



BAPTIST PRESS

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Lloyd Elder To Be Nominated
As Sunday School Board Head

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Lloyd Elder, executive vice president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will be nominated Feb. 1 to succeed Grady C. Cothen as president of the Sunday School Board.

Elder, 49, has held his present post since 1978. Earlier, he was assistant to the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas for three years.

Cothen, president of the board since 1975, will retire Feb. 1, 1984.

John J. Bryan, chairman of the seven-member search committee, said the board's 83 trustees were notified by letter Jan. 17 of the committee's unanimous decision to nominate Elder. Employees of the board were informed in a called chapel meeting Jan. 20.

Bryan, a physician from Bluefield, W. Va., said the committee decided to release its nomination two weeks before the election "to allow trustees time for prayerful preparation for this significant decision." He added that the committee wanted Southern Baptists to be fully informed about the nominating and election process.

"Our committee has had a spirit of harmony in every step of our search pilgrimage," said Bryan. "We are very conscious that our work has been constantly bathed in the prayers of thousands of Southern Baptists, and we are grateful. Each member of the group has worked diligently and with utmost confidentiality to protect the integrity of the many nominees."

When Elder's nomination is made to the board Feb. 1, he will be present to make a statement and respond to questions prior to the vote, Bryan said.

"The Search Committee greatly appreciates the encouragement and support we have received from Southern Baptist and the total board of trustees who have the authority and responsibility for electing a new president," said Bryan. "We want this early announcement of our committee report to be a call to prayer for all Southern Baptists. We confidently come to this hour assured of that perfect peace promised in Isaiah 26:3."

Elder, a native of Texas, holds the B.A. degree from Howard Payne University, and the M.Div. and Th.D degrees from Southwestern. He has done postgraduate study in management at Texas Tech University and the University of Michigan.

Before accepting a position with the Texas convention, Elder held pastorates in the state at First Baptist Church, Holland; First Baptist Church, Princeton; First Baptist Church, College Station and Gambrell Street Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

Elder and his wife Sue are members of Gambrell Street Baptist Church, Fort Worth. They are the parents of two children, Donna Sue (Mrs. Rick Maas), 25, and Philip, 16.

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The announcement of Elder's nomination culminates five months of work by the search committee elected by the trustees in August 1982 following the request by Cothen for medical retirement.

Cothen said in his request, "The Sunday School Board must have a chief executive officer whose health is robust and who can tolerate extended periods of extreme stress."

Trustees also adopted in August criteria for presidential candidates and procedural guidelines calling for a new president to be presented for election at the February 1983 meeting, if possible. Criteria suggested an age range of 40-55 and spelled out qualifications in five areas: personal, educational-intellectual, experience, denomination and spiritual.

After issuing an invitation to any Southern Baptist to submit a nomination, two members of the committee reported Dec. 10 to board employees in chapel that about 70 nominations had been received and each was being considered.

John Daley, of Nashville, Tenn., vice-chairman of the trustees and an ex-officio member of the search committee, said in December the group is "working in a marvelous harmony and trust with one another. We feel God has chosen us for this task because of this harmony and trust."

If elected, Elder would become the seventh president of the Southern Baptist institution charged by the denomination with publishing church literature, music, books and Bibles as well as operating two conference centers and 65 book stores.

In addition to Bryan, other member of the committee include: Lloyd Batson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pickens, S.C.; Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.; Raymond Langlois, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, and Katy Stokes, homemaker from Waco, Texas. Also serving on the committee as ex-officio members are Alton McEachern, chairman of trustees and pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N.C., and Daley, pastor of Brook Hollow Baptist Church, Nashville.

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Former Pastor To Head
ACTION Programs For Aged

By Gerri Ratliff

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A former Southern Baptist pastor has been appointed to head the Older Americans Volunteer Program of ACTION, the federal volunteer agency.

C. Wade Freeman Jr., former pastor of the Capitol Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church, in Washington, D.C. had been special assistant to the director of OAVP since November 1981. His promotion as director took effect Jan. 14.

As director, Freeman will oversee the operation of three ACTION programs--the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Each matches senior citizens with community needs. Projects exist in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia.

Foster grandparents give individual attention to children with physical, mental or emotional handicaps. This program involves 18,500 volunteers in 245 projects.

Senior companions, through the newest ACTION program, provide services to the home-bound elderly. There are 4,500 senior companions involved in 80 projects.

These two programs are open to low-income persons at least 60 years old. They receive a tax-free stipend of \$2 an hour and usually work 20 hours weekly.

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The Retired Senior Volunteer Program involves 338,000 workers in 730 support and advocacy positions. These volunteer positions include teaching, tax and financial counseling and nutrition and legal rights work. Because RSVP workers do not receive a stipend, they have no income restrictions.

Freeman, pastor of churches for 32 years, said he found the transition from Capitol Hill Metropolitan to ACTION very easy. "It's just an expansion of what I had been doing as pastor. I think they're strikingly similar. A Baptist church moves forward on the wheels of voluntarism."

As special assistant, Freeman acted as a liaison between the White House and OAVP. "ACTION was looking for a preacher with contacts across the country to develop a program to deal with the hurts of people who contact the president with cries of help."

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Medical Mission To Yemen
Impresses Florida Teen

By Bill Webb

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ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)--Sixteen-year-old Jeff Pearson had planned to spend some extra time with his dad during Christmas holidays. But not in Yemen.

"It was a life-changing experience for me," Jeff said. "I would go back tomorrow."

The teenager from Orlando, Fla., went to Yemen as an aide on a five-person surgical team that included his father, orthopedic surgeon Donald E. Pearson. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board sent the team in the wake of one of the worst earthquake ever to hit Yemen. More than 1,500 Yemenis were left dead and an undetermined number injured and homeless.

The busy surgeon had already earmarked time over the holidays to spend with his son, three daughters and wife. But his family agreed he should make the Yemen trip and suggested Jeff go along to help at the Pearson's expense.

Jeff, who intends to be an orthopedic surgeon himself someday, jumped at the chance. Within 72 hours, they were on their way. On Dec. 22, nine days after the quake, the Yemeni minister of health greeted the team, whisked them through customs and sent them on to Baptist hospital in Jibla.

Visiting in an overwhelmingly Moslem country was a new experience for Jeff but he came away impressed with how warm, receptive and appreciative the Yemenis were.

He frequently observed his father in surgery but one case particularly stands out in his memory. A 12-year-old shepherd boy was brought to the hospital, his leg blown off when he stepped on a land mine. "My dad amputated his leg above the kneecap," Jeff recalled.

Jeff helped the team with surgical instruments, worked in the hospital storeroom and pharmacy and functioned as the team photographer.

On Dec. 29 Baptist representatives surprised Jeff with a 16th birthday celebration, complete with cake and gifts. His new friends gave him a camel muzzle and typical clothing worn by Yemeni males: a long scarf, skirt and cap.

Pearson said most of the Yemen earthquakes victims were channeled to government hospitals closer to the disaster than the Jibla hospital.

The team mostly worked with routine orthopedic cases such as compound fractures, amputations, club feet and defective hips. "We found more work than two surgeons could do in a year," said Weems McArthur, orthopedic surgeon from Panama City, Fla.

He and Pearson also visited one of the government hospitals several times and consulted with doctors there on the orthopedic patients.

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The team's r gist red nurses, Sue Ann Holland, Gulfport, Miss., and Beverlyann Milam, Jackson, Tenn., are both former journeymen to Yemen. They not only assisted in surgery but translated for the surgeons and their Yemeni patients.

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Church Had A 'Better
Idea' For Home Missionary

By Michael Tutterow

Baptist Press
1/20/83

SPRINGVILLE, Ala. (BP)--Mike McKay spoke, Friendship Baptist Church listened.

McKay, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board language missionary and pastor of Baptist Indian Mission in Flagstaff, Ariz., casually mentioned his need for a van while speaking with Friendship Baptist Church members at a World Missions Conference last spring. This past December, the Alabama congregation called McKay to tell him he could pick up his 1983 Ford Econoline van at his convenience.

"It was a miracle of prayer," said McKay. "We're all in a state of joyful shock."

With only 82 resident members, the "mission-minded church raised more than \$10,000 to purchase the van, said Friendship Baptist pastor A.D. Prickett. He said the church became interested in McKay's work with Indians in Flagstaff after McKay spoke at Friendship Baptist as part of the St. Clair Baptist Association's World Missions Conference last April.

The following summer Richard Layman, a Friendship Baptist Church deacon, and his family spent a week of their vacation working with McKay. Soon after they arrived McKay was injured in an automobile accident, and the Laymans used their car to shuttle children to and from the Bible school.

Layman returned to Alabama and reported to Friendship Baptist members about McKay's work, reiterating the missionary's need for a van.

Later that summer, a church family donated \$5,000 of a recently acquired inheritance toward the purchase of a van for McKay, and challenged the church to match the funds.

Prickett, a retired Navy chaplain, said the church took the challenge, keeping in line with the church's history of missions support. Friendship Baptist ranked second among Alabama churches in per capita giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions in 1980 and 1981, and recently surpassed their goal of \$2,500 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

Through church members' contributions above regular offerings, car washes by Acteens and gifts totaling \$405 from several Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood groups outside the church, Friendship Baptist raised \$10,490. The church ordered the van in October, picked it up in late November and phoned McKay.

McKay, his wife, Virginia, and two women from Baptist Indian Mission joined the Friendship congregation for a service of dedication for the eight passenger van on Jan. 2, 1983.

Now McKay reports that he has transported church prospects "that we could not have reached without the van." More than 20 of an average 60 people attending Baptist Indian Mission services rely on the van for transportation. Already McKay intends to place a third seat in the van to carry additional passengers.

Prickett called the van purchase "another fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel about young men seeing visions and old men dreaming dreams. The young deacon came back with a vision," concluded Prickett, "and the older people started dreaming dreams."

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Missionaries
Adopt Maasai Son

By Mark Raymond

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--John and Kathy Dillman left a little of themselves in Kenya after eight years of missionary work but they brought part of Africa with them too--a ten-year-old adopted son.

The Dillmans met while at Purdue University in Indiana and later moved to Colorado, where they bought a rustic mountain cabin "to avoid paying rent." They became involved in a Southern Baptist church in Golden, Colo., and experienced a spiritual reawakening.

"With the combination of growing spiritually and living in that setting, we felt God had a special purpose for us," they remembered. They did summer mission work four summers and started studies at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, receiving Master of Divinity degrees.

Then they headed to Africa as Southern Baptist missionaries.

After 14 weeks of orientation and eight months in Kenya learning Swahili, the Dillmans relieved a missionary family in Tanzania. There they had their first contact with the Maasai. A 1974 drought wiped out 90 percent of the Maasai cattle, a real disaster for the semi-nomads who existed on cow's milk. The Dillmans immediately became involved in famine relief.

"You can do it (relief work) with a minimum amount of language," Dillman explained. "They want the food very much and will be patient as you learn the language. You are not a nuisance; you are a necessity."

During the famine, several families brought children to the Dillmans to care for. All were eventually given back to their families, except one sickly 18-month-old boy who had weighed only 11 pounds when the Dillmans first took him in. His mother asked them to keep him. Munkei (pronounced Moon-gay) became a part of the Dillman family--the first-ever exception to a Kenyan law prohibiting interracial adoption.

Living in a tent and working from the back of their Land Rover, the Dillmans established a medical clinic and became so proficient the district doctors allowed them to give routine immunizations and some antibiotics. Ralph Bethea Sr., a Baptist missionary doctor in Kenya, and Ralph Jr., a pastor in Indiana, were in Africa to build churches and helped the Dillmans construct a clinic.

The Dillmans also built a prefab house, allowing them to have overnight guests for the first time. A Baptist pastor from Alaska, Ray Nelson, his wife, Jane, and a member of their church spent six weeks digging a well and installing a water and septic system. Maasai evangelists were invited to preach at their outpost and during one such visit a chief's son took to singing duets of Christian songs with the visitor.

"This man should be sent to a school for evangelists," the preacher told the Dillmans. "But he's not a Christian," they replied. "It doesn't matter," the evangelist countered, "he's close enough."

The Dillmans also developed a literacy ministry, using the Bible to teach the Maasai to read, and later established a much-needed veterinary clinic to teach the Maasai how to care for cattle, sheep and goats.

There was still no church established when the Dillmans left Kenya in 1981, but a missionary couple (he's an evangelist, she's a nurse) who had been working with the Maasai in the cities volunteered to take over the mission.

Munk i was baptized this year at the 19th Avenue Baptist Church in San Francisco. "I thought I would be nervous," the 10-year-old told his new parents, "but when it came time, I felt the eyes of love on me."