



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 8, 1988

88-59

N-10

Lolley To Be Nominated
For SBC Vice Presidency

By Marv Knox

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP)--W. Randall Lolley will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the SBC annual meeting this summer, a North Carolina pastor has announced.

John Hewitt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, said Lolley has agreed to be nominated for the post when the convention meets in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16.

Lolley was elected pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., April 6. Previously, he was president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., for 14 years.

Lolley announced his resignation as Southeastern Seminary president in November 1987. That move followed action by the conservative majority of seminary trustees to change the school's faculty-selection process to ensure that only people who profess biblical inerrancy can be named to the faculty.

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Lolley's resignation and move into the pastorate frees him to be a candidate for SBC office, Hewitt told Baptist Press: "He is now free ... to be able to serve in a different capacity for us. In a world of politicians, he is a statesman, and right now we need a statesman."

Hewitt said he has a letter from Lolley that says: "I would be honored if you choose to do it (make the vice presidential nomination). I would serve if elected."

The nomination is not part of a broader strategy orchestrated by SBC moderates, Hewitt added: "I have literally talked to no other person about this except Randall Lolley. If there is a strategy, I don't know about it.

"Randall Lolley is a trusted and proven Southern Baptist statesman. We have trusted his leadership at Southeastern Seminary. We can trust his vision for the future of the denomination."

Lolley has been unavailable for comment on Hewitt's announcement. But in his farewell address at the seminary in mid-March, Lolley pledged to remain involved in the convention, particularly related to theological education and Southeastern Seminary.

"As I go, I covenant two things, before God, with all of you on this campus and with our Southern Baptist family," he said. "First, I declare eternal hostility against every tyranny over the minds and hearts of God's people anywhere on this earth. Second, I commit from this day forward every moment of my time and every millibar of my energy to restoring this school into the hands of her friends and out of the hands of her foes -- so help me, God."

During an April 6 conference with about 500 church members at First Baptist of Raleigh, Lolley was questioned about his seminary farewell speech and its implications for the church, just a few miles from the seminary campus.

"My convictions are the same" as when the farewell speech was made, he told church members. But he noted the "every millibar" phrase was hyperbole and indicated his concern for the seminary but not the amount of time he actually will spend in that arena.

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Harris has been identified with SBC conservatives but has not joined them politically, he said, adding Jackson is the person to "bridge the gap" and "end the feuding" in the convention. Jackson lost the SBC presidency to Adrian P. Rogers last summer.

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(Also contributing to this story were Dan Martin, Baptist Press news editor, and R.G. Puckett, editor of North Carolina's Biblical Recorder.)

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Of Dallas Baptist University

CO
W- (Texas Std.)

Baptist Press
4/8/88

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Cook was the unanimous choice of the seven-member search committee who considered more than a dozen people for the job and was elected by a unanimous vote of the trustees.

Cook, director of denominational relations and special assistant to the president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, will assume the DBU presidency almost immediately and preside over graduation exercises this spring, he told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Texas Baptist convention, following his election.

He succeeds W. Marvin Watson who resigned last October after serving as president since 1979. Jerry F. Dawson, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Education Coordinating Board, has been acting president.

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At 37 Cook will be the youngest president of one of Texas Baptists' eight universities, although one of the eight, Wayland Baptist University, still is seeking a new president.

Cook is a native of Little Rock, Ark. He earned a bachelor's degree at Baylor, a master of divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., a master's degree in aging studies at North Texas State University and a doctor of ministry degree at Southwestern Seminary.

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Cook will bring "charisma, youth, stamina and enthusiasm that are going to be necessary for the job," he said.

Hearon praised Cook's "progressive, creative vision" for the university: "He is energetic, enthusiastic, cooperative -- the kind of person who will sell himself immediately. Our pastors and our churches will love him. The best days of this school are ahead of us, without question."

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At the halfway point, the Cooperative Program's year-to-date receipts reflect 48.62 percent of the \$140 million annual goal.

The March receipts were 2.8 percent behind receipts for March of 1987; however, year-to-date receipts are 3.73 percent ahead of the first six months of 1986-87, Bennett reported.

"I'm not overly disappointed in the decrease for the month, because the year-to-date still shows a definite positive increase," he said.

The outlook looks brighter, he added, noting, "Some of the states that showed a decrease in March have reported their contributions for April will show a definite increase." The national Cooperative Program follows the flow of the state conventions' receipts by one month, so states that had a strong March will pass along the benefits of that good month to the national budget in April, he explained.

The Cooperative Program dip in March reflects "a balancing out from the previous two months," said Tim A. Hedquist, the Executive Committee's vice president for business and finance. January's \$15.5 million in receipts was an all-time high, and February receipts set a record for that month.

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Mission Board News Staff

N-HMB

Baptist Press
4/8/88

ATLANTA (BP)--Mark Wingfield, director of news and information for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has been named assistant director of the news and information department for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

In a reorganization of the Home Mission Board's news and information department, two other members of the staff received promotions and new titles, and a new editorial assistant-secretary has been employed, said Jim Newton, director of the department.

Debbie Kubik, formerly secretary in the ACTS network of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, will become editorial assistant-secretary, effective May 2. Kubik is a journalism graduate of the University of Kansas and earned the master of arts in communications from Southwestern Seminary. She also has been a secretary for North Fort Worth Baptist Church and Sedgwick Baptist Association in Kansas.

Joe Westbury, formerly associate editor of MissionsUSA magazine and previously assistant news editor at the Home Mission Board, was promoted to associate director of the department. Westbury, a native of Florida, is former editor and associate editor of World Mission Journal published by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, and former public relations director at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He is also a former reporter for the Jackson Sun in Jackson.

Leisa Hammett-Goad, formerly assistant editor for information services at the Home Mission Board, was named assistant director of the news and information department. Hammett-Goad, a native of South Carolina, previously was communications director for the Southern Baptist Historical Commission in Nashville and communications director for Baptist Ministries at the 1980 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn.

The reorganization broadens the responsibilities of the associate director and two assistant directors, Newton said. Hammett-Goad will continue to have responsibility for information services, and Wingfield will be assigned to news, feature and photo coverage.

Wingfield, a native of Oklahoma, previously was assistant editor of the Baptist New Mexican in Albuquerque. He is a journalism graduate of the University of New Mexico and has been studying toward a masters in communication at Southwestern Seminary while directing the seminary's news and information program.

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He assumes the position April 11, succeeding Sherri Anthony Brown, formerly assistant features editor. Brown recently transferred to the board's editorial department as associate editor of MissionsUSA magazine.

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Birth Comes Amid
Gaza Conflict

By Mike Creswell

F- FMB

Baptist Press
4/8/88

GAZA (BP)--Lydia Eman Hodges will have memorable birthdays.

That's because friends and family will always remember her birth March 29 in Gaza, smack in the middle of the conflict between Palestinians and Israeli occupation forces in which more than 100 people have died. Lydia's parents are Southern Baptist representatives Jack and Shawn Hodges, of Hildebran and Hickory, N.C. They have worked in Gaza since 1985.

Lydia became the 20th child of Southern Baptists' 19 career workers in Gaza, who are joined by a journeyman and four volunteers. They all stayed indoors during outbreaks of violence sparked by the March 30 observance of Land Day, which commemorates the 1976 deaths of six Arabs in a conflict over land confiscation.

Disturbances lessened during the first week of April, reported Southern Baptist representative Norman Lytle at Baptist Village, a farm and conference center in Petah Tiqva, Israel. "Things are not back to normal but have quieted down," said Lytle. In Gaza, home Bible studies have resumed except when precluded by sporadic curfews.

The Gaza border with Israel has reopened, and several Southern Baptist workers were expected to travel to Baptist Village, a 60-mile drive away, later in the week.

Now workers in Israel and Gaza are bracing for another round of disturbances in connection with Israel's independence day, commemorating the founding of the nation May 14, 1948. Because the day is tied to the Jewish lunar calendar, the observance will fall this year on April 21. Violence could come at any time during the period, Southern Baptist workers fear.

First-year nursing students may not be admitted to the School of Allied Health Sciences this fall because the almost constant disruption of classes has made nursing instruction difficult, said Dale Thorne, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for the Middle East and North Africa.

That action would reduce three classes of students to two and lower the number of students. The school currently offers a three-year program of nursing to men and women.

Despite the continuing tension, Southern Baptist personnel working at the school reported their contacts with the 60 nursing students remain good. Classes have continued when possible between curfews. Students even took exams in recent weeks, largely on schedule.

Dona Fitzgerald, chairman of the Southern Baptist workers in Gaza, said God has continued to take care of them during the crisis. Ahli Arab Hospital, where several Southern Baptists work, ran short of bread during the curfew and borrowed 100 loaves from the School of Allied Health Sciences. But the next day a relief agency delivered 1,000 loaves to the hospital, more than enough to see it through the crisis.

For newborn Lydia Hodges, another reminder of her birthday will be her middle name, "Eman," Arabic for "faith."

Lydia was born at Ahli Arab Hospital at 10:30 p.m. March 29. Southern Baptist physician Dean Fitzgerald delivered her. She is the third child for the Hodges; Daniel was born in 1982, and Joshua in 1985.

Since the birth, the family has returned to their home in Gaza, where mother and daughter reportedly were doing well.

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Baptist Supervises Rebuilding
Of Saragosa Community Center

By Ken Camp

F - Texas

DALLAS (BP)--A new community center, built under the supervision of Texas Baptist missionary/church builder George Harrison, was dedicated recently in Saragosa, the west Texas town that was leveled by a tornado last May.

The new Saragosa Multipurpose Center replaces the old school building that had served as a community center before it was destroyed in the May 22 tornado. Many of the 29 people killed and 121 injured in that disaster were at the community center attending a preschool graduation ceremony of the Head Start program when the tornado hit.

The new 8,000-square-foot facility was financed primarily through a \$275,000 grant from the Dallas-based Meadows Foundation. Labor was provided by Saragosa citizens trained and supervised by Harrison, whose salary and expenses during the six-month construction project were provided by Texas Baptists through Cooperative Program unified budget giving. Estimated market value of the completed, equipped building is about \$400,000.

The community center will house an expanded Head Start program, a cooperative childcare program, a nutrition program for the elderly, a health clinic and Saragosa's first-and-only public telephone, said William L. Walters, coordinator of the church building and support section of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The local post office also is expected to relocate in the center.

"Particularly important to the local people is the fact that the center also has a large concrete storm cellar and storm warning siren," said Walters.

During Labor Day weekend last year, Texas Baptists led about 700 volunteers in an around-the-clock effort to rebuild houses for Saragosa residents. At the end of the three days, 30 houses were repaired, two homes were turned over to their owners and 19 were about 80 percent completed.



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GAZA (BP)--Lydia Eman Hodges will have memorable birthdays.

That's because friends and family will always remember her birth March 29 in Gaza, smack in the middle of the conflict between Palestinians and Israeli occupation forces in which more than 100 people have died. Lydia's parents are Southern Baptist representatives Jack and Shawn Hodges, of Hildebran and Hickory, N.C. They have worked in Gaza since 1985.

Lydia became the 20th child of Southern Baptists' 19 career workers in Gaza, who are joined by a journeyman and four volunteers. They all stayed indoors during outbreaks of violence sparked by the March 30 observance of Land Day, which commemorates the 1976 deaths of six Arabs in a conflict over land confiscation.

Disturbances lessened during the first week of April, reported Southern Baptist representative Norman Lytle at Baptist Village, a farm and conference center in Petah Tiqva, Israel. "Things are not back to normal but have quieted down," said Lytle. In Gaza, home Bible studies have resumed except when precluded by sporadic curfews.

The Gaza border with Israel has reopened, and several Southern Baptist workers were expected to travel to Baptist Village, a 60-mile drive away, later in the week.

Now workers in Israel and Gaza are bracing for another round of disturbances in connection with Israel's independence day, commemorating the founding of the nation May 14, 1948. Because the day is tied to the Jewish lunar calendar, the observance will fall this year on April 21. Violence could come at any time during the period, Southern Baptist workers fear.

First-year nursing students may not be admitted to the School of Allied Health Sciences this fall because the almost constant disruption of classes has made nursing instruction difficult, said Dale Thorne, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for the Middle East and North Africa.

That action would reduce three classes of students to two and lower the number of students. The school currently offers a three-year program of nursing to men and women.

Despite the continuing tension, Southern Baptist personnel working at the school reported their contacts with the 60 nursing students remain good. Classes have continued when possible between curfews. Students even took exams in recent weeks, largely on schedule.

Dona Fitzgerald, chairman of the Southern Baptist workers in Gaza, said God has continued to take care of them during the crisis. Ahli Arab Hospital, where several Southern Baptists work, ran short of bread during the curfew and borrowed 100 loaves from the School of Allied Health Sciences. But the next day a relief agency delivered 1,000 loaves to the hospital, more than enough to see it through the crisis.

For newborn Lydia Hodges, another reminder of her birthday will be her middle name, "Eman," Arabic for "faith."

Lydia was born at Ahli Arab Hospital at 10:30 p.m. March 29. Southern Baptist physician Dean Fitzgerald delivered her. She is the third child for the Hodges; Daniel was born in 1982, and Joshua in 1985.

Since the birth, the family has returned to their home in Gaza, where mother and daughter reportedly were doing well.

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Baptist Supervises Rebuilding
Of Saragosa Community Center

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP)--A new community center, built under the supervision of Texas Baptist missionary/church builder George Harrison, was dedicated recently in Saragosa, the west Texas town that was leveled by a tornado last May.

The new Saragosa Multipurpose Center replaces the old school building that had served as a community center before it was destroyed in the May 22 tornado. Many of the 29 people killed and 121 injured in that disaster were at the community center attending a preschool graduation ceremony of the Head Start program when the tornado hit.

The new 8,000-square-foot facility was financed primarily through a \$275,000 grant from the Dallas-based Meadows Foundation. Labor was provided by Saragosa citizens trained and supervised by Harrison, whose salary and expenses during the six-month construction project were provided by Texas Baptists through Cooperative Program unified budget giving. Estimated market value of the completed, equipped building is about \$400,000.

The community center will house an expanded Head Start program, a cooperative childcare program, a nutrition program for the elderly, a health clinic and Saragosa's first-and-only public telephone, said William L. Walters, coordinator of the church building and support section of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The local post office also is expected to relocate in the center.

"Particularly important to the local people is the fact that the center also has a large concrete storm cellar and storm warning siren," said Walters.

During Labor Day weekend last year, Texas Baptists led about 700 volunteers in an around-the-clock effort to rebuild houses for Saragosa residents. At the end of the three days, 30 houses were repaired, two homes were turned over to their owners and 19 were about 80 percent completed.

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