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April 11, 1986

86-52

'Disciplined Optimism'

Sometime Needed: Fuller

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)--The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee should be an optimist, the chairman, Charles Fuller, says.

"The chairman of this committee, if not optimistic and positive by nature, must be an optimist by discipline," says Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., after the sixth meeting of the 22-member group.

The Peace Committee was created by the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and instructed to seek the causes of controversy in the 14.4-million-member denomination and to recommend possible means of reconciliation.

After seemingly little progress toward the goals, Fuller says, "If our denomination does not have someone in this position who thinks and functions in a positive and optimistic way, then we could have dispair on a grand scale."

After nine months, six committee meetings, at least 10 subcommittee meetings, visits to 11 national institutions and agencies by visitation subcommittees, often emotional confrontation and difference of opinion, millions upon millions of words, and only a three-paragraph statement acknowledging theological diversity in the seminaries and convention to show as progress, Fuller admits he probably is "more of an optimist by discipline right now."

There have been some bright times, he says, when it appeared progress was about to appear, and at those times, he was optimistic both by nature and by discipline.

"That was true in February," he says. "Then, we spent most of our time in sharp exchange, and then, suddenly, the statement on diversity came into being and we quickly had something. It has happened at other times, either through some event or simply out of the dynamic of the group. Then, my disciplined optimism is supported by some promise.

"In the meeting we just finished (the early April session) nothing came together. We did not suddenly have something to show. What we have is a prodding, plodding plan which is going to require planning and scheduling and forbearance. There is nothing spontaneous about it.

"So, after this meeting, I am an optimistic by discipline," he says. "If what we have planned comes to pass, it may be that we did more than at any previous meeting. But, it doesn't look like much on paper."

During the April session, the committee adopted a strategy by which it and subcommittees will meet with principals in the controversy to discuss the issues at hand and try to enlist those persons as part of the peace process.

Fuller delivered a devotional at one of the sessions of the April meeting where he quoted a statement by the late British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who told a group of boys: "Young men, never, never, never, never, never give up."

"That is exactly the posture we are in. I think if people will stay by the stuff and see this thing through, that we can steer this denomination through difficult times. That is not just pulpit rhetoric; I really believe it.

"I am human enough that I go through moods, but the one thing I have not lost since I became chairman of this committee is my commitment to tenacity."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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While expressing optimism, Fuller admits he sometimes feels frustrated.

"Sometimes when you have gone over and over something and restated it in every way you think you can and see that the differences have never left the committee, it is easy to feel frustrated. Sometimes I think that were it not for the people who trust us and because of the purpose we were created, it would hardly be worth the effort," he says.

One of the reasons he remains optimistic, he says, is because he "still believes in divine intervention. That is the underlying reason for my optimism. When I pray--and I do so for the Peace Committee every day--I still pray with the air of expectancy."

"It is important to remember that we still believe in God's divine intervention. If he is not through with Southern Baptists he will intervene."

Fuller laughs as he says: "Of course, with the convention (annual meeting) getting nearer, I want to say, 'Well, Lord, it is only a few weeks away and I sure would like to have an intervention.' But I know he is under no obligation to answer, much less in a few weeks."

Southern Baptists should "avoid cynicism," he says. "The longer I work at this assignment, the less appreciation I have for cynicism. We can scrutinize, doubt and hesitate and those kinds of things, but as Christians we should not allow them to deteriorate into cynicism.

"I am an optimist. I do not think it is an airy and frothy optimism, but the kind of optimism that is basic to the Christian. I do believe in divine intervention. In fact, I think it is the best and brightest hope we have."

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Reagan Proclaims May 1
National Day Of Prayer

By Eileen Canavan

Baptist Press
4/11/86

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Reagan has proclaimed Thursday, May 1, as the 34th consecutive National Day of Prayer.

The observance has been declared annually by each president since Harry Truman in 1952. However, national observances of a day of prayer have been made since 1775, when the Continental Congress first declared one.

Reagan, in his 1986 proclamation, referred to prayer as being "deeply woven into the fabric of our history" by citing three presidents and their reflections on prayer during times of national crisis.

He cited George Washington's kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge to ask for "divine assistance." Abraham Lincoln, he said, summoned the nation to prayer, saying it was "fit and becoming in all peoples, at all times, to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God...and to pray with all fervency and contrition...." Reagan referred to Franklin Roosevelt who, after Pearl Harbor, "took courage" from the thought that "the vast majority of the members of the human race" joined in prayer for victory in "freedom under God."

As he called for Americans to join him in prayer, Reagan also quoted Theodore Roosevelt who said, "all our extraordinary material development...will go for nothing unless with that growth goes hand-in-hand the moral, the spiritual growth that will enable us to use aright the other as an instrument."

Reagan's proclamation focused on the individuality and diversity of prayer in the United States. He said, "Just as our religious institutions are guaranteed freedom in this land, so also do we cherish the diversity of our faiths and the freedom afforded to each of us to pray according to the promptings of our individual conscience."

He described the common core of prayer as "our hopes and aspirations, our sorrows and fears...and most especially our love--all turned toward God."

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A National Prayer Day Task Force, established through the National Prayer Committee is publicizing the observance. Co-chaired by Voneta Bright and Herbert E. Ellingwood, the non-governmental committee is asking citizens to take at least five minutes at noon on May 1 for prayer to "thank God for the countless ways he has blessed us and pray for the continued blessing of our nation and its leaders." The task force also is calling for prayer services and gatherings May 1 and the further enactment of state and local observances.

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(Eileen Canavan is a high school intern with the Washington bureau of Baptist Press.)

Baptist Press
4/11/86

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
June 8-9, 1986
Omni International Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia

THEME: It Takes Us All

Sunday Afternoon, June 8, 1986

- 1:00--Registration
2:30--Orientation of New Members--Lloyd Householder, convener; director, office of communications, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
3:00--General Session--Mavis Allen, convener; design/planning coordinator, Sunday school department, BSSB, Nashville
--Worship Feature--Billie Pate, manager, management support group, BSSB, Nashville; Marshall Walker, supervisor, communications services section, BSSB, Nashville
--I Dream Of Servant Leadership--Lloyd Elder, president, BSSB, Nashville
--I Glimpsed Servant Leadership--Margaret Tyree, minister of education, Grandlin Court Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.; Vivian Andrews, teacher of adult women, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Round O, S.C.; Al Riddley, church development director, New England Baptist Convention, Northboro, Mass.
--The Risks of Servant Leadership--Robert Fulbright, minister of Christian education, Kirkwood Baptist Church, Kirkwood, Mo.
--Program Overview and Welcome--Dennis Parrott, minister of education, Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas; Joel Harrison, education ministries director, Atlanta Baptist Association, Atlanta
4:15--Adjourn

Sunday Evening, June 8

- 7:00--General Session--Lloyd Householder, convener
--Worship Feature--Joel Gregory, pastor, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas; Ray Conner, director, church recreation department, BSSB, Nashville
--Managing Our Diversity--Walter Shurden, professor, Mercer University, Macon, Ga.
--Open Forum--Lloyd Householder, moderator
--Prayer for Unity in Our Diversity--Joe Haynes, consultant, Sunday school department, BSSB, Nashville
8:30--SBREA Fellowship--Sponsored by Georgia religious educators

Monday Morning, June 9

- 7:30--Continental Breakfast
--Worship and Fellowship--Ferris Jordan, professor of adult education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans
8:45--General Session--Katie Grogan, convener, director, age-group coordination, Baptist Convention of Maryland, Lutherville
--Worship Feature--Joel Gregory and Ray Conner
--How Can We Help Each Other?--Robert Thompson, panel moderator, church development consultant, St. Louis; Russell Dilday, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Lloyd Elder; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, Birmingham, Ala., panel members; Featuring Gloria Morrell, Christian entertainer, Nashville
10:00--Break
10:30--Vocational Group Conferences
12:00--Sandwich and Salad Buffet

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Monday Afternoon, June 9

- 1:30—General Session—Dennis Parrott, convener
 --Worship Feature—Joel Gregory and Ray Conner
 --It Takes Us All...Working With All—Robert Cox, dean, school of education, University of Texas at Tyler
 2:30—Standup Break
 2:45—Business Session—Dennis Parrott, moderator
 3:45—Adjourn

Monday Evening, June 9

- 6:30—Banquet
 --Entertainment—Gloria Morrell
 --Distinguished Leader Award—Elaine Dickson, president, Life Transitions, SBREA executive director, Brentwood, Tenn.
 --Presentation of Officers—Dennis Parrott
 --Closing of 31st Annual Meeting—Lloyd Householder

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Religious Educators Set
 'Inclusive' Conference

Baptist Press
 4/11/86

ATLANTA (BP)--"It Takes Us All" will be the theme for the 31st annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association in Atlanta June 8-9.

"We are going to be stressing servanthood throughout the whole conference," said Dennis Parrott, president of the organization and minister of education at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas. Up to 900 religious educators are expected for the meeting, to be held at the Omni International Hotel in downtown Atlanta.

"We feel if we can make a contribution to the spirit of unity within the Southern Baptist Convention, we will have accomplished our purpose," he said. The religious educators' meeting will be held immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting, also set for Atlanta, June 10-12.

The first session of the organization's meeting will focus on servant leadership, featuring a message on that topic by Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Parrott noted. Other testimonies will be presented by persons "who have observed servant leadership."

In the next session, Walter Shurden, religion professor at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., will help religious educators "identify in our past those times when we have had challenges to our unity and describe how we dealt with that," Parrott added. He said Shurden also will present principles for dealing with denominational challenge and controversy in a spirit of unity.

"Then we're going to have a time of prayer where we examine our own spirits and how we can ask the Lord to use us in managing the diversity within the convention," he said. "We're going to seek out how we can contribute to a spirit of unity."

Other portions of the meeting will be "a little more practical," he reported. "We'll examine some problems and differences that we have, even within our own group." The conference also will feature small-group meetings divided according to vocation that will focus on "practical ways that we can follow up on our meeting to make sure these issues are dealt with and not just forgotten," he said.

"We don't want to be disruptive; we don't want to be divisive," Parrott stressed. "We want to bring healing and prepare ourselves for the main convention to follow."

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(Editor's Note: Following is the first of a four-part series exploring the implications of the ongoing school prayer debate.)

School Prayer Debate
Continues Unabated

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)--A proposed constitutional amendment now awaiting U.S. Senate action is the latest in a series of congressional attempts to legislate prayer in public schools.

The school prayer issue finds its roots in the larger debate over interpretation of the First Amendment's church-state principles. That amendment guarantees "free exercise" of religion but prohibits governmental "establishment" of religion. Congressional activity focusing on school prayer often has come in reaction to interpretations handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

A 1947 Supreme Court decision was instrumental in shaping an interpretation of the establishment clause to which the court still adheres. In *Everson v. Board of Education*, the high court considered the constitutionality of a New Jersey school board reimbursing parents of children who attended both public and parochial schools for the costs of bus transportation between home and school. In that decision, the court affirmed a doctrine of neutrality between church and state, citing Thomas Jefferson's view that the establishment clause was intended to erect "a wall of separation between church and state."

The ensuing debate over religion and public schools that led to a number of Supreme Court cases culminated in two landmark decisions. In 1962, the court determined state sponsorship of "official prayer" in public elementary and secondary schools constituted an establishment of religion and was thus unconstitutional.

That case, *Engel v. Vitale*, involved a New York school board's requirement that each classroom teacher supervise students in daily recitation of a state-written prayer. Facts that influenced the court's decision included that the government wrote the prayer, required the prayer be part of the regular school program under the supervision of a classroom teacher who served as an agent of the government, determined the place and time the required prayer would be recited and established the religious beliefs embodied in the prayer by requiring and participating in the exercise.

A year later, the Supreme Court extended its decision in *Engel* to bar other devotional exercises, including Bible reading, in public schools. In *Abington School District v. Schempp*, the court ruled unconstitutional government-required Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in public schools. The court asserted the establishment clause prohibits state or federal government support from being "placed behind the tenets of one or of all orthodoxies" and imposes a "wholesome neutrality" on government with respect to religion.

Since its initial ruling in *Everson*, the Supreme Court has developed and applied a three-part test for determining whether neutrality between religion and government has been maintained. Under that test, a governmental regulation--whether federal, state or local--must have been adopted for a valid secular purpose, have a primary effect that neither advances nor inhibits religion, and not contain the potential for excessive entanglement--such as sustained supervision and surveillance--of government with religion.

In a more recent decision, *Wallace v. Jaffree*, the Supreme Court found unconstitutional an Alabama statute authorizing public schoolteachers to provide "a period of silence" for "meditation or voluntary prayer" at the beginning of each school day. The court based that 1985 decision on the fact that the statute in question differed from an earlier act providing for a moment of silence only by the addition of the words "or voluntary prayer." Thus, in the court's opinion, the silent prayer statute added to the earlier moment of silence law was "the state's endorsement and promotion of religion and a particular religious practice."

Following the Supreme Court's 1962 and 1963 decisions, members of Congress attempted to deal with public school prayer in various ways. Within three days of the 1962 decision, more than 50 proposed constitutional amendments were introduced in Congress to limit or override that ruling. By the end of 1964, more than 150 amendments had been introduced in reaction to the *Abington* decision. Each subsequent Congress, including the current one, has continued to introduce multiple constitutional amendments on school prayer.

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In May 1982, Ronald Reagan became the first U.S. president since the Engel and Abington decisions to recommend adoption of a constitutional amendment on prayer in public schools. Reagan's proposed amendment called for allowance of "individual or group prayer in public schools."

Despite nearly 20 years of legislative activity on the issue, the president's proposed amendment provided the Senate with only its second opportunity to vote directly on a school prayer amendment. With one exception, all other proposed school prayer amendments to reach the Senate floor had been attached to some other legislation, such as an appropriations measure.

Even with the president's backing, the proposed amendment fell 11 votes short of the two-thirds majority necessary for Senate passage of a constitutional amendment.

At about the same time, another proposed amendment was introduced in the Senate. That measure, S.J. Res. 2, is the one now awaiting action by the full Senate. It states: "Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group silent prayer or reflection in public schools. Neither the United States nor any State shall require any person to participate in such prayer or reflection, nor shall they encourage any particular form of prayer or reflection."

The measure, sponsored by Sens. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, and Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee last October. It is now on the Senate calendar and could come up for floor action at any time. Should the measure achieve the needed two-thirds majority there, it then similarly would have to be approved by the House of Representatives and ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures within a seven-year period.

Proponents of the measure argue it is needed to restore students' First Amendment right to express their religious beliefs and to allow state and local authorities to structure a religious exercise consistent with that amendment's terms. Opponents, however, contend S.J. Res. 2 is unnecessary and would violate the establishment clause.

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Southern Baptists More Opposed
Than Catholics To Roe v. Wade

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press
4/11/86

WASHINGTON (BP)—A higher proportion of Southern Baptists than Catholics opposes the Supreme Court's 1973 decision giving women a virtually unrestricted right to obtain abortions during the first three months of pregnancy, according to data in a Gallup Poll.

Results of the poll, conducted in January, revealed Southern Baptists oppose the Roe v. Wade decision by a 2-1 margin. Sixty percent says it opposes the ruling, while 31 percent favors it. The remaining 9 percent has no opinion.

Among Catholics surveyed, 40 percent favors it, with 48 percent opposed and 12 percent with no opinion.

Overall, the poll revealed, the American public is evenly divided on the question, with 45 percent approving the decision, 45 percent opposing it and 10 percent holding no opinion.

A slight majority of men—by a 45-43 margin—favors the Roe v. Wade result. Among women questioned, 45 percent believes the court was right, with 46 percent contending the justices erred.

One mildly surprising result was Gallup's finding that the difference between Catholics and all Protestants is insignificant statistically. Protestants overall oppose the ruling by a 50-42 margin.

Another finding in the poll demonstrated the higher their level of education, the more likely Americans are to favor the decision. Whereas 59 percent of those with a college education approves, only 27 percent with a grade school background does so.

The results were based on in-person interviews with 1,570 adults conducted in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation.

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Golden Gate Trustees Set Budget,
Receive Presidential Search Update

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., adopted a \$5.2 million budget for 1986-87 and heard from leaders of the seminary's presidential search committee during their spring meeting.

The new \$5,239,961 budget includes a slight increase in faculty and full-time staff salaries, with Cooperative Program funds from churches providing basic funding. For 1986-87, Cooperative Program giving should amount to \$2,482,206, representing 47 percent of the budget. In addition, an annual fund goal of \$813,000 was set. The balance of budgeted funds is to come from auxiliary revenues, such as matriculation fees, rent on student housing and similar sources.

In other actions, trustees expressed appreciation for action of the presidential search committee which named Harold K. Graves as interim president of the seminary. Board chairman O.Q. Quick of Baton Rouge, La., said Graves is "competent, capable and knows the territory."

The board's search committee met with Southern Baptist leadership from western states as well as representatives from the seminary faculty-alumni association and student government. An open forum was held to allow persons to provide ideas into the search process.

Additionally trustees:

--elected John W. Shouse of Austin, Texas, to the faculty as associate professor of preaching. Shouse is pastor of University Baptist Church in Austin and will begin teaching in the fall semester.

--elected William K. Peters as director of the seminary's Northwest Center in Portland, Ore. He also will be director of ministerial development for Northwest mission churches. His appointment is effective May 1.

--established a development board consisting of persons with Christian commitment and interest in missions who will use their influence to build a seminary advancement program.

--recommended the seminary administration obtain earthquake insurance coverage.

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Former Justice Says SBC
Saved Court From Impeachment

By Stan Hasteay

Baptist Press
4/11/86

NEW YORK (BP)—Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg told a gathering of church-state specialists in New York the Southern Baptist Convention kept the nation's high court from being impeached after it struck down state-required prayer and Bible reading in 1962 and 1963.

"We were saved from impeachment" by a 1964 resolution adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlantic City, N.J., Goldberg told the National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty.

The 1964 resolution indirectly endorsed the high court's rulings in a pair of decisions in which the nation's highest tribunal was accused of forcing God out of public school classrooms. It came also at a time when Congress was considering the first proposed amendment to the Constitution to undo what the court had decided in *Engel v. Vitale* (1962) and *Abington School District v. Schempp* (1963).

Addressing the prospect of a constitutional amendment, the resolution stated: "We appeal to the Congress of the United States to allow the First Amendment of the Constitution...to stand as our guarantee of religious liberty, and we oppose the adoption of any further amendment to that Constitution respecting establishment of religion or free exercise thereof."

The resolution also noted Baptists "have firmly rejected the use of the coercive powers of government in the realm of religion" and "have unflinchingly declared our desire for separation of church and state."

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Goldberg criticized a line of Supreme Court decisions, beginning in 1947, that he said shows the tribunal "has been asleep on its watch in religion cases." He cited decisions authorizing the use of state funds for transporting parochial school pupils, released time for public school students to attend religion classes and free textbooks for parochial pupils. Other bad decisions, he said, included one sustaining the constitutionality of exempting church property from taxation and another upholding federal grants for construction of "secular" facilities on the campuses of church-related colleges.

He reserved his strongest words, however, for a pair of recent high court decisions upholding the right of local governments to maintain and display Christmas nativity scenes and declaring a Jewish Air Force officer may not wear his skull cap while on duty.

The 1984 decision approving a longstanding practice by Pawtucket, R.I., officials of including a creche in a larger Christmas display was, Goldberg said, "the second-worst opinion in the court's history." The only decision worse than that one, he elaborated, was the infamous Dred Scott ruling that blacks were not entitled to be considered citizens. The high court "showed profound ignorance of what religion is all about" in the Pawtucket decision, he said, adding the ruling "was an insult to all Christians" in that it approved the presence of the creche only because it was part of a larger secular display.

Goldberg labeled "incongruous" and "ridiculous" the court's ruling earlier this spring in the case of Simcha Goldman, the Jewish psychiatrist/Air Force captain who was ordered to remove his skull cap while on duty. The court held, 5-4, that the military has an overriding interest in enforcing uniform dress regulations and that Goldman's claim of free exercise of religion had to be set aside.

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Shelbys Witness
Despite Travail

By Bill Webb, Brenda J. Sanders and Marv Knox

Baptist Press
4/11/86

ST. LOUIS (BP)—"Who are you people?" volunteers at Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis asked the Shelbys family.

Even before the family arrived early this year, McDonald House workers received hundreds of cards and letters—as well as phone calls from around the world—addressed to the Shelbys. The object of concern was 15-year-old Mark, who underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor Jan. 9 in nearby Barnes Hospital.

The answer to the question is this: The Shelbys are Southern Baptist missionaries. Jack and Avah, both of Illinois, work out of Thailand, where he is a general evangelist. Son Mark has an older sister, Melanie, and a younger brother, Scott.

Never ones to turn down an opportunity to share their faith, the Shelbys jumped on the Ronald McDonald House workers' queries.

"I told them we were Baptists, and Baptists take care of each other," Avah recalls. The family also related their faith that God can meet the needs in Mark's life.

Mark and his parents stayed in McDonald House immediately following his surgery, while he received radiation treatments. Because he progressed so well, his dad returned to duties in Bangkok, Thailand, in early February.

The family thanks God for his ministry in their lives, especially for allowing Mark to progress well enough for Jack to return to his work. When Avah talked to Jack in early April, she learned 3,384 people had made professions of faith in Christ through partnership evangelism efforts in India, where Jack coordinates national Indian ministries.

"God has blessed," Avah says. "We were so thankful we could stay here and 'hold the fort' so Jack could go back to work."

Despite early progress characterized as "spectacular," Mark had to undergo a second craniotomy and also had to overcome a toxic reaction to some of his medication. But he responded well to treatment and was expected to be released from the hospital in mid-April.

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He'll return to St. Louis by mid-May for appointments with his surgeon and cancer specialist, his mother reports. On the basis of those examinations, a decision will be made concerning when Mark and Avah can join Jack in Thailand.

"It's been a long seige, but we're doing very well," his mother notes.

The Shelbys have relied on God's healing power and the support of fellow Baptists—especially the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board—since Mark began suffering seizures five years ago.

Several diagnoses were given before Bangkok doctors discovered the brain tumor last July. Treatment there was ineffective, so the family consulted with William Gaventa, medical services director for the Foreign Mission Board, and brought Mark to St. Louis for his January surgery.

The Shelbys especially are grateful for the board's support in their time of need. "From the very beginning, they have done everything they possibly could to help us," Avah says.

Foreign Mission Board area directors give missionaries with major medical needs permission to return to the United States for treatment, Gaventa explains. His responsibility is to give medical advice to help area directors make those decisions, as well as to help decide when they can return to the field.

Avah particularly credits Gaventa and Bill Wakefield, the board's area director for South and Southeast Asia, with help and support. Both Gaventa and Wakefield, along with other board personnel, have offered tremendous prayer and emotional support to the family, she adds, "Many others have contacted us telling of their support."

Wakefield confirms statements about the Foreign Mission Board's support for missionary medical needs. "One of the great blessings for Southern Baptist missionaries is that we have a wonderful support system for them," he says. "All the needs of our missionaries are cared for."

Financial aid for missionaries with medical needs is handled by the board rather than through a commercial insurance company, Wakefield notes. "Southern Baptists, through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Offering (for foreign missions), have made provisions to assist families like the Shelbys," he says.

Avah says she thinks of all Southern Baptists when she thinks of the Foreign Mission Board. "Offerings given by individuals are helping to support us right now," she explains. "Through the gifts of Southern Baptists, our son is being cared for. I want everyone to know how much we appreciate that."

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(Bill Webb is editor of the Illinois Baptist, newsjournal of the Illinois Baptist State Association. Brenda J. Sanders is newswriter for Word & Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.)

Ministers' Wives Luncheon
To Focus On Fitness, Service

Baptist Press
4/11/86

ATLANTA (BP)—"Ministers' Wives: Alive-Fit-Serving" will be the theme for the 1986 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon in Atlanta Tuesday, June 10.

The luncheon, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the Omni International Hotel in downtown Atlanta.

Ministers' wives will focus on physical and spiritual fitness during the luncheon, said Betty Dilday, president of the SBC Conference of Ministers' Wives and wife of Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Keynote speaker will be Millie Cooper of Dallas, who co-wrote "Aerobics for Women" with her husband, Kenneth, acclaimed by some observers as the founder of the aerobics movement.

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The luncheon also will feature a "fitness style show" as an interpretation of the program theme.

Tickets for the luncheon will be \$15 if purchased during the convention in Atlanta. Tickets are available in advance for \$13.50 and should be ordered from Joy Rust, 324 White Falls Drive, Columbia, SC 29120. A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be enclosed.

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Baptist Peacemakers
Set SBC Meeting

Baptist Press
4/11/86

ATLANTA (BP)—Joseph Roberts, pastor of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Baptist Peacemaker/Baptist Peace Fellowship meeting prior to the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention.

The program begins at 10 a.m. Monday, June 9, and will close with lunch. Tickets are \$5, available from Baptist Peace Fellowship, 222 East Lake Dr., Decatur, Ga. 30030; (404) 377-8423.

Ebenezer Baptist is host for the program, which will include a tour of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change.

"Since Dr. King is something of a 'patron saint' for the Baptist Peace Fellowship, and since our top priority for 1986 is increasing black Baptist involvement in our network, it is especially appropriate that we meet at Ebenezer and that Dr. Roberts address our constituency," said Ken Sehested, executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship.

Roberts' topic is "If you want peace, work for justice," Sehested added.

This year's gathering is the third such meeting, which originated by the volunteer staff of the Baptist Peacemaker, a quarterly journal founded in 1980 by members of the Deer Park Baptist Church, faculty and students of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, both in Louisville, Ky.

The Baptist Peace Fellowship, a two-year-old organization attempting to link Baptists concerned about justice and peace issues from the various Baptist denominations, joined as co-sponsor of the event in 1985.

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Lewis Named RAC Director
At Southwestern Seminary

Baptist Press
4/11/86

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—David Lewis will become director of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Recreation/Aerobics Center in Fort Worth, Texas, May 1.

Lewis will move from a similar position at First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tenn., where he has been since 1980.

Before moving to Nashville, Lewis was assistant director of Christian recreation at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta and was an associate minister of recreation and youth at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth. He has been president of the Tennessee Baptist Recreation Association and has taught at Belmont College in Nashville.

In 1979, Lewis earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern. He also holds the bachelor of science degree in recreation from Georgia State University.

Lewis and his wife, Kelly, have a 10-month-old daughter, Amy.

At Southwestern, Lewis will direct a recreation and fitness program for the entire student body. He succeeds Grady Lowery, who now is a recreation consultant.

The Myra K. and J. Roy Slover Recreation/Aerobics Center houses weight training equipment, a stress lab, racquetball and tennis courts, a gym, indoor and outdoor jogging tracks and a junior Olympic-size swimming pool.

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(BP)

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LYNN MAY NO
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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION