



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Smith Announces Resolutions Body

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP)--The resolutions committee for the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention has been announced by Bailey E. Smith, SBC president.

Charles Graves, pastor of Nichols Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and a member of the SBC Executive Committee, will be chairman.

Under the SBC Constitution, three of the 10 members of the committee must be members of the SBC Executive Committee, which functions as the convention between annual sessions.

The other two Executive Committee representatives are Gordon Dorian, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas, and John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., and president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Others named are Bob Bacon, pastor of Del Norte Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M., and president of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico; Barbara (Mrs. Jack) Taylor of Fort Worth, Texas, and wife of the first vice president of the SBC;

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas; Paul Lewis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carson City, Nev.; Bill Smith, pastor of Wailae Baptist Church, Honolulu, Hawaii; Joel Gregory, pastor of Gambrell Street Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, and Carol (Mrs. John) Swartz of Escondido, Calif.

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Baptist Minister Named
By Louisiana Governor

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4/20/81

NEW IBERIA, La. (BP)--Elie Woerner, director of French missions work for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, has been named to the Council on the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

Woerner, director of the Louisiana Baptist French Radio Hour, is one of three ministers named to the council by Louisiana Gov. Dave Treen. The council is composed of 50 persons from throughout the state and charged with preservation, expansion and strengthening the French language in Louisiana for the cultural, economic and touristic benefit of the state.

He is a native of La Fere, France, and was pastor of three French-speaking congregations in south Louisiana before, in 1973, he became director of the radio ministry which is aired over 20 stations weekly.

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Brotherhood Names
Crusader Director

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Karl Bozeman, consultant in preschool and children's work for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will become director of the crusader department of the Royal Ambassador division of the Brotherhood Commission June 1.

Bozeman, 54, succeeds Frank Black, who transferred to the Baptist men's division as an associate director.

Bozeman is a graduate of North Texas State University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and has done graduate work in early childhood education at the University of Texas and the University of Alabama.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Memphis bureau of Baptist Press.

Atlanta's Murders Continue,
Tragedy Brings About Unity

By Marv Knox

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ATLANTA (BP)--The list of Atlanta's murdered youngsters now carries 24 names, but Southern Baptists living in an inner city housing project claim the tragedy has brought unity to their community.

"All the dead children are black, but this horror crosses racial barriers," said Bill Hayes. "Blacks and whites are realizing we've got to work together. All our children are important."

Hayes and his wife, Mary, are members of the Baptist Tabernacle of Atlanta, a Southern Baptist church downtown. They are white, living in Techwood Homes, an inner city project about 90 percent black. The community also was the home of Eddie Duncan, a 21-year-old retarded man included on the list.

"There has been a lot of resentment by blacks toward whites and Indians who moved into Techwood," Mary said. Bill noted he once carried a "small baseball bat, just for protection."

Factors that feed violence—poverty, unemployment and boredom—have long been present in the community, and every report of another murdered child agitates tensions, he said.

But the shift in feelings among community residents started when tenants formed a "Parent Patrol" to help children go safely to and from school, Mary said. She and a black neighbor, Victoria Powell, were the first to organize the effort. Bill, on disability unemployment and undergoing vocational rehabilitation, helped when he was available.

Parents got involved in the patrol because their children were scared. "Their grades were down; they were petrified," said Mary. As a result, people learned others were concerned for their children and their community.

"Realization that we have a common need for protection and the welfare of our children brought people out of their shells," Mary said. "People used to stay in their homes or with close circles of friends. The tragedy caused them to drop their apathy and say, 'We can't stay like this.'"

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Ironically, the formation of another protection group in the community—a "bat patrol" of baseball bat-toting vigilantes—strengthened the nonviolent parents' group.

"Most people in this community first heard about the bat patrol when they saw it on TV news. We were horrified that this kind of group would try to take over our streets," Mary remembered.

"But it helped the Parent Patrol, because it made people see the value of protection—without violence," Bill added. "We had only about 10 patrol members for about six weeks. Since the bat patrol surfaced, our membership has tripled."

The bat patrol has diminished from 15 members to "about four or six," due to negative reaction of Techwood residents and slight media coverage, Bill reported.

Yet the Parent Patrol continues to grow. Mary explained people see patrol volunteers in red jackets with green armbands and realize their neighbors "are willing to put themselves between children and danger."

Some of these people actually join the patrol and accept assignments, Bill said. Others simply go outdoors when children go to and from school, watching for anything suspicious. The activity helps them know each other better, for they visit while they watch for children.

"People seem to be more interested in the community now," Bill said. "Whether they're on the Parent Patrol or not, they seem to appreciate it that people care for our children and are willing to get involved."

Despite the progress, no one claims Techwood Homes is totally calm, completely safe.

"The majority of people who live here are good people; they just happen to be poor," Bill said. "But we've still got a small percentage of people who are full of hate."

"And the fear hasn't lessened," Mary added. "People are just learning to share it."

And the Hayeses give God a lot of credit for calming people enough to quietly start helping themselves and each other. Terry Moncrief, SBC home missionary and director of Clark Howell-Techwood Baptist Center, agrees.

"This reaction among the people is something God did and surprised us with," he said. "Through it, he's given Christians the opportunity to witness in the midst of crisis."

"God has not erased our fears or caught the killer," Moncrief said, "But he's showing he can heal in an evil world."

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Finances, Gifts Draw
Midwestern Board Okay

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4/20/81

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Three gifts amounting to \$115,000 to endow scholarships, student aid and a special leadership series were announced at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees.

Midwestern trustee Robert Keatley of St. Joseph, Mo., and his wife, Wanda, made two gifts. One, for \$50,000, will endow the Midwestern Leadership Series, a program designed to bring outstanding lay persons to the campus for lectureships, workshops and achievement

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recognition awards. The other, \$40,000, will make \$4,000 available annually for a Midwestern student and spouse to travel to the Holy Land upon graduation.

A \$25,000 gift, by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harris of Kansas City, will be used to fund two annual \$1,000 student aid scholarships.

Trustees also adopted Midwestern's largest budget to date: \$2,421,296, an 8.85 percent increase. The budget provides for salary merit increases up to a maximum of nine percent.

In other action, the trustees approved an acting academic dean, a senior professor of Christian ethics, a visiting professor of church music, and an assistant to the president.

Larry Baker, associate professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern, will be acting dean from January through June 1982, during the study leave of academic dean John Howell.

Midwestern's Vice President Emeritus, C.W. Scudder, was confirmed as senior professor in Christian ethics. Scudder, who retired Feb. 1, 1981, will assume teaching responsibilities in the spring of 1982 when Baker is acting dean.

Clinton Nichols, associate professor of church music and voice at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will be visiting professor in church music in 1981-82, during his sabbatical leave from New Orleans.

In addition to his teaching duties, Nichols will lead music during the chapel services, direct and train the Midwestern Singers, a choral group of students and staff, and will relate to state level music leadership when music workshops are planned on campus.

Robert L. Desbien, a five-year employee for the seminary and director of public relations since 1978, was approved as assistant to the president. In this role, he will assume responsibilities in the area of institutional development in addition to his current duties.

Officers were re-elected. They are Paul Batson, Marion, S.C., chairman; C. Bullard Jones, Baton Rouge, La., first vice chairman; T. Robert Mullinax, Raleigh, N.C., second vice chairman; David Stone, Kansas City, Mo., secretary; and Edward VanDeusen, Raymore, Mo., treasurer.

Pastor's Radio Show
Helps Family Problems

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP)—His parents' divorce after 35 years of marriage reinforced Baptist pastor Bill Little's desire to help solidify marriages.

It also helped give him understanding that makes him a favorite on a weekly afternoon radio talk show in St. Louis where he answers questions dealing with family problems.

"When we launched this program, we tried out several psychiatrists and psychologists," said the show's host, Anne Keefe. "But they were too clinical, too textbookish. Also, they were too liberal and abrasive. For example, they might tell a caller, 'You shouldn't have gotten yourself into such a problem.'"

"Bill Little has balance. He has a soft and moral tone, without moralizing. He never pushes his religion. Callers ask him questions they'd never pose to their minister or even psychiatrist. We find that youth identify with him, yet parents are not shocked by his advice to them. Since St. Louis is very conservative, it's difficult to strike a balance. But Bill does."

Little is also on each Thursday night from 11:15 to midnight. His radio counseling opened the door for him to be unofficial chaplain for many of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. He spent 10 days with them in March at their spring training camp in St. Petersburg, Fla., where he consulted with them on personal and professional problems.

"One thing I refuse to do, and that is use textbook language on the radio," Little says. "I could use the classroom jargon if I wanted to, for I've earned 96 graduate hours in psychology. But I remember what Dad told me while I was growing up on a farm in southeast Missouri: 'Bill, the mark of an educated man is telling others what he knows in language they can understand.'"

For his doctoral thesis at Washington University, Little has been doing research with cancer patients at Barnes Hospital, an effort he says has helped him to rearrange his own priorities.

"I find that cancer patients with a reason to live do better," he says. "So I encourage them to sort out their uniqueness, to ask why God made them the way he did, and encourage them to be that kind of person in the best way they know."

"Serious illness makes any of us take stock of who we really are, and whether we'll take responsibility for our lives, or let others decide for us, and pour us in a mold. For example, I'm a Southern Baptist. But this doesn't mean that someone is going to dictate to me that 'here's how a Baptist is supposed to act,' regardless of what I feel is right for me."

"I tell anyone who is emotionally or physically sick that they can take some action and live, or they can lie there and die in pain. Not that everyone can get well just by deciding to. I certainly don't mean that. I do mean that each individual needs that quality that refuses to surrender to any problem without putting up a fight."