



-- FEATURES
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EDITORS: Following is the first in a series of features on the executive heads of Southern Baptist agencies, boards and institutions. Baptist Press will run one each week, with photo, in no particular order. Each article has been written by a public relations person within the agency.

Agency Head Series

Dilday, Rare Master
of Various Worlds

By John E. Seelig

CO feature

FORTH WORTH, Texas (BP)--He's one of six in the world. President of one of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, he's a hunter, pilot, sports enthusiast, family man, traveler, preacher, pastor, academician, writer, humorist and effective administrator.

He's Russell H. Dilday Jr.

On a prominent wall in his home study hangs the stuffed head of a white-tailed deer with twelve-point antlers, convincing evidence of a hunter.

"The wild blue yonder" has always been a source of fascination and excitement for Dilday. He first became interested in flying during the 1950's when he was a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he is now president.

During an Arbor Day celebration when students and staff were planting trees all over campus he and a friend took their first airplane flight circling the campus and observing the activities from the air. Later he earned a pilot's license and has logged over 800 hours.

Dilday, 50, plays tennis, racquetball and jogs. He and his whole family are regular participants in the activities in the seminary's recreation/aerobics center.

He is a competitor who usually wins on the court...hardly ever because he's the president!

Dilday's family has always been one of his major priorities. He and his wife, Betty, have one son and two daughters. All five family members are graduates of Baylor University.

Son Robert is a student at seminary and currently an intern with the Arkansas Baptist news-magazine. Ellen is a student at the seminary and plans to work with youth. Nancy teaches third grade in nearby Mansfield following the pattern of her mother, a former school teacher.

The family ties with Baylor University are a natural asset since the seminary originated as an outgrowth of Baylor University at the turn of the century. Dilday is active as a director in the alumni association. He was featured in the recent Baylor motion picture called "Sojourners."

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The Dildays have been to every corner of the world. He is a natural traveler and loves meeting new people. He has visited every continent.

In addition to traveling together, the Dildays enjoy the mountains and skiing together. They take two or three trips to the slopes annually.

His interest in the financial world also began when he was a seminary student. He worked at Fort Worth's First National Bank and was offered a position there that could have opened up a banking career. He now manages an institution with \$52 million of assets, a \$12 million annual budget and endowment funds of over \$20 million.

His mentors call him an outstanding preacher. He is fresh in his approach, appealing in his delivery, practical in application and always biblical in his content. When he preaches in the seminary's chapel services the auditorium is crowded and the response is enthusiastic.

When he became president of the seminary in 1978 many of his friends thought he had "given up preaching." The truth is he has preached more often during the last three years than he would have preached as pastor of a local church, 523 sermons in 290 different churches.

He is still a pastor at heart. Having begun his ministry in a small rural church in Jack County, Antelope Baptist Church, he left the prestigious Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, 26 years later to take the helm of the seminary.

In Atlanta he was pastor of the former United States attorney general and the governor of Georgia. Dilday has a unique way of feeling at home with high officials or with a rugged cowboy drinking coffee from a tin can made over an open fire on the Texas range.

In between these two pastorates were two others: the First Baptist Church of Clifton, Texas, and Tallowood Baptist Church in the expanding suburbs of Houston. He led the latter from a membership of 80 to 2,500 during his 10-year pastorate. He still enjoys being called "Preacher."

No one likes to laugh any more than Dilday. His natural impromptu humor has become a hallmark. He has an uncanny ability to use humor to enforce a point, relax an audience or just for the fun of telling a story.

He is chairman of a committee for the Association of Theological Schools called "Project 2000" that will make a long range study of theological libraries in the next two decades. He is a member of a study commission for the Baptist World Alliance.

He is author of several books and many articles, completing a manuscript this summer for a new book, "The Doctrine of Biblical Authority" for Convention Press to be released in 1982.

Although he has many strengths, his administrative technique makes his leadership of the world's largest seminary one of his most important achievements. He believes in participative management but there is never a doubt about who's in control.

Dilday is a product of and the personification of Southwestern. His life is committed to training men and women whom God calls into Christian ministry.

He is caught up in the "Vision of the Founders" and is striving to see the vision continue in reality.

Churches Encourage, Reject
Seminary Trained Women

CO

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Though churches encourage women to respond to the call of God for seminary training, they say "no" when offered the resultant skills, says veteran Baptist editor C. R. Daley.

"It's time our denomination and its leaders addressed the matter of proper utilization of Baptist ministerial man and especially woman power," Daley, editor of Kentucky's Western Recorder, told mid-term graduates at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. "It is time the Southern Baptist Convention provides for a study which would lead to some workable plan for ministerial employment compatible with biblical teaching even though it might challenge Baptist tradition."

Daley, whose son was among the graduates, told them they face a potentially bleak economic future. "The truth is," he said, "some of you will have difficulty finding any church that will support you and your family."

He said some of them "will have to teach school, sell insurance or automobiles or real estate...to support your family and preach because there's fire in your bones."

Daley also noted that in the area of job security, "the unpardonable sin for a Baptist minister is to become 50 years old."

Hitting hard at worship practices, he said that "in some services with one's eyes closed it would be hard to tell whether you were in a church or a night club."

"The gospel," he said, "only needs sounding in its simplicity, proclaimed in its purity and power and declared in its demands. It is not enhanced by chartreuse suits nor plunging necklines."

He also said today's cultural materialism is more influential than the teachings of Jesus. "How else," he asked, "do we explain the fact that on an average churches keep and spend on themselves 85 cents of every undesignated dollar while devoting 15 cents to the needs of the rest of the world?"

"Let's face it," he continued. "Many Baptist facilities of our day are monuments to our pride instead of expressions of our piety."

In his closing remarks, Daley said "the fiercest battle you will have is whether to speak the word of the Lord as you understand it or to speak what your hearers want to hear--whether to be popular or prophetic. To be both is very difficult."

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BSSB

Fields Are Not White;
But Harvest Is Ready

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
1/5/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"The fields are not white...but they are ready for harvest," a specialist in Southern Baptist work among ethnic groups says.

Concepcion Padilla, general field services consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board language unit, made the comment as he emphasized the urgent need for Southern Baptists to share the gospel with the burgeoning ethnic populations in the United States.

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Padilla believes Southern Baptist efforts must be targeted both to ethnic groups who study and worship in their own languages and to bilingual, bi-cultural persons who are second- and third-generation ethnic persons.

"I believe Southern Baptists for the first time are taking a serious look at reaching ethnics," said Padilla, who noted that the paternalistic approach of earlier years is being replaced by leaders who are seeking serious answers to questions about how to reach ethnics.

Rapidly growing numbers of ethnic persons is one reason pastors and other leaders are realizing the need to reach them, according to Padilla. Eight states--New York, Rhode Island, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico and Texas--include more than 20 percent ethnics among their populations. New Mexico is number one with 54 percent ethnics.

Padilla is both optimistic and "depressed" over Southern Baptist work among ethnics.

"I am optimistic because I see signs of us wanting to reach ethnic persons," said Padilla. "But I feel depressed because the time is now and we're not geared up for now."

Some of his optimism comes from the fact 609 Southern Baptist ethnic Sunday Schools have been started since 1977.

But some of his "depression" comes from his allegation that "we haven't done anything about reaching" the largest group of ethnics: bi-cultural and bilingual persons. They can be reached by Anglo churches and ethnic churches, he says, but the most effective way to reach them is through bilingual and bi-cultural churches which are practically non-existent in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Padilla suggests one approach to this group may be to form a team of three bilingual, bi-cultural couples who will move into an apartment building and begin a Bible study group. "I believe in five or six years this group would surpass any ethnic church in the community," said Padilla.

Southern Baptists need to become more sensitive to ethnic needs, develop more strong, effective leaders among ethnics and give priority attention to urban ministry, said Padilla.

"If we are to reach ethnics, we've got to reach the cities and if we are going to reach the cities, we've got to reach ethnics," said Padilla.

As part of Southern Baptist efforts to increase the denomination's Sunday School enrollment to 8.5 million by 1985, six conferences are scheduled in 1982 to acquaint pastors and key leaders of ethnic congregations with outreach plans and strategies.

Sessions will be held in the languages of the leaders, including Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Rumanian and Laotian.

The conferences will be held in Houston (March 6), Chicago (March 20), San Francisco (March 27), Los Angeles (April 3), New York (April 17) and San Juan (April 23-24).

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Ghana Missionaries Safe
Following Military Coup

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Baptist Press
1/5/82

ACCRA, Ghana (BP)--All Southern Baptist missionaries in Ghana are safe and activities there are returning to normal following a Dec. 31 military coup, according to reports received by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

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The weekend following the coup, John Mills, the board's director for west Africa, received reports from all mission stations that missionaries were safe. Although borders remained closed and a nighttime curfew was imposed, missionaries were beginning to venture outside their homes and resume normal activities. The American Embassy had urged the estimated 1,500 Americans in the country to remain in their homes in the immediate wake of the coup.

Thirty-one of the 51 Southern Baptist missionaries stationed in Ghana and a volunteer family in transit to Togo were in the country during the coup, but the coup had little effect on those living outside Accra.

News reports indicate that Jerry J. Rawlings, the 34-year-old former flight lieutenant who staged the coup, has arrested former civilian president Hilla Limann and a number of other government officials. Two years ago, Rawlings staged a similar coup, overturning the government of Lt. Gen. Frederick Akuffo. He turned over leadership of the nation to Limann after a public election, but staged the recent coup, he said, because Limann had failed to stop corruption and had contributed to the country's economic decline.

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Congregation Moves
To Unusual Setting

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Baptist Press
1/5/82

PAPILLION, Neb. (BP)--By the time a visitor accepts the bulletin from an usher, he already has noticed something different about First Baptist Church.

Posters that advertise coming attractions do not refer to coming concerts or revivals, but to the season's latest releases from Hollywood. And the lingering smell is not from an after-services potluck dinner simmering in the church kitchen. It's from popcorn.

First Baptist Church meets for worship in the Papio Theatre, an old-time movie house in downtown Papillion.

The congregation has met at the movie house since August, after the church auditorium was converted to house the church's Weekly Early Education School.

The pre-school was moved from the basement to the remodeled auditorium after state and local fire marshalls told the church that Nebraska law states children under second grade cannot regularly occupy classroom space three feet below or above ground level, according to pastor Johnny Cox.

A search for other space which met fire code regulations was unsuccessful. Eighty pupils were enrolled in the WEE School, and the church hesitated to close down what it considers its major outreach tool, Cox said. More than 90 percent of the pupils are non-Baptist.

Since there already were long-range plans to build a permanent sanctuary to accommodate 400 people, the congregation voted to speed up those plans and build the new facility, and convert the existing auditorium into pre-school space.

First Baptist will meet at the Papio Theatre until its new 5,000-square-foot auditorium is completed--probably in April 1982. In the meantime, members work together to smooth the functions of a church situated in two locations. Each Sunday morning, two men clean the theater, set up the pulpit, arrange the choir chairs and complete preparations for worship.

The church nursery, kindergarten church and children's church are housed at the church building, and two men stay there during worship services to direct visitors to the theatre and to provide security.

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