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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

-- FEATURES

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March 2, 1982

82-34

Agency Head Series No. 9
Dunn Blends Work Life
With Personal Agenda

WB
By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--A glance at his schedule would indict James M. Dunn as a classic workaholic.

Such a judgement seems obvious about a person whose educational achievements and leadership of two Baptist agencies--not to mention his active commitment to such issues as world hunger, peace and religious liberty--lead to many 12- and 14-hour days.

But despite such evidence, that conclusion misses the mark. The current chief executive of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs refuses to buy such a description himself, though he readily admits that he and his wife, Marilyn, cannot always draw a line to separate their personal lives from their work lives.

Often as not, Dunn's private life intertwines with his work, but, for him, that does not diminish its personal nature.

For example, when he came to work in Washington in early 1981, a group of senators and congressmen hosted a reception to welcome the 49-year-old Texan. But it was more than a political event where politicians and religionists smiled, shook hands and slapped each other on the back. It was a human event where Dunn and many old friends warmly embraced.

That typical blending of professional and personal frequently occurs at home where the Duns host a steady flow of guests. During their first year in Washington, they had overnight guests, ranging from students to denominational workers and agency heads to long-time family friends, about a fourth of the time.

The stream of guests offers a number of plusses for Dunn. They remind him that most Americans and Baptists are unfamiliar with the day-to-day problems of church-state relations--a major focus of the Baptist Joint Committee.

"Marilyn and I wind up explaining in terms they can understand what is important in our lives," he says. "It reminds us that most folks in the country just don't give a hoot about such things as integrated auxiliaries."

But more importantly, many of the guests are actually surrogate family for the Duns, who have no children. "It's a modern version of the extended family," Dunn says.

His affinity for students and youth that sparked his earlier work as a pastor and student minister remains high, as evidenced by the number of calls and notes going to and from students seeking Dunn's counsel and friendship.

Another intersection of Dunn's personal and work experiences is reading. In addition to newspapers and periodicals, he usually reads a book a week.

"I'm a newsaholic," he says. "You always face a danger in a job like this of becoming interested in only a narrow slice of the world."

Dunn invests a significant amount of his time away from work in music--listening, singing with Marilyn in the Metropolitan Capitol Hill Baptist Church choir, or attending music events in Washington.

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Music, he says, "is what Marilyn and I do together."

Both of Marilyn's parents, the Edwin McNeelys, were music professors at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and she holds two masters degrees in the field.

Dunn, who himself began college as a music major, is pleased to be in Washington, which he says rates second only to London among the places he's lived in providing musical entertainment opportunities.

Whether through music, visiting with friends, working, or reading, a constant priority for Dunn is to simply enjoy and make the most of each day.

One experience that helped shape that priority was an episode with cancer during the mid-1970's. Dunn was executive director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas when he was diagnosed by a Dallas physician with melanoma—a fast-growing form of cancer.

The seriousness of the cancer was quickly apparent when his doctor advised him to go to Houston for surgery and treatment—immediately. Fortunately, after surgery and chemotherapy, Dunn's cancer was removed and he has had no recurrences.

"I wouldn't wish it for anyone," Dunn says of the experience. "But it is a time when you evaluate what is really important and what theology is worth hanging onto."

"It was kind of like having a second chance at life," he says, adding that the close-up look at death made him realize that he had better make the most of his life.

"Every new day had more value," he says. "Every new sunrise had more significance."

Also through that experience, Dunn became more aware of the prayers and support of others. When he was able to sleep soundly the night before surgery and face it the next day "as calmly as if I were going to the grocery store," he came to understand for the first time, "the peace that passes understanding."

"I have no human explanation for that," he says.

But before the peace, Dunn says there was plenty of fear, which he contends is a legitimate part of life.

"There is a sick spirituality that goes around saying, 'I'm not afraid,'" Dunn says. "Well, baloney. When a doctor tells you you've got cancer and that it's serious enough that you can't have it taken care of in Dallas and that you can't put it off, there's got to be fear."

Coping with that experience helped prepare Dunn for life. He emerged with an on-going goal:

"Spiritually, I would like to live each day honestly and openly and simply before the Lord."



- - BAPTIST PRESS

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March 2, 1982

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82-34

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
Annual Meeting
June 13-14, 1982
New Orleans Hilton Hotel
New Orleans, LA
THEME: "Witnessing Women"

Musicians:

Director--Leroy Yarbrough, assistant professor of music, New Orleans Baptist Seminary
Pianist--Gerald Aultman, assistant professor of music, New Orleans Baptist Seminary
Special Music and Drama--VZ Singers, Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.,
directed by Randall Veazey

Sunday Afternoon, June 13, 2:30-4:30, General Session, Grand Ballroom

2:15--Music New Orleans Style--Brass Ensemble, directed by Leroy Yarbrough

Processional and Preview of Meeting, Introducing All Program Personalities

Congregational Music

Music and Drama: "To Witness, Follow Jesus"--VZ Singers

Witnessing Women in the Bible--Akiko Matsumura, Japan, former president, Asian Baptist Women's Union

Congregational Music

Prayer--Helen Fling, Birmingham, Ala., former president of WMU, SBC

Witnessing Women Today--

Ways to Witness--Ophelia Humphrey, Amarillo, Texas, writer of "Witnessing Women," training kit

Witnessing in Business--Sue Tatum, Yazoo City, Miss., corporate secretary, Mississippi Chemical Corporation

Witnessing in Home Missions--Mary Dan Kuhnle, New Orleans, director of Sellers Home and Adoption Center

Read to Grow--Elaine Dickson, manager, direct sales department, Baptist Sunday School Board, and author of "Say No, Say Yes to Change"

Congregational Music

Special Music

NEW WMU--Report by Carolyn Weatherford, WMU Executive Director

"Follow Jesus"--Musical Benediction by VZ Singers

Sunday, 4:30-5:45 p.m., Receptions and Fellowship

Seminary Fellowship Receptions, hosted by the six Southern Baptist seminaries for their women alumni and other guests

Golden Gate Seminary, Belle Chasse Room*

Southeastern Seminary, Rosedown Room

Midwestern Baptist Seminary, Elmwood Room*

Southern Seminary, with WMU Training School

New Orleans Seminary, Oak Alley

School Alumnae, Napoleon Room

Southwestern Seminary, Magnolia and Jasperwood Rooms

New WMU Reception, hosted by WMU for pastors and WMU directors of newly-formed WMU work and for STARTEAM members, Melrose Room

Get-Acquainted Time with Program Personnel, Grand Ballroom

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Sunday, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Dinner for Women in Ministry, Versailles Room

(By reservation. For women professionally employed in Baptist work)

Devotion and Prayer--Lynne Gurney, Colorado Springs, Colo., campus minister and home missionary, U.S. Air Force Academy

Update on Woman's Role in the Southern Baptist Convention and Its Churches--Sarah Frances Anders, professor of sociology department, Louisiana College

What Women in Ministry Think--Sara Ann Hobbs, Raleigh, N.C., director of missions for Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Sunday, 9:30 p.m., State WMU Fellowships, New Orleans Hilton

Alabama, Oak Alley Room

Arkansas, Melrose Room

California, To Be Announced

Florida, Versailles Room

Georgia, Belle Chasse Room

Illinois, Rosedown Room

Indiana, Marlborough Room

Kentucky, Jasperwood Room

Minnesota-Wisconsin, To Be Announced

Mississippi, Elmwood Room

Missouri, Eglinton-Winton Room

North Carolina, Napoleon Room

Northern Plains, Prince of Wales Room

Pennsylvania-South Jersey, To Be Announced

South Carolina, Magnolia Room

Monday Morning, June 14, 7:00 a.m., Reunion of Former WMU, SBC Executive Board Members

Breakfast (By reservation only)

Monday, 8:00-8:30 a.m., Morning Missions Watch

Morning prayers led by missionaries:

Jaxie Short, Grand Salon A

Mary Dan Kuhlne, Grand Salon B

Patsy Davis, Grand Salon C

Julia Cadenhead, Grand Salon D

Carolyn Crenshaw, Melrose Room

Erica Morris, Belle Chasse Room

Vera Campbell, Elmwood Room

Verlene Farmer, Rosedown Room

Deborah Dahunsi, Magnolia Room

Korean WMU officers, Jasperwood Room

Monday, 9:00 - 10:45 a.m., General Session, Grand Ballroom

8:45--Music New Orleans Style--Brass Ensemble, directed by Leroy Yarbrough

Congregational Music

Music and Drama: "To Witness, Proclaim Jesus," VZ Singers

Witnessing Women in the Bible--Akiko Matsumura

Congregational Music

Prayer--Christine Gregory, Danville, Va., first vice-president, SBC, and past president of WMU, SBC

Witnessing Women Today--

Ways to Witness--Ophelia Humphrey

Witnessing Where I Am--Elida Reboloso, Farmers Branch, Texas

Witnessing to Women of Venezuela--Patsy Davis, foreign missionary

Witnessing As a Chaplain--Lt. Julian Cadenhead, Great Lakes, Ill.

Read to Grow--Jean Bond, Starkville, Miss., author of "Blanche Groves of China: Indomitable Lady"

Business

Election of Officers

Recognition: Baptist Young Women

Congregational Music

Special Music

President's Address--Dorothy Elliott Sample, Flint, Mich., psychologist; president of WMU
"Proclaim Jesus"--VZ SingersMonday, 11:15 a.m.--12:30 p.m., Missions Concerns Conference

Strengthening the Cooperative Program--Grand Salon Suite A, Christine Gregory

Opening Doors for Women in Ministry--Grand Salon Suite C, C. Anne Davis, WMU associate professor of social work, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Helping Women Witness--Grand Salon Suite D, Laura Fry Allen, consultant on women in evangelism, Home Mission Board

Leading Women to Life--Changing Commitments--Grand Salon Suite B, Sara Ann Hobbs

The Need for Prayer Support for Missions--Melrose Room, Catherine Walker, special assistant to the president, Foreign Mission Board; C. William Junker, director of promotion department, Home Mission Board

WMU Enlargement and Enlistment--Grand Ballroom, Akiko Wolford, Columbus, Ohio, STARTEAM member

WMU Effectiveness in the Church--Belle Chasse Room, Alberta Gilpin, Jefferson City, Mo., executive director of Missouri WMU

The Future of the Weeks of Prayer and Special Missions Offerings--Elmwood Room, Johnni Johnson Scofield, vice-president of office of communications, Foreign Mission Board; Kenneth D. Day, director of communications division, Home Mission Board

The Need for Career Foreign Missionaries--Oak Alley Room, Louis R. Cobbs, director of personnel selection department, Foreign Mission Board

The Need for Church Planters--Rosedown Room, F. Jack Redford, director of church extension division, Home Mission Board

Personal Needs of Missionaries--Magnolia Room, Elmer S. West, director of ministries and deputation department, Foreign Mission Board

The Home As a Missions Base--Jasperwood Room, Helen Fling

Channeling Volunteer Energies in Missions--Cambridge Room, Ronald N. Boswell, director of volunteer department, Foreign Mission Board; David T. Bunch, director of Mission Service Corps, Home Mission Board

Leading Girls to Make Life-Changing Decisions--Marlborough Room, Mrs. Jester Summers, writer and conference leader, Waco, Texas

WMU and the Personal Needs of Women--Prince of Wales Room, Mrs. J. Frank Gilreath, Charlotte, N.C., national recording secretary of WMU, SBC

Monday, 12:30 p.m., WMU Training School Luncheon, Napoleon Room

(By reservation. For alumnae, faculty and friends of WMU Training School and the Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville Ky.)

Historical Presentation--C. Anne Davis

Monday, 12:30 p.m., Baptist Young Women Luncheon, Versailles Room

(By reservation. For young adult members of WMU)

Featured speaker--Dorothy Elliott Sample

Monday, 2:30-4:30 p.m., General Session, Grand Ballroom

Special Emphasis: Theological Education for Women

2:15--Music New Orleans Style, Brass Ensemble, directed by Leroy Yarbrough
Congregational Music

Music and Drama: "To Witness, Learn of Jesus," VZ Singers

Witnessing Women in the Bible--Akiko Matsumura

Congregational Music

Prayer--Alma Hunt, Richmond, Va., former executive secretary of WMU, SBC

Witnessing Women Today--

Ways to Witness--Ophelia Humphrey

Witnessing As a Volunteer Missionary--Tura Miller, Madras, Ore., volunteer worker in home and foreign mission fields

Witnessing Among Seminole Indians--Carolyn Crenshaw, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., home missionary

Witnessing in the Philippines--Erica Morris, foreign missionary

Congregational Music

Special Music

Recognition: Southern Baptist Seminaries Today

Theological Education for Women, Then and Now--

Verlene Farmer, home missionary in black church relations, Langston, Okla.

Helen Falls, professor of missions, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Sara Ann Hobbs

Deborah Dahunsi, president of Woman's Missionary Union, Nigeria

"Learn of Jesus"--VZ Singers

Monday, 4:45 p.m., Acteens Riverboat Trip

(Departing from Hilton Wharf. By reservation for Acteens and their leaders)

Monday Evening, 7:30 p.m., General Session, Grand Ballroom

7:15--Music New Orleans Style, Brass Ensembl , directed by Leroy Yarbrough

Congregational Music

Music and Drama: "To Witness, Be the Church," VZ Singers

Witnessing Women in the Bible--Akiko Matsumura

Congregational Music

Prayer--Marie Mathis, Dalhart, Texas, former president of WMU, SBC, and of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance

Witnessing Women Today--

Ways to Witness--Ophelia Humphrey

Witnessing Through My Church--Sybil Williams, Hollister, N.C.

Witnessing Through Mission Action--Mary Elizabeth Palmer, Atlanta, Ga.

Witnessing in Japan--Vera Campbell, school administrator, foreign missionary in Japan

Congregational Music

Recognition: Acteens

Introducing the 1982 Acteens National Panelists--

Susan Ellen Ballou, Corbin, Ky.

Holly Hughes, Richardson, Texas

Daphne Burt, Brunswick, Ohio

Melanie Knox, Hagerstown, Md.

Cheryl Coleman, Waverly, Tenn.

Cynthia Ann Teague, Bennett, N.C.

Witnessing Through Acteens Activators--Esther Burroughs, assistant director, special missions ministries department, Home Mission Board

Business--Report on Missions Concerns Conferences

Special Music

Messages from the Mission Boards--

R. Keith Parks, president, Foreign Mission Board

William G. Tanner, president, Home Mission Board

Women, Witness!--Deborah Dahunsi

"Be the Church"--VZ Singers

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1982 Woman's Missionary Union Officers:

President--Dorothy (Mrs. Richard) Elliott Sample, Flint, Mich.

Recording Secretary--Betty (Mrs. J. Frank) Gilreath, Charlotte, N.C.

Executive Director--Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, Ala.

'Witnessing Women'
WMU Meeting Theme

CO

Baptist Press
3/2/82

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--"Witnessing Women" will be the theme of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in their national annual meeting in New Orleans, June 13-14.

The 1.1-million member auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention will be meeting in its traditional slot preceding the convention, but the usual format will be embellished.

The traditional general mass meetings with dramatic features on world missions will be held at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, June 13, and on Monday morning, afternoon and evening, June 14. New features include prayer groups, missions issues conferences and banquets.

The new format for WMU's meeting comes in the first term of Dorothy Elliott Sample's presidency. Sample, a psychologist and educator from Flint, Mich., will be eligible for re-election, as will Mrs. Betty Gilreath of Charlotte, N.C., national recording secretary.

Sample said: "Our meetings have been famous for their missions inspiration. We think that our people want this, but more. This year they will have a chance to get up close to the real issues of missions, and make themselves heard. They will have opportunity for personal fellowship with others in the missions family."

The new features in WMU's meeting:

Hotel setting -- All sessions, except a riverboat trip for teenagers, will be at the New Orleans Hilton, the first time WMU has taken its meeting outside an auditorium format.

Missions concerns conferences -- At 11:15 a.m., Monday, convention-goers can choose among conferences on 15 critical issues in Baptist missions, led by one or more authorities on each issue. Those in the conference will be asked to frame a resolution of concern for presentation to the general business session.

Missions prayer groups -- Activities Monday will begin at 8 a.m. with 11 prayer groups led by missionaries and international guests.

Age-level focus activities -- For the first time, WMU will be staging high-visibility gatherings for its younger members. Baptist Young Women (WMU's organization for women ages 18-29) will have a luncheon and a special program on Monday, and will be featured in the Monday morning general session. Acteens (WMU's organization for girls in grades 7-12) will take a river cruise for dinner Monday afternoon, and will be featured in the Monday evening general session.

Sampl said that these activities are being added to "open wider the opportunity for young women to have a part in WMU leadership.

Child care -- Nursery facilities and child care for those younger than seventh grade will be provided in the New Orleans Hilton. This service, an adjunct of child care usually provided during the Southern Baptist Convention, is being extended to cover WMU's meeting for the first time.

Women in Ministry -- Women, professionally employed in Southern Baptist ministries, will have a dinner meeting Sunday night, featuring a formal presentation by sociologist Sarah Frances Anders, of Louisiana College, Pineville, on the status of women in the SBC. Sara Ann Hobbs, director of missions in the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, will lead a group activity to find out "What Women in Ministry Think."

This is the second time WMU has sponsored a forum for women in church-related vocations. A dinner in 1979 attracted 300 persons.

State meetings -- State WMU organizations that make up the national WMU organization have usually had a low profile in the SBC-wide meeting. This time, however, 12 states will hold their own late-night meetings Sunday for business and social purposes. And 15 state WMU presidents will preside in the missions concerns conferences.

Seminary focus -- The six Southern Baptist seminaries will be hosting receptions for their women graduates and other guests in connection with WMU's agenda. The receptions, at the Hilton at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, relate to the observance of the 75th anniversary of Baptist theological education for women.

In 1907, Woman's Missionary Union began sponsorship of the WMU Training School for women in Louisville, Ky. In the early 1960s, after all seminary programs were opened for women, the school was merged into Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Eight of the WMU program personalities are alumnae of the Training School. All alumnae and guests are invited to attend the anniversary reunion at lunch on Monday.

Witnessing Women -- The program theme brings 14 women to WMU's general platform to give personal testimonies about their work in evangelism. The speakers include a business executive, a woman who started a church, an ethnic, a laywoman who engineered a massive refugee program, a volunteer missionary, and home and foreign missionaries. The designer of WMU's training program for women in evangelism, Ophelia Humphrey of Amarillo, Texas, will present four mini-workshops on "Ways to Witness."

To broaden the scope of the meeting, WMU has invited leaders of several international WMUs to appear on the program. Akiko Matsumura, former vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance and former president of the WMU of Japan, will teach Bible each general session. The president of WMU of Nigeria, Deborah Dahunsi, will be the finale speaker. Both Matsumura and Dahunsi are graduates of the WMU Training School. Also, WMU officials of Korea and Japan will attend and be featured.

Music for the WMU meeting will be New Orleans style, with a Dixieland-type brass band, playing preludes and accompanying singing. Faculty members from New Orleans Theological Seminary--Leroy Yarbrough and Gerald Aultman--will direct music and play piano, respectively. The VZ Singers of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., will present upbeat music and drama to begin and close each session. Their director, Randall Veazy, will be soloist.

WMU's program will enable people to support and attend the mass evangelistic rally planned for Sunday evening in the Louisiana Superdome by the SBC Pastors' Conference. "We had not planned a Sunday evening general session anyway," Sample explained. "Our other activities will be concluded in time for people to attend the rally."

Sample said the "Witnessing Women" theme, although selected months before the rally plans were announced, will give support to the evangelistic emphasis. She said women who attend the WMU meeting will be given literature and guidance for witnessing in New Orleans.

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Wells Named Career
Orientation Manager

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Baptist Press
3/2/82

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Frank S. Wells, a former missionary to Indonesia, has been named manager of career missionary orientation by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Wells, 49, will direct the training of new missionaries at the missionary orientation center in Pine Mountain, Ga., and later at a new orientation center near Richmond, scheduled to open in 1984. He has been pastor of Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas since 1979.

A native of Montgomery, Ala., Wells was the first full-time student worker assigned to Indonesia. He began Baptist Student Centers in Yogyakarta and Semarang, both cities with large concentrations of university students. In Semarang he also taught at the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary and at two universities.

Wells and his wife, the former Jo Ann Fossett of Birmingham, Ala., transferred in 1968 to Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, where he was treasurer of the Indonesian Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

Wells was pastor of four churches while in Indonesia and helped design, remodel or build two student centers, several missionary homes and seminary buildings, a Baptist radio-television studio and a mission office building.

The couple resigned from missionary service in 1971 and Wells became pastor of First Baptist Church, Enterprise, Ala., where he served until coming to Shiloh Terrace church.

Wells is a graduate of Howard College (now Samford University) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has been pastor of churches in Alabama and Kentucky, and was a summer missionary in California and Jamaica during college.

The Wellses, who will move to Pine Mountain in June, have four grown daughters.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

Middle-Class 'Refugees'
Challenge Rural Churches

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ATLANTA (BP) -- Middle class "refugees", fleeing the central cities, present major challenges to Southern Baptist churches, a researcher told a symposium at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Orrin D. Morris, director of the board's research division, told a group of rural Baptist leaders that the decades ahead will be characterized by flight from large cities by middle-class whites, blacks, hispanics and Asians.

The big city refugees present major challenges to Southern Baptist churches, Morris said, warning that rural churches must be prepared to deal with the former urbanites' resentment toward being "forced" from the cities, as well as with their disillusionment that rural America is not the "utopia" they had expected.

Morris told the symposium, assembled by the HMB's rural urban missions department, that few established churches will assimilate the metropolitan immigrants. He predicted, however, that middle-class flight will offer the greatest opportunities for new church growth in the rural areas.

He said that in the decade of the 1970s, rural areas grew by 15.4 percent, while metropolitan areas grew by only 9.1 percent and predicted the stream of big city "refugees" probably will increase during the 1980s.

Two other speakers also told symposium participants of the challenges facing Southern Baptists as a result of the flight.

Gary Farley, sociology professor at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, said that as more urbanites move to rural areas, Southern Baptists must be ready to help mold rapidly changing communities.

"The great challenge for a growing community is to bond the old and new into a cooperating whole," Farley said, urging that Baptist churches be among the first to demonstrate that by working together the "gospel is made available to everyone."

James Palmer, behavioral sciences professor at OBU, asserted that as rural areas grow and take on urban patterns, "the church appears often to lose out." He urged rural Baptist pastors to "help the churches understand what is happening in the world and to know how they can minister and witness to it."

He called on Southern Baptist churches to be "realistic" rather than moralistic about change, and to develop a witness that addresses itself to "the confusion, alienation, isolation, rootlessness and anonymity" felt by people caught up by change.

"How we, as Southern Baptists, respond to change -- as crisis or opportunity -- spells out our future," Palmer warned.