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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 2, 1983

83-134

**Baptists Plan Strategy
To Combat Gambling Surge**

By Tim Fields

NASHVILLE, Tenn.(BP)--Southern Baptist leaders from 11 states have initiated plans they hope will help stave off massive efforts to legalize pari-mutuel betting, state lotteries and casino gambling in southern and southwestern states next year.

Participants in a Christian Life Commission consultation on the ethical and economic dimensions of legalized gambling agreed 1984 will be a year of enormous pressure from the gambling industry to greatly expand their empire which extends in some form to 46 states. As of September 1981, only Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri and Utah did not have some form of legalized gambling.

"It is time for Southern Baptists to realize the gambling menace is extremely serious. The house is on fire," Foy Valentine, executive director of the Commission, told participants. "Southern Baptists have a very great stake in what we do about gambling as a moral issue because it affects our stewardship, our mission programs, our social environment, the family life of our members and the ongoing life and work of our 36,000 churches," he said.

Robert Bezilla, vice president of the Gallup Organization, told the Baptist ethicists and sociologists public acceptance of legalized gambling has apparently increased in the past few years.

"Historically," he said, "over one-half of the population has approved of some form of legalized gambling." In a recent national Gallup Poll 82 percent of respondents said they would approve of some form of legalized gambling if it helped their state to raise revenues.

According to the poll, however, people in the South showed the greatest resistance to legalized gambling but only 34 percent of respondents in the South said they did not think any form of gambling should be permitted in their state. Only 23 percent of respondents in the East and West opposed all forms of gambling.

George Sternlieb, author of a new book on gambling in Atlantic City, N.J., and director of the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University, told participants a grizzly story of crime, corruption and social inequities caused by casino gambling in Atlantic City.

"Casino gambling in Atlantic City has grown to a \$1.5 billion a year industry in four to five years and now holds the citizens, law enforcement officials and politicians hostage," Sternlieb said.

Gambling casinos, he said, have become "cash cows" for trade unions, construction companies, banks, law firms and even local and state governments.

In spite of what Sternlieb called a strong and obvious influence of organized crime and an enormous acceleration of thefts, murders, prostitution and social injustices to the poor and elderly, "no one wants to slash the throat of the golden calf," he said.

"Gamblers in Atlantic City are not the elite but the blue-collar workers, the elderly, minority groups and white-collar proletarians. The average gambler is a New York City cab driver who has just had a couple of long fares to the airport," Sternlieb said.

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The urban researcher said Atlantic City is the second largest bus terminal in the United States and many of the 30,000 bus loads of people a year are made up of "an astonishing number of church groups, the elderly, the lame and the blind."

Sternlieb said in spite of claims to the contrary, 40 percent of the gamblers are from the state of New Jersey. "New Jerseans are losing \$600 million a year to the casinos in trade for state revenues of only \$120 million," he said.

Doug Cole, director of the North Carolina Baptist Christian Life Council, said his state is dealing with the threat of all forms of gambling including bingo, raffle, lottery, pari-mutuel and casino. "While we were fighting the drunk-driving issue in North Carolina, the gambling interests slipped in the back door," he said.

Participants in the consultation agreed on a strategy to utilize the belief there is strength in numbers.

The group formulated plans for a more effective sharing of information and asked the Christian Life Commission to expand its efforts as an information center for ethics specialists, churches, pastors and other interested Southern Baptists committed to resisting the gambling industry.

The participants also asked the commission to gear up for the gambling onslaught with wider distribution of resource materials which will educate and motivate Southern Baptists to deal with the problems of gambling.

The group also called on pastors to address the gambling issue more extensively in sermons and to encourage all Southern Baptists to increase their efforts in the area of Christian citizenship, particularly voter registration and voter turnout to deal with gambling-related issues.

Participants also expressed an urgent need for careful research designed to aid state Baptist conventions in opposing gambling legislation introduced in their states.

Weston Ware, director of citizenship education for the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission which has battled gambling for more than 30 years and which helped defeat gambling legislation by only a two-vote margin in 1983, told participants "business as usual won't cut it in trying to beat the gambling industry. We need lots of help in order to win the war."

Larry Braidfoot, who coordinated the consultation and directs the Christian Life Commission's programs related to gambling education and action, told participants, "If we don't find ways of helping each other in this fight, our states will be picked off one at a time by the gambling industry just as they were by the alcohol industry.

"Our nation, our states and our communities may be dramatically altered in 1984 if we as concerned citizens do not develop more unity and a greater sense of urgency in our fight against this increasingly sophisticated threat to moral decency and sound public policy," he said.

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Sensitivity To Needs
Drives Rebekah Naylor

By Anita Bowden

Baptist Press
9/2/83

BANGALORE, India (BP)--She's been accused of being a workaholic and having a martyr's complex, labels she denies vehemently.

Surgeon Rebekah Naylor does not work long, hard hours at Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India because she feels the need to work, but because she feels the need. She sees beyond the obvious and it's that vision that keeps her going longer, harder than her colleagues, often to the point of fatigue or irritability.

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"I get very frustrated with the situation in which I find myself sometimes because it is so out of my control," she says. "I get frustrated and sometimes angry and bitter because I can't do the things (socially) that other people do. There come times when I get tired enough I can't handle that very well."

When Naylor arrived in Bangalore nine years ago there was another missionary surgeon. The next year he left and she's been on her own ever since, though there have been volunteer surgeons at various times and she's now training an Indian doctor. During that time the hospital opened a second wing, added an ICU and increased the daily outpatient flow from "very few" to between 150 and 200.

At any one time Naylor has about 25 patients in the hospital, more than twice the load of a surgeon in the States. And it's getting worse. Last year, 1,223 operations were performed, almost 48 percent more than two years ago. Since November 1982, she also has handled obstetrics, where the case load increased almost 87 percent in two years.

In one week this spring two qualified non-Christian OB-GYN doctors applied for the obstetrics opening. Though she needed the relief, Naylor didn't recommend hiring either. She wants a Christian doctor in that position.

"I think the only reason I stay is because I still am fully convinced this is where God wants me to serve," she says. "I have had plenty of job offers and lots of pressure, but I feel this is where I belong."

She also finds fulfillment through the hospital's evangelistic outreach and results: the weekly patient chapel she leads, the churches that have started from hospital contacts, the patients who made professions of faith and her MasterLife group.

"It so happened the possibility of doing that (MasterLife) came up at probably one of my lowest times last year," she says. "I did more Caesarean sections and I was up night after night after night. It was horrible. And I was completely at my wit's end and in the middle of that, one afternoon one of these girls said, 'We've heard about this MasterLife course. Why don't you teach it to us?'"

"I had been praying all these years I would have that kind of opportunity and here it was. (But) how could I do one more thing? Finally I said, 'OK, I feel I should and I want to and I'm just going to have to trust God to make it possible.'"

The hospital's witness is very important to her and the quality of patient care is part of it, Naylor believes. She's willing, perhaps driven, to work extra hours to make sure the quality of that care doesn't drop and damage the hospital's witness in the process.

Hard work and long hours are nothing new to her. She was the first female in the general surgery internship program at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, and felt she had to prove to her superiors a woman could handle the job.

But years of concentrated effort before that had helped prepare her. She was first in her Fort Worth, Texas, high school class of 650; graduated magna cum laude from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, third in her class at Vanderbilt medical school in Nashville, Tenn., and was a member of Alpha Omicron Alpha, national honorary society of medicine that admits the top 10 percent of national medical graduates.

Clinic hours are in the afternoon when she's already put in more than six hours on rounds, in the operating room and seeing private patients. But she has a ready smile for each patient and a concern for their health which includes careful attention to each complaint and scoldings when they haven't followed her instructions.

A perfectionist, Naylor admits she sets a high priority on "promptness, trying to run things to a high standard (and) being demanding of other people to meet standards (but) not standards beyond my own." When work is done well, she's quick to compliment. A young volunteer doctor received lavish praise in front of her own surgical team for a well executed operation. She's also quick to complain about careless or poor work.

A missionary from another organization came to her for a physical. She was stuck three times for blood (fainting each time) but there wasn't enough collected to run the routine tests. Naylor stormed down to the assistant administrator's office and blew up. Later that day she apologized for the way she spoke--but not for what she said.

Sometimes her schedule at the hospital plus responsibilities as mission chairman and press representative play havoc with her sleep. After a particularly hard week she found herself desperately trying to stay awake during a meeting. (I was) "trying to look the part of the knowledgeable mission chairman and hoping valiantly no one would direct a question to me I'd have to get them to repeat," she admits.

When there's a choice to be made between sleep and social activity, Naylor often chooses the social because she feels she needs the contacts with people outside the hospital. She also uses these times to affirm her fellow missionaries and their work.

One Sunday afternoon she went to an event which highlighted some work a colleague was responsible for, simply because she was a "missionary colleague and a friend who I thought needed my affirmation and support."

The next week she sat with another colleague as he presented an idea to the area director. She doubted the idea would be approved, but she was there to support him and help interpret the plan.

Relaxation, in the form of playing the piano, light reading or needlepoint is rare. She does make time for entertaining at home, her one consistent outlet. Guests are treated to a leisurely meal served in surroundings which reflect Naylor's personality. There's a mixture of comfortable, upholstered furniture from the States, casual bamboo and glass furniture from India and "plenty of medical stuff," including an old doctor's bag and a copy of the Hippocratic oath.

Scattered around the house are other items which say something about their owner. Dozens of small brass pieces and several brass trays line the sideboard and over the piano hangs a wood inlay of the procession of the maharajah. All are gifts, from patients and Indian co-workers. Some are elaborate and expensive; others, though inexpensive, represent sacrifice on the giver's part. Each says something of the kind of person Naylor is and the sort of influence she's had as a missionary and surgeon in India.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

Wingate College Administrator
Named Tift College President

Baptist Press
9/2/83

FORSYTH, Ga. (BP)--O. Suthern Sims Jr. was named president of Tift College in Forsyth, Ga., Aug. 27. He will assume the post next January.

He is currently vice-president for academic affairs and dean at Wingate College, Wingate, N.C. Both colleges are Baptist-affiliated institutions.

Sims became dean at Wingate College in 1977 when the college made its move to four-year status. He successfully steered the academic program from three majors to its current 22, and oversaw its baccalaureate accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Other administrative positions Sims has held include vice-president for student affairs at Furman University (Greenville, S.C.), 1973-77, and acting dean of student affairs, then dean at the University of Georgia (Athens, Ga.), 1967-73. He was assistant dean and then dean of students and administrative vice-president (acting) at Kentucky Southern College, 1964-67. Sims also served in the administration at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

Sims has a bachelor's degree from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., a master of divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., a master's in counseling from the University of Kentucky and a doctorate in higher education from the University of South Carolina.

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Death of Missionaries Cause Many to Ask 'Why'" mailed 8/26/83, in fourth paragraph, last line, change "eight" to "seven" and in in fifth paragraph, first line change "Rufus Ray" to "Rufus Gray" and "1941" to 1942."

Thanks,
Baptist Press

North Carolina First To Train
In Brotherhood Conference Center

Baptist Press
9/2/83

MEMPHIS, Tenn.(BP)--Thirty North Carolina Brotherhood workers have become the first state group to receive training at the Brotherhood Commission's Glendon McCullough Conference Center.

The group of training specialists--directors of missions, pastors, 22 laymen--underwent two days of intensive study in all phases of Brotherhood work August 23-24. They were led by David Langford, North Carolina Brotherhood department director.

"As we return to North Carolina the men will be better equipped to lead others in associational and regional workshops," Langford said. This is the first time 90 percent of th men have ever visited the Commission's headquarters, and the personal instruction has been tailored to our specific needs."

Previously, a Brotherhood staff member would conduct such seminars in the home state but Commission President James Smith says that will become less common as more states utilize the facilities. "We're now in a position to offer the best training possible through total utilization of our staff, teaching aids and resources here in the building," Smith said.

Douglas Beggs, director of Baptist Men, congratulated the group on being the first state to take advantage of the training center. "We are grateful for the time these men have taken from their jobs so they can learn more about teaching others about missions. Such dedication will continue to build a strong foundation for Bold Mission Thrust."

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CORRECTION----In (BP) story, "Church in Alamogordo Receives \$100,000 Gift," mailed 9/1/83, please insert underlined material in second paragraph: ...morning worship service, Pastor Francis Wilson asked...

Thanks,
Baptist Press
