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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W. Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201-3355, Telephone (214) 720-0550
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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Bill Powell Retires,
Lucas Named SBJ Editor

By Jim Newton

JONESBORO, Ga. (BP)--Directors of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship have accepted the resignation of William A. (Bill) Powell of Buchanan, Ga., as editor of Southern Baptist Journal and elected an Austin, Tex., pastor as the new editor.

Dave Lucas, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oak Hill in Austin, was elected by about 16 directors from a half-dozen states attending the board meeting at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Jonesboro, just south of Atlanta. Names of the directors were not revealed.

Powell, who will be 60 on Sept. 15, requested early medical disability retirement, saying he is unable to continue as editor because of a terminal illness.

Powell has been editor of the conservative-oriented publication since founding it in 1973. Previously, he was a staff member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta for 11 years; first as associate director and later director of the board's department of survey and special studies, and as consultant on bus evangelism in the evangelism division. He was superintendent of city missions for Southern Baptists in Chicago before joining the board's staff. He is also a former pastor of Cornell Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, and pastor of six churches in Alabama.

An editorial in the May-June, 1984, issue of Southern Baptist Journal summarized the background and purpose of the Journal and the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, saying BFMF is opposed to "having teachers in SBC schools and writers of SBC literature who believe the Bible has errors; using Cooperative Program funds for those who do not believe in the verbal inspiration of the original manuscript as the infallible Word of God; electing liberals as trustees to oversee our schools and agencies; having teachers...and writers...who do not completely reject evolution and recognize that the Bible does not permit any woman to be ordained as a deacon or minister....."

While Powell did not speak to Baptist Press following the directors' meeting, he did provide a copy of his "last editorial," scheduled for publication in September. In it, he wrote there has been "some progress in this battle for the Bible. I wanted to be able to keep working until all the liberals were removed from our SBC payrolls--but it appears that God will not let me continue to the end of this battle...."

He wrote many people "have sensed that I am having problem with my health and my ability to produce a first class Journal and get them out on time. My health will not permit me to continue."

Powell said doctors had diagnosed a "terminal disease" last year, but that BFMF directors encouraged him to continue for another year. "But it appears that the time has come to take disability retirement. It has been a hard year this year for me," he wrote.

In an interview following his election, Lucas said he did not anticipate major changes in the editorial policy, but acknowledged: "I am a different personality from Bill Powell, and though I admire him greatly, the way I deal with issues will possibly be different."

Lucas said his style of writing tends to be "more scholarly" and that he would make every attempt to document primary sources of information.

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Lucas, pastor of the Austin church for about a year, emphasized that he is a graduate of two Baptist institutions, Dallas Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and that he is not anti-Southern Baptist organizations.

He said, however, there is definitely a problem of liberalism in the SBC, and that Southern Baptist Journal under his editorship would seek to document specific violations of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Lucas said he would seek to work within the structure of the Southern Baptist Convention to bring about change, and plans to write letters to the elected trustees of SBC agencies and institutions expressing "legitimate concerns." Earlier this year, he said he sent a packet of materials to every member of the SBC Executive Committee, and that he plans to send similar materials to the 22-member SBC Peace Committee elected by the convention in Dallas to study causes of controversy in the SBC.

Southern Baptists, he said, need to be honest and acknowledge there are theological problems within the SBC. "If the issue is continually shoved under the carpet and misrepresented, there is a possibility of a big split," he said.

He predicted some churches will leave the SBC either way. "The question is not, 'Will we have people leave?'; the question is, 'How many will leave?' You can write that in gold."

"We need to get things out in the open and deal with them, and if people can really see the full issue, we will maximize the number of people who will remain with us," Lucas said.

Criticizing Baptist state papers which carry only one side of an issue, Lucas observed, "If one side is presented and the other is not, it will make the people in the pew think their position is not being respected. This fosters more division. We will carry both sides of an issue in Southern Baptist Journal," Lucas said.

Lucas has been a frequent writer in past issues of the Journal. He wrote two lengthy articles in the January-February, 1985 issue, and in the April 1985 issue, he wrote an article supporting SBC President Charles Stanley of Atlanta.

Although Southern Baptist Journal has faced financial difficulties in the past, Lucas said the fellowship which sponsors the publication is "financially solvent." The current operating budget, he said, is \$89,356, including salaries. Circulation varies from a minimum of 2,500 to a maximum of 35,000 when copies are sent to all SBC churches. Production and mailing costs range from \$500 to \$2,500 per issue, he said.

The publication and fellowship is supported by contributions from churches and individuals, and by \$25 annual membership dues. Lucas said there are about 400 contributing members.

Lucas acknowledged that at least three members of the Faith and Message Fellowship board had raised questions about continuing the publication, but said the "overwhelming majority" of board members did not feel they had fulfilled the purpose the organization was started to achieve. He added directors never considered a possible merger with another conservative-oriented publication, Southern Baptist Advocate, based in Dallas.

He said the Journal and the Advocate differ primarily in the way they deal with issues, adding the Journal will focus primarily on dealing with specific violations of the Faith and Message statement.

Lucas will continue as pastor of First Baptist Church, Oak Hill. The church last year reported a total membership of 774 and a resident membership of 554, an average Sunday School attendance of 98, and SBC Cooperative Program gifts of \$2,493. Lucas estimated the percentage of total gifts going to the Cooperative Program at about six percent.

Before going to the Austin church as pastor, Lucas was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Bryan, Tex., for about five years. Previously, he was pastor of Sunnyside Baptist Church, Hobart, Ind. He earned the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1978.

Discipline Involves
Guidance For Children

By Frank Wm. White

WINONA LAKE, Ind.--Discipline is not a negative aspect of dealing with children but is part of the process of guiding children into acceptable behavior, according to preschool specialist, Cos Davis.

The word discipline comes from disciple. "Jesus never disciplined in a negative way," said Davis, supervisor of the preschool program section of the Sunday school department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Discipline is not punishment but is guidance for children, he explained.

As a parent, Davis admitted he becomes frustrated. "It is all right to feel frustration at times," he said.

Many of the principles for discipline and positive guidance for preschoolers apply in the home as well as in a Sunday school situation, Davis said during a session of a Sunday school Leadership Conference at Winona Lake, Ind.

"As we guide children, we need to help them become mature enough to make proper decisions about the way they act," he explained.

Rather than dealing specifically with behavioral actions, it is often important to investigate the causes for the behavior. "All behavior is meaningful," he pointed out.

Preschoolers often are seeking attention and are going to get it by some means. "It is important to learn when to give good attention. The wrong kind of attention can reinforce bad behavior," he cautioned.

Children learn their behavior patterns and those patterns can be changed in time, Davis said.

Children often have particular problems that cause unacceptable behavior. "There are no problem children, only children with problems," he said.

For the Sunday school teacher, a home visit may be needed to understand what the problems might be, he suggested.

Children need to know they are loved even though their behavior may not be acceptable. "There are times to be firm, but firm and loving can be synonymous," he said, adding being firm and friendly may require practice ahead of time.

Praise for acceptable behavior should be emphasized, he said, and shaming a child should be avoided. Many times anger causes aggressive behavior because children don't have other means for dealing with anger, Davis said.

"If we can help a child deal with anger we can teach him something nations of the world, parents and other adults haven't learned," Davis said. "You can tell the child that you become angry, too, or that you would be angry in a similar situation. Helping a child deal with anger involves communication. Talking through the situation can help the child express his anger and deal with it."

"Children need to see you as a human being. Being human helps. When they know you have feelings like theirs, they can learn how to deal with those feelings," he explained.

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Baptist Mission Desperately
Needs Physician In Ethiopia

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RABEL, Ethiopia (BP)--Missionary personnel working against overwhelming odds in the Ethiopian highlands desperately need a volunteer physician to coordinate Southern Baptist medical relief efforts in the remote, famine-stricken area.

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The Foreign Mission Board has searched in vain since May for a physician to spend one or two years coordinating the work at the feeding and health center in Rabel and as many as four other centers projected for the Menz-Gishe and Merhabete Districts.

The physician would supervise nurses at the centers, help with difficult medical cases nurses can't handle, and provide advice related to public health, nutrition, famine-related diseases and general sanitation.

Interested persons are urged to write Joyce De Ridder in health care recruitment at the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230, or call her at (804) 353-0151.

Specifications suggest training in "public health, lots of good practical general medicine and tropical diseases could be helpful."

"This isn't the place for the specialist who would have all the latest equipment," said Lynn Groce, administrator of the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia. "Medical facilities are primitive, only on the clinic level, with no hospital-type facilities."

Requirements also specify the physician must have the ability to work as a team member, function under limited and very difficult circumstances, be flexible and innovative, and not get frustrated by very limited medical facilities.

That's a key qualification for Rabel, where workers face sparse, remote living conditions without electricity, refrigeration, running water or indoor bathing facilities.

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WMU Has Style
And Is In Style

By Karen Campbell

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--New York business women, nurses, teachers, church workers, homemakers and a pre-med student gathered on the Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center stage to express thanks to the more than 1,900 women and men attending WMU week for their continuing support.

"We want you to know our WMU has style and is in style!" Miriam Dennis enthusiastically reported in the Panamanian accent that remains after years as business woman and wife of a bivocational pastor in the U.S.

The 45 representatives of the growing work in the Baptist Convention in New York drew spontaneous applause as they spoke of answered prayers, active missions education organizations, and life-changing growth.

The group represented seven of the 17 languages spoken in Southern Baptist churches in New York. Expressing a common note of gratitude was Zully Malzonado who was born in Colombia. "That which I've received from foreign missionaries in my home, I want to share in this country through WMU."

"These women exemplify what WMU means when we talk about Multiplying The Vision," said national WMU president Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich.

"I think they represent the whole scope of how God uses missions education. People learn and catch a vision. They become missionaries. Then people are saved. They gain the vision and in turn become strong leaders in their churches."

Daily conferences, Bible study, convocations and missionary vespers supported the week's theme in the 1985-86 emphases Multiply The Vision.

William Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board, stressed the urgency of missions in the opening convocation. Quoting statistics he explained that a state of emergency exists when the U.S. is the fourth largest unchurched nation is giving more foreign missionaries than any other nation in the world.

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"We need to get excited about the time we have, gospel we have, needs we have," he said. "We are standing in a pivotal two decades. We don't have time to mark time until the Twenty-first Century arrives."

Equipping churches in associational WMU leaders to interpret the organization and upcoming emphasis remains the purpose of the week's activities.

"There is nothing more tragic than a vision without the power to do it," said Ruth Bagwell, a retired Florida WMU staff member who lead the daily Bible study. "We cannot do the work of God in our strength."

Other highlights of the week included phone calls to missionaries listed on the prayer calendar. Janene Wilson Ford, foreign missionary to Argentina, and David Wigger, home missionary in Iowa, received birthday wishes from Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, and shared prayer requests as their conversation was broadcast throughout the auditorium.

First Baptist Church, Thomson, Ga., presented the musical "Til Millions Know" during the Sunday evening convocation. Director Laverne Melton served as music leader for the week.

An afternoon celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Cooperative Program featured informative games, skits and introduction to Cecil Ray, co-author of "Cooperation: The Baptist Way To A Lost World."

A dialogue between retired home missionary Lillian Isaacs and author Nell Bowen concluded the week's activities. The two women discussed the events from Bowen's new book, "Making The Word Known," which focuses on the missions work of the Isaacs family.

"'Miss' Lillian's stories are so human. Once you have heard them you feel like you've lived them," explained Bowen. "She's a women of extreme intelligence with a down to earth humor."

Throughout the week missionaries lead in prayer at nightly vespers. The power of prayer was particularly underscored during the convocation lead by the New York women and Nona Bickerstaff, WMU state executive director for the Baptist Convention of New York.

"Thank you, Christians," Bickerstaff concluded. "For praying, supporting, coming to our convention to work, for giving your money consistently, and for teaching children, youth, and adults to follow God's will--even if it means to come to the New York area where God is at work."

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Louisville Group
Establishes Fund

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--An \$8,000 gift from Paul's Workshop, Inc. of Louisville has established the Paul's Workshop Ministry Support Grant Fund at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The gift will provide grants for students ministering in central Louisville among the poor and disadvantaged. According to Walter Jackson, director of supervised ministry studies, the purpose of the grants is "to attract students who are ministering."

Paul's Workshop, Inc. was founded by Louisville industrialist George Stoll in 1933 to provide better housing for underprivileged people and to promote work by laypersons in prisons, jails and hospitals.

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901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE
NASHVILLE, TN 37203