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Carson-Newman Wins
'Victory From Within'

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. (BP)--"Victory From Within"--the theme of the Carson-Newman College 1983 football team--culminated Dec. 17, 1983, when the Eagles won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) football championship.

After a dismal 0-2 start, Coach Ken Sparks' team put together a combination of hard work, determination and dedication to grow spiritually to overcome overwhelming odds to reach the pinnacle of small college football prowess.

Carson-Newman, with an undergraduate enrollment of about 2,700, is a four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"At Carson-Newman we emphasize personal spiritual growth along with developing God-given talent to play football," said Coach Sparks. "Our 'Victory From Within' began early in the season, despite our poor start," he said.

The season featured victories even more important than those on the football field. "During the year, more than 30 members of the team made first-time professions of faith in Jesus Christ as their personal savior," Sparks said.

The season was filled with ups and downs. There was a last-minute, 97-yard drive and a two-point conversion for a narrow victory over Newberry; a come-from-behind win over Gardner-Webb; a determined hang-on win over Lenoir-Rhyne and a season-ending loss to Presbyterian.

By the end of the season, the team had a 7-3 record. Before the final rankings were made, Carson-Newman was ranked 13th in the nation, but had to be at least 12th to make the playoffs.

"Before the final vote, we had a team meeting," Sparks related. "We felt if the Lord wanted us to continue, he would provide the way. If not, we would grow from the experience."

When the vote was taken, the Eagles were 12th. "We felt like Lazarus," Sparks said.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Eagles beat Shepherd College (W. Va.) 42-21, and went on to whip Saginaw Valley (Mich.) College 41-7.

The championship came down to a meeting between the Eagles and Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colo., which had not lost a home game in three years. "We were the definite underdog, in a hostile environment, playing for the national title," Sparks said. "But we tried to be faithful and during the time leading up to the playoff, we adopted tunnel vision toward our goal and trusting the Lord."

The scrappy Eagles fell behind early in the contest, but fought their way back to a 36-28 victory and the national championship.

Following the win, the players and coaches prayed on the field, giving God the glory for the victory. Sparks said the act of thanks was a witness to the "Victory from Within" that is possible with God.

Vatican Funding On Hold
Until Congress Reconvenes

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--A State Department request to reprogram fiscal 1984 funds for establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Vatican apparently has been put on hold until Congress reconvenes Jan. 23.

The reprogramming request--further evidence of the Reagan administration's interest in appointing an ambassador to the Vatican--has encountered enough opposition to prevent a quick, routine approval by the appropriations subcommittees with jurisdiction over the State Department.

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary, has informed the panel's chairman, Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., of his opposition to establishing full diplomatic ties with the Vatican and formally requested that any action on the request be put off until the full panel can consider it.

Hollings has "very strong opposition" to the move, according to an aide who told Baptist Press he expects Laxalt to accommodate his request for consideration by the full subcommittee.

In addition, a spokesman for the House appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over the State Department, told Baptist Press the panel has an understanding with the State Department that no action will be taken on the request to reprogram funds until Congress reconvenes.

In the past, the House panel aide said, the subcommittee has held hearings on reprogramming requests of a controversial nature.

Present law requires federal agencies only to notify appropriate House and Senate committees of reprogramming intentions but the State Department, like most other agencies, has a history of cooperating with the appropriations committees in such decisions.

The opportunity for Reagan to pursue full diplomatic relations with the Vatican came late last year when Congress removed the long-standing ban against such ties.

In a Jan. 3 letter to President Reagan, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs executive director James M. Dunn urged the president to "support church-state separation and oppose establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

"Establishing a diplomatic post with any church tramples the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution by showing preference to one religious faith over all others," Dunn's letter stated. "While 100 nations may have chosen to trade ambassadors with the Holy See, only the United States has a First Amendment which serves as the bastion for our cherished principle of separation of church and state.

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Longtime BJCPA Employee,
Helen M. Dunnam, Dies

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Helen M. Dunnam, who worked for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs longer than any other employee in the agency's history, died suddenly Jan. 3 following a heart attack. She was 71.

As receptionist for the Baptist Joint Committee, she answered and referred thousands of queries from Baptists all across the nation during her 23 years of employment. She served under the leadership of three of the agency's four executive directors, C. Emanuel Carlson, James E. Wood Jr., and James M. Dunn.

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Before joining the staff of the BJC, Mrs. Dunnam also worked briefly for the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. A charter member of Hillandale Baptist Church in suburban Adelphi, Md., she served on several D.C. convention committees.

The Washington native was twice widowed and is survived by a daughter, Linda Ann Hale, and a grandson, Robert Hale, both of Tampa, Fla.

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Denomination Struggles
With Forced Terminations

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Forced termination of Southern Baptist ministers is an embarrassment to the denomination, according to Brooks Faulkner, supervisor of the career guidance section at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Faulkner estimates, conservatively he thinks, some 2,500 Southern Baptist church staff ministers are dismissed annually in a dilemma the denomination does not know how to handle.

Observers agree there is no easy solution to the problem that can leave ministers and their families emotionally and financially distressed and churches frustrated and unstable.

During a meeting of church-minister relations directors from state Baptist conventions, several problems and some possible solutions were discussed in an effort to gain insight for counseling suddenly unemployed ministers and providing guidance for pastorless churches.

Although no single solution will halt the rash of minister terminations, Faulkner said one step which could positively influence a more stable relationship between ministers and churches would be an open covenant or contract.

"A covenant which includes cooperation, mutual understanding and an ongoing feedback process is needed in Southern Baptist churches between ministers and congregations," Faulkner said.

A frequent problem is neither the church nor the minister knows what to expect from the new situation because expectations are never discussed in concrete terms.

"The church has the right to expect the minister to visit in hospitals, witness to lost people and maintain some regular office hours for visits and calls because they are paying his salary," he continued. "The pastor may not like it as much as studying, but he is answerable to the congregation.

"It is a question of authority in the church," he continued. "The congregation has the right to expect some regular hours, but conversely, cannot expect the pastor to spend night and day visiting and answering the telephone.

"In the question of authority in the local church, ministers need to remember credibility and accompanying authority is gained through years of cooperation and proven leadership," Faulkner explained. "Telling church members who is in charge can do more to raise the question than settle it."

Sometimes churches need to consider alternatives to terminating a minister because of some disagreement. An interim pastor, for instance, could provide the leadership needed for a cooling-off period to salvage a minister's career and the stability and community influence of the church.

According to Faulkner, the minister is rarely the issue in a forced termination, which does not solve the problem. In most cases where the minister is terminated, a substantial conflict existed before the minister was called to the church.

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"After a forced termination, the church often is embarrassed because of what has been done, the pastor is embarrassed because he and his family can't deal with the crisis in their lives and the denomination is embarrassed by the whole issue because we don't know what to do about it," he explained.

In an effort to stem the tide of terminations in the denomination, the church-minister relations directors considered several solutions which, if applied to developing situations, could positively affect relationships between congregations and ministers.

The directors urged seminaries to prepare ministers to deal with conflict with studies in conflict management, staff relationships and personnel management.

"Unless a minister knows how to deal with conflict and other realistic problems, he may never get to use his preparation in theology and Bible study," according to Sam Granade, director of church-minister relations for the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Other solutions which surfaced in the meeting were an improved pastor selection process, where pastors and churches are fitted together carefully and with understanding by both parties; assessment of pastoral skills; improved communication between church members and ministers, with allowances for criticism both ways, and the use of Christian principles to resolve conflict.

For ministers who have been terminated, Granade said state conventions should establish emergency aid programs. It is only a temporary measure, but necessary.

James Cooper, coordinator of the ministers' counseling service for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, supported Granade by sharing out of a group of 18 terminated ministers in Texas, 11 received less than a month's salary or support. The average time for terminated ministers to find a new church is approximately 18 months.

The state directors agreed guilt for forced terminations in the Southern Baptist Convention cannot be directed solely at either the churches or the ministers. Some churches seem to lose a pastor every two or three years because they are displeased with his performance.

On the other hand, some ministers, in an attempt to climb the ladder of success, change churches too quickly, are lazy, lack leadership skills or always preach negatively.

The issue is not going to be resolved tomorrow, Faulkner said. In fact, it is only beginning to be discussed openly so the denomination is aware of the many lives which are being affected. There is a great need for care, compassion and understanding by all Southern Baptists toward churches and ministers alike whose direction and calling have been altered by crises which might have been avoided if treated in the early stages.

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Flynn Harrell, South
Carolina Leader, Resigns

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COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Flynn T. Harrell, a key administrator with the South Carolina Baptist Convention, has been named executive assistant for special projects to South Carolina Attorney General Travis Medlock, effective Feb. 20.

Harrell, assistant to the executive secretary-treasurer for business affairs with the South Carolina convention, officially will resign his post Feb. 18.

As executive assistant to the attorney general, Harrell will represent Medlock at high level state policy committees, assist with legislative liaison and also fulfill administrative, budget and other public responsibilities.

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He has worked for the South Carolina convention 21 years, serving with three administrators: Ray P. Rust, current executive secretary-treasurer, and retired executives A. Harold Cole and Horace G. Hammett.

After graduating from the University of South Carolina, Harrell worked four and a half years as an Internal Revenue Service agent. He joined the state convention staff in 1962 as the first business manager.

He also has held several denominational responsibilities, including serving on SBC committee on committees in 1967 and the tellers committee in 1977. He has been chairman of the Southern Baptist Business Officers' Conference, vice president of the Southern Baptist Historical Society and president of the South Carolina Baptist Historical Society.

His voluntary activities have included service with the City of Columbia Planning Commission, the Inaugural Prayer Service Honorary Committee and the Department of Social Services Civic Action State Coordinating Committee.

In 1982-83, he was chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Critical Human Needs.

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Baptist Heads
Israel Council

Baptist Press
1/4/84

TIBERIAS, Israel (BP)--Ray Register, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative in Israel for 18 years, has been elected chairman of the United Christian Council of Israel.

The council is a fellowship of 20 evangelistic protestant groups working in Israel.

Other Baptists elected UCC officers were Sallie Lanier, also a Southern Baptist representative, treasurer, and Suhail Ramadan, a pastor in Galilee, named a council member.

Register, who with his wife, Rose Mary, does evangelistic work with Arabs in the Galilee area, will lead the council as it seeks to strengthen fellowship among member groups, increase presentation of the gospel and defend religious liberty in Israel.

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