



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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83-163

Texas Baptist Church Hosts  
Sex Information Seminar

By Orville Scott

RICHARDSON, Texas (BP)--About 100 teenagers attended a Sex Information Seminar in October at First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas.

Under a theme of "And God Created Man in His Own Image: Male and Female," the program dealt openly with such concerns as sexual feelings, sexual arousal, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, homosexuality, pre-marital sex and abortion.

The seminar was developed by Lane Powell of Second Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, who is studying for a doctorate in family studies at Texas Tech University, Lubbock. She conducted the seminar once before in her home church.

Powell returned to Richardson two weeks later to test seminar participants for changes in self-image and sexual values and information. Post testing of participants in her first seminar at Lubbock generally showed improvements in self-image and sexual values, she said.

Powell developed the Sex Information Format out of concern her own son and daughter would be leaving home with inadequate sexual information and spiritual values.

"All of the youth directors and ministers I talked with said they didn't know of anything comprehensive that really dealt with difficult sexual issues," she said. "We try to present the program with recognition that young people have choices, but we want these to be informed choices.

"It's important to help young people have proper self-esteem. If you feel good about yourself, you're more likely to take charge and not yield to group pressure. Tests show that more sex education does not increase sexual activities," said Powell.

Sh said young people tell her on TV people are always becoming attracted to each other and the next thing you know they're in bed--you never see them struggling with decisions or talking about birth control.

"It's always something that just happens," noted a teenager.

Program leaders for the Richardson seminar included Milton Cunningham, chaplain in the pastoral care office at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas; Dan Nale, Garland pediatrician; Pam Highfill, single adult minister at Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas; LaVona Wilkes, registered nurse, Garland, and psychologists Doug and Kay Bellamy, Plano, Texas.

At the beginning of the seminar, young people were told God made male and female in His image and Jesus was tender and able to express emotion but was also strong and assertive.

Cunningham encouraged the youth to "have all the qualities that we see in God's image."

On pre-marital sex, Highfill told the young people commitment is terribly important for intimate relationships and "you never know for sure that you're committed to each other until the marriage ceremony."

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Having sex without commitment can result in "hating yourself for it. You'll have a poor relationship with God, and you'll have unsuccessful relationships generally. God's out to make things better for you. That's why He wants you to wait," Highfill said.

Bellamy said most teenage premarital pregnancies happen in the home when the parents are gone. Bellamy said research shows the largest proportion of all teenagers who get pregnant are the religious group.

"It seems a greater sin if you planned it, whereas those who weren't worried about whether it was a sin took a careful look at contraceptives."

He said real love means having concern for the other person. "If you love someone," he said, "abstaining might not be the most loving feeling at the moment, but it might be the most loving behavior."

Wilkes said First Baptist Richardson youth who participated in the seminar seem to feel better about their self-image and sexual awareness.

"It has made them more positive about sexual things and done away with the giggle factor," he said. "Parents have told me we helped them by helping their children, and some said they wished we could have a seminar for adults, too."

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Mexico Mission Matchups  
Returning To Guadalajara

By Marty Croll

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10/26/83

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Kay Weldon became Kay Weldon Madaris the same month Christian Single magazine printed an article, "Single and Happy in Mexico," about her fulfilling single life as a career missionary.

At 40, after accepting she'd probably never marry, Kay met Don Madaris, a 39-year-old pastor sent to Mexico for a short-term mission assignment. She resigned 10 months later to marry him.

Five years after that first meeting, Don and Kay are returning to Mexico, where he will be a chaplain and she will be a nurse in the Guadalajara mission hospital.

He was appointed and she reappointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board when it met in Richmond, Va., in September.

Kay heard about Don before he came to Guadalajara in 1978. As a member of the committee which decided where Don would be sent in Mexico to do student work, Kay "very definitely," voted for him to go elsewhere, where she saw greater need.

"Also, I had a sort of mental image of him," she says. "I had seen and heard of 39-year-old bachelors who were sort of the leftover, so I saw him as bald-headed, fat and 40. I was not at all interested."

Though Don was assigned to direct activities at a new Baptist student center not connected with the hospital, he learned of Kay shortly after he arrived in the city. "Everyone wanted to make sure I met this single nurse. Everybody just thought this was ideal.

"The description I had was that she was an old maid nurse, and since she worked with the mobile medical unit, she drove a truck. And I thought, 'What kind of a person could this be? She's been here all these years, she drives, she's good at mechanics and she plays a mean game of tennis.'"

Because of the Mexican culture, in which marriages are fixed and dating considered quite serious, the two had only one scheduled date--a holiday picnic--before he asked her to marry him. The time they spent together in Mexico consisted of tennis matches, prayer meetings and song sessions in his student center quarters, to which he invited Kay and a journeyman.

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"Singing was something that really attracted me to him," Kay says of her husband, a former tenor soloist for Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians. "Where he lived there was a fireplace, and he'd build a fire, turn down the lights, sit down at the baby grand piano and sing.

"Don't think that didn't get through to this old maid missionary."

Though at first missionaries in Guadalajara planned evenings and dinners to put Don and Kay together, they began to change their attitude as they realized a friendship could grow into something more serious. Don was taken aside more than once and reminded if they were married, Kay would have to resign as a missionary since Don had not been appointed.

So when Don left in March 1979, he assumed their relationship would end. "I wanted Kay to drive me to the airport, and I thought we'd say goodbye, and that would be it," he says.

"But on the plane back to Houston I had a real absent feeling." He pulled out a legal pad and began writing a short note to Kay. When he finished he had 39 pages.

"It was the first opportunity I'd had," he says, laughing. "See what happens when you're unable to express things in Mexico? Those missionaries didn't know I was holding all those things in."

Several letters later, the two arranged to meet in Houston. He was preaching a revival near New Orleans and she was flying into the country to transport a heart-lung machine from Pennsylvania to Mexico. Don used the love offering given him at the revival to pay for his flight into Houston.

Before their rendezvous, Don had kept writing Kay he wanted to ask her a question he couldn't write and couldn't communicate over the phone.

That night in Houston he proposed to her, she accepted, and they planned the date, time and place of the wedding. "So she went back with the heart-lung machine and promptly signed," Don says.

They married two months later, June 30, 1979.

The Madarises were invited back to Guadalajara when he was between pastorates in 1981. While he served in the hospital this time, as a chaplain, and she as a nurse, they realized they could share their lives in such a ministry.

When he learned the hospital needed a full-time missionary chaplain, he felt called to fill that need. He got no argument from his wife.

"Mexico was home," she says. "It really would have been hard to leave for any other reason (but him)."

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\$100,000 Gift Establishes  
Boyce Bible Professorship

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10/26/83

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Boyce Bible School has received \$100,000 to fund the school's first endowed professorship.

Boyce, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., provides ministerial training for persons who have not received college degrees.

The school's board of overseers learned of the gift at its annual meeting. The overseers also approved a new structure for the diploma in advanced ministry studies, reducing requirements from 40 to 28 academic hours. The advanced diploma program is open to recipients of Boyce's diploma in Christian ministry or diploma in educational ministry.

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An anonymous donor committed the \$100,000 to begin the Harold J. Purdy Professorship. It is the first established in Boyce's nine-year history.

Purdy is a professor at Boyce. He is a Southern Seminary graduate and has been pastor of churches in West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Another anonymous couple has pledged support of the professorship through a bequest in their estate. Seminary officials hope \$600,000 can be secured for the Purdy Chair.

In other action, the overseers elected three new officers: Richard Stephenson, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, chairman; A.B. Colvin, assistant to the executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, vice chairman, and Russell Bennett, director of Long Run (Kentucky) Baptist Association, secretary.

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Houston Baptist Professor  
Named Nation's Best

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10/26/83

HOUSTON (BP)--A Houston Baptist University professor has been named the nation's outstanding educator by Religious Heritage of America.

Education Professor Alma M. Leavell has held administrative roles at HBU, including department and college dean since coming to the Baptist General Convention of Texas school in 1965.

Leavell was honored at a banquet Oct. 10 at the Washington, D.C., Marriott Hotel during RHA's 33rd Annual Convention.

Nell H. Lockhart, executive vice president of RHA, which has its headquarters in St. Louis, said the outstanding educator award is given for exceptional service in the field of education for 25 years or more.

Leavell taught at Oklahoma Baptist University, Samford University, Hardin-Simmons University (all Southern Baptist schools) and the University of Houston before beginning her tenure at HBU with the school's first junior class.

RHA is an interfaith association founded in 1951 whose purpose is to recall, define and perpetuate traditional American values. Its first project was a promotion which led to the insertion of the words "Under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in 1954. In addition to its National Awards Program, RHA has promoted the observance of National Day of Prayer.

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Pastor Leads Building Plan  
To Grow Without Money Woes

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press  
10/26/83

MIAMI (BP)--"Don't overburden the people financially" is the personal guiding philosophy Joseph Coats has used to lead a once struggling congregation from borrowed facilities into its own large buildings.

Coats, pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Miami, felt "we didn't want to put the Lord's work in too much secular debt" when he became pastor in 1966 of the then 110-member church.

At the time only 35 of those members were adults and the congregation was meeting in borrowed school facilities they could use only on Sundays. Today, the 2,863 member congregation owns three modern buildings. The predominantly black congregation is composed of persons of U.S., Haitian, Jamaican and Bahamian cultures.

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"Jesus used a boat," Coats pointed out recently in his newly completed office. "He didn't have a building."

During his first year, Coats led the church in holding Vacation Bible School, using not only his home, but also the garages, patios, yards and bedrooms of neighbors' homes. With a bus borrowed through a fellow pastor, Coats said members reached out to 290 children, 17 of whom accepted Christ.

"That really sparked the church," he recalled. "We were going just like we had a big cathedral." As the church continued to grow, it acquired three acres of wooded land. "A lot of people thought we were crazy," Coats grinned, "but we had a vision."

With a mere \$1,500 in savings, the congregation began to plan for a building.

"Cecil Roenfeldt of the Florida Baptist Convention sent program and growth information about our church to the (Baptist) Sunday School Board's church architecture department," Coats said. "At the board, they structured what we could do, providing free architectural services. But we didn't have enough money to build."

Through the Home Mission Board, the church was able to secure a \$90,000 loan, which they paid back in two years. With the help of a local architect, a contractor and a carpenter, church members donated labor at every possible opportunity.

Within 10 months the building was completed by literally working days and nights. Men, women, boys and girls performed almost every task except electrical and plumbing work.

"We built everything through faith," he said. "But already, we had outgrown that building. We had Sunday school classes on the grounds, but when it rained, we had to pack the people inside."

The church subsequently bought additional property, pledging more than \$25,000 toward the cost during one evening service. Within a month, \$40,000 had been collected from members that Coats describes as "working people."

To build the most recent phase, educational space and offices, only \$500,000 was borrowed toward a complex estimated to value \$1.25 million. Again, members did as much as they could in construction, contributing about 85 percent of the labor.

In a recent church service, Coats told the members 1,200 pieces of acoustical tile, costing \$1.75 each, would be needed to finish the office area. Members responded by giving \$1,100. "We will take up the rest the next Sunday," Coats said.

While the church has four separate Sunday morning worship services and badly needs additional worship space, Coats is not yet ready to build again.

"We plan to be debt free in five years," he declared. "Never try to do two things financially with working people," he said of the current building need. "I don't want to hurt any homes."

"It's been a money struggle," he added, "but God has given us the money and the strength. Our struggle keeps us together."

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

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CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Missionaries Se Troups Land, But Plan To Stay On Grenada" mailed 10/26/83, in third paragraph please change, "from the British consulate where they had" to, "from the home of the British High Commissioner, a personal friend, where they had." Also in the second paragraph please delete Britian from the listing of countries involved in the joint invasion.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

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