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Southwestern Seminary officials  
break ground for Bowld Library

*F-C [signature]*

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Officials at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, with help from philanthropist Kathryn Sullivan Bowld, broke ground for a new \$2.5 million music library to be built at the school.

The Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library is being named for Bowld, a music graduate from the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary. She first came to Southwestern in 1930 to study music and wanted to be an "evangelistic pianist."

Wearing a hardhat, Bowld took the ceremonial first shovel of dirt to break ground on the new site. She was joined by Southwestern President Russell Dilday; James McKinney, dean of the school of church music; and James T. Draper Jr., chairman of the seminary's board of trustees.

Fort Worth mayor Bob Bolen told those attending the ceremony the facility would be a "tremendous addition to the city."

Bowld received a degree in organ in 1933 and returned to Southwestern nearly 50 years later to work on a master of music in choral conducting degree.

She was 78 when she received the degree, Bowld is also a graduate of The College of the Ozarks in Arkansas, where she received the bachelor of arts degree and has studied at Lambuth College and Union University. In 1989, Union University awarded her the doctor of humanities degree.

When the 30,000 square-foot building is completed, Southwestern will have one of the most up-to-date music libraries in the United States.

The library will provide storage for printed and recorded music, as well as reference materials. There will be seminary rooms, a piano and browsing room, master and doctoral carrels, reading areas, listening areas and necessary support space.

The current music library is housed in the basement of Cowden Hall, location of the school of church music.

The library is the first phase in a three-phase renovation and construction program. Second phase in the project will be the complete renovation of Cowden Hall and the last phase will be the addition of a music education facility.

Funding for the new facility came from alumni and friends of Southwestern, along with grants from the Amon C. Carter Foundation of Fort Worth and The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, Inc., of Tulsa, Okla.

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Evangelical leaders  
meet with President

By Tom Strode

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A group of 18 evangelical leaders, including Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman and Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard Land, met with President George Bush on Oct. 30 to express concern about the Bush administration's recent stands on key moral issues.

The meeting at the White House was held in response to requests from Land and Robert Dugan, director of the National Association of Evangelicals' Office of Public Affairs. Participants in the meeting told Bush evangelicals are disappointed by recent administration actions and want greater sensitivity to their values.

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"The meeting was amiable but very forthright. We were able to freely express our concerns," Chapman said.

"It was better than I had expected, but worse than I had hoped," Land said. "The President didn't agree to do everything we wanted. We were given assurances that he would consider our requests.

"We did get to articulate our concerns and the heart behind those concerns. We told him that there is serious erosion in his support among evangelicals. We shared with him the 'flash points' that have caused disappointment, confusion and concern."

Land said he told Bush of three points of concern:

-- Invitations to homosexual rights activists to attend bill-signing ceremonies at the White House;

-- The administration's failure to seek restrictions on controversial grants given by the National Endowment for the Arts;

-- The need for stronger and more visible leadership from the president on the abortion issue.

"I think probably it was the most frank exchange with the president of the United States in my 12 years in Washington, D.C., in terms of laying out some moral issues that were critical for the nation as well as for his relationship to the evangelical community," Dugan said.

Several members of the evangelical contingent that met with Bush said prior to the meeting the invitations to homosexuals had caused more distress among those they represented than any other action by the Bush administration. Homosexual activists first were invited to the White House when the President signed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act in April. Members of the homosexual rights lobby again were invited when the Americans With Disabilities Act was signed in July. In both cases, homosexual groups publicized the invitations and sought to use them for political advantage.

In addition to expressing displeasure about such invitations, the group asked President Bush to issue an executive order affirming the traditional family and opposing homosexual rights. Land said members of the group expressed their intention to monitor the administration's response to this and other requests. "We certainly will be pursuing this matter with the administration until we receive a satisfactory response," Land said.

Evangelical concern about NEA funding of controversial art projects focused on grants for such works as a crucifix submerged in urine, homo-erotic sado-masochistic photographs and sexually explicit stage shows.

The evangelicals expressed their displeasure over the reauthorization of NEA funding without strict guidelines and asked Bush to appoint persons sympathetic to Evangelical concerns to openings on the National Council for the Arts, the governing body of the NEA.

Dugan called for the resignation of NEA Director John Frohnmayer, who has refused consistently to accept meaningful congressional guidelines for future NEA grants.

The group expressed gratitude to President Bush for his stands against abortion, especially vetoes of legislation which provided taxpayer funding for abortion, Land said, adding, participants asked Bush to take an even more visible and effective stance as a pro-life advocate.

Chapman asked the president to give a five-minute, pro-life address on national television on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, Jan. 20, 1991. Immediately following the meeting, Chapman suggested to the president's aides that the address be televised live from the Oval Office. Group members also asked the President to issue an executive order banning fetal tissue experimentation and to issue a presidential proclamation on the Sanctity of Human Life.

Bush seemed more responsive to the group's concerns about abortion and the homosexual invitations than NEA funding, Land said. Bush said he opposes pornography but also is against censorship. Land said meeting participants told Bush the furor over NEA funding is a question of tax-supported sponsorship rather than censorship.

Land, Dugan and E.V. Hill, vice president of the National Baptist Convention and pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, told Bush evangelicals want to give input into his administration. "There was a receptivity expressed to that desire for ongoing, official dialogue," Land said.

Administration officials present at the meeting were John Sununu, White House chief of staff; Roger Porter, domestic policy adviser, and Leigh Ann Metzger, special assistant to the President for public liaison.

Also present were G. Raymond Carlson, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God denomination; Richard Cizik, policy analyst for the National Association of Evangelicals; John R. Corts, executive vice president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association; Anthony T. Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas; Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road (Independent) Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.; Thomas Glessner, executive director of the Christian Action Council; E. Brandt Gustavson, executive director of National Religious Broadcasters; Susan Hecht, secretary of the Washington Advisory Council of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; Al Janney, president of American Association of Christian Schools; Elizabeth Kepley, director of government relations for the Family Research Council; Paul A. Kienel, executive director of the Association of Christian Schools, International; James A. Smith, director of government relations, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission; Jeff Snyder, director, Apostolic Coalition; and Donna Striegel of Intercessors for America.

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Davis father-son team  
writes about Levites

By Jim Lowry

F-SSB

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DALLAS (BP)--Not many father-son discussions revolve around inquiries "about the Levites."

For the writing team of George Davis Sr. and George Davis Jr., however, Leviticus is a frequent topic of discussion as they prepare to write a volume on the third book of the Bible for The New American Commentary.

A 40-volume set to be released between 1991 and 1997, The New American Commentary is a project of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Leviticus will be included in a volume with Numbers.

George Davis Sr., vice president for academic affairs and professor of pastoral theology at Criswell College in Dallas, said he suspects he may be the only preacher in the Southern Baptist Convention who has preached all the way through Leviticus (which means, "about the Levites").

There is not a lot of preaching attention given to the third book of the Bible, Davis speculates, and pastors are missing contemporary, relevant principles for living.

"We will deal with the theological concept of holiness to build a bridge from Leviticus to the New Testament and from Leviticus to contemporary life," Davis said. "Our goal is to come up with material from Leviticus that would enable preachers and Sunday school teachers not to dread having to teach the book."

The junior Davis, who is 26, has more than 1,300 books in his personal library, all of which are catalogued for reference. His father, who is not really sure how many books he has in his study at home and his office at Criswell College, insisted that Davis Jr. organize his library from the beginning.

In a house that is literally awash with books on theology and religion, father and son will seek to combine the 10 years of research and study of Leviticus by the senior Davis and the enthusiasm and theological training of his son into a practical volume to encourage attention to the message of the book.

"We don't want to produce a piece to add to the academic arena," explained Davis Jr. "Instead, we will develop major themes, summarize as we go and not get bogged down in technicalities, because many pastors don't have the time to read."

"I hope we can deepen understanding of Scripture as a whole, further the understanding of biblical concepts and make doctrine graphic," he added.

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The elder Davis said he is basically a pastor at heart, and his interest in Leviticus is from a pastor's perspective. "How do you preach this?" he asks.

"I'm not interested in Leviticus just academically," he continued. "Our objective is to show how to preach and make Leviticus relevant, interesting and helpful to the people" who are hearing the sermons.

Davis Sr., who has been at Criswell College since 1973, was the pastor of churches in Alabama and Mississippi for 13 years before moving to Dallas and the staff of the college. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and received the B.D. and Th.D. degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Since he has been in Dallas, Davis Sr. has been interim pastor in 11 churches. Davis Jr. recently completed his first interim pastorate at Woodlake Baptist Church in Carrollton, Texas.

The younger Davis is a graduate of Criswell College and earned an M.A. degree in New Testament studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill. He is now a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., working toward an M.Div. degree.

The father and son agree that theirs is an unusual relationship for family members or co-authors of a commentary.

Of his son, Davis senior said he is "my son, younger brother and colleague," because of the younger Davis' "theological competence and expertise."

Of his father, Davis Jr. observed that the elder Davis's ministry has "focused on the local church. Dad is shepherding and equipping pastors to do their jobs better."

Both agree that scholars are not clamoring to write commentary on Leviticus, but the book "gives great theological truths of the New Testament which average pastors can grasp and teach without fear."

The first volume of The New American Commentary, which will be published in June 1991, will be Philippians, Colossians and Philemon, written by Richard E. Melick Jr., professor at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn. The volume with Leviticus and Numbers is scheduled to be released in 1993.

David Dockery, general editor of the commentary, said the primary goal of the project is to present a scholarly, conservative view of Scripture which affirms the divine inspiration, total truthfulness and complete authority of the Bible.

The commentary will be written and edited according to the doctrinal guidelines of the Baptist Faith and Message statement, and the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy will serve as the operating definition of biblical inerrancy. The New International Version of the Bible will be the standard translation for The New American Commentary.

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

Twelve-step programs do church better than church, says Miller

By Ken Camp

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DALLAS (BP)--Twelve-step programs for recovery from addiction often resemble the New Testament church more than established congregations do, according to Christian author and lecturer J. Keith Miller.

Miller was keynote speaker at the first annual Regional Clergy Conference on Addiction in the Religious Congregation, Oct. 30-31 in Dallas. Sponsors of the conference, which drew about 250 participants from at least 10 denominations and several secular organizations, included the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and Dallas Baptist Association.

Twelve-step programs patterned after Alcoholics Anonymous are the fastest growing spiritual movement in the United States, and the 12 steps offer a model for Christian spiritual healing and growth, Miller said.

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"The program operates on biblical principles so tough that we aren't using them in the church," he said, pointing to the shared intimacy of 12-step groups with their emphasis on personal moral inventory, confession, authentic spirituality and unconditional acceptance.

"The program is very much like the New Testament church -- no paid leaders, no money, no buildings, no evangelism program, and no one wants to join," Miller said.

Although the language of A.A. and similar 12-step programs is not explicitly Christian, the character traits of the "Higher Power" in A.A. literature are the same traits of God revealed in the Bible and in the person of Jesus Christ, Miller maintained.

"Jesus is the Higher Power," he said. "Jesus is loving enough and caring enough to do this program anonymously."

Miller challenged churches to discover "where the pain is" in their communities and to become servants to hurting people.

"Jesus only spends his Sundays in church," he said. "He spends his work week with people in pain -- the poor, the prisoner, the naked and the hungry. If we want to get with Jesus, we'd better get with them."

At least one church member in four either has an addiction or has chemically dependent loved ones, according to conference organizer Lester Wigley, a Southern Baptist minister.

In his practice last year as director of Rebirth, Inc., a Christian-based chemical dependency program that grew out of a support group at Midway Road Baptist Church in Dallas, Wigley said he saw 327 Christians with addiction problems.

"Most said they couldn't talk about it in their church. Many feared their Christian values would be discounted if they entered a program in a hospital. The secular and the Christian communities must work together on this," he said.

"These are not bad people trying to get good. These are sick people trying to get well."

Rather than just reacting when addiction occurs and dealing strictly in crisis intervention, churches should offer pro-active educational programs to teach coping skills to younger children, said Shelly Vaughn, drug education consultant with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Youth ministers and Sunday school teachers working with teenagers and children whose parents may suffer from addiction can help them by emphasizing the power of play and by stressing the unconditional love of God, Vaughn said.

"Also, teach them the wonderful gift of ambivalence," she said. "Let them know it's OK to love their parents and at the same time not to love what their parents are doing."

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Laity told to take  
gospel into world

By Tim Bearden

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Just as the laity led the early church, so must they now, said Bill O'Brien, vice president for public affairs at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. *Exec. Director*

Speaking to about 300 people attending the National Fellowship of Baptist Men's Triennial Meeting, O'Brien said, "The faith was spread in those early days, not by preachers but by anonymous believers who were scattered.

"As they were going, it was as easy for them to share the faith as it was to breathe," he continued.

Jesus prayed for his followers, asking for their protection from "the evil one," while they ministered in the world, O'Brien said.

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"We can frustrate the prayer of Jesus and cause it to go unanswered by refusing to be in the place he prayed to the Father we would be," O'Brien continued, "in the middle of the world, not in the middle of a group of organizational meetings."

O'Brien challenged the categories listed on typical offering envelopes -- present, Bible brought, on time, offering and staying for worship -- as a measure of Christian commitment.

"This is not the five-point standard of excellence in the New Testament church," he said.

Most of the world will never meet Jesus unless they meet up with you, O'Brien told the volunteers.

"The only way they are going to meet up with you and the likes of us is if we are willing to forsake our ways -- both our sinful ways and our organizational programmatic ways -- and once again be innocently available to the spirit of God," he concluded.

Outgoing NFBM president Norman Wiggins, president of Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C., told volunteers that without a cross, there is no crown.

"We are upstream Christians in a downstream world," said Wiggins.

If one stops to count the cost of discipleship, he will find that time, talent and treasure must be given up if one is to have his crown, Wiggins said.

Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, said following Christ might mean a life of danger and hurt. Nevertheless, our goal should be to follow him.

"If you want to be like Jesus," Blackaby said, "it may be that others will find healing in the wounds that you take into your life."

Yet in the midst of current day dangers and hurts, Blackaby sees hope.

"I am convinced that God is raising the greatest corps of (Christian) men ever in the world," Blackaby concluded.

The Triennial Meeting is a celebration of volunteers, said Bob Salley, NFBM director.

"The speakers are asked to issue a challenge," he said. "They have definitely summed the cost of discipleship which every lay person must weigh."

James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president, said the greatest day of voluntarism is in the future.

"The growing ground swell of volunteers gives Southern Baptists the largest missions force ever," he said. "This movement will grow faster as we give more lay people hands-on missions experience."

Reports were given by each of NFBM's 14 fellowships on the projects completed since the last Triennial meeting in 1987.

In addition, nine lay people from five states were given the Owen Cooper Award for outstanding examples of missions voluntarism.

The newly elected officers for NFBM are: Fred Roach, Dallas, president; John McCall, Memphis, Tenn., vice president; D.J. Krahwinkel, Knoxville, Tenn., recording secretary.

NFBM is a ministry of the adult division of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. Begun in 1986, NFBM is designed to recruit missions volunteers according to skills, interests and vocations for service at home and overseas.