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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 6, 1980

80-158

**Carl Bates Will Join
Southern Seminary Faculty**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Carl E. Bates, president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1971-72, will become senior professor of pastoral ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective Feb. 1.

Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charlotte, N.C., has been president of both the Texas and the North Carolina Baptist state conventions. He is a member of the General Council of the Baptist World Alliance.

His wife, the former Myra Gray, was second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1976.

Before moving to Charlotte, Bates was pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, 1950-59, and also served churches in Texarkana, Texas, Leesburg, Fla., and Winchester, Ky.

Bates holds the bachelor and master of theology degrees from Southern Seminary, and is an alumnus of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss. He has received honorary degrees from Baylor University, Wake Forest University, Campbell College, Mississippi College, and Judson College.

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**Milton Ferguson's Daughter
Dies in Automobile Crash**

Baptist Press
10/6/80

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Jo Catherine Ferguson, youngest daughter of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Milton Ferguson, was killed early Oct. 4 in an automobile crash.

According to police reports, the car in which Miss Ferguson was riding with three other young people was struck broadside in an intersection by a car that went through a flashing red light at a high rate of speed. Two boys in the car with Miss Ferguson were uninjured. A girl in the same car suffered rib injuries.

Funeral services were to be Oct. 8 at the Midwestern Seminary Chapel.

The Jo Catherine Ferguson Memorial Fund has been established at North Kansas City High School where Miss Ferguson, 16, was a junior. Contributions in lieu of flowers can be made to the fund through Midwestern.

Miss Ferguson is survived by two sisters, Julia Beth, a student at William Jewell College, and Jane Ann Ward of Indianapolis; her mother, Bettye, and her father, Milton.

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Iowa Fellowship Moves Toward Conventionhood

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP)--Two actions designed to move the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship to state convention status by Jan. 1, 1983, were taken as messengers met in the annual fellowship meeting here Oct. 3-4.

Messengers approved the purchase of an office building for \$102,000, to house fellowship work, and accepted plans for a witnessing event called Project 55, designed to penetrate the 55 Iowa counties unentered by Southern Baptists.

Currently, Iowa has 63 churches and about 9,000 members. To organize as a state convention, a fellowship must have at least 70 churches and 10,000 members.

"The decision to purchase the office complex was made because the ISBF offices have been in inadequate rented space," said Mike McCrocklin, evangelism leader for the fellowship.

McCrocklin said Project 55 will be held as a joint effort with the Missouri Baptist Convention, sponsoring convention for the fellowship. "We hope at least 30 new churches will result from Project 55," he said. "If that occurs, it could be a 50 percent growth in the number of churches of the fellowship."

Messengers were told the churches of the fellowship baptized 770 persons in the 1979-80 church year, compared with 620 the year before and 400 in 1977-78.

In other actions, messengers elected Michael L. McKinney, pastor of Ashworth Road Baptist Church of West Des Moines as president, succeeding Claude McFerron, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Waterloo.

Messengers also approved a budget of \$441,765, of which \$181,578 will be received from participating fellowship churches.

Messengers debated one controversial resolution and declined to deal with another.

They discussed a strongly worded resolution opposing the Equal Rights Amendment before voting 70 to 62 to table. The resolution called on members and churches to oppose the ERA, but supporters of the move to table said it violated the fellowship constitution, which prohibits actions which violate the autonomy of the individual church or the priesthood of the believer.

Messengers did not debate a strongly worded resolution on doctrinal integrity, after McFerron, presiding officer, ruled the resolution out of order, since the constitution of the ISBF contains the text of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

The resolution, presented by Pat Shaughnessy, a former Baptist Student Union director at the University of Northern Iowa, now a resident of Ames, says the Bible is inerrant "doctrinally, historically, scientifically and philosophically."

It also contained a section requiring "all denominational workers associated with the ISBF, whether directly hired...or under its affiliation through other boards and agencies or entities be in agreement with the resolution regarding inerrancy of the Scriptures."

It asked the executive officers of the fellowship to confer with employees to determine their response to the resolution and to take "appropriate action where there is disagreement."

The section, which was printed in the book of reports, was withdrawn before discussion. Lanny Roberts, pastor of Merle Hay Chapel of Des Moines, asked messengers to disregard that section and said such action is the function of the personnel committee and the executive board.

The next meeting of the fellowship will be Oct. 2-3, at Faith Temple Baptist Church in Waterloo.

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Disease Makes Him Effective
Says Doctor Stricken with MS

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
10/6/80

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP)—"When you mention multiple sclerosis, it's like saying 'cancer.' It scares people to death."

Oklahoma City Baptist layman William Hale ought to know. As a physician, he treats people every week who have multiple sclerosis, a condition that often results in partial or complete paralysis. As a victim, he lives with the crippling disease 24 hours a day.

His wife Sandy, a registered nurse, also has multiple sclerosis. But don't pity the Hales. They had rather sing praises than blues.

"I fully believe that I could never be as effective in my Christian witness if I didn't have MS," the 41-year-old father of four says emphatically. "It's just aggravating more than anything else."

What Hale sees as "aggravating" would be traumatic to most people. His back muscles have deteriorated to the point that the nerves no longer function. He can't lower his arms to his side. To remove his sports coat, he has to pull it over his head.

He and Sandy both experience occasional difficulty walking, sometimes crumpling to the floor unexpectedly. Hale sometimes has trouble enunciating. He has a kind of half-smile because of partial paralysis in his facial muscles.

But he smiles nevertheless.

"If anything, it's helped motivate me," he says of the disease. "There's no such thing as an affliction if you have Christ. With the love of God, even with a problem like MS, you can function. I can still see people (patients), even if I'm in a wheelchair."

That kind of commitment impresses people.

"He's the kindest man I've ever met," says a soft-spoken, 24-year-old female patient. When she came to Hale's office with only a \$10 bill, Hale told her what he has told others -- "pay whenever you can."

Hale's extraordinary practice also impressed the American Academy of Family Practice who named him 1979 "Doctor of the Year" in Oklahoma.

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Hale deeply appreciated the honor. But it was a reminder that his ministry draws strength from a source much deeper than his own ability and energy.

It has not always been that way. When Hale began his medical practice, his goal was success--medically and monetarily. But since his life-changing commitment to Jesus Christ 10 years ago, he has become actively involved in a variety of ministries through his church and through Capital Baptist Association.

With the association's backing, Hale helped launch a free medical and dental ministry to poor Oklahoma City families.

Plans for the health center, now in its eighth year, began while Hale was lying in a hospital bed.

Paralyzed by a stroke induced by the then undiagnosed multiple sclerosis, he was told by his medical colleagues that he would never work again. His weight plunged from 218 to 140 pounds. He couldn't walk or grasp objects.

But he could dream and despite the ominous prognosis, Hale was functioning again within weeks. He returned to his practice with a medical clinic on his mind.

He called physicians for days without recruiting a single volunteer. "I even got cussed out a few times," he recalls. After several frustrating days, he finally realized he "hadn't talked to the Lord about it."

"I got down on my knees and prayed about it. The next day I called eight doctors and every single one said yes," he says.

Today, a volunteer staff of physicians, dentists, lab technicians and nurses care for 50-70 persons every Monday and Thursday evening. Volunteer pharmacists fill as many as 150 prescriptions a night.

Despite physical limitations, Hale spends several evenings a week at the clinic. The reason, he says, is simple: "My faith is my practice."

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Adapted from the November issue of World Mission Journal.
(BP) photo mailed to Baptist state newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.