



-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

October 26, 1981

81-165

Husband and Wife Ordained To Ministry By Georgia Church By Walker L. Knight

DECATUR, Ga. (BP)--Oakhurst Baptist Church ordained members Nancy and Ken Sehested to the gospel ministry Oct. 25 in what may be the first time both husband and wife have been ordained in the same service in a Southern Baptist church.

Both ministers will serve the church: Nancy, 30, as part-time associate minister specializing in missions and education; and Ken, 30, as co-editor of SEEDS magazine, a ministry of the church devoted to world hunger. Mel Williams is pastor at Oakhurst.

James Dunn of Washington, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and friend of the Sehesteds, told the two ministers during the ordination sermon that they must expect to be role modelers.

In commenting on the unique service, Dunn said the church cannot do its job without setting aside some as different, and that unconventionality serves a need in a denomination's life.

During examination by the ordination council, Nancy said, "I realize there are limitations as to the places where I can be heard and where I can serve. I have no burning desire to be exclusively a crusader for women, but I realize that in ordination I take a stand. There is comfort in knowing I have been called of God."

She is the third generation of her family to be ordained as a Southern Baptist minister. Her father is C. B. Hastings of Atlanta, noted interfaith witness leader with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board specializing in Baptist-Catholic relations. Her grandfather was Luther Hastings, long-time pastor at Monroe, La.

Ken, the son of Baptist lay leader Glen Sehested from Houma, La., was a youth evangelist as a teenager, attended Baylor University in Waco, then graduated from New York University and from Union Seminary in New York with a master of divinity degree.

He characterized his ministry as "curbside theologian," relating theology to life through personal involvement in crucial issues.

Nancy attended Baylor and Seton Hall in New Jersey, and graduated from City College of New York. She earned a master of divinity degree from Union seminary. Their daughters are Jessica, 5, and Alayna, 1.

Nancy, when asked at the ordination council why she is a Southern Baptist, replied, "It's my heritage. I struggled with why I am a Baptist at the seminary and I came to see the sense of missions, that all of us are ministers, and how important are the ordinances as practiced by Baptists. I can't see myself in another denomination.

-more-

"It is at Oakhurst that I have felt the strongest affirmation of who I am. It's a church where the people take seriously their call to be disciples. My call is to serve in a local church where I will equip others for their ministry."

Nancy is the third woman ordained by Oakhurst. The others serve as a chaplain and a children's home administrative staffer.

-30-

US2er Named Moderator
Of Michigan Association

Baptist Press
10/26/81

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (BP)--Dan Wilkinson, a US2 missionary with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been elected moderator of the Huron Baptist Association.

It is believed the first time a US2er has been elected to lead an association.

A US2 missionary is a college graduate who is appointed to serve two years on the mission field to test out their call to missions. It corresponds to the journeyman program of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Wilkinson, who is working as Baptist Student Union director at the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University, is a native of Michigan and grew up in Royal Oak, a suburb of Detroit.

He is a graduate of EMU and during his college days was BSU president, state BSU president, volunteer BSU director at the school, and a summer missionary in Clintonville, Wis. He was appointed a US2er in 1980.

Of his new responsibility, Wilkinson says: "I am excited about it. I'm looking forward to working with Floyd Collins, area director of missions."

-30-

Texas Baptist Leaders
Urge Drunk Driver Panel

Baptist Press
10/26/81

DALLAS (BP)--Two Texas Baptist leaders have co-authored a letter urging President Ronald Reagan to establish a commission on the drunk driver problem in this country.

Co-signing the letter were Phil Strickland, director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and D. L. Lowrie, chairman of the BGCT Executive Board. Lowrie is pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock.

The Baptist leaders cited a recent news conference in which three United States congressmen called on the president to set up a commission to examine the "alcohol crash problem in our country and to make specific recommendations to impact the problem."

In their news conference, the congressmen stressed that in the past two years drunk drivers have killed more people than the 50,000 U.S. soldiers who died in combat during 10 years of fighting in Vietnam.

Strickland and Lowrie said in their letter that "as alcohol consumption rises rapidly, so do the incidences of fatal crashes in which intoxication is at least a major contributing factor. Teenagers are hit the hardest by this problem."

-more-

The Baptist leaders said there are many pressing problems in our society, but it is time for the drunk driver problem to be addressed.

"Unlike many of our national problems, we may find that tangible, workable solutions may be readily forthcoming," the letter said.

"We hope you will take seriously the request of these congressmen and of citizens like us who are concerned about this unnecessary loss of human life and establish some new initiatives to address this problem.

-30-

Sloan Charges Some Parents Rush Children to Conversion

Baptist Press
10/26/81

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Confusion about the doctrine of accountability is causing some Southern Baptist parents to rush their children into making professions of faith before they are ready, a seminary professor says.

Robert B. Sloan, instructor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, told 150 participants in the ChildLife Conference, "We are defining the biblical doctrine as the age of moral accountability when it should be the age of gospel accountability."

"This age is not when your child begins to know right from wrong," said Sloan. "It is when your child understands the gospel and knows that Jesus died for our sins. The biblical doctrine is one of a nurturing, developmental model, not a moral guilt model."

The four-day conference for professional children's workers was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

As evidence of his contention that some parents are pushing children into professions of faith, Sloan cited increasing numbers of children who make decisions and later in life realize they did not understand the meaning of their action.

Sloan, however, acknowledged many children do have legitimate conversion experiences.

Sloan said to effectively teach children about God, "We must not change the basic truth of one Lord, one faith and one baptism, but we must package it differently."

He advocated the use of stories in teaching children. "We take our content from the Bible, so why shouldn't we take our method?" he asked.

From hearing stories, Sloan said children begin to ask questions which often lead to conversion.

"Baptism follows the hearing and believing of the gospel, no matter the age," Sloan said. "Baptists have never advocated adult baptism; what we do advocate is believers' baptism. There can be no conversion apart from understanding the gospel."

-30-

**Woman Crawls on Hands, Knees
To Attend Church in Illinois**

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. (BP)--Faith Strand, 73, climbs 28 steps on her hands and knees to attend church.

Strand, a heavy woman partially crippled by arthritis, faithfully attends Templo Bautista Ven-A-El, an English-Spanish congregation.

"Our congregation meets on the second floor of a downtown building," explained Mrs. Juan Lujan, the pastor's wife. "The steps are unusually steep and long, but Mrs. Strand insists on reaching the top under her own strength.

"She tells us, 'Now everyone stay back out of my way,' and then she gets down on all fours. After services, she waits until all have left, then she sits down on the top step and scoots down, one step at a time. Often on Sunday mornings, we hear her heavy breathing, even before we see her, as she exerts herself to reach the top."

The congregation meets in such an out-of-the-way place because a layman of another faith provides the space rent-free, including all utilities.

"When Juan, my husband, first came to Rock Island as a church planter," Mrs. Lujan explained, "he was interviewed on WDLM in East Moline, a Christian radio station. Ted Hanes, a layman in the Evangelical Free Church, was so impressed that he called Juan and offered his building, so long as we want to worship here."

"Ven-A-El" means "come to Him," Mrs. Lujan said. "And that's what we want everyone to do, including persons such as Mrs. Strand."

-30-

Ventura Pastor Named
To Golden Gate Post

Baptist Press
10/26/81

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Larry C. Baker, pastor of Ventura First Southern Baptist Church, has been elected vice president for communications at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Baker, a former public relations associate at the seminary, replaces Stanton Nash, who retired and will work with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

As communications vice president, Baker will direct the seminary's public relations and alumni programs.

Baker holds the master of divinity degree from Golden Gate and a bachelor of arts from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. Previously, he was assistant publisher of the Stamford (Texas) American newspaper, and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Lodi, Calif.

He is a native of Los Angeles, and attended elementary schools in rural Southern Illinois before graduating from Tucson (Arizona) High School in 1963. He was a Russian language translator in the U.S. Air Force after his high school graduation.

-30-

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hollis Urges Parents
To Stay Together

By Gail Rothwell

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Christian parents in troubled marriages should stay together for the sake of the children, Harry Hollis told participants in a Childlife conference at Glorieta.

Hollis, director of family and special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, told 130 professional and volunteer children's workers: "Perhaps if parents stay together for the sake of the children they can pull themselves away from their self-centered pride or other problems and work together. Maybe then they will find meaning and purpose for their marriages."

Urging participants to follow the example of Jesus to be an advocate for children, Hollis said: "Jesus loves children, led them, laughed with them and died for them."

One of the most important things that the family can do for children is to provide them with a sense of identity, he said. "There are a lot of forces at work in our society which persist in telling us we are nobodies. The task of the family should be to tell children that they are somebody."

The good news for families, he said, is that "what children so desperately need in today's world is provided for by God's Holy Spirit. In fact, our only hope for providing for children is to let God work through us."

While families can minister to the needs of children, children can contribute many things to the family, said Hollis, including helping parents reach out to others.

"Children have a way of getting you outside yourself and giving you a sense of determination to get out into the community and make it a better place for children. When adults do this they also make it a better world for themselves."

A major area of concern for the church should be in providing families with an understanding of sexuality, Hollis noted. Traditionally many Southern Baptists have sent negative messages about sex, he said. "Baptists need to have a positive word to say about sexuality. We need to start speaking to the needs of people by providing education in our churches about sexuality and bringing redemption to sex," Hollis said.

The best resource for teaching sex education is the Bible, because it respects the power of sexuality, he said. "The Bible has guidance on sex and views it as God's gift, given for the enrichment of human life."

The process of sex education in the home is an ongoing, verbal and nonverbal process, he told workers. "Sex education is not just a one-time lecture that you give your children." He told workers that children need the viewpoints of others to validate and facilitate what they have learned at home.

Finally, Hollis said, the church should prepare families for the future by giving them a solid foundation to build upon. "Families facing crisis can pull through when they have a foundation built upon Jesus Christ," he said.