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Southeastern's Lolley:  
Open, Spontaneous, Caring

By Rodney V. Byard

WAKE FOREST, N.C.(BP)--Shortly after becoming pastor of First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., in 1962, W. Randall Lolley asked a staff member to accompany him to visit the family of a deceased member.

It was off the main highway, the staff member recalled. "Since we had not had lunch, Lolley pulled into one of those country stores where cases of empty soft drink bottles were stacked around the door.

"As we went in, he 'howdy'd' to the farmers gathered around the pot-bellied stove and made his way to the round of cheese on a counter. We sliced some wedges, got a box of crackers and an R.C., and ate lunch. It was one of my first impressions of a man who is at home with everyone. No pretensions, just a down-home sort of person."

So, in July 1974, Lolley's actions on his final Sunday as pastor came as no surprise.

"Because of his well-known leaning toward the theological insights of Charlie Brown," a member recalls, "the teens of the church had decorated an over-sized pair of shorts with cut-out characters of the famous comic strip."

As Lolley closed the service and said good-bye to a congregation close to tears, he took the shorts from a package, put them on over his suit, and walked out. "It was just like him," the member said. "unpredictable, yet sensitive to our feelings."

Lolley, now president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., carries that reputation into his work of preparing men and women for leadership in the Christian ministry.

In downtown Wake Forest at 9 a.m. just about any day of the week, Randall and Lou Lolley can be found having a ham and biscuit at Hardee's. He already has put in a couple of hours at the office and for about half an hour, he and his wife of almost 30 years hold an open forum in the fast-food emporium. Students, faculty, the mayor, and other townspeople come by to chat about seminary and community activities.

Among the variety of art and mementos in Lolley's office is an old holes-in-the-sole shoe. It belonged to a transient who came by the office one day seeking help. Lolley, as he often did, took the guest to a restaurant for a meal and then to a store for a new pair of shoes.

Lolley earned local fame for baseball exploits in his home town of Samson, Ala., and at Howard College, now Samford University. After starring on an assortment of church softball teams, his playing days are a thing of the past. Now, come rain or shine, he and Lou are usually camped in Grove stadium on autumn Saturdays pulling for the Wake Forest University.

Lolley also is a die-hard fan of the Deacons' basketball team, coached by close friend Carl Tacy. Lolley even has been known to call a prospective player to convince him that his round-ball ability could be put to better use at Wake Forest than with the rival Tarheels of North Carolina or another ACC team.

Lolley's reputation for singing lies more with his exuberance than with his musical ability. He's right at home at a concert on the seminary campus, but, ironically, the only recording he plays for guests is "The Great Speckled Bird" by Roy Acuff. "Now, that is what I call fine music," he has said.

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At Southeastern, Lolley's office door is always open, with members of the seminary family free to drop in and discuss matters of mutual concern. "I can't recall," said one close associate, "more than two occasions when President Lolley had a closed door meeting and both those times someone else requested that he shut the door."

Openness also is a hallmark of Lolley's monthly President's Forum for students. While some might say the free coffee and donuts attract the crowds, most agree it's the chance for everyone to voice their concerns and talk with the president heart to heart.

Everything gets on the agenda, from street lights to course loads, from playgrounds for children to trustee actions. Lolley either deals with the questions directly, asks a colleague to respond, or promises that "we'll look into it." Every left-over concern is researched and an official response is shared with the seminary family within a few days.

Lolley recognizes the uniqueness of each person, telling every entering student he doesn't believe "that God has any cookie cutters," challenging them to study and develop along the pattern God has created for them.

Other than athletic events, Lolley finds relaxation in hunting and hiding away occasionally at the family home at West Pine Knoll Shores on Boque Bank, near Morehead City, N.C.

It's then that he breaks his regularly packed routine of early morning work, day-long meetings, and frequent travel, to gather a few hours of renewal and family life. As he does at home, he dabbles in the kitchen, helping Lou put together breakfasts of ham, eggs and grits.

Lou is the family fisherman, having gained the respect of old-timers along Carolina's outer banks. She's learned from them that "if the seagulls ain't on the beach, there's no use fishing. Otherwise, the gulls are probably up at McDonald's looking for a handout."

Charlotte, the Lolley's 24-year-old daughter, who lives in Raleigh, N.C., still sees her Dad as a big kid at heart. "Only last fall," she says, "he took me to the circus, where we ate peanuts and popcorn and bought the biggest hot dogs we could find."

Twenty-three-year-old Pam, who lives in Charlotte, N.C., remembers her Dad as being supportive in all their activities, creating in her a kind of "Gee, I'm glad he's my Dad" feeling.

She recalls that whenever she leaves after a visit home, he still reminds her that "If you've been loved by one person in the world, you've lived well."

Both Charlotte and Pam recall one of the earlier trips the family made during summers, while camping in all 50 states. "We'd been driving along on a hot July day and the two of us were sleeping in the back seat. Pretty soon, Dad called out 'Wake up, wake up, look out there. You'll probably never see this part of the country again.' We'd wake up to a vast and desolate landscape with scrubby, trees, and howling winds.

"But that was typical of Dad, seeing good in everything and never wanting to miss a thing."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southeastern Seminary.  
Byard is assistant to the president at Southeastern Seminary.

Resounding Response Pushes  
Modesto Revival to 7 Weeks

MODESTO, Calif. (BP)--Response to a revival meeting at Orangeburg Avenue Baptist Church in Modesto was so great, the meeting stretched from one week to seven.

Just before the final week of meetings, 313 persons had made public decisions to become Christians and the church had baptized 143 of them into membership.

"We have met for five weeks every night, including Saturday night," said church secretary Juanita Jackson. "We didn't give the devil Saturday night either."

The schedule was so jammed that one couple, scheduled to be married in the church, incorporated their wedding service into the meeting.

Among those making public decisions were four members of a rock group called The Destroyer. A restaurant owner poured out the alcohol in his establishment and burned his state alcohol license. Members have brought records, posters, rude T-shirts, tapes and magazines and left them on the altar.

Barry Westbrook, the evangelist, is also pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Ontario, Calif., seven hours away. To enable him to maintain his responsibilities there, Orangeburg members went to Ontario in a van with a mattress in it and drove Westbrook back while he slept.

Activity at the Modesto church, with 1,000 members the largest Southern Baptist congregation in the San Joaquin Valley, blossomed into five other area churches when their members began attending the revival meetings. By the fourth Sunday, one of the churches reported its highest Sunday School attendance in 10 years. Two others said their attendance was the highest in five years.

Orangeburg has experienced growth and revival in evangelism for several years under pastor Jim Silvers, who attributes much of the growth to the "depth of commitment" of two ladies in the church who "committed themselves in 1977 to faithful prayer for awakening, faithful visitation and faithful witness."

Sunday School attendance had fallen to 60 in 1977 when Silvers came. It is now up to a 380 average. Silvers credits a "strong unity in the leadership, pastoral-deacon ministry, and a great burden for souls and for the community."

Ninety percent of those professing Christ during the revival were between ages 19 and 45. Also, Silvers said 95 percent of "those being saved have never been to the church prior to the crusade."

Silvers said people from all walks of life have been touched. "Whole families have been saved; prayers lifted for 10 years have been answered; people on hard drugs for over 12 years have been saved," he said. "And one night three people who had in recent days attempted suicide were saved."

"Families are being put together. The Holy Spirit has drawn people from the razor's edge. They in turn have brought their friends. There is an intensity, an explosive quality balanced with a moving of order. Only the Lord Jesus could bring this about."

Because of commitments by Westbrook, necessary followup of 1,000 prospects and visitors, and preparation for a city blitz in annual Save Week, the final nights of the revival meeting were scheduled for April 8 and 9.

HMB Notes Annie Increases ,  
Appoints 62 To Mission Service

ATLANTA, Ga. (BP)--Gifts to the 1982 Annie Armstrong Easter offering for home missions show a 25 percent increase over offerings received by this date last year, William G. Tanner, Home Mission Board president, told members of the board's executive committee during their April meeting.

The total of \$790,597.61 received thus far represents 3.59 percent of the \$22 million goal, Tanner reported. "Our goal is a healthy 19 percent increase over last year's goal, but this early report indicates to me that Southern Baptists are going to meet it."

The executive committee elected two persons to staff positions and appointed 62 others to mission service, including four missionaries, five missionary associates, and 53 persons to receive church and language pastoral aid.

Jerry L. Scruggs, associate director of the missionary personnel department, was named to fill the new position of director of human resources development effective May 1. Scruggs, a native of Fruitland, Tenn., was a board missionary in New York for seven years before joining the staff in 1974. He is a graduate of Union University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and was pastor of churches in Tennessee, Missouri and New York.

Loretta D. Hays was appointed director of employment services, succeeding Kitty Roberson who has become director of marketing services. Hays, who joined the board as a secretary in the personnel division in 1981, is a native of Athens, Ga. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia and taught school in North Carolina for 13 years.

Appointed as missionaries were William and Sylvia Flippin of Decatur, Ga., and R.G. and Grace Whitehead of Higley, Ariz.

Elected as missionary associates were Angel and Nila Murillo of Lawton, Okla.; James and Sunghark "Laura" Pitts of Louisville, Ky.; and Debra Joyce Weldon of Bensalem, Pa.

The Flippins will remain in Georgia where he will be associate to the state director of black church relations. He is a graduate of Fisk University and Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and is pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, Greensboro, Ga. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and is a teacher for Dekalb County schools.

The Whiteheads will stay in Arizona where he will become director of associational missions for Estrella Association. He has been pastor of churches in Arizona and Texas, and holds degrees from Eastern New Mexico University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Whitehead is secretary for Baseline Baptist Church, Mesa, Ariz.

The Murillos will remain in Oklahoma where he will be a catalytic missionary. He has been pastor of churches in Panama since 1959, and is a past president of the Baptist Convention of Panama.

The Pittses will move to Chicago, Ill., where he will be language missions director for the Chicago Metropolitan Association. A graduate of Francis Marion College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he has worked with South Carolina youth and taught English at Florence-Darlington Technical College and Yonset University in Seoul, Korea. Mrs. Pitts has been a nursing assistant in Louisville's Lyndon Lane nursing center.

Weldon will move to Columbia, S.C., where she will work as a Christian social ministries consultant. She holds degrees from the University of Montevallo and Southern Seminary, and has been director of weekday ministries at Frankford Avenue Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa.

Approved to receive church pastoral aid were Walter Aiken III of Ormond Beach, Fla.; Benny and Ella Claire Clark of Jordan, Utah; David Covington of Columbia, S.C.; Thomas and Susan Day of Portage, Mich.; Fernando and Terry Lea Downs of Mt. Holly, N.J.; Robert Ezickson Jr., of Louisville, Ky.; Everett and Sharon Gasaway of Sullivan, Ind.; Jon and Deanne Gilbert of Milton, Pa.; Gail and Joyce Graves of Caldwell, Idaho; Charles and Syble Groover of Lutz, Fla.; Steven and Genelle Hardin of Mill Spring, N.C.; James and Doris Hendrix of Warren, Ohio.

Walter and Marlene Kai of Pahoia, Hawaii; Leslie and Margaret Kammerdiener of Lane, Kan.; Charles D. and Kay Melton of Louisville, Ky.; Michael and Marilyn Mott of Louisville, Ky.; Robert and Janette Payne of Enid, Okla.; Charles and Betty Sams of North Olmsted, Ohio; Kenneth and Nora Lee Sellers of Liverpool, N.Y.; Warren and Connie Skiles of Wellsville, Kan.; Eugene and Patricia Stith of Pendleton, Ore.; John and Nancy Torchick of Willisburg, Ky.; and James and Marie Valentine of White Marsh, Md.

Slated to receive language pastoral assistance were Reinaldo and Cruz Bermudez of Thornton, Colo.; Ernest and Sue Ellen Brooks of Pascagoula, Miss.; Allan and Sherry Ann Colbert of Ponca City, Okla.; Juan and Yolanda Lujan of Moline, Ill.; and Yong Chin and Yong Ae Shin of Rockville, Md.

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#### Church Repays HMB After 75 Year Lag

LEEDS, Ala. (BP)--Celebrating its 75th anniversary, First Baptist Church of Leeds, Ala., finally paid a \$150 debt incurred in 1907.

The church organized after a tent revival 75 years ago and built its first building for \$1,001.98.

When they discovered they were short funds, the charter members appealed to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for help, and received a grant of \$150.

This year when Wes Spiegel, associate pastor, was researching the church's history, he discovered the original papers included a stipulation that the church get permission from the Home Mission Board to relocate or else repay the principal. Since the church has moved three times in 75 years, but had never repayed the \$150, Spiegel felt there was a moral obligation to repay the grant.

During the 75th anniversary celebration, pastor Don Spires presented a check for \$780.37 to HMB Church Loans Division Director Bob Kilgore. The amount included the \$150 principal plus six percent interest for 75 years,

The same day, the church gave an additional \$2,500 to home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter offering.

Two days later, Kilgore presented the check to HMB President William G. Tanner during the board's executive committee meeting, and suggested the funds be used to help new churches build, just as the Leeds church did 75 years ago.

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