



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 6, 1988

88-92

Search committee for
CLC executive named

By Dan Martin and Al Shackelford

N-CO

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"We also considered other incidentals and procedures that are germane to the interim period."

Lackey said the search committee, on which he will serve as an ex-officio member, is composed of members of the executive committee, plus two more members.

Joe Atchison, director of missions of Benton Baptist Association in Rogers, Ark., and vice chairman of the CLC, will be chairman of the search committee. Other executive committee members to serve are Rudy Yakym, a stockbroker from South Bend, Ind., and secretary-treasurer of the CLC; Richard G. Elkins, a land developer from Albuquerque, N.M.; Larry Noia, a private school administrator from Fountain Valley, Calif.; and C. Nolan Phillips, pastor of University Baptist Church of Middletown, Ohio.

Other members are Alma Ruth Morgan, a homemaker from Bartlesville, Okla., and Hal Lane, pastor of Eutawville (S.C.) Baptist Church. Lackey said, "Alma Ruth Morgan is the oldest female member (of the CLC) with the exception of Mrs. (Virginia) Hendricks, who also is from New Mexico. If she had served, we would have had two from New Mexico since Dick (Elkins) is from there, and we did not think that was a good idea.

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Lackey said he could not say whether the committee would be ready with a recommendation at the time the CLC meets in September. "It is my desire to get the right person as soon as possible, but not to be too hasty," he said.

Atchison said the committee probably will meet "sometime during the (Southern Baptist) convention" annual meeting to determine its procedure. He added the committee had not been given any instruction and had not -- discussed -- "even unofficially" -- candidates.

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In commenting on his 15-month tenure, Baker said: "I do not regret my decision to come as executive director of the Christian Life Commission. I believed then and I believe now I ought to have been here."

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By Mark Wingfield

F- HMB

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To compound that challenge, Holt also is Baptist Student Union director at the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University. The two schools enroll more than 60,000 students.

Ironically, when Holt graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1987, he started looking for a position just like this. He wanted to combine student work and church planting but thought that might be impossible.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan thought it would be impossible to find someone to fill their dual position in student work and church planting.

The two came together through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, resulting in Holt's appointment as a church planter apprentice.

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In his first year in Ann Arbor, Holt concentrated on student work. It had been two years since anyone had devoted a significant amount of time to Baptist Student Union there, he said.

Now Holt has core groups at both the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Eastern Michigan in nearby Ypsilanti.

His student work now may be the key to his church-starting efforts. The core group now meeting in a home Bible study is mainly single young adults, including several from the BSU.

"My goal is not to have a student church. You can't build a church just on students," Holt said. "But I'm excited about providing students the opportunity to help start a church."

The young, well-educated singles Holt has enlisted as a core group should identify well with the unchurched in Ann Arbor, he said. The average age of residents is 26. More than 50 percent have completed four years of college.

Beyond that, Holt thinks singles have other advantages for church starting. "They are an untapped resource for doing things in the church," he said. Singles are energetic, capable and have more free time than couples.

This summer, Holt will be assisted by a seminary worker, a summer missions team and a group from a Tennessee church. These volunteers will survey the community and conduct backyard Bible clubs. At the same time, other volunteers will work at Packard Road constructing the new sanctuary.

Neither Holt, Cothorn or Calmes are overly concerned about the conflicting projects. They see this summer's work as one more way to multiply their witness through division.

Donaldsons' 'I do'
means shared ministry

By Breena Kent Paine

F-10
(NOBTS)

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--When the Donaldsons said "I do," they did.

They chose the same career, shared the same dream, studied for their master's degrees at the same time and eventually received their doctorate degrees together May 21 from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

But, most important, they both believe in leading others to Christ through their counseling ministries.

The Donaldsons' long years of pursuing degrees are over now that they both have received their doctorates in psychology and counseling. But it has not been easy.

"We've had some strange schedules. I think the only reason it was possible (for both to study and work at the same time) was that both of us were studying in the same area. That helped us persevere. It wasn't always an up situation; we had ups and downs. But because we had common goals, we were able to work together," said Patrick Donaldson of Lake Mary, Fla.

He is prison chaplain at Cross City Correctional Institution in Cross City, Fla.; and his wife, Mary Beth Williams Donaldson of Sanford, Fla., is school psychologist for Dixie District schools in Cross City. Their dream is to open a community counseling center together.

Since both have chosen counseling for their ministry, they use each other as sounding boards.

"We ask one another for advice about how to deal with different situations," he said. "We search one another and find out new ideas on how to help people in different situations."

The Donaldsons also are active in their church. "I'm able to help my church, even while out ministering in the prison," he said. "I don't have any qualms at all in giving back to them, helping in outreach, church training, because they helped support me through seminary through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program" unified budget.

Both feel their education at New Orleans Seminary was a tremendous help in their ministries. "It has helped me as far as learning from the many years of experience of the professors," he said. "By learning from the professors, I didn't have to use people as an experimental ground. If you have to learn using people, ... you could end up hurting people, and even turning them off to the gospel. But by using the professors' (experience), you can avoid a lot of that."

Seminary also "helped me grow as a person. It helped me to relate to other people better. I have more of an understanding for people ... and realize that God loves them just as much as he loves me. And that's helpful in the prison setting, because knowing what the people are there for, it would be easy not to love them. But I can love them through Christ," he said.

She also has had ample opportunities to implement what she has learned. For example, in the fall of 1987, "some of our special education students were on a school bus and had an accident; several died. The crisis counseling and some of the experiences I had had here (at the seminary) helped me not to be scared of it," she said.

One family Mrs. Donaldson counseled was very poor. "She had never been to a hospital before, and when I went to see them, they had saved all the food on the tray so they wouldn't be without."

Through her counseling, many "doors have been opened," and children and their families have come to know Christ.

She also has ministered with her husband in the prison. "It's a way I can feel active in his ministry," she said.

"Sometimes guys will tell her things they don't feel comfortable telling me," said Donaldson, who also has made sharing Christ an important part of his ministry.

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"There have been two or three occasions where I've led fellows to the Lord who were real prison tough guys -- cussing and violating the rules, and wouldn't have anything to do with church or God," he noted.

He shared Christ with them, they made commitments, and he was able to help them in Bible study. "I even helped them through some tough times, family problems, and times when their faith wavered," he said. "They have come back to the Lord and found out that God forgives. That's an important lesson for them to learn, especially in prison, because it's a real pressure-cooker environment."

He feels his ministry is rewarding, even if he can only affect two or three lives. "You don't know how many families will not be affected by crime by their being affected by Jesus Christ," he said.

Donaldson was a correctional officer at the institute before he attended New Orleans Seminary and returned as a chaplain. "God used the whole experience to show me I had something to offer them -- Christ. Even as a correctional officer, I could show them what Christ meant in my life."

For the couple with common degrees, goals and dreams, their lives are bound by their faith in Christ and their desire to share the good news with others.

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Figures released on offering
taken during WMU celebration

N- (CO
(WMU)

Baptist Press
6/6/88

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--WMU "Centennial Celebration" participants in Richmond, Va., May 14, gave \$58,654.22 to the Centennial Thank Offering, according to leaders of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The offering, which was collected from the more than 11,000 celebration participants, was the final offering of the Centennial Thank Offering.

The Centennial Thank Offering was established by the executive board of WMU as a way by which individuals could contribute toward the debt retirement of the national WMU headquarters building in Birmingham, and, at the same time, honor missions leaders and organizations.

WMU officials are continuing to receive offerings which were collected in associational and state celebrations held in conjunction with the May 13-14 Centennial Celebration.

As of May 31, \$925,210.51 had been contributed toward the retirement of the national headquarters building debt. Cost for the property, building and furnishings totaled \$8.6 million.

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Historical Commission, SBC
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They chose the same career, shared the same dream, studied for their master's degrees at the same time and eventually received their doctorate degrees together May 21 from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

But, most important, they both believe in leading others to Christ through their counseling ministries.

The Donaldsons' long years of pursuing degrees are over now that they both have received their doctorates in psychology and counseling. But it has not been easy.

"We've had some strange schedules. I think the only reason it was possible (for both to study and work at the same time) was that both of us were studying in the same area. That helped us persevere. It wasn't always an up situation; we had ups and downs. But because we had common goals, we were able to work together," said Patrick Donaldson of Lake Mary, Fla.

He is prison chaplain at Cross City Correctional Institution in Cross City, Fla.; and his wife, Mary Beth Williams Donaldson of Sanford, Fla., is school psychologist for Dixie District schools in Cross City. Their dream is to open a community counseling center together.

Since both have chosen counseling for their ministry, they use each other as sounding boards.

"We ask one another for advice about how to deal with different situations," he said. "We search one another and find out new ideas on how to help people in different situations."

The Donaldsons also are active in their church. "I'm able to help my church, even while out ministering in the prison," he said. "I don't have any qualms at all in giving back to them, helping in outreach, church training, because they helped support me through seminary through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program" unified budget.

Both feel their education at New Orleans Seminary was a tremendous help in their ministries. "It has helped me as far as learning from the many years of experience of the professors," he said. "By learning from the professors, I didn't have to use people as an experimental ground. If you have to learn using people, ... you could end up hurting people, and even turning them off to the gospel. But by using the professors' (experience), you can avoid a lot of that."

Seminary also "helped me grow as a person. It helped me to relate to other people better. I have more of an understanding for people ... and realize that God loves them just as much as he loves me. And that's helpful in the prison setting, because knowing what the people are there for, it would be easy not to love them. But I can love them through Christ," he said.

She also has had ample opportunities to implement what she has learned. For example, in the fall of 1987, "some of our special education students were on a school bus and had an accident; several died. The crisis counseling and some of the experiences I had had here (at the seminary) helped me not to be scared of it," she said.

One family Mrs. Donaldson counseled was very poor. "She had never been to a hospital before, and when I went to see them, they had saved all the food on the tray so they wouldn't be without."

Through her counseling, many "doors have been opened," and children and their families have come to know Christ.

She also has ministered with her husband in the prison. "It's a way I can feel active in his ministry," she said.

"Sometimes guys will tell her things they don't feel comfortable telling me," said Donaldson, who also has made sharing Christ an important part of his ministry.

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"There have been two or three occasions where I've led fellows to the Lord who were real prison tough guys -- cussing and violating the rules, and wouldn't have anything to do with church or God," he noted.

He shared Christ with them, they made commitments, and he was able to help them in Bible study. "I even helped them through some tough times, family problems, and times when their faith wavered," he said. "They have come back to the Lord and found out that God forgives. That's an important lesson for them to learn, especially in prison, because it's a real pressure-cooker environment."

He feels his ministry is rewarding, even if he can only affect two or three lives. "You don't know how many families ~~will not be~~ affected by crime by their being affected by Jesus Christ," he said.

Donaldson was a correctional officer at the institute before he attended New Orleans Seminary and returned as a chaplain. "God used the whole experience to show me I had something to offer them -- Christ. Even as a correctional officer, I could show them what Christ meant in my life."

For the couple with common degrees, goals and dreams, their lives are bound by their faith in Christ and their desire to share the good news with others.

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Figures released on offering
taken during WMU celebration

Baptist Press
6/6/88

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--WMU "Centennial Celebration" participants in Richmond, Va., May 14, gave \$58,654.22 to the Centennial Thank Offering, according to leaders of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The offering, which was collected from the more than 11,000 celebration participants, was the final offering of the Centennial Thank Offering.

The Centennial Thank Offering was established by the executive board of WMU as a way by which individuals could contribute toward the debt retirement of the national WMU headquarters building in Birmingham, and, at the same time, honor missions leaders and organizations.

WMU officials are continuing to receive offerings which were collected in associational and state celebrations held in conjunction with the May 13-14 Centennial Celebration.

As of May 31, \$925,210.51 had been contributed toward the retirement of the national headquarters building debt. Cost for the property, building and furnishings totaled \$8.6 million.

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