

JAN 31 1985

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**(BP)**

**-- FEATURES**

produced by Baptist Press

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

January 30, 1985

85-8

**Indian Church Turns  
Flood Into Blessing**

TULSA, Okla. (BP)—The rains came down and the floods came up, as the children's song says. But Bowen Indian Church in Tulsa, Okla., was "built upon the rock" so it stood firm.

The building suffered, but the "church" is rebuilding from a May 28 flood which rose five feet in the auditorium, warped pews and piled them against the door alongside the pulpit, pushed out walls, soaked the preacher's library, ruined two buses and left mud everywhere.

But Pastor Ira Pisachubbee calls the flood a blessing because, in the rebuilding, the church is expanding its facility which had been bursting with people.

The church had grown from 40 in Sunday school when Pisachubbee became pastor in September 1980 to a regular 130-150 attendance. The rebuilt sanctuary will seat nearly 300.

The church is buying surrounding land and is talking about building a new facility.

"If we really want to see something done, this is the time to do it." Pisachubbee told his congregation recently, "I don't ever want us to slow down or stop. I just want us to keep going because there are a lot of people that aren't saved yet that need to be saved."

Pisachubbee thinks big. He was pastor of an Anglo church in Oakhurst for 13 years before coming to Bowen, his first Indian pastorate.

"Many Indian churches feel like they can't do it because they've never tried," says Pisachubbee, a Choctaw. "I've always felt anybody can do anything they want to."

Many people helped Bowen Church recover from the flood. It received \$9,000 from state and national Southern Baptist agencies. Others responded by donating an organ and supplies destroyed by muddy water. The church still needs office equipment, a bus and a van.

Although most of Bowen's members are employed, Indians as a group in Tulsa and the state are among those in the worst economic condition.

"Many have a great need," Pisachubbee admits. "It breaks your heart to see how some of them are living. We don't want them just to come to church. We want to help them with their needs." To do that, this church which is pulling itself back from the flood, has its own benevolence fund which provides food, clothing and furniture.

"Our people are ready to help in any way we can," the pastor says. "Not because we have a lot of money. We don't. We just share what we have."

Bowen is not unusual or unique, Pisachubbee insists. "It is just the way God would want a church...filled with love."

--30--

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

Time, Expectations  
Pressure Ministers

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press  
1/30/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Time demands, financial difficulties and high expectations are primary stress producers among Southern Baptist ministers, according to a recent survey.

--more--

Seven of the top 10 stress factors identified by ministers responding to the survey conducted by the research services department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, were related to time--particularly the lack of it. The other three factors among the top 10 related to expectations for productivity and leadership.

The financial difficulties were second overall as a source of stress, with the primary complaint being an inadequate retirement plan. Other areas mentioned were inadequate salary, house xpenses, excessive car expenses, medical expenses and paying off indebtedness.

Terry Peck, consultant in the church administration department, said personal and professional expectations for ministers are multi-faceted. Also, most churches do not have a clear, written job description for the pastor.

"Ministers feel pulled in a lot of directions based on many sets of different expectations," Peck said. "Even more crucial, the survey reveals pastors and staff are not successfully coping...they are not dealing with problems realistically. Ministers are saying 'prayer and Bible study are enough,' when they really need to do those things in conjunction with a support system.

"Minister-types are involved in giving, giving, giving," Peck said. "Eventually they will be given out unless they receive ongoing support of which the family can be a part."

In the top 80 items which cause stress for ministers, the first four related to time. Number one, too many demands for my time, ranked 3.53 on a scale of five. Close behind were lack of study time, administration responsibilities and lack of time to visit prospects.

Several of the next items in the ranking of ministerial stressors related to expenses, including house expenses (number 16), excessive car expenses (17th), medical expenses (20th), and paying off past indebtedness (21st).

Criticism or conflict with church members ranked relatively low. Expectations were high, but direct criticism or conflict did not appear to be an area where ministers feel pressure.

Pressures of sermon preparation, for instance, was 39th (1.92) out of the 80 stressors, with number 40 (1.19) being conflicts with church members because of personality differences.

Even lower in the rankings was fear of being asked to resign (68th), criticism of sermons (73rd) and pressure from some church members to leave the church (74th).

Items which reportedly cause the least amount of stress for ministers were psychological illness of a family member (78th), divorce in the family (79) and dependence on stimulants and/or sedatives, which ranked last.

Approximately the same amount of stress was reported by the various classifications of ministers, but the causes of the stress were not the same. For pastors, the two items with the highest percentage of stress were too many demands on my time (21.5 percent) and inadequate retirement plan (18.8 percent).

For ministers of education, the top two were too many demands on my time (21.7 percent) and administrative responsibilities (10.6 percent). The two highest for ministers of music and ministers of youth were too many interruptions and too many demands for my time.

Peck said role clarification and support groups might be the most significant actions which could prevent a great deal of stress.

"If there is an agreement, for instance, between the members and the pastor as to what to expect, it can cut down on time as a stress factor," he explained. "With planning, he can give time to priority ministry efforts which have been agreed upon by both parties."

Each of the staff classifications indicated the strongest support group was the spouse or other family members. Peck said this could indicate a need to better acquaint pastors and other staff members with support groups and the benefits of joining such a group to relieve pressures among family members.

For the survey, a random sample of 350 each was selected from the mailing lists of pastors, ministers of education, ministers of music and ministers of youth. Of the 1,400 persons invited to participate in the survey, 700 (50 percent) responded by returning completed questionnaires.

--30--

MISSION 85 Continues  
To Affect Students

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press  
1/30/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--For college students in Hawaii and Oklahoma, the spirit of MISSION 85 continued after they left Nashville's Opryland Hotel on New Year's Day.

Six of the nine students from Hawaii who attended the student missions conference made missions commitments after returning home and student interest in Oklahoma has led to the formation of a committee to begin plans for a regional student mission conference in 1986.

Although not among the 450 students making public decisions during MISSION 85, four students from Hawaii decided to apply for summer missions and two applied for Missionary Journeymen positions after returning home, said Don Gurney, director for student work for the Hawaii Baptist Convention. Journeymen serve two years on appointment by the Foreign Mission Board.

Of the other three students in the group, one was a summer missionary last year, one is struggling with a decision concerning full-time Christian service and the third is considering some type of mission involvement, Gurney said.

"MISSION 85 helped firm up mission decisions they already had been wrestling with," Gurney said. Several of the Hawaii students picked up summer mission applications at MISSION 85 but didn't decide to complete them until they returned home, he explained. "They all talked with missionaries at the conference. Being in the encounter groups really seemed to help them make their decisions," Gurney explained.

The group also discussed their missions concerns during a nightly prayer time during the conference, he said.

In Oklahoma, a regional missions conference patterned after MISSION 85 which planners hope will attract at least 1,500 students may be the result of the concerns of many of the 602 students who joined a 13-bus caravan from the state.

As they left MISSION 85 many of the Oklahoma students were asking why it had to be five years between the national missions conferences, said Bob Lee, director of student work for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

A conference during the week between Christmas and New Year's in 1986 would pick up in the middle of the national conferences sponsored by national student ministries of the Sunday School Board, the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, the Brotherhood Commission and the six Southern Baptist seminaries, Lee said.

"We'd like to keep the spirit alive with those who went (to MISSION 85) and pick up a new generation which didn't go," he said. The campus directors of student work have supported the idea and have formed a committee to plan the event.

Students from states surrounding Oklahoma would be invited to participate, Lee pointed out. "We see it as an opportunity for more missions decisions. We had at least 50 decisions at MISSION 85 and more since they returned. This will be another opportunity," Lee said.

--30--

Scholarship Honors  
Midwestern Trustee

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—A Florida Baptist church has established a \$12,000 scholarship fund honoring an original trustee of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Central Baptist Church, Miami, Fla., has financed the Conrad R. Willard Scholarship Fund, recognizing the retirement of Conrad R. Willard, the church's pastor from 1962 through last December.

Earnings from the fund will finance an annual \$1,000 scholarship for a ministerial student at Midwestern. Contributors to the scholarship plan to increase the fund to \$25,000 later, according to Seminary President Milton Ferguson. Earnings from the increased fund will provide additional seminary scholarships.

The first recipient of the scholarship is Brett Yohn, a third year divinity student from Oklahoma. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Yohn is Baptist campus minister at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Willard was a charter member of Midwestern's board of trustees, serving from 1957 to 1962. He was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., when the first classes at Midwestern were held in 1958-59.

Willard, a native of Missouri, was president of Midwestern's board of trustees from 1960 to 1962. He served two terms on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and was president of the Florida Baptist Convention from 1967 to 1968.

He is a graduate of Drury College, Springfield, Mo., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Kan.

--30--

Church Role Needed  
In Aiding Elderly

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press  
1/30/85

ATLANTA (BP)—The church can be an advocate of aging by taking a proactive stance of providing services and information not only to the elderly but to their families, a Baylor University professor told an Atlanta audience recently.

Dennis Myers, professor of social work at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, spoke at the first National Conference on Aging sponsored by the family ministry department of the Sunday School Board.

Myers said the church can be an advocate for the needs of senior adults by helping persons plan for retirement, giving assistance in role-making, providing services and being informed about government and community services.

"What better place to meet the social and emotional needs of the elderly but in the church?" said Myers. "Persons in the church can be advocates of aging by being informed."

Myers believes senior adults trust persons with whom they are associated in churches. "Most senior citizens fail to utilize programs and services available for them because they don't understand how to receive the benefits or aren't aware that the services exist. Because they trust you they will listen to what you say."

Myers explained that in most cases an adult female child is the primary care-giver to an elderly person. "The church can provide support and assistance to the family member who is feeling demands of several generations," he said.

Myers noted a church needs also to expand its senior adult ministry to the families of elderly persons who have been institutionalized.

--more--

"There are a lot of gray areas concerning resident care," he explained. "Whose responsibility is it to read letters to them (elderly persons in institutions), clip their nails, groom their hair, launder their personal items and help decorate their room?"

On a related issue, Myers said churches should take the lead in helping alter attitudes about retirement. "We must teach persons to view retirement as another career," he said. "This attitude would help them to incorporate work, education and leisure time into the new schedule."

Myers identified the acceptance of leisure time as one of the greatest problems associated with retirement. "We have associated usefulness with our jobs so long that people have difficulty accepting leisure time. It is hard for senior adults to learn to play because they have no role models."

Myers said he is optimistic churches can lead the way in making needed changes. "We can change stereotypes and eliminate the fear of growing old by preparing our children to live to be 90. We need to teach them to look at aging as an opportunity for all persons to continue living and utilizing all the gifts God has given us."

--30--

Sunday School Board To Install  
New Computerized Editing System

Baptist Press  
1/30/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has announced plans for a computerized text management system for editorial and art design production of its 150 periodicals.

The system, to be installed in phases over an estimated three-year period, has been purchased from Atex, Inc., a Kodak company.

Components participating in the first phase of implementation are the youth curriculum and program sections in the Sunday school department, the youth/adult curriculum and art manuscript sections in the art department and the word processing section in the administrative services department. Installation of equipment for the first phase is to be completed by early summer, according to James W. Clark, executive vice-president of the board.

"Text management will enable the Sunday School Board to make a giant step forward in its continued efforts to improve productivity and to serve Southern Baptists with efficiency and effectiveness," Clark said. "We will be able to do better work in less time in every phase of the editorial process."

Clark said the Sunday School Board's periodicals have combined circulations of more than 13 million, including distribution in 117 countries.

--30--

\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

EDITORS' NOTE: Please make the necessary address changes in all correspondence files and mailing lists to reflect Baptist Press's new address -- 901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tenn. 37203

The phone number remains the same.

Thanks, Baptist Press

\*\*\*\*\*



**BAPTIST PRESS**

901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE NO  
NASHVILLE TN 37234

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION