



BAPTIST PRESS

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March 29, 1988

88-53

Telephone Poll Not Conducted
For SBC, Executive Committee

N-CO

NASHVILLE (BP)--A telephone survey to determine the attitudes and opinions of Southern Baptist pastors and messengers to the denomination's recent annual meetings is not being conducted for the Southern Baptist Convention or its Executive Committee, according to Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee.

The poll, which involves about 50 questions, is being taken by Hill Research Consultants of Houston. That organization's president, David B. Hill, told Baptist Press the poll is for a "private client," which he declined to identify.

Hill apologized that some people who were called got the impression the survey was for the Southern Baptist Convention, noting the interviewers are not told who authorized the poll.

The calls are being made to pastors and messengers to recent conventions in "five or six states" that have a large number of Baptists seeking to determine their impressions of individuals and agencies of the convention, Hill said. Baptist Press has learned calls are being received in Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.

The pastors were selected randomly from the directory of churches and pastors produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, but the list of former messengers was provided to Hill by the client, Hill said. The client was given instructions on how to choose at random a sample of messengers to be polled, he said.

The telephone interviewers are having an "enormously difficult time" because many of the people called are contentious and argumentative, often giving lengthy discussions of their opinions of SBC political activities, Hill noted.

The client will receive a statistical summary of the survey, Hill said, but will not be permitted to see specific responses of individuals.

He described the poll as a "very balanced" survey, adding the contract forbids the client from making any revelations that are inconsistent with the total survey. "If the client misrepresents the survey's results, I can make a full public disclosure of the results," Hill said.

Hill Research Consultants is a subsidiary of Telesurvey of Texas, which generally does marketing surveys and polls for political candidates.

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Lolley To Be Recommended
To Raleigh, N.C., Church

N-CO
(N.C.)

Baptist Press
3/29/88

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--W. Randall Lolley, the third president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., will be recommended to be the next pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., announced Charles D. Barham, chairman of the church's pastor search committee.

"The committee is unanimous in its excitement and enthusiasm for the recommendation of Dr. Lolley," Barham said in announcing the decision. "He met every qualification we had set in advance in the profile the committee developed for the next pastor of our church.

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"The highest priority in our profile was integrity, and there is no question about Randall Lolley's integrity. That has been indisputably proven in recent months," the Raleigh attorney said. "His gifts for preaching and personal relationships with individuals as well as churches made him very attractive to us, out of the more than 100 resumes we considered in our careful and prayerful search.

"We are excited about what our old, downtown church can become in witness and ministry under Dr. Lolley's leadership."

A letter was mailed to the membership of First Baptist Saturday, March 26, so that all the congregation could have the information at the same time Monday of the following week, Barham explained. The letter was signed by Barham as chairman of the search committee and by Ivie L. Clayton, chairman of the deacons and moderator of the church.

The church will sponsor a dialogue session with Lolley and his wife, Lou, April 6. The church will vote on the new pastor that evening immediately following the dialogue session. If the church calls Lolley as pastor, he is expected to assume his duties July 1 and will fill the pulpit on Mother's Day, May 8.

Lolley completed his presidency at Southeastern seminary March 31 after submitting his resignation to the board of trustees last November. The native of Alabama left the presidency of his alma mater because of a difference of opinion with a majority of the trustees about the future of the 37-year-old school.

Lolley was pastor of First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N.C., from 1962 until 1974, when he accepted the Southeastern presidency. All of his ministry has been in the pastorate except the 14 years at Southeastern.

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Ministers' Wives To Focus
On Southern Baptist Heritage

N-CO

Baptist Press
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SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--"Heritage -- Ours to Give" will be the theme for the 1988 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon in San Antonio, Texas, Tuesday, June 14.

The luncheon, to be held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the Hilton Palacio del Rio. The hotel is across the street from the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, site of the SBC meeting.

"We want to be remembering our past and exploring the heritage we want to leave to future generations," said Nelle Agee, president of the SBC Conference of Ministers' Wives and wife of Bob Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

Jeanette Clift George, author, Bible teacher and founder and artistic director of A.D. Players of Houston, will be keynote speaker for the luncheon.

Advance tickets can be ordered before June 1 from Diane Bugg, 415 Waverly Drive, Augusta, Ga., 30909. Ticket orders should include \$12 for each ticket, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Tickets bought at the convention will cost \$14.

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Helping Children With Stress
Requires Knowing Symptoms

By Terri Lackey

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Baptist Press
3/29/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--Symptoms of stress in children run the gamut from exemplary to reprehensible behavior, and identifying those signs takes a keen eye and a perceptive mind, an early childhood education expert said.

"The reality is we all get stress, and we have no control over it. Most of us want to react by regressing initially, and that is especially true with children," said Katherine Kersey, chairperson of the department of child study/special education at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., and author of a book on child stress.

Kersey was guest speaker at a March 21-24 advanced training for preschool/children's workers seminar, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department.

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Symptoms of stress vary for children of different ages, Kersey said. For example, children up to age 3 exhibit withdrawal or apathy, increased separation anxieties, sleep problems, possessiveness of toys or people, aggression or regression of such normal developments as toilet training, agility or language skills, she said.

Preschoolers, ages 3 to 6, sometimes act "too good" when they are under stress. Some exhibit aggression, an increase in fantasizing or an abnormal need for physical contact. They might be despondent, sad or long for the past. In the preschool classroom, the children may be restless, distracted, fear failure or have poor peer relations, Kersey said.

From ages 6 through 12, children may display open suffering, alarm and fear, feel responsible for the past, present and future. They may feel anger or guilt, seem brave or courageous or take matters into their own hands, she said.

The tendency of parents and children's leaders who have failed to identify certain symptoms of stress is to want to punish young people who display unacceptable social behavior, Kersey said.

"Sometimes we want to shame the child out of that behavior by embarrassing him," she said. "But embarrassing, humiliating or disciplining the child doesn't work. That's like putting a filling over a cavity."

Divorce, a usually sick parent, an often absent parent, separation from parents, even a new sibling can all cause stress in young children, she said.

Kersey said she often suggests that parents who have a child going through stress for an identifiable reason or who know an event is coming up which might create stress write a book for their children about the event using self-drawn illustrations or photos cut from magazines.

By detailing the event pictorially and with words the child can understand, a parent can create or recreate the event, making it less ominous in the eyes of the child, Kersey said.

"A young child can cope initially with change, and they can deal with reality. They are extra resilient and capable of handling the truth," she added.

When the truth about an unpleasant incident or event is kept from them, "they think it's their fault," she said.

Children who overcome or cope with stress successfully have parents or parental role models who understand the child's level of development, talk with them, encourage them to talk, listen and provide unconditional love, Kersey said.

"Feeling loved makes children resilient to stress," she said.

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North Carolina Women
Favor WMU As Auxiliary

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(N.C.)

Baptist Press
3/29/88

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP)--The "historic status of Woman's Missionary Union as an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention" was affirmed in a statement adopted in mid-March by the executive board of the North Carolina WMU.

The WMU executive board, during a called meeting at the annual session of the North Carolina WMU in Greensboro, N.C., also noted it "goes on record as opposing any suggested changes in its pattern of organization."

Nancy Curtis, executive director of the North Carolina WMU, told more than 1,300 women attending the annual meeting the executive board drafted its statement in response to a suggestion the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention should become an agency of the SBC with its governing board elected by the SBC in annual session.

The suggestion had been made by conservative leader Paige Patterson of Dallas in a question-and-answer session at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., earlier in March. Patterson, president of Criswell College, said, "I, for one, would advocate that we make them (WMU) a full-scale agency, and that we give them a board of trustees and that board of trustees function exactly like the boards of all the other (SB) institutions and agencies."

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He added reorganization of WMU is not "an area I've done any study in," but said operation of the WMU within the SBC is "discriminatory toward women."

Curtis, in presenting the executive board action, traced the auxiliary status of the WMU from its inception in 1888. She explained the current governing board is comprised of state presidents and directors. "That assures the fact that those who do WMU work, who know WMU and love her and have her best interests at heart are those making the decisions for Woman's Missionary Union," she said.

Curtis continued: "Agency status ... with a board appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention's Nominating Committee would not be in the best interests of Woman's Missionary Union or the convention. It would not strengthen our work in and for missions if there were to be a change in our auxiliary status.

"It might also help you to know that this cannot be thrust upon us. We have the privilege as a national auxiliary to determine how we will be governed."

Earlier in the meeting, Alma Hunt, retired executive director of the Birmingham, Ala.-based WMU, said: "From its beginning, WMU was wise to function as an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. We avoided the societal concept which would have meant the WMU would commission and send missionaries. We elect our own officers, raise our own funds, own property and support missions at home and abroad."

Curtis, also in an earlier address, told North Carolina WMU members and friends Southern Baptists have lost their sense of missions during the nine-year conflict in the SBC. She urged the women to go home and get serious about straightening out the situation.

"After all, women are accustomed to moderating and mediating family squabbles," she quipped as the crowd gave her a standing ovation.

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(Material for this article was provided by R.G. Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder, newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.)

Korean Baptist Council Leaders
Endorse Sunday School Material

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press
3/29/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--Leaders of an organization for Korean Southern Baptist churches have endorsed literature produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and pledged their support to help make other Korean Baptist churches aware of the materials.

The executive committee of the Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in North America discussed literature and future workshop and training plans with language workers in the Sunday School Board's special ministries department March 23-24.

Council President Yong Soon Nam, pastor of Korean Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif., presented a resolution signed by the six members of the executive committee.

Currently about 100 of more than 600 Korean Southern Baptist congregations use board literature, Nam said.

"We have reviewed the Korean language products of the Sunday School Board and find them to be a guide and tool for the benefit of maturing Christian stewardship and training from preschool to adult," he said.

Korean-speaking Baptist churches are experiencing growth, and "it has become essential to nurture church membership by way of the Sunday school, which is the foundation of Baptist churches," Nam said.

Churches where the executive committee members are pastors use literature from the Sunday School Board, he noted. Many churches rely on religious education materials from Korea and do not have corresponding English language materials.

Because most Korean churches are bilingual and have Sunday school sessions in both English and Korean, materials available in both languages are needed, explained Tommy Sohn, pastor of First Korean Baptist Church of Dallas.

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Korean-language Sunday school materials are available from the board in the Bible Book Series following the same format and sequence as the English editions. January Bible Study, Survival Kits for New Christians, doctrine study books, MasterLife discipleship training for adults, tracts and Sunday school administration resources also are available in Korean.

The council is a fellowship organization of Korean Southern Baptist congregations. Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention from these churches meet during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to elect officers and conduct other business, explained Jung Ku Suh, first vice president and pastor of Korean Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla.

More than 200 Korean Baptists attended the meeting last year in St. Louis. As many as 300 are expected to attend the meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in June.

A portion of this year's meeting will be devoted to a preview of Sunday School Board literature, Suh said.

"We will all make every effort possible to contact other pastors about the materials," he added. "Most churches don't know about the material or aren't aware of the high quality."

In addition to personal contact with fellow Korean pastors, the executive committee members plan to send letters expressing support for Southern Baptist materials to Korean councils in several states.

The resolution also will be printed in a bi-monthly newsletter published by the council from its Irvine, Calif., offices.

The council was formed seven years ago as a support organization for all Korean Southern Baptist congregations.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The following article may be run alongside an earlier story on Gaza. FMB anticipates another full update following Easter.

Baptist Personnel Prepare
For Land Day In Gaza

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Baptist Press
3/29/88

GAZA (BP)--Southern Baptist personnel in Gaza March 29 were preparing to spend several days at home as that region and the West Bank were sealed off for three days by Israeli forces.

The Israeli government was anticipating renewed violence on Land Day, March 30. The day commemorates the 1976 deaths of six Arabs in a conflict over land confiscation.

Baptist personnel in both areas knew in advance the borders would be closed. Most of them in Gaza decided to stay, generally remaining in their homes and keeping a low profile. Arab friends will keep them supplied with food and other needs, said John Deal, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board associate area director for the region.

Ray and Beverly Hicks from Cincinnati, Ohio, the only Southern Baptist personnel in the West Bank, have moved to Baptist Village near Tel Aviv for a few days.

Southern Baptist workers Jack and Shawn Hodges of Hildebran and Hickory, N.C., respectively, moved to the compound of Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza because Mrs. Hodges is expecting the birth of a child this week. The hospital, operated by Church Missionary Society, was operated by Southern Baptists from 1954 to 1982, and several Southern Baptists still work there.

Karl and Thelma Weathers, Lynne Abney, Nancie Wingo, Mabel Summers and Margaret McPherson left before the borders were closed. Wingo was scheduled to return to the United States for furlough; the others were taking several vacation days outside the area. The Weatherses are from Earle, Ark.; Abney from Spokane, Wash.; Wingo from Santa Ana, Texas; Summers from Bardstown, Ky.; and McPherson from Midland, Texas.

Telephone service both within Gaza and to the outside was stopped the week of March 27. Despite the increased tensions, the School of Allied Health Sciences continued to hold classes. Nursing students there were proceeding with exams.

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