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March 10, 1989

Lottie Moon gifts up
11 percent, survey shows

By Marty Croll

N-FMB

89-39

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists gave nearly 11 percent more in 1988 than in 1987 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, according to projections based on a survey of selected state conventions.

The news offered a ray of hope to missions officials forced last year to trim budgets.

By March 9, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board had received about \$58 million in Lottie Moon gifts. Projections indicated that by the final tally May 31, the total could amount to \$77.5 million.

"I think this demonstrates that when Southern Baptists really are aware of the need in missions, they continue to respond," said FMB President R. Keith Parks. "When they really knew the budget difficulties we were facing, they responded generously."

Because of the expected increase, the board will be able to release about \$4.6 million immediately for urgent capital needs overseas. Money for these needs usually is freed up after Jan. 1. This year, however, board officials held the money until they were sure enough would be received to meet the year's overseas operating expenses.

These capital needs include such basics as housing and transportation for missionaries and loan funds for overseas church construction, board officials said.

The annual Lottie Moon offering supports almost half of the \$167.7 million budget for the Southern Baptist foreign missions enterprise, which encompasses the work of about 3,850 missionaries in 114 nations. The offering is received by most Southern Baptist churches during the Christmas season, but the board keeps its books open for receipts from Baptist state conventions until the end of May.

If projections prove true, Lottie Moon giving could exceed by \$5 million the \$72.5 million that the board anticipated when it drew up its 1989 budget. Although the total would fall short of the \$84 million offering goal, the predicted increase of 10.96 percent would be the largest percentage gain since 1984.

This year's Lottie Moon receipts will not affect the board's 12 percent across-the-board budget cuts for 1989, Parks said. But if Southern Baptist churches this year give as freely to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, which also supplies nearly half of the board's total receipts, 1990 could be financially brighter for foreign missions, he said.

"A strong offering means we can project the 1990 budget as one we shouldn't have to cut back on," Parks said. "We're hopeful the Cooperative Program will be strong enough that we can have a solid budget picture for next year."

The board bases its March projections for the Lottie Moon offering on a survey of selected state conventions that gave the largest totals the previous year. The survey is based on receipts through February. Past projections have come within 1 percentage point of being accurate.

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"While it would be good to know why the offering is up, there are so many potential factors that it is hard to identify, isolate and quantify them," said Carl Johnson, the board's vice president for finance. To adequately explain the large increase would be as difficult as explaining why the increase the year before was less than 1 percent, he added.

The \$69.9 million offering a year ago fell short of last year's budgeted goal by about \$5 million, resulting in fears of future widespread cutbacks. The situation sparked a special appeal from the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, which leads in promoting the offering, along with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Parks warned that Southern Baptists should not overestimate the importance of the Lottie Moon offering to financial support of the total foreign missions enterprise. "A strong Lottie Moon offering is certainly a great encouragement," he said. "But we must have a strong Cooperative Program as well. Our program is as much dependent on that as it is on the Lottie Moon offering."

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N-HMB

State conventions report
953 new missions in 1988

By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
3/10/89

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Southern Baptists started 953 church-type missions nationwide in 1988, according to figures reported to the convention's Home Mission Board by state church extension leaders.

State directors of missions and church extension from across the nation gathered in Oklahoma City for the HMB's annual new church extension conference. In addition to reporting last year's statistics, state leaders announced a combined goal of 1,600 mission starts for 1989.

Nationally, the ratio of churches to new starts in 1988 was 38-to-1, meaning Southern Baptists started one mission for every 38 constituted churches.

Figures previously reported from analysis of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's 1988 Uniform Church Letter show a total of 42,217 churches and church-type missions in the denomination. Southern Baptists have set a goal of 50,000 churches and church-type missions by A.D. 2000.

Charles Chaney, vice president of the HMB extension section, explained that Southern Baptists must show a net gain of 1,075 churches and church-type missions each year to reach the 50,000 goal. Although 1988 figures are below that number, they show a positive trend that will enable the denomination to meet its goal, he said.

"We've been to the mountain, and we've looked over at the promised land," Chaney said of the report. "I think we'll exceed the 50,000."

Texas led the nation in number of mission starts for 1988, with 206. Texas Baptists started one mission for every 20 constituted churches.

Other states in the top 10 numerical group, listed with number starts and ratio of churches to starts, are California, 100 (10-1); Florida, 62 (27-1); North Carolina, 47 (73-1); Georgia, 40 (75-1); Missouri, 39 (45-1); Kentucky, 37 (59-1); South Carolina, 28 (62-1); Louisiana, 26 (51-1); and New York, 26 (6-1).

The territory of Puerto Rico led the nation with the best ratio of churches to mission starts. Baptists there started one mission for every four constituted churches.

State conventions in the top 10 ratio group, listed with ratio of churches to starts and number of starts, are Wyoming, 5-1 (13); New York, 6-1 (26); New England, 6-1 (16); Nevada, 6-1 (11); Minnesota-Wisconsin, 6-1 (13); Hawaii, 9-1 (5); Utah-Idaho, 9-1 (10); Alaska, 10-1 (5); California, 10-1 (100); and Colorado, 10-1 (18).

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Other convent...s, listed with the number of mission starts followed by the ratio of churches to starts where available, are Alabama, 18 (168-1); Arizona, 18 (14-1); Arkansas, 24 (53-1); Canada, 13; Dakotas, 5; District of Columbia, 2 (27-1); Illinois, 24 (38-1); Iowa, 1 (64-1); Kansas-Nebraska, 9 (27-1); Maryland-Delaware, 12 (22-1); Michigan, 12 (18-1); Mississippi, 7 (278-1); Montana, 6; New Mexico, 5 (53-1); Northwest, 11 (26-1); Ohio, 20 (25-1); Oklahoma, 15 (94-1); Pennsylvania-South Jersey, 9 (13-1); Tennessee, 13 (210-1); Virginia, 14 (105-1); West Virginia, 2 (51-1). Figures were not available from Indiana.

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Black Southern Baptists are
'full partners,' McCall says

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB
Baptist Press
3/10/89

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Black Southern Baptists are now "full partners" in the denomination and should seek to start new churches in predominantly black communities, Emmanuel McCall told black church extension leaders.

McCall, director of the black church extension division at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, pledged to lead Southern Baptists to have 5,000 predominantly black congregations by A.D. 2000. Currently, there are 1,073 black churches, he said.

McCall, who previously directed the HMB black church relations department, addressed the group during the agency's annual new church extension conference in Oklahoma City. Under a board-wide reorganization begun Jan. 1, the old unit was renamed black church extension division.

"In many respects, ours is now a different program," McCall said. "We have recognized the presence of black people within the Southern Baptist Convention. We are now full partners."

McCall noted previous efforts had been directed to assisting other black denominations, but new efforts would be toward establishing black Southern Baptist churches.

"We are no longer ministering to someone outside our convention," he explained. "The emphasis now is on black Southern Baptists as a part of the whole and doing something to reach black Americans with the gospel."

"What has emerged is really our plan. This was not something that was imposed upon us from above."

McCall reported that black churches using Southern Baptist strategies have grown faster than those of any other denomination. "We can be the model for what the church can be," he said.

Charles Chaney, vice president of the HMB extension section, also spoke to the group. "Southern Baptists need to address with the gospel of Christ every community of people in this nation, no matter what its social, racial or economic condition may be," he said.

McCall presented his "Christmas Wish List for A.D. 2000," listing 14 things he hopes to see accomplished in the next 11 years.

Foremost on the list was his desire to have 5,000 "predominantly black congregations that are strong, thriving, mission-minded and mission-supporting." Accomplishing this goal will require starting or receiving 400 new churches each year. This will not be done by proselytizing churches from the four National Baptist conventions but could include receiving unaligned churches, McCall said.

He added that he envisions Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood organizations in each of these predominantly black churches to promote missions education. "Some black churches have never been challenged to give to the Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon offerings," he explained. "Our way of doing this is through the missions education organizations."

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Also, McCall said he would like to see black Southern Baptist churches gradually changing the character of their communities: "We would like to see black SBC churches so equipped in mission and social awareness that they change the character of their residential communities. If these communities are going to be changed, it's going to be done by black people. I'm convinced if we can get some evangelistic, mission-minded churches in these places, we can win the cities."

Other items on McCall's wish list include:

- Black Southern Baptist churches baptizing 50,000 people per year.
- 800 black students and 15 full-time black faculty members in the six SBC seminaries.
- 100 black individuals on SBC committees and boards.
- Black people on denominational staffs in positions other than black church relations or black church extension.
- 7,500 black short-term mission volunteers and 200 black long-term volunteers.
- 360 black Southern Baptist chaplains.

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Meeting needs of learning disabled
helps meet needs of other children

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press
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N-95B

NASHVILLE (BP)--Creative teaching to help learning disabled and emotionally handicapped children can help Southern Baptists reach all children more effectively, said speakers at a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board conference.

Leaders of a seminar, Teaching and Ministering to Learning Disabled and Emotionally Handicapped Persons, pointed out that people with some levels of learning disabilities or emotional handicaps likely will be in every church group, such as Sunday school, church training, music programs or mission organizations.

"There are many children in the regular classroom who have been mislabeled 'brats' or troublemakers. They actually may be learning disabled or emotionally handicapped," said Gene Nabi, consultant to exceptional persons in the Sunday School Board's special ministries department.

"We need to deal with them by being creative. If we are not meeting their needs, we probably are not meeting the needs of others as well," he said.

Learning-disabled people are of normal or higher intelligence but have problems understanding or using language. The problems may affect listening, thinking, talking, reading, writing, spelling, math and memory, said Nabi.

Emotionally handicapped people have consistently disruptive behaviors that interfere with their own learning and disrupt people around them, he added.

Learning disabilities and emotional handicaps do not end as children become adults, he said, noting, many of the same principles also apply to adult classes, Nabi pointed out.

Ed Frierson, a Nashville-based lecturer on dealing with exceptional people, said most teachers want to have control and predictability in their classes, whether in the school system or at Sunday school.

But the structure designed to maintain control often requires children to be quiet and still, he added. That is difficult for most children and impossible for learning-disabled or emotionally handicapped children.

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"We plan things for people who can read and pay attention. Those who can't do that suffer. Why don't we consider the child who can't sit still and pay attention for even 10 minutes? If we accommodate them, others will be accommodated also," he said.

Church ministries need to include family members of the learning disabled and emotionally handicapped, speakers said.

Parents deal with an ongoing process of adapting, grief and loss, said Joe Richardson, a psychologist and personnel counselor at the Sunday School Board. Richardson has counseled parents of children with special needs.

"People can find a million ways to make parents feel guilty about their child's situation. The church needs to find ways to help them feel good about themselves and their child," he said.

When families with learning-disabled or emotionally handicapped children attend church, they are "on our turf," Frierson said. "We have a responsibility to reach out to them and make them feel comfortable with their involvement.

"Once you get beyond the handicap or disability, you find people who need love and concern."

Nabi said the special ministries staff hopes to increase its emphasis on work with learning disabilities. The emphasis will involve additional worker training and articles in Special Education Leadership magazine.

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N-HMB

Follow example of Paul and Silas
in church starting, Chaney says

By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
3/10/89

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Southern Baptists should follow the example of Paul and Silas as church planters, Charles Chaney told state church extension leaders.

Chaney, vice president of the extension section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, spoke to church extension leaders from across the nation during the HMB's annual new church extension conference in Oklahoma City.

Chaney based his message on the biblical account in Acts 16, where the Apostle Paul and his co-workers took the gospel into Macedonia and were imprisoned for their faith.

"Go where God calls you," Chaney said, relating the challenge Paul faced in preaching in the pagan region of Macedonia. "We need to insist that people have a definite call. We need to lay the responsibility on them for what God has called them to do."

Limited financial resources cannot be an excuse to avoid God's call today, he added: "There are not enough resources for us to have fully funded pastors as our only strategy for reaching America. We must use bivocational and volunteer ministers as part of our strategy."

Like Paul, church starters must use the bridges of culture to reach all segments of the population, Chaney said: "I don't think we've been as honest as we need to be in looking at our Anglo communities. We look only at the people we can identify with. But we need to look for bridges to others.

"In many places we've said we're only going to look for good Southern Baptist people. That is the wrong way. When we ever get to the place where we put some kind of parentheses around people and say we're only going to look for Southern Baptists, we're in trouble."

Look instead for people who are praying, Chaney said, suggesting that anyone with spiritual hunger should be a prospect. Church planting needs must be determined by the number of non-Christian people in a community, not by the number of Southern Baptists likely to be found there, he said.

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"Look for prospects wherever you can find them," he added. "I'm afraid we'd been with Paul and Silas in jail that night, we wouldn't have seen the jailer as a prospect for our church. But if we're going to evangelize America, we're going to have to want those kinds of folks."

In addition, Chaney suggested church planters should learn to find prospects through relationships, prepare to battle with Satan and intend to plant more than one church from the beginning.

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WMU's 'Go Forward'
wins 2nd award

By Susan Todd

N-00
(WMU)

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--"Go Forward," the first movie produced by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, won a Silver Angel award at the 12th annual Angel Awards competition Feb. 23 in Beverly Hills, Calif. The competition is sponsored by Religion in Media.

The Angel Award is the movie's first national award. The movie recently won the Paddlewheel of Excellence in the Deep South Video Festival, sponsored by Region Six of the International Television Association.

"The Angel Awards seek to honor artists in any form of media who produce works which make a moral, social or spiritual impact on society and are done in a professional manner," said Gordon, spokesperson for the awards competition.

Awards are given for radio, television, home video, motion picture, stage performances, books and albums. Awards are made on local, national and international levels.

Entries are judged on their own merit, Gordon said. They do not compete against other entries in their categories.

In the first years of the awards competition, entries came predominantly from the religious sector, Gordon said. This year 70 percent came from the secular field.

This year's sweepstakes award went to "A Cry in the Dark" by Warner Brothers starring Meryl Streep.

"Go Forward" won an award in the national television category.

"Go Forward" is based on the life of Annie Armstrong, one of the founders of WMU and the organization's first top executive. The movie begins with the formation of WMU and traces Armstrong's life for the next 50 years.

"Annie Armstrong's life was a powerful example of what one person yielded to God's leadership can accomplish," said Stan Hill, executive producer of the movie and video specialist for WMU. "The Angel Award confirms that 'Go Forward' is a faithful retelling of that story. But the real impact of 'Go Forward' is its challenge to the current generation of Southern Baptists to renew their missions commitment."

The silver angel statue was presented in Beverly Hills to Patrick Moody, director of "Go Forward" and staff member of First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, Calif. It will be on display at the WMU national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

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HMB's Newton named Lausanne II
media director for July meeting

N-HMB

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3/10/89

ATLANTA (BP)--Jim Newton, news and information director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been named media director for the Lausanne II evangelism congress in Manila, the Philippines.

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Newton, director of communications for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization in 1987, has been loaned by Southern Baptists to Lausanne for the congress, scheduled July 11-21 in the Philippines.

Under a similar arrangement, Newton worked with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in directing news and press operations for the Amsterdam '83 and '86 international conferences for itinerant evangelists. He also has directed media operations for the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo and the First World Congress of Baptist Men in Hong Kong.

Newton will coordinate the broadcast center, press center, daily newspaper for participants and photography services during the congress. He will be responsible for recruiting an international staff of journalists to assist as volunteers.

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New Work Fellowship to honor
mission-sponsoring pastors

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OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--The Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship will honor pastors of churches that have sponsored new missions June 12 at the group's annual meeting prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

In conjunction with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the fellowship will host a banquet for invited pastors of churches that started new missions between October 1987 and December 1988. Don Mabry, director of missions for the Louisiana Baptist Convention and president of the fellowship, announced the plans during the HMB's annual new church extension conference in Oklahoma City.

John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church in Houston, will be the keynote speaker for the 6:30 p.m. banquet at the Saharah Hotel. Bisagno will discuss his own convictions about the importance of sponsoring new missions, Mabry said.

The fellowship will also meet in its annual session at 1:30 p.m. that day at the hotel. Theme for the meeting is "Churches Starting New Congregations."

Participants will hear testimonies from two people currently involved in multiple sponsorships from their churches. Harvey Kneisel will discuss his work as minister of missions at Houston's First Baptist Church, which intends to sponsor 100 new congregations. Robert Cuttino, pastor of the Baptist Church of Beauford in Beauford, S.C., will tell about the six new congregations his church sponsored in 18 months.

The conference also will include a report on the 25 churches to have been started in Nevada in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting, Mabry said.

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Return to biblical pattern of
church starting, speakers say

By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
3/10/89

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Southern Baptists must return to a biblical pattern of starting churches or face extinction, speakers said at a national church extension conference.

Tom Wolf, Harvey Kneisel, James Hiatt and Sam Simpson presented four models of "church starting inside the suburban ring" during an annual conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's new church extension division.

Wolf is pastor of The Church on Brady in Los Angeles, Kneisel is minister of missions at First Baptist Church of Houston, Hiatt is pastor of Church of Fillmore in Phoenix, Ariz., and Simpson is pastor of Bronx Baptist Church and Wake-Eden Baptist Church in New York.

"We have grown up a generation that knows not church planting," Wolf said. "And unless we all radically rethink, we shall die."

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"Our churches are like a man with amnesia. We have forgotten what we were created to do, and we are afraid to do what we were called to do.

"To be a New Testament church is to be not only building on the foundation of the apostles, but to be doing the work of the apostles. We as pastors must return to the biblical pattern of multiplying multiplying churches.

"The standard for ministry is not just church planting, but planting churches that plant churches."

Wolf became pastor of The Church on Brady in 1969 and has grown it into a multiethnic congregation of 1,000 members that has started multiple missions in California and overseas.

Kneisel echoed Wolf's statements on multiplying churches. "If we ever win our world to Christ, it will be by the New Testament method of multiplying in the faith," he said.

Kneisel explained how Jesus might have used the "multiplication principle" to preach to all of the nation of India. Since India has 670,000 cities and villages, Jesus could have preached in one city per day for 2,000 years and still not have reached every city, he said.

But using the multiplication principle, Jesus could have spent six months in one village winning and discipling one convert. If he and that disciple duplicated that process of winning and discipling other evangelists, every village in India could hear the gospel in just 17 years, Kneisel explained.

"We must multiply converts, and we must also multiply churches which win converts," he said. He has put this principle into practice through more than a dozen First Baptist missions targeted at every segment of society.

The four speakers outlined other common principles of urban church starting and church growth from their own experiences.

One common principle is to meet community needs through social action. "I believe one of the weaknesses of Southern Baptists is a withdrawal from social action," Simpson said. "It seems to me we have made a great distinction between sacred and secular."

Since 1964, Simpson has ministered in the Bronx, a borough of New York City with acknowledged crime and economic problems. He has been a leader in community renewal, instigating better housing and assistance programs, and using every opportunity to share the gospel.

Hiatt's church also built a ministry on social action. The church in downtown Phoenix had been told it should relocate because there was "no longer a need" for a church there, he said.

The church did relocate -- across the street to a site better suited to meeting community needs. "We began trying to reach the people who were forgotten, that nobody cared about," Hiatt said. "We felt most of the churches had moved out of the city, so we decided we should stay."

Due to expansion of the Phoenix airport, the church later relocated again, but remained in the inner city. Church on Fillmore has 16 apartments for low-income senior adults, a gymnasium/activity center and a clothing program that assists 3,000 people per month.

The goal of all the church's social action programs is to share Christ, Hiatt said: "For a long time, I have believed and taught that the only reason for living is to share Christ. Looking around us, we have so many to share our lives with. The real key of ministry is becoming a servant."

Kneisel also called on churches to meet the needs of their surrounding communities. He described the socio-economic changes that had occurred around Houston's Westview Baptist Church, which now is a church-starting center of First Baptist Church.

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Westview is 1 many other Southern Baptist churches in transitional communities, he said: "The poor, the ethnics have moved in next door to our churches. And that's good news, because the churches have unlimited opportunities for ministry. But the bad news is that the churches have missed the opportunity."

Some churches have even voted not to reach the changing communities around them, he said. "God cannot bless that. God cannot bless us when we say, 'I don't want those people.' God will not bless us for moving away from the people he has put around us."

Southern Baptist should remember their own roots before rejecting poor, ethnic communities, Kneisel suggested. "We came from the other side of the tracks," he said. "We were the ethnics. We were the poor."

Another principle the speakers suggested is the use of volunteers.

"People have a need to be used," Kneisel said. "The people giving you trouble in your church are people with gifts not being used. I'm convinced when Baptists are really shown a need, they'll meet it."

Hiatt said his church's ministries depend on 300 hours of volunteer labor per week. He described the joy a daughter saw in her 75-year-old mother, who became a volunteer.

"Thank you for letting my mother work in the church," the daughter told Hiatt. "This is the first time she's ever been asked to do anything in the church."

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Pirates manager serves God
on and off the field

By Lori Zonner

F-CD
(Pa. So J.)

Baptist Press
3/10/89

PITTSBURGH (BP)--Larry Doughty serves God at his church and on the baseball field.

As general manager and senior vice president of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Doughty comes into contact with many players and has opportunities to tell about his faith in Christ.

He often is on the road 200 days a year and usually works 16-hour days during the baseball season. But he is active at Pittsburgh Baptist Church, where he is a substitute Sunday school teacher.

"There's an opportunity during practice sessions to visit and talk to players on the ballfield and in the clubhouse," Doughty said. "On several occasions, players have questioned me philosophically and so forth regarding a religion or a right-standing with the Lord.

"I really think that in some cases, I've seen careers saved for players" because they became Christians.

As general manager, a position he has held since November 1988, Doughty manages the major league team, works with the club's seven minor league teams and scouts for new recruits.

He has been involved with professional baseball since 1972, when he started as a scouting supervisor with the Cincinnati Reds. He first joined the Pirates in October 1987 as assistant to the general manager.

While Doughty shares Christ with others on the job, he said his greatest opportunity for witnessing is teaching Sunday school and serving as a deacon.

Although being active in his church is important to Doughty, many times during the season he is on the road. Then he goes to church in the city closest to the game or attends baseball chapel.

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"Baseball chapel takes place every Sunday in virtually every professional baseball park," he said. "The local area brings in people to perform chapel. The players usually are in uniform and have begun preparing for the game." About 40 percent of the major league players take part in the chapels, he said.

Doughty grew up in a Christian home in Bowling Green, Ky. "I knew for quite some time I loved the Lord and the Lord loved me," he said. He was 9 years old when he made a profession of faith in Christ.

"I really rely heavily on the Holy Spirit to help me," he said of his job. "I take literally and feel the Holy Spirit will enlighten me to the point I need to be enlightened at that time to carry on.

"A lot of times in the stresses of the day, whether it be negotiating with agents or whatever it might be, I dial God's phone number," he said.

Doughty is down to earth about his major league title, even though he is one of major league's 26 general managers.

"After you get to know people, their interpretation of you and their perception of you is what you are to them," he said, adding this is not based on a public image or a title.

Doughty's pastor at Pittsburgh Baptist Church, Danny Crow, said Doughty proves that in a very select field, "People can be people."

"Our people see him for who he really is," Crow said. "If they win the World Series this year, he'd still be Larry Doughty."

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Zonner is a contributing writer to the Penn.-Jersey Baptist, newsjournal of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey.