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March 14, 1990

90-37

Southwestern trustees
OK pro-life statement

By Toby Druin

N-CO
(Texas Std.)

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees went on record as being "pro life" in their spring meeting, March 13, and also accepted President Russell Dilday's explanation of a conversation he had with Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines that had been questioned in a letter sent to all trustees by a West Virginia pastor.

Lee Weaver, a trustee and member of Birchman Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, first asked the trustees to put themselves, the administration and faculty on record as favoring a "pro life" stance, but at the urging of others, including new chairman James T. Draper Jr., deleted the reference to administration and faculty from his motion.

Weaver's motion, approved unanimously, says trustees of the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary "fully support actions and efforts to bring the people of this nation to an understanding that all life is God-given from conception, that man is created in the image of God, and that any act of abortion or the killing of the pre-born is a sin against God and man."

The motion adds, "This seminary wishes to be known as a Christian institution standing for the God-given rights of all humans and therefore takes its stand as pro life and condemns any act of abortion, euthanasia or any other act against God or against man who is created in God's image."

Dilday said he had no problem with the motion but questioned the inclusion of administration and faculty in light of the statement of faith of the seminary already ascribed to by them and approved by the convention. He said later the faculty has taken "strong, biblical positions" on the issue of abortion and all questions raised about their positions have been answered.

Responding to a question, he said pro-life student groups, which have sought to organize on campus, still will not be approved because the faculty has determined that such activity is best carried out in the local church.

"Our policy, administered by the faculty," Dilday said, "is not to replace the local church (with campus organizations). We place emphasis on the local church and encourage the students to be involved in a local church."

"We also take a strong position on organizations that tend to divide the student body or bring confrontation in student groups."

The trustees voted after considerable discussion to accept Dilday's explanation of a conversation he had in Nashville last month with SBC President Vines during a meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, which both were attending.

The conversation was the subject of a letter sent to all the trustees by Steve Brumbelow, a former Texan, now pastor of Cross Lanes Baptist Church in Cross Lanes, WV.

Brumbelow, a member of the Executive Committee, in the letter questioned several statements allegedly made by Dilday in his conversation with Vines as well as remarks Dilday made in a report to the Executive Committee last fall.

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Last September, Brumbelow wrote, Dilday reported to the Executive Committee on a just-completed campus revival at the seminary and told the committee that evangelist Freddie Gage had written a check to distribute the tape of a sermon preached during the revival by Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church, in suburban Atlanta, who was the revival evangelist.

Brumbelow said he had found that no check had been written by Gage.

The pastor wrote that at the Executive Committee meeting in February, Dilday had made "an all out attack" on Vines "and all who are in the conservative movement in the SBC."

He charged that Dilday had said the conservative movement had done more damage to the SBC than had been done in the days of J. Frank Norris, that all the trustees appointed to the seminary board over the last 10 years had been incompetent and unable even to understand a financial statement.

Brumbelow said Dilday had told Vines he would do everything in his power to see that Vestal is elected SBC president in June.

He questioned if the remarks constituted a breach of the covenant agreement entered into by Dilday and the trustees last fall not to intentionally engage in political activity.

At the conclusion of his president's report to the trustees, Dilday said he was "a little surprised" that a personal and impromptu conversation had become "this kind of public event and concern."

He said he and Vines have had many such discussions over the years and the one in question came as a result of remarks Vines made in an interview with a secular reporter during the Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Dilday said he and Vines talked about concerns both had in the convention in "a very healthy discussion, not aware there were others listening in," though he acknowledged others apparently had heard the discussion.

He said Brumbelow's report of the discussion was "not altogether accurate and does not represent the conversation Dr. Vines and I had."

Of the incident with Gage alluded to by Brumbelow, Dilday said Gage had indeed offered to write the check "that very night" of the Vestal sermon, but that Dilday had told him he could do it any time. "Within a few days of that, I brought that report to the Executive Committee" of the revival and its impact on the campus and on Gage.

"The report I brought to the Executive Committee conveyed the promise he made that I took very seriously and was presented in good faith to the committee," he said, though he noted the gift has not yet been received.

Dilday said he had discussed with Vines the process of trustee selection and he had noted his disappointment that trustees were being nominated "more because of loyalty to the (conservative) cause and the party than on the basis of qualifications and ability and expertise that could help that agency fulfill its work."

The president said he mentioned that former SBC President Adrian Rogers had noted mistakes had been made in trustee selection and he realized people had been elected that "he would not have on his church committees," that they were not capable and better trustees would be sought.

Dilday told the Southwestern trustees it was not true he had suggested none of them could read a financial report, and he commended them for their commitment and dedication.

He told Vines, he said, that he would not be involved in political activity but would personally support a candidate "very enthusiastically" and would do everything within the limits of the agreement with the trustees to see that he is elected.

Trustee Max Cadenhead, pastor of First Baptist Church, Naples, Fla., who had asked that "political activity" be included in the items to be discussed, said Vines had said Brumbelow's account was accurate but that listening to Dilday's and Vines' accounts of the discussion might be like hearing two blind men describe an elephant. He was willing to accept Dilday's statement he is not engaging in outward political activity, he said.

Cadenhead said, however, that others have raised questions about the competence of recent trustee selections.

Trustee Don Taylor, a member of Merriman Avenue Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., said two other men had told him of the Dilday-Vines conversation and he would like for Dilday to respond in writing to the trustees and send a copy to Brumbelow. Dilday had earlier said he did not intend to respond to Brumbelow.

"If he (Dilday) did say this, but says, 'I'm sorry,' I will be the first to forgive him," said Taylor.

Trustee John W. Patterson, trustee and director of missions for Peninsula Baptist Association in Newport News, Va., protested having to hear such matters and asked that they be reviewed instead by the officers.

The trustees approved a motion by Kenneth L. Faught, pastor of East Dayton Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio, to receive Dilday's remarks as a "satisfactory response." Faught said the Brumbelow letter "appears to be the product of someone eavesdropping. I believe we are on the way to peace, but it is difficult to achieve if we keep picking the scab off of the sore."

John McNaughton, a trustee and member of University Baptist Church, Fort Worth, said he personally had replied to Brumbelow, who he said he felt was "politically motivated" and that he felt the trustees did not have to do so as a trustee body.

Taylor argued against the Faught motion, insisting Dilday had not answered all the charges, and Jim Bolton, trustee and member of First Baptist Church, Dallas, apparently referring to McNaughton's remarks, said he felt motives were being ascribed to Brumbelow that were not intended.

A substitute motion by Hugo Lindquist, trustee and pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, to refer the matter to the new officers of the board was soundly defeated.

The trustees declined to consider another resolution offered by Steven Watkins of Louisville, Ky., which asked them to deny theological liberalism had ever existed at Southwestern Seminary. Chairman Ken Lilly of Fort Smith, Ark., admonished Watkins that he had not followed proper procedures in getting the resolution before the trustees.

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Draper to lead Southwestern trustees;
board approves \$19 million budget

By Scott Collins

N- (O)
(SWBTS)

Baptist Press
3/14/90

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary elected James T. Draper Jr. as their chairman and approved a record \$19 million operating budget for 1990-91 during their semi-annual meeting in Fort Worth March 12-13.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was elected unanimously and without opposition. He succeeds Ken Lilly a medical doctor from Fort Smith, Ark., who completed a two-year term.

"I don't have any agenda for the seminary except to continue to build bridges and to convey confidence in the faculty and administration," Draper said following his election.

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"I would hope there could be a solidifying. Dr. (Russell) Dilday and I have obviously differed over the years, but we've also been very open with each other," Draper said. "We maintain contact and he pretty well knows where I'm going to come down and I know where he's going to come down and I don't think we're either one threatened by that."

"Hopefully we could show that people who do have differing views can still work together," Draper added.

"I believe our faculty is solid," Draper said. "Our Peace Committee gave them a good report. We've affirmed that committee's report and believe it's accurate. I don't know of anybody who's got their eye on any faculty member or somebody they want to get rid of."

Draper said he hopes to bring stability to the board and "a sense of trust and confidence across the lines."

Draper said conflicts between the board and administration "end up being personality" rather than theological problems. "If someone says something that casts a shadow on me, I regret that, but that's not a theological reason to go to war."

Instead, Draper said he wants the board to focus on the "solid theological base" at Southwestern. "Hopefully that would let us move away from these other things."

Also elected were Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Baptist Church, Houston, vice chairman and T. Bob Davis, a dentist and member of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, secretary.

The \$19-million budget adopted by the board for 1990-91 is the largest in the seminary's history. Because of a 1.89 increase in Cooperative Program gifts for the coming year, Southwestern's total allocation will be 3.1 percent.

Included in the budget is a 3 percent raise for faculty and career staff and continuation of the seminary's policy of a balanced budget.

William Tolar, dean of the seminary's school of theology, was elected vice president for academic affairs and provost, effective Aug. 1. Tolar replaces John Newport who is retiring after 35 years on Southwestern's faculty. Newport will continue at the seminary with the title of special assistant to the president for academic research.

Jay Chance was elected vice president for public affairs. Chance, who holds the same position at California Baptist College in Riverside, is filling the position vacated by John Seelig, who retired in January.

Along with the administrative elections, the board elected new faculty members. Joining the faculty are Steve Lemke and Keith Putt as assistant professors of philosophy of religion; David Trimble, instructor in New Testament; Michael Cox, professor of music theory and composition; and David Music, associate professor of church music.

In other business, the board:

-- Passed resolutions honoring Newport and Seelig for more than 30 years each at Southwestern and voted to name the Banquet Room in the Naylor Student Center for Seelig;

-- Approved the formation of an endowed chair in the school of theology and named it the John W. and Vida M. Cooper Chair of Missions;

-- Granted tenure to Daniel Sanchez, associate professor of missions and Malcolm McDow, associate professor of evangelism;

-- Gave promotions to the following faculty members: C.W. Brister, distinguished professor of pastoral ministry; Al Fasol, professor of preaching; David Kirpatrick, professor of theology;

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McDow, professor of evangelism; Thomas Brisco, associate professor of biblical backgrounds and archaeology; William Tillman, associate professor of Christian ethics; Raymond Higgins, assistant professor of Christian ethics;

Dennis Parrish, assistant professor of communications; Bruce Leafblad, professor of church music and worship; and Janis Watkins, assistant professor of music theory.

-- Approved the continued service of seven faculty and staff members over 65 years old: David Garland, J.W. MacGorman, James McKinney, William Reynolds, Curtis Vaughan, Myrta Ann Garrett and Phillip Sims;

-- Elected directors of the Southwestern Baptist Seminary Development Foundation, Inc.: Trustees Wayne Allen, Bill Crotts, Lee Molloy and Damon Shook, and non-trustees Jenkins Garrett, a Fort Worth attorney, and local businessmen J.T. Luther and Jerry Yowell.

The trustees will meet Oct. 15-16, 1990 for their annual fall meeting.

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BP photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary

Southwestern Trustees elect
Tolar, Chance vice presidents

By Scott Collins

N-(O)
(SWBTS)

Baptist Press
3/14/90

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, elected two new vice presidents during their semi-annual meeting March 12-13.

William Tolar, dean of Southwestern's school of theology, was elected vice president for academic affairs, provost, and Jay Chance, vice president for public affairs at California Baptist College in Riverside, will take the same post at the seminary.

Tolar will assume his new position at the seminary Aug. 1, following the retirement of John Newport, who has been at the school for 35 years.

Tolar came to the seminary's faculty in 1965 and has taught in the area of biblical backgrounds and archaeology. He became dean in 1981.

Before joining Southwestern's faculty, he taught for 10 years at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he holds the bachelor's and master's degrees. Tolar is also a graduate of Southwestern, earning the master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Southwestern in 1987.

Tolar, a native of Jonesboro, La., has been pastor of churches in Texas and New Mexico. Since coming to Southwestern he has served as interim in several Southern Baptist churches, including Dauphin Way church in Mobile, Ala., where he currently serves.

He has studied and lectured in 52 countries on five continents, including 34 trips to Israel as a lecturer. In addition, Tolar has contributed to several Southern Baptist and other Christian publications.

Tolar and his wife, Floye, have two children, William and Lora Mae.

As vice president for academic affairs and provost he will guide the curriculum and faculty in the seminary's three schools of theology, religious education and church music.

Chance has served at CBC since 1980, when he joined the college's staff after four years with the Southern Rural Development Center of Mississippi State University, Starkville. Prior to that, he was a supervisor and instructor with East Mississippi Junior College in Scooba.

For 11 years, Chance was national director of the Royal Ambassadors program of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

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At CBC, Chance was responsible for establishing the Office of Public Affairs, including the school's public information center, records and research and alumni.

He coordinated CBC's first-ever comprehensive long-range plan and directed two capital fund-raising campaigns, raising more than \$12 million for the college.

Chance has been on the SBC's Committee on Boards and has served as an interim pastor at eight Southern Baptist churches.

Active in the Riverside community, Chance has been on two City Council commissions and on the Downtown Rotary Board. He served on Riverside's "Year 2000 Strategic Planning" committee and is currently the governor's appointee on the California Area XII Board on Development Disabilities.

Chance's wife, Gailya, is a former dean at Riverside Community College. They have two sons, Jay and Jeff.

As vice president of public affairs at Southwestern, Chance will oversee the seminary's public relations, development and alumni programs.

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Hannibal-LaGrange trustees accept
\$4.15 million insurance settlement

By Trennis Henderson

N-CO
(MO)

Baptist Press
3/14/90

HANNIBAL, Mo. (BP)--Trustees of Hannibal-LaGrange College have agreed to accept a \$4.15 million insurance settlement from Preferred Risk Insurance Co.

The payment is for the loss of the Missouri Baptist school's administration building, auditorium, cafeteria, gymnasium and contents destroyed in a campus fire last June.

College President Paul Brown voiced mixed emotions about the final settlement. He affirmed that the insurance payment far exceeded initial estimates immediately following the fire, when college officials feared the coverage would provide only about \$2.3 million -- the policy's stated value of the destroyed facilities.

He explained, however, that further study of the insurance policy revealed that the destroyed buildings actually were covered for losses of up to \$7 million -- the amount for which the total campus was insured. Despite initial concerns, he added, "for this particular loss, we were adequately insured."

The result of that discovery, Brown continued, was that in-depth negotiations had to be conducted between the college and the insurance company to determine the actual amount of loss. The school hired the Ibur Group, loss management consultants from St. Louis, to negotiate with Preferred Risk on the college's behalf.

Brown said the school's new cafeteria/classroom building completed last December cost about \$1.3 million, including equipment, and that the cost of a proposed administration building and related equipment is \$3.6 million, for a total of \$4.9 million.

"I had expected the settlement to be sufficient to pay for the new cafeteria/classroom building and the proposed new administration building," Brown acknowledged. But he noted the trustees "felt the college should accept this settlement offer and get on with other matters."

Despite hoping for a higher settlement, Brown said, "Our trustees did a beautiful job of dealing in a positive way with a complex issue." One benefit of completing the settlement is the opportunity for HLG to begin drawing interest on the money received, he said.

In addition to the cafeteria/classroom building and administration building, restoration efforts also include plans for a \$2.7 million sports complex. "We had planned to build this sports complex even before the fire occurred," Brown pointed out. "Once the fire occurred, it became even more urgent."

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The cost of the sports complex did not figure into the insurance settlement, he said. Funds for that project are being raised through a one-time fund-raising campaign approved last July by the Missouri Baptist Convention executive board. Brown reported that gifts and pledges to that effort total about \$1 million, including more than \$380,000 from trustees and about \$280,000 from Missouri Baptist churches.

With the \$800,000 difference between the other construction projects and the insurance settlement, Brown said he hopes the current fund-raising effort is successful enough to provide that additional \$800,000 that would be applied to the cost of the administration building. If sufficient funds are not available for both projects, he said, other options will be explored by the trustees and presented to the convention's executive board and its inter-agency relations committee.

Current plans call for the fund-raising effort to conclude this summer, followed by construction of the administration building and sports complex.

When the proposed projects are completed, the new facilities will be larger and nicer than those destroyed in the fire, Brown said. Despite the improvements, however, immediate plans do not call for replacing the destroyed auditorium. The new gymnasium will double as an auditorium in the immediate future, he said.

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Baptist aid to Eastern Europe
centers on evangelism, Bibles

By Mike Creswell

N-FMB

Baptist Press
3/14/90

BUDAPEST, Hungary (BP)--The \$1 million appropriation approved by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for work in Eastern Europe will be used mainly for direct evangelism, evangelistic materials and Bibles.

Top board administrators worked out general outlines of the aid program during a two-day meeting in early March in Budapest, Hungary, with Baptist representatives from seven Eastern European countries. Specifics of the aid will be completed by Southern Baptist representatives in the months ahead as they consult with Baptist leaders.

The board also is exploring ways to use additional funds in Eastern Europe donated by Southern Baptists for hunger relief. That includes a plan announced earlier for \$1 million in hunger and medical assistance in Romania.

The immediate financial help for evangelism will be followed, where possible, by sending Southern Baptist career and short-term personnel, particularly workers who already speak an Eastern European language. More than \$500,000 in additional needs were identified for later response as funds become available, said Keith Parker, the board's director for Europe.

"Many opportunities for short-term service will be developed in coming months, including needs for construction teams, partnership missions teams to do evangelism and others," said Parker.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks was accompanied to the Budapest meeting by several members of the agency's Global Strategy Group, which oversees mission work in 117 countries, and administrators and representatives involved with work in Eastern Europe.

The meeting was motivated by the "extraordinary situation" that has developed in Eastern Europe in recent months, Parks said. He added that he wants to send a clear signal to Southern Baptists that the Foreign Mission Board is moving as quickly as possible to respond to new evangelistic opportunities in the region.

Southern Baptist help in Eastern Europe, Parks said, will be based on biblical principles and focused on evangelism that results in churches.

Eastern European Baptist leaders said they have been flooded with groups who want to help in one way or another, but that many have been parachurch organizations associated with beliefs at odds with Baptist doctrines.

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Parks cautioned that even Southern Baptist churches and groups eager to respond could wind up being more of a burden than a help if their efforts are not carefully coordinated through the mission board and national Baptist organizations in Eastern Europe.

Most Eastern European Baptist leaders said they now have unprecedented freedom to spread their faith. But years of repressive government controls have left them with few Bibles and almost no evangelistic materials to distribute. In response, board administrators earmarked more than \$200,000 for Bibles throughout the region. Another \$145,000 will be used for evangelistic tracts and other materials.

Bibles continue to be the biggest need in the Soviet Union, where editions in 50 languages are needed, said Gregori Komendant, newly elected president of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists there. "Our priority No. 1 is increasing religious literature," he said.

Computerized publishing systems and printing presses will be provided to Baptists in several countries so they can publish evangelistic and training materials more easily. In Hungary, preliminary plans call for a Southern Baptist missionary who can help train Baptists to do their own publishing.

The government still handles most of the printing in Hungary, and acquiring printed materials is difficult for church groups or individuals, said Janos Viczian, president of the Baptist Union of Hungary.

Paper for printing evangelistic materials will be provided to Baptists in Poland, to whom a Southern Baptist donor gave typesetting equipment last year.

Media needs also will be addressed in the evangelistic aid program, with Christian films and projectors or video equipment designated for several countries. Included are funds for public-address systems to aid in street evangelism in the Soviet Union, videocassette players for an evangelistic outreach program in East Germany, and films and video equipment for Poland.

Soviet Baptists will get films on the life of Jesus and film projectors. Such films are so popular now in the Soviet Union that people often must be turned away from screenings, said Baptist leader Alexei Bichkov.

A tent accommodating 900 people for evangelistic crusades will be provided to Baptists in East Germany, where tent revivals are effective.

One by-product of the Budapest meeting and other recent strategy sessions is that Eastern European Baptist leaders have begun planning ways they can cooperate on projects. Soviet and Romanian Baptists discussed working together on a seminary program, while Yugoslavian Baptists offered to print materials at their two printing houses for Baptists in other countries.

A committee of Foreign Mission Board trustees also is studying strategy for Europe and is expected to make a progress report at the board's April meeting.

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Korean Baptist principal
released from prison

By Michael Chute

N-FMB

Baptist Press
3/14/90

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)--The principal of a Korean Baptist church kindergarten devastated by fire last October has been released from a maximum-security prison on the outskirts of Seoul, South Korea.

Ohm Hyun Suk, who took personal responsibility for the fire that killed six children although she was not present at the time, was freed by a Seoul judge. No formal charges were filed against Ohm, who will be on parole for three years. She is the wife of Han Myung Guk (David Han), pastor of Seoul Memorial Baptist Church, which sponsored the 150-student kindergarten.

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"The judge probably saw the church was trying to provide for the families of the children who were killed or injured in the fire," said Southern Baptist missionary Betty Jane Hunt. "That probably helped gain her release."

Missionaries also are seeking assistance from the United States in treating the more seriously burned among 23 children injured in the Oct. 16 blaze.

"We're working to see if we can't get the worst case" to a U.S. Baptist hospital, said missionary Charles Sands of Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan. "If they could take one patient and do rehabilitative surgery, it would be a tremendous help for others to see the church is doing all it can to help make these kids' lives a little easier."

Four children injured in the blaze remain hospitalized, and three others continue to receive medical treatment as outpatients. Injuries to three of the children required amputation of one hand each.

The church has paid nearly \$50,000 to the families of the six children killed in the fire that swept through the church's educational building. Officials have yet to determine its cause.

Ohm turned herself in to authorities the night of the fire after returning with her husband from a Christian retreat in another province. She was jailed in the police station for 10 days, then moved to the prison to await trial.

"In Oriental tradition, somebody had to be responsible," said missionary Virgil Cooper, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in South Korea. "She's borne the responsibility for the whole thing. (Jail) was as much for her protection from irate parents as anything else."

Demonstrations outside the church compound by parents of fire victims forced the 1,500-member congregation to move its services to a nearby school playground. Later the congregation was able to return to worship in its building.

The church educational building sustained little structural damage but is not usable because of extensive smoke damage. The church has no plans to reopen the kindergarten.

The Baptist congregation pays monthly hospital bills for the seven children still receiving medical care, church officials said. In addition, the church pays about \$450 a month to each child's family for living expenses.

The church was forced to secure bank loans to meet mounting debts related to the tragedy, although \$350,000 has been donated by church members, missionaries and other Korean Baptist churches. Pastor Han sold his house and moved the family into living quarters in the church.

"The church has paid off the compensations to the families of children who died, but they really haven't begun to work on the ones who are going to need rehabilitative surgery," said Sands.

The church has lost about 100 members since the fire because of negative publicity and financial debt. But nearly that many people have joined the church in the last three months, church leaders reported.

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Ohm left Christian
mark on Korean prison

By Michael Chute

F-FMB

Baptist Press
3/14/90

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)--Handcuffed with her arms crisscrossed over her chest, Ohm Hyun Suk heard the heavy steel doors of Seoul Prison slam behind her, shutting off the world she knew.

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Jailed after a fire devastated the Baptist church kindergarten she supervised, Ohm crossed into another world -- a world of murder, drugs, treason. In prison she was not a pastor's wife, or a mother of three children, or a kindergarten principal. She was just like everyone else: a common criminal.

She was alone, cold and afraid.

But instead of giving up, Ohm resolved to make the prison her place. By the time she was released three months later, more than 200 women had professed faith in Christ through her testimony. She had trained many of them to share their faith. Prison officials lamented her release because of the positive influence her life had on the other prisoners.

Reflecting on the experience, Ohm said she believes God gave her the opportunity.

When her husband, Han Myung Guk (David Han), became pastor of Seoul Memorial Baptist Church, Ohm set out to rebuild its kindergarten into a model program with six teachers and 150 students. She taught Bible to the students' mothers, and 30 accepted Christ as savior and began to share their faith.

Dreaming of the future, she told her husband that one day she would like to work in prisons. Just a week later her words became prophetic. The kindergarten caught fire Oct. 16, killing six children and injuring 23 others while the couple was out of town at a Christian retreat.

Rushing back to Seoul, the two agreed someone would have to take the blame. In Oriental tradition, that person likely would go to jail. As pastor, Han declared he would accept the consequences, but Ohm wouldn't hear of it.

"I'm the responsible person, and I'll take the punishment," she said. "You take care of the family and the church. It's right that I do this." Back in Seoul that night, Ohm turned herself in at a police station. She carried only her Bible. Because she accepted full responsibility for the fire, the police released two kindergarten teachers they were holding.

Ten days later, she was transferred to a cell in Seoul Prison. She was surrounded by seven other women. None were Christians.

"They were women with very frightening looking faces," Ohm recalled. One woman had killed her baby. Another was a drug addict. Another was a thief. One had sold women into slavery. Still another was an accused traitor.

Ohm soon met Im Soo Kyoung, who made headlines last summer when she traveled illegally to North Korea to attend an international pro-communist student rally.

Ohm wanted to tell Im about Christ but became ill before getting the chance. The prison food wasn't very good, and she couldn't eat much. With little heat in the dead of winter, her feet were frostbitten.

When she became too sick to speak, all she could think to do was embroider Acts 16:31 on her towel: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." She draped it around her shoulders, wearing the Bible verse on her back.

But she couldn't evangelize in prison, a guard told her. He took away the towel and tried to rip it, but it wouldn't tear. He threatened to put Ohm into solitary confinement, but didn't. She began to get well.

The drug addict, Pyon Ok Nan, frightened Ohm the most. But Ohm forced herself to look straight at Pyon, smile and be friendly. Ohm always read her Bible, prayed or talked about Christ to the other women. She read the New Testament through 25 times. These actions irritated Pyon so much that she later admitted she wanted to hit the Christian woman.

But Pyon developed a skin rash all over her body. She scratched so much that after 11 days her body was covered with bloody sores.

"One night I woke up and went to her, and she was also awake," Ohm remembered. "I told her that God loved her and witnessed to her. She broke down and cried. She prayed to accept Jesus as her savior."

The rash was gone by morning, Ohm said. So were the sores. Pyon was so happy she ran to the exercise yard and yelled to all the women there: "God lives! Believe in the Lord!"

Back in the cell, Ohm and Pyon sang hymns Ohm had taught her cell mates. The others joined in. Soon inmates in other cells sang along.

From that time on, things began to change for Ohm. Guards who had treated her harshly softened their approach. They allowed Ohm to have Bible studies and worship services in her cell. More than 30 women attended this "church."

"We cried, and we repented," said Ohm of their worship. "We even thought those times were a little bit like heaven."

Ohm's cell was like a revolving door; women came and went. High inmate turnover gave her constant opportunities to share her faith and reach many women, even an uncontrollable one she said God freed from demonic possession. Her reputation spread. The warden even made a special request of her -- to visit Kang Young Li, who had been on death row three years for killing her husband. The death threat hanging over Kang had caused a deep depression.

Ohm discovered that a Korean Baptist pastor had visited Kang earlier, and she had accepted Christ. Ohm taught her "Peace with God," a gospel tract she had memorized. Kang still does not know when she will die but was encouraged by her new friend and told her she wanted to spend what time she has left as a witness for God. Ironically, Kang now shares her faith with Im Soo Kyoung, the one Ohm had wanted to contact before becoming sick.

Just as abruptly as Ohm was placed in jail, she was released. Prison officials simply told her she was paroled and could leave. A hasty call to her pastor husband brought more than 100 church members to the prison gates to celebrate her release.

She had lost a lot of weight and had some frostbitten toes, but was in relatively good condition. She had survived the world of Seoul Prison, and left her mark on it.

Back in her own world, the tragic consequences of the kindergarten fire had not changed. Children had died, others were seriously burned and the kindergarten was closed. Tears well up in Ohm's eyes when she talks about it.

But the prison experience has changed her forever. God has given her a new commitment and opportunity, she said. She wants to be South Korea's first woman chaplain to women prisoners.

"The door is opened to me to witness to women prisoners through this experience," Ohm said. "I want to have a ministry going into other prisons around the country and working with women prisoners."

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Testing shows interest
in customized growth plan

By Frank Wm. White

N-SSB
Baptist Press
3/14/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Immediate numerical growth has been the result in all 19 Southern Baptist churches participating in a pretest project for Great Commission Breakthrough, a customized growth plan to be offered to 42,000 churches and missions between 1992 and 1995.

A three-day training event -- the focal point of the plan -- will not be conducted in any of the pretest churches until mid-April. Consultants have expressed surprise at the immediate results, including an enrollment increase of 100 in one church, from their meetings with pastors and church leaders.

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Alan Tungett, Earl Waldrup and Jerri Herring of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday school division presented a first report of their work to the Great Commission Breakthrough task force in early March.

The task force will complete plans for the campaign and conduct a pilot between October 1990 and September 1991. The Sunday school division will train of 7,000 Breakthrough specialists to conduct the customized church training.

The pastor of each church and a Breakthrough specialist will plan the training to help the church use its Sunday school to stimulate growth.

The specialists are expected to work with each church for up to a year with preliminary planning, a three-day training event and follow-up evaluations.

Waldrup pointed out that each of the nine churches with which he is working had baptized between one and three people in the past year.

Herring has metropolitan, black and transitional community congregations among the six churches she is pretesting. Because of the different needs of the churches, work has begun with each church at a different point, she said.

"Every church has said if I've got another program to sell them, they don't want it. They want help getting their churches moving," Herring said.

Tungett said the plan is different from other Sunday school division work because it involves consultants in a consulting role with individual churches rather than as conference leaders with groups from several churches.

Waldrup said testing already has shown the importance of a customized approach. "That's what makes this plan unique," he said.

Harry Piland, Sunday school division director, first developed the idea of the Great Commission Breakthrough plan last year as a way to stimulate church growth.

He cited the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention report of baptisms, noting that 34,000 churches baptized 25 or fewer people while 22,000 of those baptized five people or fewer. A plan to involve the Sunday school in evangelism and church growth is essential to changing those statistics, he said.

Piland will work as a specialist with churches during the 1992-95 project, he said, noting, "I'd rather be doing that than anything I could be doing."

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Soviet minister hopes
for heartfelt 'perestroika'

By Priya P. Kari

F-60
(SBTS)

Baptist Press
3/14/90

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--While the Soviet Union's political and economic system undergoes restructuring, a Soviet Baptist minister hopes his nation will experience a "perestroika of the heart."

Mikhael Aleksei Orlov, who is auditing classes this spring at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., believes the heart rather than the mind is the key to spiritual renewal. "God speaks to the heart, while the philosophies of the world speak to the mind," he said. "The way in which we respond to him is with the heart."

Still grappling with English, Orlov enjoys meeting people who wear "the smile of the heart." Such a smile, he said, begins at the mouth and lights up the eyes, signifying friendship, warmth and acceptance.

Orlov is a deacon at Evangelical Christian Baptist Church in Leningrad. He is bivocational, working as an auto body mechanic during the week and preaching and leading in evangelistic work among the youth of his community on weekends.

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His dream is to bring more young people into the church and explain to them the intricacies of authentic "heart religion." To realize this goal, Orlov completed a series of correspondence courses offered by a Bible institute in Moscow, with an emphasis on pastoral care.

When a Baptist layman from San Antonio, Texas, invited Orlov to the United States and Southern Seminary, Orlov and his wife, Vera, realized God was widening Orlov's vision. Despite a lack of fluency in English, he took a leap of faith and came to the United States in January, armed with a suitcase and a Russian-to-English Bible.

At Southern Seminary, Orlov tapes every lecture and, with the help of translators and teachers, later deciphers their intent. His desire to learn transcends barriers, both linguistic and cultural.

While he studies in Louisville, Mrs. Orlov and their three children remain in Leningrad. Orlov speaks fondly of his family and longs to be reunited with them soon.

Orlov believes Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of glasnost, openness has fostered a climate of freedom in which "the gospel can be proclaimed and people's eyes opened." As a result, people can go to church, read their Bibles and say, "Praise the Lord," without fear, he said.

Orlov is seeking ways to glean spiritual insights from natural events, he said. While he commends the political and economic restructuring as a result of perestroika or rebuilding, he also emphasizes the need for "spiritual perestroika."

He said he welcomes the idea of Baptist evangelization of Russia. His concern is that a true message from God should be spoken, without any desire for self-glorification.

His advice to Baptist preachers visiting in the Soviet Union is to steer away from politics and be true representatives of Jesus. "Do not preach how wonderful we are. Confront us with the Word of God. And do not tell silly stories in church," he said. Baptists also can help churches in the Soviet Union by raising fervent prayers on their behalf, sending literature and supporting ministries in hospitals and orphanages, he added.

Orlov had no qualms about coming to America because, as the country's currency proclaims, Americans are a people who trust in God, he explained. Pointing out that in Russian his first name means "bear," while his last name means "eagle," Orlov's said his hope is to be one "bridge of love" between Russia and the United States.

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Priya P. Kari is a communications intern at Southern Seminary.
BP photo available upon request from Southern Seminary

Forbes urges ministers
to 'take time for pain'

By Pat Cole

N-CO
(SBTS)

Baptist Press
3/14/90

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Christian ministers must "take time for the pain" of people around them if they are to be imitators of Jesus, stressed James Forbes, senior minister at Riverside Church in New York City. Forbes said in an address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary that the message of today's culture is that "life is too fast and demands too numerous to be held up with pain." Yet he noted this attitude stands in stark contrast to Jesus' compassion for hurting people.

Jesus was not so busy "preaching the Kingdom" that he lacked the "time to stop and take care of pain," he said.

Forbes, a former professor of preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York, delivered the E.Y. Mullins Lectures at the Louisville, Ky., school March 6-9. The lecture series was held in conjunction with the seminary's fifth National Conference on Biblical Preaching.

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Pain serves a useful purpose by "acting as an alarm system" that indicates "something isn't right," Forbes said. Pain can help people "back away from the offending element" so they can have the "prospect for renewal and recovery," he said. Yet he added many people never admit their pain, because it goes against society's perception that people are not supposed to experience pain.

Forbes also said ministers have the responsibility to preach a "full gospel" that proclaims both "the abundant life and liberation."

Preachers, he emphasized, cannot preach just the abundant life without "addressing the oppressive elements that rob us of the freedom to enter into the abundant life."

Abundance "must be defined in such a way" that people are called to "do something about social, economic and political realities," he said.

The abundant life and liberation cannot be separated, said Forbes, noting that Jesus never separated them.

In addition to proclaiming liberation, preachers need to be set free from their own concerns for security, he said: "My own security and the call to a vocation of setting folks free rub against each other. When the friction develops, you need to develop great wrath against the oppressor."

Preachers too often cannot be set free because they spend too much time trying to develop a "power base," Forbes observed.

"You can't be a leader as long as you jealousy guard your power base, because probably the power base upon which you stand is an obstruction to the liberty you are called to bring," he explained.

Forbes also reminded preachers that congregations play a key role in the "preaching event." Many times, preachers treat listeners as if they are "primarily the receptacles of the great wisdom" that is being offered, he said.

"The preaching event is intended as an occasion for both hearing and responding to the living Word of God," he said. "We who shape the process are required to design it with the clear expectation of Spirit-inspired response."

Preachers are also to be "facilitators of freedom of speech" among the worshipers, he said. "The role of the preacher is to engage the congregation until they are free to respond to the word which has been said and even at points engage in celebration."

Forbes, however, noted that silence is often the "best response" a congregation can give to a sermon. "The best sermons I preach are not the ones where I get a standing ovation," he said.

Missionary associate role
now open to more Baptists

By Donald D. Martin

N-FMB

Baptist Press
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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Prospective missionaries have responded positively to a new policy that opens Southern Baptists' foreign missionary associate program to a larger group.

"The response to the changes from a number of prospective missionaries was almost immediate," said Bill Morgan, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Board's missionary enlistment department. "They've all been pleased with the changes."

The qualification changes, approved by board trustees Feb. 15, lower the minimum age for missionary associates to 24 and allow vocational skills and experience to supplant formal education in some cases.

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They also allow the spouse of a person with the primary missionary assignment -- for example, the wife of a preacher or the husband of a nurse -- to qualify for service without formal education beyond high school when other requirements are met. A substitution of experience for education also may be allowed in some primary assignments, such as mission office secretaries, builders or even pastors who have many years of experience but lack the normally required master of divinity degree.

Missionary associates work on four-year, renewable terms. The missionary associate program seeks people with existing skills for limited-term assignments in foreign missions, whereas the career missionary program emphasizes preparation for work that spans a person's career.

In the past, some couples questioned the associate program's educational qualifications, which required husband and wife to have some college training, said Tim Brendle, associate vice president for mission personnel.

"We have a number of prospects well into their careers who have said, 'I have my degrees and my years of ministry experience, but my wife and I chose early on that she would fill a homemaker role,'" Brendle said. These couples felt penalized when applying for missionary service, he added.

The new qualifications allow experience to substitute for formal education when possible. That means a pastor's wife with a high school diploma and demonstrated leadership ability could qualify without further education.

Since it began in 1961, the missionary associate program has moved closer and closer to the career missionary program's qualifications. The two became so similar that administrators began questioning the need for two categories.

"We decided it was time to make a greater separation between the career and associate missionary program," Brendle said. "We wanted to trade off necessary skills and experience in lieu of a formal education. The (main) question is: Can they do the job?"

The Foreign Mission Board has not compromised its standards for the associate position, Brendle stressed.

"We're not lowering any standards. We're recognizing that quality skills are gained in more than one way," he said. "We're also recognizing that some families choose a non-professional path in terms of the wife's role in the family. These women don't feel the need to follow a degree program and yet are very effective leaders with good self-images. We're trying to give more Southern Baptists an opportunity for involvement in missions."

Missionary associates often work with churches overseas that need missionary support for a limited time. For example, an English-speaking congregation may need a pastor with his own support. In a few years, the church should be strong enough to support its own pastor, but for a time it needs help. A missionary associate is ideal for this role because associates work on four-year terms.

In some places visa restrictions limit the time a missionary can work in the country. Again, the associate's four-year term provides flexibility.

While missionary associates eventually may transfer to career service if they meet the qualifications, many "prospective missionary candidates may not see their calling as a career calling," added Brendle.

"People have said to us they want to tithe their working life. These changes will allow a qualified person to tithe, say, 10 or 20 percent of their career on the mission field."

South African Baptist
cites church influence

By Pat Cole

F- (CO
(SBTS)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--South African churches have "played a leading role" in persuading the nation's government to rethink its policy of apartheid, claimed a South African Baptist minister.

Ivor Jenkins, a visiting scholar at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said Christians who have been pushing for an end to apartheid are convinced of the need for both prayer and action to effect change.

"Those who were praying for a change of heart in the government not only prayed, but discovered that we had to take non-violent, direct action," said Jenkins, a staff member of Koinonia, a Christian organization that seeks racial reconciliation in South Africa. The 1985 Southern Seminary graduate joined the organization in 1986 shortly after it was founded.

Black church leaders "filled in the gaps" of leadership in the anti-apartheid movement after the government began jailing black political leaders, said Jenkins. Many white churches from various denominations have fought apartheid, he added, noting most white congregations have opted for a stance of neutrality.

In recent weeks, public facilities in South Africa have been integrated, black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela has been freed from prison and the government and anti-apartheid activists are talking about negotiations that would steer the government toward majority rule.

Last fall, Jenkins helped lead a "bus defiance" campaign in Pretoria that prompted death threats that sent him and his family into hiding for several days.

"Though in the eyes of the South African law we were wrong, there was no question that what we were doing was right and just in the eyes of God," said Jenkins. His "Christian convictions" motivated his participation, he said, adding that those convictions will allow him to continue his involvement. "I don't think that Christ ever said that bearing his cross will be easy," he noted.

Jenkins believes a more subtle Christian influence also has aided the campaign to end apartheid. The conservative Reformed upbringing of South African President F.W. De Klerk instilled in him a "morality that was challenged," he said.

De Klerk's moral convictions "were challenged when he started to discover the realities of South Africa," Jenkins said, pointing out the nation's segregated lifestyle shields many whites from the plight of blacks.

Although people have been working to end apartheid, Jenkins maintained the changes in South Africa have been precipitated by a "supernatural intervention." The expeditious moves by the government were "humanly impossible," he explained.

Jenkins is optimistic that the remaining apartheid laws will be lifted and that negotiations will begin that will move the nation toward establishing a fully democratic society.

In this process, Jenkins wants South Africans to discover that their nation can be "a very important model of reconciliation, cooperation and hope for the world."

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BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southern Seminary

The Commission magazine
wins national photo award

AMB 4

COLUMBIA, Mo. (BP)--The Commission magazine, the Southern Baptist journal of foreign missions, received a third-place award for best use of photography by a magazine in the 47th annual Pictures of the Year competition.

National Geographic placed first, and International Wildlife placed second in the contest, sponsored by the University of Missouri School of Journalism and the National Press Photographers Association. Other publications recognized included National Wildlife and The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Photographer Joanna Pinneo, former Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff member, won third place in the magazine portrait category and an award of excellence for photographs of AIDS victims she took for the board. Pinneo is joining the photographic staff of U.S. News and World Report.

More than 1,600 photographers and editors entered the Pictures of the Year competition, judged by photographers and editors from newspapers, national magazines and international news photo services. Judges selected winners from 30,000 newspaper and magazine photographs.

"The Commission is to be congratulated," said Julie Ostrem, coordinator of the competition. "We want to recognize excellence in photojournalism, and we honor those that portray that excellence. The Commission is a very fine publication. They do well every year."

"The significance of the award is that a Christian magazine can compete for honors among the finest secular publications," said Leland Webb, editor of The Commission. "The subject of The Commission, foreign missions, deserves the best quality presentation possible."