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May 3, 1991

91-69

Midwestern's vice president emeritus,
C.W. Scudder, dies after heart surgery

N-CO

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--C.W. Scudder, vice president emeritus of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died May 1 at Trinity Lutheran Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., of continuing complications related to surgery for a triple arterial bypass and heart valve replacement. He was 76.

Scudder joined the staff at Midwestern in August 1975 as administrator of internal affairs. In October 1978, trustees of the Kansas City-based institution named him the seminary's first vice president for business and development. His responsibilities included management of the seminary's business affairs, auxiliary services and physical plant operations.

In addition, Scudder provided direction for continuing development programs at Midwestern. He led the seminary to expand and renovate facilities, and also provided leadership when the institution launched a capital campaign to fund the construction of an on-campus children's day care center.

Scudder officially retired in January 1981 and was named vice president emeritus by the board of trustees. However, he continued to serve beyond retirement as a consultant in planning and development, and for a short time as senior professor of Christian ethics. In 1988, he directed the seminary's long-range planning task force, which developed a five-year institutional master plan.

Before coming to Midwestern, Scudder was professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for 21 years. While there, he was numerous curriculum evaluation and development projects, including the Ph.D program in teaching preparation. He also was involved in initiating and developing the doctor of ministry degree.

Previously, Scudder was minister of music and education at First Baptist Church in Cordele, Ga., and was professor of music education at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville. He also was a high school bandmaster in Cordele.

Scudder was the author of *Danger Ahead* and *The Family in Christian Perspective*, and the editor of *Crises in Morality*, all published by Broadman Press. He contributed to five other books, including the Broadman Study Bible. Over a period of 30 years, he authored numerous units of curriculum materials for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board -- the latest of which will be utilized in 1991-92.

He was a graduate of George Peabody College for Teachers and Southwestern Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Lyle, and a daughter, Kathy Scudder, both of Kansas City, Mo.; and a brother-in-law, John Mace, of Cordele.

The Scudder family has established the "C.W. Scudder Memorial Fund" at Midwestern Seminary and requests that contributions be made to the fund, in lieu of flowers.

Gallup gives advice to
pastors about Americans

By Mark Wingfield

N-10MB

NEWARK, N.J. (BP)--Every pastor needs to know at least seven things about the average American, the nation's best-known pollster said.

George Gallup Jr., co-chairman of the board of the Gallup Organization of Princeton, N.J., spoke to a group of Southern Baptist pastors and missionaries at an urban ministries conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Drawing upon data gathered from various national polls, Gallup listed seven needs the church should strive to meet for Americans.

1. The need for shelter and food. Gallup said this is the most basic need of all people and therefore must rise to the top of the list.

2. The need to believe life is meaningful and has a purpose.

Gallup said 70 percent of Americans believe it is important that life is meaningful and has purpose, yet as many as two-thirds of people interviewed believe most churches and synagogues are not effective in meeting this need.

"The fact is, significant numbers of people find churches irrelevant, unfulfilling or boring," he said.

3. The need for a sense of community and deeper relationships.

Gallup said "radical individualism" is taking hold on Americans, causing them to be among the loneliest people in the world.

Three of every 10 Americans say they have been lonely for a long period of time in their lives.

4. The need to be appreciated and respected.

"As many as one-third of American people have a low sense of self-worth or self-esteem," Gallup reported.

"Significantly, we discovered the closer people feel to God, the better they feel about themselves. They're more satisfied with their lives than others, they're more optimistic and lead healthier lives. Experiencing a closeness with God is a key factor in people who forgive themselves and forgive others."

5. The need to be listened to and be heard.

In one survey the unchurched were asked what would be most likely to draw them back. The answer, Gallup reported: "If I could find a pastor, priest or rabbi with whom I could share my religious needs and doubts."

Additionally, Gallup said, laity desire more significant leadership roles in the church. "If churches want to keep the laity in the church, ... they need to be given leadership roles. The clergy need to listen more carefully to what the laity is saying.

"Religion of the future is more likely to be shaped from the bottom up than from the top down," he declared. "Americans overwhelmingly think the future of the church will be shaped by the laity more than by the clergy. Not only do they believe it will happen, they believe it should happen."

6. The need to feel one is growing in faith.

"People do not like to suffer periods of spiritual stagnation," he explained. "Seven out of 10 Americans say they have experienced a change in faith during their lifetimes.

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"Churches need to pay close attention to the passages people experience in their faith lives. They need help understanding the significance of these changes."

7. The need for practical help in developing a mature faith.

"The clergy often make assumptions about the depth of religious commitment of members of their churches," Gallup said. Clergy assume their parishioners have more fully developed prayer lives and higher levels of knowledge about the faith and traditions of their denomination, he added.

"Clergy therefore often find themselves trying to win support for programs and causes from a laity that is spiritually listless and uninformed."

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Gallup: 6-10 percent are
deeply committed Christians

By Mark Wingfield

N. H. M. B.

Baptist Press
5/3/91

NEWARK, N.J. (BP)--Less than 10 percent of Americans are deeply committed Christians, a noted American pollster projects.

George Gallup Jr., co-chairman of the board of the Gallup Organization, made the statement to Southern Baptist pastors and missionaries gathered for an urban ministries conference in Newark, N.J.

Although results of this survey, titled "The Saints Among Us," will not be released until early next year, Gallup gave a preliminary report to the conference. About 6 to 10 percent of Americans fall into the category he describes as "high spiritual faith."

"These people are a breed apart," Gallup said. "They are more tolerant of people of diverse backgrounds. They are more involved in charitable activities. They are more involved in practical Christianity. They are absolutely committed to prayer."

Additionally, he said, they are "far, far happier than the rest of the population.

"These are the quiet saints in our society who have a disproportionate, powerful impact on our communities."

"The Saints Among Us" study will add to an increasing database of information on American religious beliefs and practices collected by the Gallup Organization.

Gallup said previous studies have shown:

- An ongoing one-third of American people say they have had a religious experience.
- Virtually all Americans say they believe in God or a universal spirit. Most believe in a personal God who watches over and judges people. Many say they have felt the presence of God at various times in their lives.
- A substantial majority believe they will be called before God at judgment day to answer for their sins.
- Half of Americans believe in a personal devil.
- The majority of Americans believe the Bible is either the literal or inspired Word of God.
- One-third of Americans say they have had a profound religious experience, either sudden or gradual.
- Four in 10 say they attend church or synagogue each week. Seven in 10 say they are church members.

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-- One-third of Americans watch some religious television programming each week.

-- Fewer than one person in 10 indicate no religious preference. Only four out of every 100 Americans say they are completely non-religious.

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Gallup describes gap between
Americans' faith and practice

By Mark Wingfield

N. D. M. S.

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NEWARK, N.J. (BP)--Although Americans appear to be religious, there is a gap between what they say they believe and what they practice, George Gallup Jr. said.

To illustrate he reported eight in 10 Americans say they're Christians, but only four in 10 know who delivered the Sermon on the Mount.

Gallup is co-chairman of the board of the Gallup Organization, which is best known for its Gallup Poll. He is also an active Episcopal layman.

Gallup was a keynote speaker during an urban ministries conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"The religious condition of Americans today can perhaps best be described in terms of gaps," he said.

On the surface, the levels of religious belief and practice of Americans are impressive, especially compared to other regions of the world, he said. "But when you start to probe a little bit deeper, you become less impressed."

In America, religion "does not change people's lives to the degree one would expect," he added.

Gallup described this gap in three categories: knowledge, ethics and belonging.

"There is a tendency to assume we know much more about the Bible than we do, to believe that we pray in a powerful, meaningful and effective way, to believe that we are capable of sharing our faith," he said.

"I doubt if more than 5 to 10 percent of Christians are prepared to defend their faith. Many don't know what it means to be a Christian.

"The Sunday school and religious education system in this country is not working," he said. "There are wonderful exceptions, but by and large, while we worry about secular education we really ought to worry about religious education, which is more important.

"The lack of biblical knowledge in this country is tragic. We say we believe the 10 Commandments are valid rules for living, but we can't name them. We revere the Bible, but we don't read it. Many people don't know the significance of Easter.

"It's really a very frightening situation because not being grounded in one's faith, we're open for anything that comes along," Gallup said. "That's why the New Age movement has tremendous power to grab people.

"Many people who say they are Christians subscribe to New Age beliefs. In fact New Age is just as strong among traditionally religious people as among those who are not traditionally religious."

Gallup questioned one aspect of a widely published study on religion recently completed by the Graduate School of the City University of New York. That study showed only about 20,000 people nationwide adhering to New Ages teachings.

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"That is a little misleading," he explained. "People are not going to label themselves as New Agers, yet they may be very caught up in New Age beliefs and still be Episcopalian or Presbyterian or so forth."

Second, Gallup described a gap related to ethics.

"We want the fruits of faith but not the obligations," he said. "Religion is important to Americans but it doesn't have primacy."

In a survey of 19 social values, following God's will ranked "far down the list among the public's choices, behind happiness and satisfaction," Gallup reported. In another survey of eight important traits, teenagers rated religious faith as least important, behind attributes such as patience and hard work.

Further, church involvement "does not seem to make a great deal of difference in the way we live our lives," Gallup said. Although church members are more likely to give to charitable organizations, the churched "are just as likely as the unchurched to engage in unethical behavior."

A significant difference is found only at the level of deep commitment, he added.

Gallup said Americans believe in God, "but this God is often only an affirming one, not a demanding one. He does not command our total allegiance.

"We pray, but often ... with the emphasis on asking (for ourselves), not on thanksgiving, petition or intercession for others."

Further, Gallup said the rich and the poor rarely interact with each other in a meaningful way. "We give to charities, but do we give of ourselves?"

"The record of volunteerism is spectacular, but how many Americans have had a personal relationship with somebody who is impoverished? I believe nothing less than a face-to-face, personal relationship between the haves and have nots will redeem society."

Third, Gallup described a gap between believers and belongers.

Americans increasingly view their faith as a matter between them and God, he said. A rising number of Christians and Jews believe they can sustain faith without attending church or synagogue.

This trend is also evidenced in decreasing loyalty to the church and to denominations, he said.

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Partnership stressed
between SSB, SBTS

By Pat Cole & Linda Lawson

N-SSB

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A century-long partnership between the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest theological institution and the denomination's publishing house was commemorated in special services April 30 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Two of Southern's original faculty members, Basil Manly Jr. and John A. Broadus, played key roles in the development of the Baptist Sunday School Board, said board president Lloyd Elder. "Two of the giants in your history are giants in our history," he stressed.

Manly chaired a committee that in 1863 recommended to the SBC the establishment of the denomination's first Sunday School Board. Manly's report to the SBC "was one of the finest apologetics for Sunday school work in the local church that has ever been penned," Elder said.

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Broadus was the first secretary of the initial Sunday School Board which lasted only 10 years. "Broadus gave himself so unstintingly, so carefully to Sunday school work that he almost broke his health," said Elder, noting Broadus continued teaching at the seminary in addition to his duties with the board.

While board secretary, Broadus launched a periodical titled "Kind Words for Sunday School Children" that outlived the first Sunday School Board and was picked up by the present Sunday School Board after its founding in 1891.

Broadus continued his advocacy for Sunday school work by helping to convince messengers at the 1891 annual meeting of the SBC in Birmingham, Ala., to establish the current Sunday School Board, Elder said.

He pointed out Broadus and Manly have been so revered by the Sunday School Board the first syllables of their last names form the trade name of the board's book publishing arm Broadman Press.

"We have come from the Sunday School Board to say 'thank you'...", Elder said. "Thank you not just to those gone by but those who are part of this great institution now because we are tied up together in the bundle of ministry and life of Southern Seminary and the Sunday School Board."

After the chapel service, a plaque commemorating the role of J.M. Frost as founder and first chief executive of the board was unveiled at the Louisville grave site of Frost. The Georgetown, Ky., native died in 1916.

At a dedicatory service, Marv Knox, editor of Western Recorder, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said "nothing else save the Bible and the gospel has so profoundly affected the way we (Southern Baptists) do church as much as the Sunday School Board."

Knox cited the theology he learned while singing from the 1956 Baptist hymnal published by the board and participating in various church programs developed by the board. "We are indebted to Dr. Frost and the Sunday School Board for giving us the opportunity to do these things in the name of Christ," he said.

Six members of the Frost family, including two grandsons of J.M. Frost, participated in the service. One grandson, Hamilton Frost, is employed in the board's accounting and control department.

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Midwestern Seminary honors two grads
with 1991 alumni of the year award

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Baptist Press
5/3/91

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Two graduates of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., recently were selected as 1991 Alumni of the Year. They will be recognized during the institution's annual alumni luncheon June 5 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta.

Receiving awards are Robert L. Perry and William L. Womack Sr. Both men have been Southern Baptist foreign missionaries.

The recipients will be honored by Midwestern alumni and friends at the luncheon at The American Hotel -- Best Western in downtown Atlanta, following the Wednesday morning session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Perry is executive director of Mount Vernon Baptist Association in Annandale, Va., where he has been since 1988. Previously, he was a director of missions and pastor in Missouri. From 1974-80, he and his wife, Nancy, were missionaries to Mexico, where he was an evangelist and pastor.

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A two-time graduate of Midwestern Seminary, Perry received the master of divinity degree in 1971 and the doctor of ministry degree in 1980.

During the 1990-91 academic year, while on furlough from the foreign mission field, Womack was visiting professor of missions at Midwestern. This summer, he and his wife, Elba, will retire as missionaries to the Caribbean where they have been since 1972. He has been a general evangelist in Antigua and a church planter on several islands. In addition, he has been a professor and president of Barbados Baptist College.

Womack has received two degrees from Midwestern, the master of divinity in 1971 and the doctor of ministry in 1983.

The Midwestern Seminary luncheon also will feature an address by Kuwait missionary Maurice Graham, a 1975 master of divinity graduate of the institution.

Advance tickets may be purchased for \$10 per person from the Office of Seminary Relations, MBTS, 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118. Tickets sold at the seminary booth in the SBC exhibit hall will cost \$13.

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