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July 19, 1989

89-110

N-CO

**SEBTS hires professors
amidst faculty protest**

By Dan Martin and Erin Kelly

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary July 11 hired their first teachers since conservatives gained majority control, but current faculty disassociated themselves from the hiring.

"July 11 will go down in history as being the time that Southeastern Seminary reset its course," said trustee Chairman Robert D. Crowley, a pastor from Rockville, Md.

Crowley said the three new teachers -- two full professors and an associate professor -- "met every criteria I set down and talked about in the past."

"I sat in with the instructional committee and personally questioned each one of them. I asked if they believed Adam was a real person and if the first 11 chapters of Genesis were real history, to be taken literally. I got an affirmative answer from all three," he said.

Conservatives gained a majority on the 30-member board in October 1987, and changed the faculty selection process, vesting more responsibility in the president and trustees, and limiting faculty participation.

The change resulted in the resignation of President W. Randall Lolley and Dean Morris Ashcraft. In all, nine administrators and nine professors have resigned or retired since.

Lolley, now pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., said the policy change ensures that only biblical inerrantists can be added to the faculty.

The changes and controversy at the Wake Forest, N.C., campus have led to investigations by two groups regarding the seminary's accreditation. Investigations currently are underway by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In the called meeting July 11, trustees hired Wayne McDill as professor of preaching; Marvin L. Reid, professor of New Testament; and Paul R. House, associate professor of Old Testament.

They also were told President Lewis A. Drummond made a presidential appointment, naming James P. Cogdill Jr. as visiting professor of church leadership and development. Drummond said he hopes to announce another appointment within the next few weeks.

Current faculty voted the day before the trustee meeting to disassociate themselves from the hiring because of what they say was their token role in the selection process.

"The process itself does not allow for substantial faculty participation in the election of new faculty members. We regard this as a violation of our proper role in conducting the academic affairs of the school as set forth in the accreditation standards of both ATS and SACS," a statement adopted by the faculty says.

Thomas Bland, professor of Christian ethics at the seminary since 1956, said the action "has nothing to do whatsoever with whether we approve or disapprove of these three candidates. The standards of the accrediting agencies in faculty selection call for shared governance and faculty participation."

The faculty action says the "process being followed ... is one which is likely to further to imperil the school's accreditation and future ..."

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Bland, who introduced the motion, said he intended to do "four things: First, we were trying to say we are on a collision course with the accrediting agencies; second, we understand the difficult position of the president; third, we don't like this process; and fourth, with respect to the people being interviewed, we are not saying anything because it would have been presumptuous because we have no voice in the process."

Bland said the only "nay" vote was cast by the school's new academic vice president and faculty dean, L. Russ Bush III, who was elected despite faculty protest March 13.

Trustee James W. Bryant, pastor from Fort Smith, Ark., and chairman of the instruction committee -- which has more of a role in the hiring under the new policy -- said the faculty should give up the hope of having as much control over hiring as it did under Lolley.

"We are not going to return to that way with this board," Bryant said.

Another trustee, Mark Caldwell, a pastor from College Park, Md., said the called meeting "squandered the dwindling resources of the seminary unnecessarily. We spent a lot of money for no good reason at all; we don't need at least two of these people, but hired them because the majority (of trustees) want to make this institution very different."

He estimated the cost of the called meeting was \$12,500; "cheap, since we had only about 18 or 19 trustees attending."

"They are trying to change the complexion of the faculty and are bringing in inerrantists to send a signal to prospective students that they are changing the school. This is the radicalized overreaction of the leadership of the board to change the faculty as soon as possible, even if they have to double pay people," he said.

He said the new faculty members are unnecessary because projections are the school will have only "about 600 students, plus or minus 20" for the fall, compared with 1,046 two years ago.

Bush said the three teachers fill vacancies and are needed for the fall term. He said he hopes two of the three elected professors -- plus the one presidential appointment -- will be available for the fall 1989 term. He declined to name which teachers will be available in the fall and which will start later.

While the teachers are needed, he said, the administration also "is working on the image of the school. We are trying to give the image of good scholarship, plus a more settled campus, so we can appeal to new students."

Chairman Crowley said the hiring of the three conservative professors "was more important symbolically than for the (class) schedule. I think we needed to send a message to the (Southern Baptist) convention that the school has elected conservative faculty members and we needed to do that as soon as possible."

He added he had hoped the called trustee meeting could have been before the middle of July, because "I would have liked to have seen it done even sooner. There has been tremendous resistance to hinder us from getting this faculty in place. We had to move at the earliest possible time. It was important the word go out before October (when the board is scheduled to have its regular meeting)."

Of the new teachers:

McDill, 48, currently is pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Portland, Ore. He also is adjunct professor at Golden Gate North, a satellite campus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

He is a native of Beaumont, Texas, and has a bachelor's degree from East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, and master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Prior to serving in the Northwest, McDill was on the staff of the evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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Reid, 34, currently is assistant professor of New Testament at Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla. Previously, he was lecturer in the Institute for Christian Studies at Southwestern Seminary, where he received master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees.

He is a native of Lincolnton, N.C., and holds a bachelor's degree from Lenoir Rhyne College in Lenoir, N.C., and a master of theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J.

House, 31, currently is assistant professor of Old Testament at Taylor University in Upland, Ind. Previously, he was a professor's assistant at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he earned master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees.

He has a bachelor's degree from Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., and a master's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Columbia.

House, a native of Iola, Kan., also is a member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. He also has been pastor of churches in Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri.

Cogdill, 34, currently is an itinerant evangelist living in Jeffersonville, Ind. Previously, he was pastor of churches in Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky.

He is a native of Marion, Ill. He holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary, two bachelor's degrees from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, and an associate degree from Shawnee Community College in Ullin, Ill.

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Specialists still needed,
Parks assures health workers

N-FMB
By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
7/19/89

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Despite rumors to the contrary, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has no plans to require 70 percent of its force to be preacher missionaries, the president of the agency said July 13.

R. Keith Parks told health-care professionals that a plan encouraging missionaries to shift resources into new areas of ministry has been widely misinterpreted.

The professionals were meeting during a four-day medical symposium at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center held in conjunction with Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival.

After the new strategy was communicated in "shorthand" as the "70-30" plan, Parks said, many Southern Baptists thought 70 percent of the foreign mission force would be required to be preacher missionaries. "That is not the correct interpretation. We never intended that," he added.

Missionaries operating in a foreign nation must perform different tasks than the Christians who are citizens of that nation, Parks explained. Missionaries always must work to free themselves from jobs that local Christians are qualified to perform. In many cases, missionaries must let go of institutions they run so the national Baptist convention can take over.

"We said since we are a mission agency, since we are reaching out beyond what those (national) conventions can do, it seems reasonable that at least 70 percent of our missionary force will spend at least half of its time in reaching out beyond present structures -- in new work, in starting new churches, in evangelistic efforts," Parks said.

Many missionaries who start new churches are specialists in a variety of professional fields. "In the very beginning, I said and others said that some of the best examples of this are people in health-care ministries," Parks said. "Some are in agriculture. Some are in university settings. We are not (necessarily) talking about general evangelists, preacher missionaries.

"We talked in terms of function, and it was heard in terms of vocation."

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Some missionaries' jobs leave them little time for starting new churches, Parks said. Sometimes non-preaching missionaries must use nearly all their time doing their jobs, but they are as vital as preachers to the mission effort, he added.

Parks assured the health-care professionals that hurting people throughout the world need their help, and that the mission board will act biblically to provide healing. "Some of our finest missionaries who are doing some of our most effective work are in health-care ministries, some in institutions and some beyond the confines of an institution," he said.

"About 1.5 billion people do not have access to health care -- that's 30 percent of the world. How could anyone who is Christian say we're going to neglect that part of our ministry and we're just going to do some other things?"

"There has been thus far, and as far as I am able to project there will always be, greater need for people in health-care ministries than we have people ready to go."

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CLC hires staffer
for Capitol office

By Louis Moore

N-LO
(CLC)

Baptist Press
7/19/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--James A. Smith, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives Republican Study Committee, has been hired as the first full-time staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's Washington office.

Smith, 24, will work with members of Congress and other government leaders on legislation and other matters relating to the program assignment of the Christian Life Commission, said Richard D. Land, CLC executive director.

"We have had an office in Washington for many months now, but budget constraints have kept us from placing any staff there on a full-time basis," Land said. "If we are to do the solid, effective job Southern Baptists want us to do in Washington, we simply must have staff there on a full-time basis."

In the 1989-90 budget adopted at the 1989 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, the CLC was one of three agencies of the SBC to receive budget increases. Land said the \$37,000 increase given to the CLC will enable the agency to place a person full-time in Washington.

Smith will be assistant director of the Washington office. "As funds are available, we plan to expand our staff by adding a person with doctoral-level credentials as associate director in charge of the Washington office," Land said.

"In the interim," Land said, "Larry Braidfoot, the CLC's general counsel and the staff person who has most often represented the CLC in Washington in past months, will continue to work closely with the Washington office, as will other Nashville-based staff."

Smith will be hired on a temporary basis, effective Aug. 15. Land said he has notified CLC commissioners he and the commission's executive committee will recommend unanimously the hiring of Smith on a permanent basis at their annual meeting Sept. 12-13.

Smith is a 1987 cum laude graduate of Dallas Baptist University with a degree in political science. During his senior year, he was president both of the DBU student government and Texas executive director of Students for America, a political organization. Since June 1987, he has been director of communications for the Republican Study Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Smith grew up in a number of states while his father, Floyd, was a career military man. He spent his high school years in Fort Worth, Texas, while his father attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The elder Smith currently is pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Red Springs, N.C.

The younger Smith and his wife, Linda, have a six-month-old daughter, Lauren. They are members of Capitol Hill-Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington.

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Jericho participants
meet new realities

By Marty Croll

N-FMB

RIDGECREST, N.C.(BP)--The street lady from Calcutta took her seat in front of 50 to 60 people at a time and confronted them with a way of life many had never needed to consider.

She spun a tale about a raging flood and the resulting famine that brought the death of her family members. She testified to the favor of karma in her life, representing to many in her Southern Baptist audience the closest brush they had experienced with Eastern religion.

The presentation actually was a dramatic portrayal staged by Maxine Bersch of Richmond, Va., during Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center July 8-14.

During a week filled with simulation and confrontation with missions and world needs, participants said they heard and felt things for which they were unprepared -- an aim of planners from five Southern Baptist agencies who started organizing the conference two years ago.

"I'm going back home with the commitment ... to help show others the fields are white," said Susan Jefferson from Bethlehem Baptist Church in Richmond. "There's no need for us (Southern Baptists) to stay among ourselves. We need to go out into the communities of the world."

Jericho '89, also scheduled at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center July 29 through Aug. 4, represents the first time Southern Baptists' Home and Foreign mission boards, along with the convention's Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union, have worked together to provide a unified view of missions in a conference setting.

Varied experiences during the Jericho week repeatedly battered the 1,722 Ridgecrest registrants with an underlying message that they should wake up before it is too late and see the enormity of need in the United States and overseas.

The registrants were reminded of the brashness of Southern Baptists' goal to share the gospel with the whole world by the year 2000. They began to see the sheer impossibility that the gospel will ever occur unless Southern Baptists as individuals, churches and one united denomination change their world view and reorder their priorities.

During evening messages and daytime conferences, participants were told how they had hidden behind complacency resulting from fear, ignorance and even hate, allowing evil forces to take hold in the United States and elsewhere.

"The only reason multitudes have not heard is because they have not been told," said Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, speaking at an evening service. "We just don't care about them. We go on about our business day-in and day-out, and they die and go to hell.

"I do not believe we are doing the will of God when it comes to reaching those different from ourselves both in this country and others."

Parks told a story about a man considering a missions career who listened as Parks outlined the opportunities for witness and the great need in a particular part of the world.

"But isn't it dangerous there?" the man asked. Then he said he didn't think God expected him to take his family to a place of risk.

"Where did he get his idea about what God expects? A Baptist church, I suppose," Parks said. "But he didn't get it from the Bible. We are saying, 'I don't believe God expects this or that of me,' and God is saying, 'Yes, I do.'"

During a theme interpretation, participants in the opening night worship service were asked to consider the "Jericho" walls separating them from other people. "The highest, thickest walls of all aren't built of brick or stone. We build them out of hate and fear, indifference, ignorance," recited three narrators during a mime scene.

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In one conference, participants were told the rise of cults in America is the debt they are paying for failing to meet the spiritual needs around them. In another, they heard that many theologians believe the United States will become the next mission field, as nations more committed to the gospel begin sending missionaries.

As people waited in line for dinner one evening, a man with a grim voice announced over a podium microphone that a famine had been declared in North Carolina. "There's no more food for you," he said.

As the doors to the dining hall swung shut, participants examined their feelings at being denied food. After hearing 10 shocking facts about world hunger, the doors were reopened.

In other impromptu experiences, people faced groups of beggars on the sidewalks and received citations for committing cultural offenses. At lunch one day, a group sat in the middle of the dining hall, eating with their hands. In such situations, conference participants had to face fears of the unknown and bizarre. Such fears, they were told, stymie their compassion for a confused world.

In a short public testimony, Reid Buckelew told how, as a home missions chaplain working with delinquent youth in Milledgeville, Ga., he has become perplexed at attitudes concerning rehabilitation. About the people with whom he ministers, he said: "Some of you don't want them with you, so you give them to me. I keep them for awhile, and then I send them back to you, and you still don't want them. What are we going to do?"

"Unless we change, we will either stay where we are or go backwards. God help us in Bold Mission Thrust."

Jericho also involved about 350 youth, who were grouped by grades into "communities" of about 10 to 12 members. They studied commitment and attended special conferences on God's will, dating, mission projects, witnessing, devotional life and interpersonal relationships. They also joined adults for many activities.

"It's made me want to get closer to God and get my life straight," said Stephanie Gregory, 15, from Morgans Baptist Church in Moneta, Va. "When I go home, things are going to change."

During the week, 130 decisions were recorded, including about 45 people interested in church vocations and 20 in missions. Jericho, billed as a two-year experiment in missions education, is scheduled next year for June 30 through July 6 at Ridgecrest and July 21-27 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

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

World conditions experienced
in AirJericho simulation

By Mary Speidel

F- FMB

Baptist Press
7/19/89

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The student summer missions volunteer was a product of Southern Baptist missions education -- Royal Ambassadors, missions studies and activities -- but when he arrived in Bangladesh, he felt totally unprepared for what he was about to experience.

To prepare people for cultural differences and personal involvement in missions, people need experience as well as information, John Hendrix told participants in experiential missions education activities during Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival held July 8-14 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Hendrix, the Basil Manly Jr. professor of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and a group of students from the seminary led a variety of experience-based activities during the conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission, Foreign Mission, and Sunday School boards, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union.

Activities included "Missions Impossible" activities to raise cultural awareness, a conference on teaching missions through experience at church and AirJericho, a cross-cultural simulation game for all ages.

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Players "traveled" via AirJericho airlines to a destination on a room-sized game board. Upon arrival, they became citizens of that area.

The game's 10 rounds symbolized the remaining decade of Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' goal of sharing the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000, said David Adams, a doctoral student in education at Southern Seminary who designed the game.

People from the nations were assigned to memorize a message, symbolic of the gospel, Adams said. When a nation had mastered the message, citizens were allowed to send a missionary abroad.

Living conditions varied.

In North America, participants sat sipping lemonade and munching on snacks.

Across the game board, another group crowded around a sign marked "India." While citizens tried to memorize their message, peers "died" of starvation. Trash was heaped at their feet.

"Border guards" passed by the nations declaring calamities such as famines, AIDS epidemics and wars.

AirJericho participant Frankie McPherson, a member of Greenforest Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., said her country was so intent on learning the message, people didn't seem to notice when others were dying around them.

The game "reminds me again of the need to be aware of what's happening in our world and that we need to be less self-centered," she said. "The world is a much larger place than the United States. The people over there are people just like the rest of us. They have the same kinds of needs."

AirJericho leader Olivia Wakefield, also a Southern Seminary student, said she thought the game could be used effectively in the missions education program of a local church.

"It can help prospective missionaries and other missions supporters to have an understanding of what a missionary goes through as well as what a national in another country lives with every day," said Wakefield, a former missionary journeyman who worked two years in Japan.

In another activity, youth and adult "Missions Impossible" teams engaged in activities designed to raise cultural awareness. Team members accepted assignments such as issuing "citations" for cultural offenses. For example, citations were issued to some people who licked their ice cream cones, a practice considered rude by Latin Americans.

Members of the Southern Seminary group said they hoped to show participants that experience-based education best prepares Christians for missions service.

"The difficult and scary aspect of experiential learning is you really can't predict what's going to happen. The great thing about it is that it can never fail. Whatever happens is the way life is," said Hendrix.

Jericho 1990 is scheduled June 30 through July 6 at Ridgecrest and July 21-27 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

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

Missions-minded churches
reach beyond themselves

N-55B
By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
7/19/89

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--"Why should we reach out to those people when we have our own needs?" asks a church on mission to itself.

However, a church on mission to share the gospel with the world asks, "How can we make the sacrifices necessary to meet the needs of people who hurt?"

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Helping Southern Baptist churches turn aside from selfish concerns to become more missions-minded was the focus of two conferences held during Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Lewis Myers, vice president for Cooperative Services International at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, led a session on becoming Great Commission churches. Wally Buckner, assistant to the executive vice president at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, outlined 1990-2000 plans for Bold Mission Thrust, the convention's goal to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000 and beyond.

Myers outlined an ideal profile of a missions-minded Southern Baptist church:

- Fifty percent of members understand the implications of Bold Mission Thrust.
- Fifty percent pray at least three times per week for missionaries and missions needs.
- Fifty percent of the church budget is dedicated to needs outside the church, including 30 percent to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget.
- Ten percent of members are involved in a mission project each year.
- Fifty percent of members participate in a missions organization.
- A nurturing team works with young people who have made commitments to missions and other church-related vocations.
- A churchwide missions education project is conducted at least quarterly.

Southern Baptists need more information about missions, to pray more for missions and missionaries, and to experience missions first-hand, said Myers.

Buckner urged church leaders to identify priority needs, develop strategies for meeting needs and draw on denominational resources "to support you in meeting your needs."

Foundation projects for Bold Mission Thrust 1990-95 will be prayer for missions and missionaries and support for the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' financial plan of mission support, said Buckner.

Under the theme of "Share Heritage and Hope," he said, people and churches will be asked to share the hope of the gospel and the heritage of Southern Baptists who celebrate their 150th anniversary in 1995.

A variety of projects are planned, including Opportunity 2000 in 1990-91, in which 2,000 churches will be asked to sponsor a new church.

In 1993-94, churches may choose to participate in a simultaneous six-week ministry project, Hope for Hurting Humanity, to meet community needs.

Evangelism, ministry, discipleship, Bible study and new work will be emphasized through projects and materials, said Buckner.

As Southern Baptists are better informed about missions, they will understand more about what the Bible teaches about personal involvement in missions, Myers said.

"The gospel never has been and never will be primarily informational. The gospel always has been and always will be relational," said Myers. "This puts the mission of the church on Christians who are used by Christ to share the gospel."

Jericho was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, and Sunday School, Home Mission and Foreign Mission boards. Jericho conferences in 1990 will be at Ridgecrest, June 30-July 6, and at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, July 21-27.

Learning called fun, festive
at Jericho missions fair

By Tim Yarbrough

F- (O
(B'hood)

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--A person could have his face painted by a clown, listen to a musician sing on the steps of Pritchell Hall, have his blood pressure checked by a member of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship, talk with a missionary and eat dinner served from a mobile disaster relief unit.

Hands-on experience with Southern Baptist missions work was the focus of the four-hour missions fair held July 11 during Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival sponsored July 8-14 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, and Sunday School, Home Mission and Foreign Mission boards.

Almost 1,700 participants in the Jericho missions fair saw demonstrations of puppet and clown ministries, picked up material about the Cooperative Program unified budget and talked with members of vocational fellowships, such as veterinarians, performing artists and communicators.

Representatives of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, the Southern Baptist Education Commission and Jericho's sponsoring agencies were available to answer questions and distribute material.

Unsure as to what a meal served from a disaster relief unit would include, Jericho participants were surprised to receive salad, meat, vegetables, fruit and cookies.

"They call this a disaster meal?" one woman commented.

Jennette Gregory of Hammond, La., said the demonstration was an effective way to inform others of activities involved in Southern Baptist disaster relief. "It's good for us to be in these lines and understand what goes on when they do these things," she said. "So many people are not conscious of this ministry."

Disaster relief units provide food, but they are designed to minister to the whole person in time of need, said Shirlowe Powell, director of disaster relief for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

"We have moved into areas where some people hadn't eaten in 24 hours," Powell said. "They're hurting, and they want someone to minister to their hurt. That's what it's all about."

By meeting the physical needs of people during a disaster, a door can be opened to sharing the gospel of Christ, Powell said, noting counselors always are on hand to talk, listen and meet needs.

Bob Simpkins, disaster relief and Brotherhood director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said people have made professions of faith in Christ as a result of direct ministry during seven disasters to which Kentucky units have responded since 1985.

Debra Youngbar, a Southern Baptist missionary to Portugal, said the missions fair "was really a family fun time of learning about missions. We have four children, and we all participated together.

"I was not aware Southern Baptists were involved in so many things, such as disaster relief." Youngbar was one of about 125 home and foreign missionaries participating in Jericho.

Betty Hurtt, fair coordinator and librarian from the Woman's Missionary Union, said the missions fair was designed to help people experience the diversity of Southern Baptist missions efforts throughout the world.

"We wanted people to experience missions education in a fun and festive way and to get them interested in missions by showing them the kinds of resources that are available within the Southern Baptist denomination," she said.

The Ridgecrest Jericho conference provided the first comprehensive look at Southern Baptist missions sponsored by five convention agencies. A similar conference will be held July 29-August 4 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Brotherhood Commission

Brother of agency head
dies in Florida July 18

N- CO
(Wmu)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--William Parks Weatherford Sr., 65, of Winter Park, Fla., died Tuesday, July 18, after an extended illness. His sister, Carolyn Weatherford, is national executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, headquartered in Birmingham, Ala.

He was a member of North Park Baptist Church for more than 30 years and was active in various church leadership roles. He was a certified public accountant and had been a partner in an Orlando, Fla., accounting firm before retiring several years ago.

He was a graduate of the University of Florida and a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

Survivors include his wife, Anne Burkhalter Weatherford of Winter Park; a son, William Parks Jr. of Winter Park; two daughters, Ann Eckrich of Hanau, Germany, and Laurie Ducker of Winter Park; three granddaughters; and Miss Weatherford.

The family has designated the Second Century Fund, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010 for memorials.

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Southwestern seminary graduates
175 during summer commencement

N- CO
(SWBTS)

Baptist Press
7/19/89

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--New seminary graduates must take care of themselves, their churches, and their leadership skills as they prepare to enter the ministry, Don Moore said during commencement exercises at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"The graces of God that are supposed to flow from God to you to others will never take place unless you take care of you," Moore, executive director-treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, told graduates during Southwestern's summer commencement July 14.

Southwestern President Russell Dilday conferred 175 degrees on the class, including 110 from the School of Theology, 37 from the School of Religious Education and 18 from the School of Church Music. Twenty-one of those students received doctor's degrees.

In addition, 10 students received the first-ever certificates in Christian ministry. The certificates were awarded by Southwestern under the ethnic leadership development program of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The summer class included students from 21 states and four foreign countries. Among the graduates were 27 home mission volunteers and 26 foreign mission volunteers.

Sharing a collection of practical tips from his "alumnus almanac," Moore said ministers can take care of themselves by looking after their mental, emotional and physical health; spending quality time with family, maintaining a Christ-based motivation and an unflawed spiritual character.

Moore urged graduates who will minister in churches to be patient with church members and leaders to grow a happy church through positive leadership.

"Be a happy leader. Be a planner. Be a goal setter," he said. "And remember, he that sows negativism and criticism will reap the same."

Moore urged graduates to model their leadership style after Christ by equipping the saints and involving them in the work of the church. "We have not been sent as order givers, but as care givers," he said.

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