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90-153

Southern dedicates
Campus Center Complex

By Pat Cole

DO F-CO
(SPTS)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's new Campus Center Complex marks another milestone in the "enlarging vision" that always has guided the Louisville, Ky., school, said seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt.

Honeycutt, who spoke at the \$12 million facility's dedication Nov. 2, said vision historically has been a characteristic of Southern Seminary. "Yet, a vision without a venture is no more than wishful thinking," he said. "This place has never been a place for dreamers who did nothing. That's been true academically and in other ways."

The 104,000 square-foot campus center, the seminary's largest capital project since moving to its present campus in 1926, contains health and recreation facilities, student commons areas, student-related administrative offices, a post office, clinic, book store and a small chapel. The seminary acquired the needed funds for construction before beginning the project, said Honeycutt, noting the seminary has a long standing commitment to sound financial practices.

In addition to securing funds for construction of the campus center, Honeycutt said that since 1982 the seminary has built a music school addition and has increased its endowment by \$15.7 million. The seminary's capital value has increased by \$30 million in the last eight years, he said.

Southern is in the process of securing \$4 million needed to construct the final phase of the campus center which will house food service and conference facilities.

The campus center dedication was Honeycutt's first seminary-wide appearance since undergoing successful quintuple heart bypass surgery in July. Although the building was constructed for the benefit of students, faculty and staff, Honeycutt stressed it was built ultimately so that both current and future students "might be more effective ministers of Jesus Christ."

The seminary, he said, was discouraged by some for embarking on a building venture in a time of denominational controversy. However, he said that "in building we built for a better day."

"We built not for today alone but for tomorrow," he said. "There is always the afterward in God's purpose."

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Baptists encouraged to
embrace marketplace ministry

By Tim Yarbrough

F-CO
(BHK000)

Baptist Press
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FRAMINGHAM, Mass. (BP)--As a NASA engineer, Elton Tucker helped develop the first space suits worn by astronaut in the Gemini space program. As a medical engineer, he helped develop an implantable device that revolutionized chemotherapy treatment for cancer patients.

But as president of Device Labs, Inc., a medical research firm in Medway, Maine, Tucker said nothing compares to the role he plays each business day as marketplace minister to employees and business associates.

Tucker was one of about 700 lay people, pastors and students attending "The LAOS in Marketplace Evangelism -- Boston '90" Nov. 1-4 in Framingham, Mass.

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Marketplace ministry is a "natural outcome of being a Christian," said Tucker, who is a member of First Baptist Church of Sudbury, Mass. Sudbury is located about 20 miles west of Boston. Tucker was instrumental in establishing a marketplace ministry support group in his church about two years ago.

"Church life, family life and business life have to blend into one package," Tucker said.

Many Southern Baptists already are carrying the message of Christ into their marketplaces, Tucker said he believes. The problem is they are not recognized by their churches. He said the church needs to affirm and reinforce their marketplace activities.

"There are so many ministers out there that we just don't know about ... they're closet ministers and there's no mechanism in our churches today to expose that," Tucker said.

"If somehow we can capture that (the concept of marketplace ministry) in our local church I think we can really turn this world upside down," Tucker said. "Our parish is huge."

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is launching a decade-long emphasis in marketplace ministry and plans to produce materials designed to support and encourage Baptist Men's involvement in marketplace ministry, said Douglas Beggs, director of the adult division of the Brotherhood Commission.

"I believe God has already strategically placed his body in the world to accomplish his purpose. Baptist Men will take the lead, we hope, in helping the church discover how the body is deployed into the community," Beggs said. "We want Baptist Men to be one of those voices to call the church to new roles of ministry."

"Baptist Men need the vision. We feel that's what our materials can give them. They're going to need support groups, because in some cases they may be the only believer in their area market," Beggs said. "A lot of the time a fruit of a man's marketplace ministry won't come back into the local church, it won't show up in baptisms and Sunday school. Therefore, he needs affirmation for his marketplace ministry from his local church. A Baptist Men's unit can help him to be affirmed as a minister."

"One of the reasons why I believe Baptist Men will be at the forefront of this is because they are professionals who continually adapt vocationally," Beggs said. "They have adapted in the world and learned how to recognize their market needs."

Tucker said Christians must realize that, while their call to vocation may differ, all are called to share Christ to a lost world.

"I feel called to be a businessman," Tucker said. "That call to me is just as real and just as serious as a call that a pastor has to preach at a church. There is no difference there."

Hoyt Huffman, who is general manager of State Lumber Co. in Framingham, said his life has been "strengthened, deepened and encouraged" by the challenge of marketplace ministry.

Huffman said Christians must be "doers and not hearers only," as the biblical book of James instructs.

"With that in mind, I think marketplace in our churches is the wave of the future. We ought to be about that which God challenges us to do."

John Ambra, a career accountant who recently joined the Baptist Convention of New England in Northboro, Mass., as director of business services, said the Bible is clear in its description of the role of pastors and teachers in equipping the saints for the work of service.

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"The ministry of going and taking the gospel is every man's responsibility. It's not just the pastor's role, it's not just the hired help's role," Ambra said. "One of the mindsets that folks in our churches today have is that taking the gospel to people or witnessing to folks is the pastor's job, or maybe the deacon's job, but it's really everybody's job."

Beggs said the mission of the church to carry the good news to all people has been lost in the highly institutionalized Christianity of the past two decades. He said he believes Boston '90 is a historical event because "it is a call for some radical corporate adjustments."

"This is a call to new models, new support, a new fresh look at the resurrected power of the living Christ," Beggs said.

"The shift is coming, I think, based on a lot of need. All of a sudden, with baptisms declining and membership declining and large cities growing up with only 2 to 5 percent of the population Christian, the awareness is here that church as usual will not change our society and our structure," Beggs said.

Boston, which has a high concentration of Roman Catholics, is a good example of modern metropolitan America. On a typical Sunday more than 14 different Southern Baptist language groups worship in churches in the Greater Boston Baptist Association. The largest Southern Baptist church in New England is a French-speaking Haitian congregation.

"Marketplace ministry is an absolute must. I believe our churches have to go in this direction in order to move into the 90s and the next century," Tucker said. "We have to find new ways to each people."

Reid Hardin, director of the Home Mission Board's lay evangelism department, said Boston '90 kicks off a three-year HMB marketplace evangelism emphasis. A similar kickoff for the West Coast will be held in Anaheim, Calif., in 1991. Four Southern Baptist boards and agencies, the Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and Baptist Sunday School Board are supporting the marketplace emphasis.

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'Uncommon' day
in the Common

By Tim Yarbrough

F-10
(BNDOR)

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11/7/90

BOSTON (BP)--At one end of the downtown Boston Common a man stood on a street corner with a bullhorn shouting for political reform.

At another, North Carolina Baptist Men dispensed meals from a 45-foot mobile disaster-relief unit.

In between, amid the hustle and bustle of thousands of people, the gospel of Jesus Christ was being shared through drama, mimes, puppeteers and jugglers.

On the historic 50-acre Boston Common, America's oldest public park, people jogged, walked, ate from street-side vendors or just enjoyed the warmth of the sunny November day. Many also stopped to observe the performances and to ask questions.

The occasion was a three-hour evangelism outreach sponsored by the Greater Boston Baptist Association. The outreach was Nov. 3, in conjunction with "The LAOS of Marketplace Evangelism -- Boston '90." Boston '90 is the kickoff of a three-year marketplace evangelism emphasis by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

On a park bench near the disaster relief unit sat Billy McDogall, a homeless man who lives on the streets near the Common. McDogall feasted on a meal of chicken and dumplings, sweet peas, sliced peaches and a drink.

"North Carolina Baptists ... you've got to be kidding," McDogall said as he turned and looked to confirm the origin of the large tractor-trailer rig.

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In addition to a meal, McDogall was given a gospel tract containing the plan of salvation. McDogall said he knew Jesus as his personal savior already. As for being homeless, the former Navy hospital corpsman remained guarded about how he ended up living on the streets. His only reply, "because of circumstances." For now, he said, it's where he will stay.

As people gathered around the performers, volunteers asked them to complete a "Boston Street Survey" that included questions such as, "What is your definition of a Christian?" and "What prevents you from giving your life to God?"

Bobby Jackson, a volunteer surveyor from Columbia, S.C., said he received a wide range of answers to the questions.

One young man told Jackson that he feels it's "good works" that gets one to heaven.

"I tried to make him understand that because he was living a good life it was not enough to get him to heaven," Jackson said. "I shared with him about faith ... the way I know that I'm going to heaven is based upon what God's word says."

Although the man did not ask to receive Christ as his personal savior this day, Jackson said a seed was planted.

"He left with the understanding that it's a personal relationship with Jesus that makes the difference," Jackson said.

Mike Anders, Region 2 coordinator for North Carolina Baptist Men, said about 700 meals were served during the day. Following the chicken-and-dumpling lunch, sack meals consisting of a ham sandwich, cookie and apple were distributed by the unit.

The North Carolina disaster relief unit includes a self-contained kitchen, electrical generator and sleeping quarters. Ten volunteers man the unit which is capable of feeding 3,000 meals within an hour of arriving at the scene of a disaster. Since being placed into service in 1984, the unit has responded to numerous natural disasters. In two weeks following Hurricane Hugo in 1989, North Carolina Baptist Men prepared and served 47,000 meals.

The presence of the disaster-relief unit at the Common was a minor miracle in itself as permission to park the tractor-trailer rig was secured five days prior to the outreach in the park.

"This has been in the planning stages for over a year, but we only received the final O.K. to bring the unit here Tuesday (Oct. 30)," Anders said. "We're here feeding people to help spread the good news ... this is different than a disaster where we might respond to people who have lost all that they own."

"In either case, we can't minister to them on an empty stomach," he added.

Larry Martin, director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association, said the outreach effort exceeded expectations.

Surveys taken by volunteers for the association resulted in at least nine professions of faith. Leonard Hinton, HMB's associate director of the lay evangelism department, said an additional five professions of faith were made but were not officially reported.

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Medical/Dental fellowship
charged to be witnesses

By David Williard

F-CO (LA)

Baptist Press
11/7/90

ATLANTA (BP)--"Think small. Every stitch you tie can be done with the love of Jesus. To some who are in despair, you may be the only visible link with the Divine."

With those opening-session remarks, James Griffith, executive secretary and treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention, set the tone for the 14th annual meeting of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship in Atlanta, Nov. 1-4.

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Subsequent speakers, consistent with the meeting's theme of "Ye shall be witnesses," exhorted BMDF members to continue volunteer-missions efforts overseas while not neglecting their often more difficult responsibilities of testifying for Christ in their geographic and professional communities.

James H. Smith and R. Keith Parks, presidents respectively of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board, told the group that world evangelization depended heavily on the involvement of lay persons.

Smith stressed marketplace ministry at home in his presentation, while Parks emphasized that medical professionals continue to have unique opportunities to facilitate Baptist witness in many parts of the world.

"You have a ministry accepted and desired by governments that do not see the value of preachers," he said.

Smith said "men of the cloth" do not bear responsibility of winning the world for Christ. They are to "equip the saints," the lay persons, for witnessing opportunities.

"It's not a question of hoping there will be an opportunity to witness on our next mission trip, it's a question of witnessing where we are," he continued. "If we're going to take seriously this thing of evangelizing our world in this generation, it's going to take place primarily in the marketplace."

Smith recalled service aboard a ship after being drafted into the armed forces during World War II. After sharing pertinent sailing information with members of other vessels his ship would contact, he would say, "I'd like to tell you about my best friend." Then he would describe his relationship to Jesus.

"You must be one of those blankety-blank deacons. We've got one of 'em on our ship," would be a common response, he continued.

"Later I was thinking how nice it would have been if all of us good guys could have been on one ship. We could have woken up every morning singing 'Amazing Grace'. Then I realized that, in the economy of God, he had placed me on that ship so I could be a witness right there."

Park's address keyed on the search for the "unknown God." He claimed the number of people engaged in worship is greater than the total number of seekers in all previous generations.

"Sometimes they don't realize it's worship. Sometimes they're expressing it through narcotics, or addictions of various kinds, and sometimes they're acting it out in totally unacceptable behavior," he said. "But the driving force that shipwrecks their lives and destroys their personalities is that gnawing, restless, seeking-after the true God, for in their very being is implanted the desire for him."

Parks encouraged BMDF members to continue their volunteer-missions efforts in order to help persons identify the God being sought. He also affirmed the FMB's continuing commitment to appoint health-care professionals as career missionaries, suggesting that the number of requests for them, ~~about 10~~, has remained fairly constant during the last four years. *About 10 on cruise ships. 30 per year. appant about 10*

In encouraging missions involvement, he said, "It will be tough, it will be demanding, it will be risky. But I would make one promise: It will be in the presence of the Lord."

Among various other speakers was Paul Brand, a world-renown pioneer in leprosy treatment and recently a successful author. He challenged Baptist physicians and dentists to become role models for young medical students who have been confused by academic emphasis on the scientific theory of evolution.

"I think that college campuses today are strewn with students who entered with faith and ideas, and succumbed to the cynicism and materialism and the idolatry of science," he said.

The evolutionary theory, he claimed, currently is being challenged by research into the nature of DNA. Although the mathematicians and computer experts -- not biologists -- who are leading the way in unraveling the genetic codes lack many answers concerning how DNA operates, "they are agreed that it is quite inevitable that anything like this could ever happen as a result of chance. Chance is out," Brand said.

Outgoing BMDF president Hoyt Dees, an Atlanta-area obstetrician and gynecologist who is a veteran of 22 short-term missions assignments, suggested attendance at the meeting would encourage some members to take another step in being witnesses for Christ.

"Many witness through their actions, which is truly significant, but they become inhibited when asked to openly share their faith," he said. "Once they try, they'll find it's like driving a car. At first you're scared to death. Then it becomes second nature."

Six hundred and fifty members representing 43 states and seven nations were at the Atlanta meeting, according to Henry Love, BMDF executive director. Total membership in the organization is currently 1,750, he said, down from a peak of 2,000 members several years ago. BMDF members participated in 500 volunteer missions assignments overseas last year, Love estimated.

Merrill Moore, former Southern Baptist missionary in Gaza currently specializing in emergency medicine in Tennessee, assumed the presidency of the fellowship during the meeting. One of his goals is to increase the visibility and membership of the group, particularly in geographic pockets where participation by Southern Baptist medical personnel is minimal. Although witnessing will remain integral to the group, he emphasized that it does not represent, of itself, the group's reason for being.

"The fellowship's purpose is all-encompassing," he said. "It is to enhance the Christian life and experience of the doctor or dentists, as well as to enhance his witness, whether it be in this country or to his own patients or own church, or whether as a volunteer overseas."