matter.

Several religious groups, including the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board, have policies against its members participating in the intelligence gathering process. Countering Lefever's position, other members of the panel contended that a statute preventing use of clergy is needed.

"If it is the intent of Congress to respect the integrity of the church as an institution, national intelligence agencies should not be allowed to request church personnel to engage in activities which are forbidden them by that institution," Houck said.

In recent hearings, the committee heard testimony relating to use of clergy, journalists and academics from Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., former Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby and representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Association of Former Intelligence Officers.

Weicker and Jerry Berman of the ACLU called for tighter restrictions on the use of these professions while Colby and John F. Blake of the AFIO argued against an absolute ban on the use of members of these professions by intelligence agencies.

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Baptists Support
Flood Victims

By Don Hepburn

Baptist Press
3/27/80

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif. (BP)--After four weeks, the flooding which has gradually overtaken this small desert community, has finally ended and left in its wake hundreds of lakeside homes and businesses submerged under 20 feet of water.

As the residents of this rural retirement community of 6,000 attempt to put their lives back together, a small corps of Southern Baptist volunteers has provided emotional support and financial assistance. "We're picking up the pieces that would get people self-sufficient again," explained Chuck Horner, pastor of the Menifee Baptist Church in Sun City and one of the relief volunteers.

Special disaster relief funds provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and area churches and associations have also been used to assist many people in ways which other relief agencies are unable.

Horner told of one woman who came into the makeshift evacuation center crying and completely upset. The 29-year-old pastor calmed her down, and was able to walk her through the maze of governmental agencies set up to provide relief assistance.

A short time later Horner saw the same woman sitting in a corner crying again. He said he went over to see how he could help. "She said she was crying because of joy she had knowing somebody like me cared enough to take care of her," Horner recalled.

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Trauma counseling has been the major assistance provided by the Baptist volunteers in this unusual disaster. Unlike the mudslides and floods that quickly struck other parts of California and then were over, Lake Elsinore has been a creeping disaster. Residents talk of fears that in their sleep the water will ooze quietly into their homes.

When the heavy rains came to Southern California in February, Lake Elsinore, which sits at the bottom of a 750-square-mile watershed surrounded by the San Jacinto mountains, began rising. Inch by inch at first and then by as much as a foot a day, the shallow lake swelled to three times its normal size, to about 6,500 acres.

More than 1,000 of the town's 6,000 residents were evacuated from their homes. Between 200 and 300 houses and mobile homes, shops and businesses were flooded before the lake reached 1,265 feet, and 230 more were damaged when the water rose beyond that level. Officials said more than 690 permanent trailers and mobile homes and 250 permanent businesses and shops either have been damaged or removed because of flooding.

"It's just tremendous what the Baptists are doing," said Lavern Brodie, a Red Cross worker from Washington, D.C.

"It takes a warm, generous person to be able to understand them (flood victims)," Mrs. Brodie said. She noted that the Baptist workers are "able to counsel with them and spot these people who are really upset."

Pete Ashen, the Red Cross disaster coordinator, noted, "We have given Southern Baptists a lot of difficult cases that need emotional support."

In addition to the casework, the Baptist volunteers have been providing spiritual counseling, assisting in locating people, providing transportation, running errands, and assisting in the resettlement of displaced families.

One of the major things Southern Baptists have been able to provide is immediate short-term financial assistance to flood victims. According to Red Cross coordinator Ashen, the financial resources of Southern Baptists have made it possible for the "handling of numerous special cases that would have fallen through a crack had Baptists not been here."

"While we give flood victims food, clothing, shelter and medical help, there are still things that are not within our policy--that are not covered by anybody," Mrs. Brodie said.

"We run into needs which cannot be met by the Red Cross or any of the governmental agencies," observed L.G. Chaddick, a Christian social ministries worker in Los Angeles. "So we have been supplementing here and there with about \$5,000."

"We tell them it's from the Southern Baptist Convention and we have a disaster relief program that is designed to help where other agencies cannot," explained Chaddick, who had just spent two weeks at Lake Placid helping to operate a crisis center during the Winter Olympic games. "It's Southern Baptists' way of saying we care."

The social ministries consultant told of one woman with two mentally retarded sons which he visited. "Her own personal resources were extremely thin--mentally, emotionally plus financially." Chaddick said he gave the woman \$100, "because they had depleted everything that they had."

Chaddick told of a young couple with a new baby. The husband was out of work due to the flooding. "So I gave them some money for a baby layette," he said.

Although the expansion of Lake Elsinore has stopped, officials report it may be several years before the lake returns to its former size. In the meanwhile, governmental agencies are assisting former lakeside residents in relocation. Southern Baptists have been assigned by the Red Cross the task of long term relief assistance to local residents.

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Mission Conference
Participation Up

Baptist Press
3/27/80

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--World missions conferences were conducted in 3,389 Southern Baptist churches in 1979, attracting 1,082,060 persons.

James Hatley, director of the world missions conference department at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, said attendance was up more than 35,000 over 1978.

The four or eight day conferences are "inspirational overviews of the world missions program," according to Hatley. Each participating church hears two foreign, two home and one state convention missionary tell of his work.

During the conferences, 520 persons made professions of faith, up 149. Another 463 volunteered for mission service. Conferees gave \$625,823 to missions during the conferences.

Participating in the conferences were 887 foreign missionaries, 814 home missionaries, and 531 state missionaries.

States with highest attendance at the conferences were Tennessee, 154,269; North Carolina, 142,464; Florida, 126,221; and Virginia, 115,011.

The 1,196 associations in the denomination get an opportunity about every five years to host world missions conferences, Hatley said.

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Godsey Says Colleges
Follow Market Ethics

By Rex Hammock

Baptist Press
3/27/80

NEW YORK (BP)--Colleges and universities "have ceased being critic and have become instruments of the marketplace," the president of Mercer University told a national seminar in New York.

R. Kirby Godsey told the seminar on "Ethical Issues for the '80s," sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, that the loss of "transcendence" is the cornerstone of the current crisis in education.

Instead of being a place for reflection and the critical evaluation of society, he lamented, "education has taken on the trappings of social propriety and managerial efficiency."

Godsey charged that universities have moved away from the task of "learning, understanding and growth of the human spirit" and have become dominated by the "merchant ethics."

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"We're learning to perform better in the economic domain and that has become the primary purpose of education," he said.

Education must once again focus on reason, said Godsey. "We have diluted the power of reason and replaced it with the power of strategy and politics. We need to elevate reason again, to enable people to subject their disputes and disagreements to reason and debate."

The Baptist college president from Macon, Ga., also told some 400 conference participants that concern for character must be restored to education. "We cannot be content to educate only for the purpose of performance. More important than what college graduates will be able to do will be who they are and their ability to bring compassion, integrity and virtue to their work and their human relationships."

For this reason, said Godsey, "I have cast my own lot with Christian education—not because Christians have all the answers. They do not. But because it is imperative as we face decades of scarcity and fear that people be able to act with wisdom and bring grace and righteousness to bear upon human conflict and uncertainty."

Church-related colleges, however, did not escape Godsey's criticism. Answering the question "Why is the church into the work of education?", Godsey acknowledged, "Our record is not clear; our motives have been confused."

"We have built schools not only to nourish our work but to undergird our prejudices," he said. "We cannot justify our schools under a protectionist model. We have offered inferior, understaffed, overrated education and called it 'Christian'," he declared.

The achievements of Christian education will not be curricular, explained Godsey. "Ours is not an issue of intelligence; it is an issue of wisdom."

"The question is not whether we know enough, but whether we're good enough to keep our world together."

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Woman's Conference
Already Over Capacity

Baptist Press
3/27/80

MEMPHIS (BP)--The Mid-Continent Christian Women's Concerns Conference planned for May 15-17 at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis is "sold out."

Mrs. Adrian Rogers, chairman, said she stopped taking paid reservations when they reached 3,200. Attendance is limited to the first 3,000. Mrs. Rogers' husband is pastor of the 10,400-member church and president of the 13.4 million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

Called "A Wise Woman Builds," the conference will offer 35 workshops and seven general sessions, featuring addresses by pastor Rogers; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; Vonette Bright, wife of Campus Crusade president Bill Bright; Billie Barrows, wife of Cliff Barrows of the Billy Graham team; and Beverly La Haye, wife of Tim La Haye, president of Family Life Seminars.

The speakers and workshops plan to develop a nine-concern purpose which includes affirming the equal worth of all people in Christ and the male-female role in the Bible, and warns of the dangers and fallacies of modern philosophies and strategies concerning women, sex, family and children.

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Establishment Clause
To Be Focus of Debate

By Rex Hammock

NEW YORK (BP)—Most of the major church-state problems in the 1980s will center on the "establishment clause" of the First Amendment, an authority on church-state relations said at a national ethical issues seminar.

John M. Swomley, professor of Christian ethics at St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, said certain Protestant groups and the Roman Catholic hierarchy have "by political pressure created most of the establishment clause issues." That clause states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

"A majority of Roman Catholic hierarchy has never accepted the American idea set forth by Jefferson that no tax, large or small, should be levied on anyone forcing him or her to support either the religion of others or to support this or that teacher of his persuasion," Swomley told the conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Few Catholics or Protestants know the magnitude of government funding of the Catholic church," he said. Swomley, chairman of the church-state committee of the American Civil Liberties Union, quoted the editor of the National Catholic Reporter as saying that nearly 50 percent of diocesan Catholic charities' annual budget is government money.

"The pope has specifically asked Roman Catholic churches to secure government funds for their parochial schools," Swomley added.

Opposition to government aid to parochial schools has been eroded recently by the growth of non-Catholic, chiefly sectarian Protestant schools, Swomley claimed. "The self interest of some religious groups in getting government money has made them abandon their zeal for separation of church and state," he said.

Swomley surveyed several church-state problems which he predicts will see the most controversy during the '80s. They include:

--The effort to nullify the Supreme Court decision on voluntary prayer in public schools by forbidding federal courts to review any case related to prayer in public schools. Swomley criticized the effort and explained, "If the people permit Congress to rifle judicial review of violations of their religious liberty, it will be possible to bar the courts from considering violations of any other freedoms Americans enjoy."

--Aid to parochial and other religious schools. Swomley especially criticized the bill introduced by U. S. Sen. Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., which would give tuition tax credits to parents of children attending parochial schools. Such a tax credit, Swomley argued, "uses parents as a conduit for tax aid to the parish church or parish school."

--Expansion of government regulations that impinge on the free exercise of religion. Swomley criticized expanding government regulation. He acknowledged, however, that if religious denominations receive tax exemptions and government support, the government should have the right to determine what is a definable religion.

"Some religious groups," he noted, "notably Baptists, Quakers, Seventh Day Adventists and Jews, learned long ago that the fewer privileges they ask for or accept for themselves from government, the less government intrusion."

Lay Renewal Emphasis
Reaches New Zealand

MEMPHIS (BP)--A Southern Baptist lay renewal specialist helped New Zealand Baptists launch a nation-wide lay renewal emphasis which culminates in evangelistic services this fall.

David Haney, director of the lay renewal department at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, led renewal training conferences for 1,300 New Zealand Baptist leaders during a three-week period ending March 15.

Southern Baptist pastors will cap the religious experience by leading revivals in New Zealand churches in October, Haney said.

New Zealand has 19,000 Baptists in 162 churches affiliated with the Baptist Union of New Zealand.

A 61-member delegation of New Zealand Baptists spent the month of January in the United States observing Southern Baptist work and leading Bible studies.

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Second Journalism
Professor Resigns

Baptist Press
3/27/80

WACO, Texas (BP)--Denis F. Hale, assistant professor in the Baylor University journalism department, has resigned in protest of administration treatment of a fellow faculty member and three student editors of the Lariat who were fired March 3.

The editors were reprimanded and then fired because of their stance on the issue of Baylor women posing for a Playboy magazine photographer.

Hale's fellow faculty member, associate professor Don Williams, announced he would resign at the end of the spring semester because of the treatment of the student editors, but was relieved of teaching responsibilities immediately. The Baylor Chapter of the American Association of University Professors is making an inquiry into that incident.

Hale, who has taught press law and ethics at Baylor since 1976, said President Abner V. McCall's publishing restrictions and the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of Williams and the editors conflicted with what he said is good journalistic ethics.

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America Reveres Violence
Says Former Chief Lawyer

By David R. Wilkinson

Baptist Press
3/27/80

NEW YORK (BP)--American society has a "reverence for violence" and a preoccupation with materialism, and the decade of the 1980s needs people with the will to live counter to these cultural values.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark delivered this challenge to more than 400 concerned Southern Baptists in a national seminar on "Ethical Issues for the '80s." The annual meeting is sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Americans, Clark claimed, "revere the power of violence constantly, in a thousand ways we never think of... (it's) evident in everyday semantics, such as 'waging war on poverty' and 'battling inflation.'"

"We need people who will understand the violence that we revere and see it as the ultimate human degradation," he added.

Clark pointed to the nuclear arms race and the nation's unwillingness to stop handgun abuse as specific examples of America's reverence for violence.

He criticized the government's increase in military spending, questioning whether "a nation that's already spending one-third of all the world spends on methods of destruction can find greater security" in an increased defense budget "when we already have the power to destroy many times over all life that God has given us."

"We need people," he continued, "who will recognize that you cannot work in a napalm factory all week and march in a peace parade on Sunday; that you can't make the world safe for hypocrisy; that America has something more to offer the world than more arms."

He called upon the religious community to lead the way in demanding "an orderly conversion" from a "permanent war economy" to one that focuses on human need. Clark said Americans must realize that "in militarism there is destruction."

"We have to put away our guns," he said, citing several statistics on violence committed with handguns. "We ought to prohibit the handgun as a killer weapon, concealable and dangerous, something that has affected our history many times over because it has killed the people who have embodied the better dreams of our society. What possible justification can people who love children have for the handgun?"

In a question and answer session following his address, Clark added that handgun legislation has made little progress because Americans refuse to "think about it seriously."

"If we can't come to grips with the phenomenon of the handgun, we have no capacity to affect our destiny," he said. "'Armed chance' is in control...and it will not be abolished until people recognize the gun as the symbol and instrument of violence--and that will require some exercise from the pulpit and the homes, and then the legislative halls can address it."

Clark, who spoke just prior to an address by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, also addressed the current crisis in Iran. America's materialism, he said, is one of the reasons "we have cherished the shah."

He said the Carter administration should admit the "mistakes" of the American government and its policy of supporting the shah's regime.

"In my opinion, for 25 years at least, this country has violated every principle it espouses," he said, adding that he loves his country. "We preach democracy and supported a dictatorship, centralized in a person of the most powerful type. We talk of freedom...and supported the most totalitarian, arbitrary and authoritarian government. We armed it with \$17 billion in arms between 1972 and 1978."

The U.S. government's policy, he said, "was doomed to failure, and those who can't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat their errors in history."

Mercer Medical School
Proceeds 'Under Review'

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Mercer University trustees have voted to proceed with plans to start a medical school in Macon, Ga., but approved stringent restrictions to guarantee the university won't be jeopardized by any financial problems the medical school might incur.

President R. Kirby Godsey told trustees that he foresees a balanced budget for the medical school for the 1980-81 and 1981-82 academic years. But after that, he expects the medical school to encounter a budget deficit of at least \$2 million per year through 1985.

The Macon-Bibb County Hospital Authority will build a medical school classroom building on Mercer land deeded it by the trustees.

Trustees also approved Godsey's recommendations that the Middle Georgia community be given major responsibility for providing the "shortfall" needed to balance medical school budgets after 1982.

And, they told the medical authority that Godsey and Mercer trustees will have authority to close the school at any time they feel funds are not in sight for a balanced budget.

And, if that time should come, Mercer University would have first option on reacquiring the property and building used by the medical school.

Godsey told reporters at a press conference in Macon, "Mercer is committed to responding to the people of Macon who have expressed a desire for a medical school. But, Mercer is not able to handle such a project alone...People of Macon and Middle Georgia simply must provide the shortfall needed to balance the budget."

Macon has talked of a medical school for about 10 years. Initial requests came from Middle Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Mercer agreed to work with civic and medical leaders to develop the school.

Contracts were to be signed last week to build the medical school building adjacent to the Mercer campus in Macon. It will cost over \$4 million. Target date for the first student to enter is the fall of 1981.

Macon voters approved a \$7 million bond issue for the medical school several years ago. The state of Georgia has allocated \$5 million for the school. And medical school backers have raised about \$1.7 million in gifts and pledges.

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Cothen Recovering
Following Surgery

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3/27/80

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Grady Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, is progressing satisfactorily and is expected to have a complete recovery, following surgery March 26 to remove an abdominal malignancy.

Approximately 70 percent of Cothen's stomach was removed in a three-hour operation but the cancer was confined to the wall of the stomach and no other organs were affected.

His personal physician, Lawrence Grossman, described Cothen's condition as "good."

Cothen was moved to the critical care unit of St. Thomas Hospital several hours after surgery where he was expected to remain for two days.

Cothen, 59, is not expected to resume his duties for at least five weeks. In his absence, Executive Vice President James Clark is acting as chief executive officer of the board.

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Religious Leaders Want No Budget Cuts for Poor

WASHINGTON (BP)--Twenty-two U.S. religious leaders, including a pair of Baptists, have issued a statement expressing strong concern that President Carter and Congress are proposing budget cuts which "disproportionately hurt poor and hungry people" in governmental efforts to combat inflation.

The Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders expressed dismay that the budget proposals contravene a recent recommendation by the Presidential Commission on World Hunger and Malnutrition that the "United States government make the elimination of hunger the primary focus of its relationships with developing nations, beginning with the decade of the 1980s."

The statement warns that proposed reductions of \$100 million to \$500 million in development and humanitarian assistance would have consequences in the range of "serious to "catastrophic."

"While we are sensitive to the need to reduce inflation and are confident that responsible steps to do so will command widespread support, we feel strongly that anti-inflation measures must not require poor and hungry people who already suffer most to bear additional burdens," the statement said.

The two Baptists signing the statement were James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and C.J. Malloy Jr., general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc., and a member of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Also among the signees were Claire Randall, general secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ; Theodore M. Hesburgh, president, University of Notre Dame; Arthur Simon, executive director, Bread for the World; Marc Tannenbaum, national interreligious affairs director, American Jewish Committee; and William P. Thompson, stated clerk, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

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Burrows New
Chaplain Chief

Baptist Press
3/27/80

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Charles W. Burrows, Lakeland, Fla., was elected president of the Association of Baptist Chaplains which met in annual session in St. Louis.

The group is composed of Southern Baptist ministers who are chaplains in hospitals, other institutions and in industry.

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Broyhill Gifts Lift
Restoration Project

Baptist Press
3/27/80

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--A recent \$50,000 gift from the Broyhill Foundation of Lenoir, N.C., brings to \$200,000 total gifts from the foundation for the restoration of historic Lea Laboratory on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lea Lab, built in 1888, was the first building on a college campus in the southeastern United States devoted exclusively to the study of science, according to seminary officials.

Restoration is to begin this summer, preserving the structure's elegant exterior while creating functional space inside.

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