



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #75C  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-235E  
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Marv Knox, 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, 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. Hestey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

December 14, 1987

87-190

Northeasterners Start  
School Of Ministry

N-CO

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists in the Northeast have launched a school for training ministers in their region.

The Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry will open next fall, announced Larry Martin, chairman of the Northeast Task Team on Theological Education, which has spearheaded the effort.

The school will provide on-site theological and ministry education in the 12-state region, said Martin, director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association. Initial classes are to be held in Boston and Pittsburgh, with eventual expansion planned for other cities.

The school will grant a master's degree as well as ministry diplomas, he added, noting the training will be "very practical, with each student working with a mentor, someone who already is practicing the kind of ministry the student plans to do."

The master's degree will be a two-year program and perhaps will be called the master of ministry or master of arts in ministry degree, said school Coordinator Doran McCarty.

The school's training will parallel, but not replace, other forms of ministerial education available to Southern Baptists in the Northeast, its organizers said.

The Seminary Extension and Seminary Studies programs, sponsored by the Presidents' Council of the six Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated seminaries, still will be available. The seminaries' satellite centers in Baltimore and New York City, where students can complete part of their work toward a seminary degree, will be open for at least two more years. And the Ethnic Leadership Development program of the SBC Home Mission Board also will remain available.

However, the school is "consciously not trying to reduplicate what the six seminaries are doing," stressed McCarty, who is resigning a professorship of missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., to lead the school.

For example, the curriculum will prepare students for "field and functional ministry," but students who want to earn specialized master's degrees or prepare for doctoral studies should study at one of the six seminaries, he said.

In addition, the school will focus specifically on its context -- preparing students to minister in the Northeast, Martin and McCarty said. They noted a variety of factors relatively unique to the Northeast and uncommon to the context in which at least five of the six SBC seminaries operate: minority status for Baptists and a public perception that Baptists are a sect and not an established denomination, a predominantly secular mindset, an urban orientation, widespread ethnic diversity.

Those factors, they said, mandate that Baptists in the region establish a school for their ministers, to equip them to serve in their unique environment. (Editors: See following story.)

Southern Baptist state conventions participating in the endeavor are District of Columbia; Maryland/Delaware; New England, which includes Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and most of Connecticut; New York, which also includes northern New Jersey and southwestern Connecticut; and Pennsylvania/South Jersey.

--more--

Financial support for the school will be provided by the five state conventions, the Home Mission Board and the Seminary Presidents' Council, Martin said: "It's a three-way partnership. We also have a resource committee working on other sources of funding."

The task team will meet in early January to set a budget, said McCarty, the school's only paid staff member who will be inaugurated Jan. 12 in Philadelphia and work from offices in New York City. "We will use Mission Service Corps volunteers for other staff positions," he said. MSC is a Southern Baptist program that utilizes volunteers who secure their own financial support.

In addition to the MSC workers, McCarty said, "We will depend on the investment of people in the areas where the schools are located ... and do the staffing with volunteers as much as we can. I anticipate that very shortly we will elect a dean who will be taking retirement to come and work on a volunteer basis."

The school's faculty also will be structured differently than a typical seminary, Martin said: "We're looking at several possibilities. Some people already are on location with academic degrees that qualify them for teaching, who also will maintain their ongoing ministries. We also will have some professors on sabbatical from Southern Baptist seminaries who will live in our areas and teach. We're looking at a combination of approaches."

Mentors, people who will be assigned to work one-on-one with students during their study, will be experienced Southern Baptist ministers who serve in the area, he said.

Students will be a mix of young people coming out of college and older people who have decided to seek ministerial education, McCarty reported.

The number who will study at the Boston and Pittsburgh centers next fall is uncertain, he added: "We want to grow incrementally. If we had 100 show up at either place, that's not incremental. We can take care of more than a dozen, but we're not looking for large numbers."

"We expect to start small, but there's a good potential number of students," added Martin. "Our churches are so young in the Northeast that we expect more and more of our young people to be called to ministry, so we expect more and more of our own young people will become students."

The school eventually will be accredited through the appropriate agencies, "but that's still to be worked out," Martin said. Normally, the process officially begins after a school graduates its first class, McCarty explained, adding, "We will go through the steps that it takes."

The school has drawn support from leaders across the Northeast.

"We think it's the most significant thing that's happening in the Northeast right now," said Dwight A. Moody, pastor of North Park Baptist Church in Pittsburgh and first chairman of the group that initiated the process in 1984.

"Everywhere we've gone, Southern Baptists have started training institutes for Baptist leaders. It helps to indigenize the work," Moody said. "We've started this school about 30 years after the first concerted work in the area was begun. It's an effort to bring recognition and credibility to Southern Baptist work in the area. It recognizes a maturing of Southern Baptist work in the Northeast."

Moody and Quinn Pugh, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York, stressed the school will preserve Northeast Baptists' greatest natural resource -- their young people. "Persons who already are located in a ministry setting find it difficult to pull up roots and go away. But when that occurs, those people often do not return to the place where they're best equipped by background to serve," Pugh said.

The school also will help Northeast Baptists focus on the "imperative of mission," he added. "We simply have too many people here who need the gospel, and ministry training becomes a means by which we not only increase the number of persons who are serving in this setting, but we provide them and equip them with resources to serve, in order to meet the overwhelming population demands, where so many people are not Christians."

The school is "going to be a real strengthening influence on our churches and a great encouragement to our pastors," added Wallace A.C. Williams, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey. "We will be able to educate, train and affirm pastors in the smaller churches in which they work in this area. I see nothing but good coming out of this."

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

'Context' To Be Key  
For Ministry School

N-CO  
By Marv Knox

Baptist Press  
12/14/87

NASHVILLE (BP)--Context will be the key to training at the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry, set to begin classes next fall.

Teachers and students alike will be from the Northeast. And the school's curriculum will be custom-designed to train ministers to work in the region, where the predominant lifestyle is urban and secular and where Baptists are thought of as a minority sect.

The school will open with centers in Boston and Pittsburgh, with future expansion expected for other cities in the 12-state region, said Larry Martin, chairman of the Northeast Task Team on Theological Education, which has spearheaded the project.

The school's "contextualized approach" to training will enable students to prepare for ministry that is unique to the region, a setting foreign to the environments of at least five of the six Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated seminaries, he said.

"For example, whereas traditional seminary training teaches people to respond -- to respond to a sermon, to respond to pastoral care, to respond to Bible teaching -- much of what we will teach will be to initiate new work of all types," he noted. "Also, we will really be giving a lot of training that is contextualized in the sense that the mindset of the Northeast -- where people do not have the church mindset that others do -- will be approached."

The school will train students to minister in urban settings, in multi-ethnic communities and in areas where most people do not think much about church or God, Martin said, noting, "The context will reflect the demographics of the Northeast."

"We want to work in the context here," echoed school Coordinator Doran McCarty. "That means teaching should be from people who are in the context -- people who work in it, live it, breathe it unconsciously.

"We want to be able to raise the functional local church ministry as a role model. Teachers will have academic credentials but come from local churches. ... That doesn't mean we won't have professors on sabbatical or furloughing missionaries, but that will not be the bulk of our teaching."

This approach does not diminish the more academic approach to theological education found in the SBC seminaries, said McCarty, a veteran educator who is resigning a professorship in missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., to head the Northeast school.

But the context of the Northeast is different than the contexts of the five other schools, with the possible exception of Golden Gate, he said. The other schools are located in areas where Southern Baptists are numerous -- North Carolina, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri and Texas.

Shapers of the new school must embrace the philosophy "of a school that is based on an educating-for-mission strategy (in an area) that is and will for a long time be mission territory," he added.

And to follow that philosophy, the school's leaders are developing a program they believe will give students the education, applied training and flexibility they need.

--more--

"This will be a non-traditional approach, not simply that it's a delivery system in centers rather than (an academic) fortress with expedition parties going out from it," McCarty said. "It will be an experimental project in the delivery system of ministry training. I would hope that what we work with and develop will be helpful to schools throughout the country and world in re-looking at how we go about training our ministers."

The school's two-year master's degree will have a curriculum base tailored to each student, he said: "Rather than having a curriculum in which you take X number of required hours and some electives, we will begin with an individual assessment with the students, including a comprehensive exam to see where they are when they come into the program. On the basis of that assessment, we will make a covenant with each student about what the student needs."

"We're going to have as part of the curriculum programmed learning studies, in which the students will be able to work at their own speed in their own context. These studies basically will be factual material ... in the areas of biblical studies, theology, missions, ministry and denominational life."

When these studies are completed, the students will take more interpretive courses that apply learning to actual ministry situations, he said. They will negotiate with each other about when and where these courses are to be conducted, he added.

Tied to this will be a mentor program, in which students will relate directly to experienced ministers serving in the area. "We want each student to have a place of ministry and a mentor to whom they go, who does 'Monday morning quarterbacking' with them and helps them think the right things and feel the right things about their function of ministry," McCarty explained. "A mentor should help integrate the conceptual material they get in the classrooms with how they function in ministry. A mentor should be a support person, a kind of spiritual guide. That's one of the keys of the program -- having that special person and special relationship."

The mentor program also will facilitate specialized training, he said. For instance, a student who wants to go into campus ministry can be paired with a veteran campus minister for one-on-one courses and guidance.

When students complete their coursework, they will take the same comprehensive exams they took when they started and determine how they have progressed, he reported. Graduation will be based on adequate performance on the comprehensives rather than completion of a prescribed number of courses.

Baptist leaders in the Northeast praised the contextual approach to training and McCarty's leadership.

The school will "provide ministerial training and theological education shaped for our context," said Dwight A. Moody, pastor of North Park Baptist Church in Pittsburgh and first chairman of the task force that got the project underway.

Because of their location in strong Baptist centers, most of the SBC's seminaries have a difficult time preparing ministers for the Northeast's situations, he claimed: "The kinds of emphases they give on campus, the kinds of churches they prepare people for maybe are not what we need in the Northeast."

"Southern Baptists are an unknown people in the Northeast. What people here know about Southern Baptists is what is picked up in the press about the fighting. Working in this kind of environment, where it's rare to have white Baptists, we're very much a minority. Preparing men and women is much different than preparing them for ministry in ... Tennessee."

The formation of a school to prepare for that context is a blessing, said Quinn Pugh, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York: "What I see for the future is the immense potential for on-site contextual training for persons who live and serve in ministry in the Northeast."

--more--

"It is providing the finest possibility for training the young minister in the context in which he will serve. It has a distinctive as opposed to the campus setting, where everything is rather rigidly fixed. It more nearly provides the laboratory for ministerial training than a fixed campus setting, where one goes and maybe returns or goes someplace else to serve."

In addition to the degree program, the school will offer contextual continuing education courses for ministers who already serve in the region. That, too, is a blessing, said Wallace A.C. Williams, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey.

"We believe the conferences we can have will be very encouraging to our pastors, who often feel lonely and forlorn unless they are natives of the areas where they serve," he said. "Many assumptions about theological education do not hold for the Northeast, and this throws the pastor into a real dilemma for surviving. The chances for fellowship and effective training will have a tremendous encouraging and retaining effect on our pastors and strengthen our churches."

McCarty is "the most able person in Southern Baptist life or in the whole realm of academic theological education" to lead in the contextual approach to training, Pugh said. "He has unusual experience and expertise, and he has tremendous vision. He is recognized not only in Southern Baptist theological education, but is recognized beyond our convention to develop and implement the concepts of ministry training."

--30--

N-FMB

Baptists May Assist  
Mongolian Education

By Erich Bridges

Baptist Press  
12/14/87

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (BP)--Mongolia's minister of education has invited Southern Baptist educators to aid in efforts to expand English instruction throughout the Mongolian school system.

Cooperative Services International Director Lewis Myers and his associate, Jack Shelby, met in the Mongolian capital with Education Minister Byambyn Davaasuren. They discussed Mongolia's education goals for 1990-95, which include teaching English as a second language.

Myers and Shelby offered the resources of CSI, the Southern Baptist organization that sends a variety of skilled personnel and assistance to countries that request the service.

Davaasuren responded to the offer and tentatively agreed to a summer 1988 visit of American teaching specialists in the field of English as a second language. The specialists would join Mongolian teachers in workshops and help develop the five-year education goals. The verbal agreement awaits final approval at higher levels of the Mongolian government.

The English-teaching program would reach "every level of education, from primary through university study in Mongolia," Myers said. Later emphases could include the improvement of English libraries and computer-based English instruction.

Mongolia, a nation of about 2 million people, is surrounded by China and the Soviet Union. It is allied with the Soviets but established diplomatic relations with the United States in early 1987. The Mongolians claim 100 percent literacy among the population.

Myers outlined the Mongolian initiative in a progress report on the first 30 months of Cooperative Services International work. Other highlights:

-- More than 500 Southern Baptists have lived or spent time in China during the period, sharing their skills in teaching, technology, health care and other fields as the Chinese strive for national modernization.

-- Through CSI, Southern Baptists continue educational, agricultural, healthcare and emergency relief projects in the Indochinese nations of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

-- CSI actively is probing the potential for involvement in numerous other countries now off-limits to traditional Christian missions.

While discussing Indochina, Myers mentioned a recent trend in Vietnam toward inviting Vietnamese Christians "to assume a variety of roles in government to fight creeping corruption."

Why Christians? "They are incorruptible," one government official commented.

--30--

New Breed Of Bivocational  
Minister Emerges In SBC

By Jim Newton

N-HMB

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--A new breed of bivocational minister is emerging, members of Southern Baptist's National Council for Bivocational Ministries were told during their annual meeting.

The new breed is both young and old who support themselves financially with a secular job while serving in a church-related ministry.

It includes young people who intentionally decide as college or seminary students to become bivocational ministers and older ministers who continue their ministries after retirement.

In the keynote address to about 40 Southern Baptists attending the council's annual meeting, David Q. Byrd, dean of the Boyce Bible School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., described the trend of retirees serving as bivocational ministers.

James Y. Greene, director of youth and campus ministries for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, presented a paper urging colleges and seminaries to prepare a new generation of young people called to serve as "intentional bivocational ministers."

Greene said the potential for Baptists to accomplish the goals of Bold Mission Thrust by effectively using and training intentional bivocational ministers is almost beyond comprehension.

Dale Holloway, national consultant for bivocational ministries with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said Southern Baptists in recent years seem to have developed a new attitude toward bivocational ministers.

In the past, Holloway said, bivocational ministers were considered second-class, uneducated failures who could not make it as a real minister. Within the last few years, however, Baptists seem to have caught a new vision of how God can use the gifts and talents of bivocational ministers.

Holloway, a bivocational minister from Florence, Miss., credited Greene with coining the phrase "intentional bivocational minister" to describe college and seminary students who decide early in life to learn a secular trade, skill or profession that will help support their ministry in the local church.

Greene said he had just presented the same paper to a meeting of 45 state Baptist student directors in Nashville, and that there was excited response. He cited the need for a think tank of Baptist campus ministers and others involved in bivocational ministry to examine the potential, needs and ways to actively recruit college students as bivocationals.

"Intentional bivocational ministry" fellowships have been organized during the past year at both Southwestern and New Orleans Baptist theological seminaries, Holloway reported. A third such fellowship has been approved and is in the process of being organized at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Holloway called the development of seminary bivocational fellowships "a major breakthrough" this year and added he is more excited about this than anything that has happened in recent years.

Both Greene and Holloway said college students ought to recognize early in their preparation for ministry the need to equip themselves for a second vocation.

Greene urged Baptist businessmen with jobs available in cities where the six Baptist seminaries are located to hire and train intentional bivocational seminary students and transfer them to geographic areas where new churches are needed when they complete their seminary studies.

Contact has been made with the national Baptist Men's Fellowship to encourage Baptist laymen to become involved in hiring and using intentional bivocational ministers.

--more--

Almost 35,000 ordained Baptist ministers in the Southern Baptist Convention are not actively serving any church, he added. Most of them are working in secular employment until they can find churches that will employ them as full-time pastors.

The crying need is to connect the ministry opportunities to the ministers seeking a place of service, he said. The best way to do this is to use inactive Baptist ministers in starting new churches as intentional bivocational ministers. Many of them already have marketable skills in some business, profession, trade or craft but cannot find jobs.

Byrd, in the keynote address, said the new breed of bivocationalists includes not only young students who decide early in life to become intentional bivocationalists, but a growing number of retired Baptist ministers who serve local churches and the denomination for 20 years after retirement.

Byrd pointed out a decreasing number of young people are committing themselves to the ministry. At the same time, Americans are living much longer, and Baptist ministers who retire between ages 62 and 65 often have 20 more years of effective ministry.

"Ponder the potential," he suggested, "of thousands of senior Southern Baptist ministers who welcome an opportunity to serve after retirement. They don't need much salary -- they just need a challenge and a place to serve. Let's give it to them."

Combining the new breed of students who decide in college and seminary to become intentional bivocational ministers with the new breed of retired ministers who have 20 additional years of ministry to give will give the denomination an almost unlimited number of pastors to start new churches and reach more people as a part of Bold Mission Thrust, conference participants agreed.

More than 40 leaders involved in bivocational ministries attended the two-day conference in Jackson, Miss., sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

--30--

Three Honored As Exemplary  
SBC Bivocational Ministers

N-HMB

Baptist Press  
12/14/87

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Pastors of churches in Alabama, Texas and Washington were honored as exemplary bivocational ministers during the Southern Baptist National Council of Bivocational Ministries.

The awards were presented by Dale Holloway, national consultant for bivocational ministries with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, honoring bivocational ministers in open country, urban areas and mission areas.

Glenn Bentley, pastor of Mamre Baptist Church in Bynum, Ala., was honored for leading his church to baptize 23 people last year, making it the church with the highest ratio of baptisms per member in Calhoun Baptist Association. Bentley, who supports his ministry as a commercial flooring contractor, is president of the associational bivocational ministry fellowship.

Andy Stowe, pastor of Glen Garden Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, received recognition for changing the direction of an urban church that four years ago had only seven members and considered disbanding. Stowe, a paint contractor, last year baptized 38 new members and reported 48 decisions for Christ during Vacation Bible School. The church now is averaging about 50 participants in Bible study and worship attendance.

John Hastings, pastor of Pascoe Baptist Church near Richland, Wash., in the southeastern part of the state, was honored as an exemplary bivocational pastor of a mission church. Hastings, a program manager for the Westinghouse-Hanford nuclear reactor, became pastor of the mission about four years ago. Two years ago, membership in the church dropped to only eight after 7,000 people lost their jobs in the area. Hastings has led the church to grow to more than 140 members.

The three pastors are success models other bivocational ministers could admire, respect and emulate, Holloway said.

--30--

Creswell, Chute Assignments  
Advance Overseas News System

N-FMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has moved to within one step of completing overseas staffing of a communications system which will feature the firsthand reporting of missions by professional missionary correspondents assigned to four regions around the world.

The board has named Mike Creswell, associate editor of the FMB's magazine, *The Commission*, as overseas correspondent and communications consultant for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Creswell, 38, joins two others already in the system, career missionaries Michael Chute, 37, for Asia and the Pacific; and Craig Bird, 38, Africa. Together the three have 50 years of professional communications experience.

At its December meeting, the board appointed Creswell and his wife, Christie Hanshew Creswell, as career missionaries. She will be a church and home worker and assist him in his regional duties.

Earlier, the board reassigned Chute from the overseas correspondent and communications consultant role for the Americas region to the same role for Asia and the Pacific. His wife, Katherine Bengé Chute, who has 10 years of professional communications experience, will work as communications projects coordinator for the region.

Chute, assigned to the post for the Americas shortly before returning home on furlough in early 1986, previously was communications coordinator for the South Brazil Mission in Rio de Janeiro. He was managing editor of the Missouri Baptist newsjournal, *Word and Way*, before appointment in 1982.

Bird, former feature editor of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, and his wife, Melissa Jackson Bird, are completing language study in Kenya.

The addition of the Creswells leaves a vacancy only for the Americas, the region which covers mission work throughout Latin America and Canada. The board will seek a person who meets both the professional qualifications of the position and all normal qualifications for missionary appointment, said Robert O'Brien, FMB overseas correspondent manager, who directs the correspondent system.

The overseas correspondents' main function will be to intensify efforts to tell the story of missions through a variety of channels to U.S. audiences. They also will help field missionaries improve communication about the impact of foreign missions, and they will cooperate with traveling teams of board staff communicators who will continue efforts to increase the flow of information from 112 mission fields.

"As the system develops, it will give us an increasing ability to tell the story of missions in a more powerful way as Southern Baptists enter the final decade of Bold Mission Thrust goals," said Bob Stanley, the board's news and information services director and chief of the Richmond (Va.) bureau of Baptist Press, the service's foreign bureau.

Creswell, Chute, Bird and their wives will set up offices respectively in Brussels, Belgium; Hong Kong; and Nairobi, Kenya. Before they leave for the field next summer, the Chutes and the Creswells will complete a period of orientation at the FMB home office in Richmond, Va., and the Creswells will undergo seven weeks' orientation for new missionaries at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

The Creswells will study French in Brussels, and the Chutes will study Mandarin Chinese in Taiwan, Republic of China, before moving to Hong Kong. The Birds will set up in Nairobi early next year, after completion of Swahili language study in Limuru, Kenya.

--more--



A South Carolina native, Creswell attended Anderson (S.C.) College and earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, and the master of religious education degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Mrs. Creswell was born in Augusta, Ga., and has attended Anderson College and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond and studied through the Southern Baptist Seminary External Education Division in Nashville, Tenn.

Before joining The Commission in 1980, Creswell was a newswriter for the General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in Columbia, 1974-80, and has reported for newspapers in South Carolina and North Carolina.

He also was interim pastor of a church in Stuart, Va., and both are former student summer missionaries in South Carolina.

The Creswells have two children, Kelli Christine, 12, and Tara Lee, 9.

--30--

(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

A Story Of Lottie  
And 'Only A Girl'

F-FMB

Baptist Press  
12/14/87

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--As a Southern Baptist missionary drove through a heavily populated area overseas, the surge of a crowd near a bus stop accidentally pushed a 4-year-old girl in front of his car. The missionary could not stop in time, and the child died instantly.

The investigating policeman talked with witnesses and determined the missionary was not at fault. But because a crowd had gathered, he asked the missionary and the girl's father to go with him into a nearby building to discuss a settlement.

The policeman suggested that even though the missionary was not to blame, this was a poor family and perhaps the missionary could pay for the child's funeral. The missionary immediately agreed to do so, and, having three young daughters of his own, offered to do even more.

But the father said: "Don't worry about it. It was only a girl."

Recounting the story at the December meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, vice president for finance Carl Johnson said that a few days after this tragic accident halfway around the world, another crowd gathered in Crewe, Va. They were there to dedicate a highway marker identifying the gravesite of Lottie Moon, Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 until her death on Christmas Eve, 1912.

Johnson noted Lottie Moon was born Dec. 17, 1840. When the Foreign Mission Board was organized May 8, 1845, she, too, was 4 years old.

"Only a girl." But in her name, Southern Baptists since 1888 have given more than \$850 million for foreign missions work around the world.

--30--

Home Mission Board Staff  
Pledges Prayer For Missions

N-HMB

Baptist Press  
12/14/87

ATLANTA (BP)--More than 100 national staff members of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board pledged to pray daily for missions next year as a part of National Mission Prayer Plan sponsored by five Southern Baptist agencies.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, summarized the prayer plan during a luncheon for HMB national staff members. The plan is sponsored by the WMU and the board, as well as the Foreign Mission Board, Sunday School Board and Brotherhood Commission.

Weatherford and HMB President Larry L. Lewis both pointed out the board and WMU have been partners for 100 years in prayer support for missions.

--more--

Weatherford and Lewis also urged the national staff of the board to take seriously their commitment to pray daily for the board's 3,700 missionaries serving in all 50 states of the nation, plus American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rica, and for 3,800 foreign missionaries serving in 111 countries.

Lewis announced staff members were encouraged to meet in the board's chapel at 10 a.m. daily for an informal time of prayer for missions in addition to daily devotions at 8 a.m.

Bob Bingham, a board vice president and chairman of a staff prayer task force, pointed out the board already is doing much to undergird missions with prayer.

This year, more than 30,000 people have called the board's toll free "PrayerLine" telephone number to get daily information from missionaries who have requested prayer. The board provides the daily prayer requests through the Home Missions Intercessory PrayerLine for callers who dial 1-800-554-PRAY.

Through the HMB Prayer for Spiritual Awakening seminars and office, more than 45,000 prayer partners have been enlisted nationwide to pray daily for spiritual awakening in America and world-wide. Also, the board supplies WMU, Brotherhood and other denominational publications with more than 300 written prayer requests each year from missionaries, Bingham said.

Praying daily and specifically for Baptist missionaries requires discipline and priority in the re-scheduling of the use of the individual's time, Weatherford said: "It's not enough to just pray for all the missionaries. You've got to pray for them by name, specifically and with knowledge of their individual needs."

When Christians pray, she said, "God sometimes works through our prayers to perform miracles that we may not know about or understand." Prayer also motivates Christians to become part of the answer to their own prayers and to respond to the needs with personal involvement.

"We don't have to ask the Lord to perform a miracle -- we can be part of the solution ourselves by doing what we ought to do naturally and normally," she said.

Lewis challenged the board's staff to pray for spiritual awakening in America and to renew a personal commitment to God through prayer.