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May 17, 1991

91-76

Lee Porter takes retirement
to run for SBC secretary

By Herb Hollinger

N-CO

NASHVILLE (BP)--Lee Porter has announced plans for early retirement from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, a condition required for his quest for a 15th term as Southern Baptist Convention registration secretary.

Porter, 61, was told last October he could not be nominated as a convention officer in Atlanta in June and continue to be an employee of the SSB. He said that restriction was "reaffirmed by board management to me this week."

"Therefore, today (May 16), I am submitting my notice of early retirement from the (board) on July 1, 1991," Porter said in a statement released to Baptist Press. "On that date I will have completed 15 years of service at the (board). This early retirement may not be a wise, practical decision from a human perspective. From a financial perspective it may be a disastrous decision as I will receive approximately 20 percent of my current salary in early retirement.

"But, as a moral decision, it is the only decision I can make and it is the decision of conscience I believe God is leading me to make."

Gary Cook, vice president for church programs and services for the SSB, said Porter's decision was accepted with regret by the administration.

"A conscious desire to avoid any appearance of political activity and the time required for work assignments were the primary reasons for the administration's discussion with Lee concerning the advisability of his continuing to hold a denominational office," said Cook in a prepared statement.

"In discussion with Lee he agreed he would not allow his name to be presented as a candidate for recording secretary while he continued to be employed at the board. We regret Dr. Porter has chosen this means to end his work relationship with the board," said Cook.

Asked if the administration had had contact with trustee leadership regarding Porter's appeal of the October decision, Cook said, "No." Since Porter had submitted his retirement request, Cook said, there could be no reconsideration if Porter is not elected in June.

Porter charged the board leadership was making a "radical change in policy" in not allowing him to be renominated for the SBC post.

"Since 1917, board employees Hight C. Moore, Porter Routh, Joe Burton, Clifton Allen, Martin Bradley and myself have served a total of 85 years as convention officers. This decision by the administration and trustees ordering me not to even allow my name in nomination if I wanted to continue as an employee ... is a radical change in policy, which I must protest," said Porter.

"I will allow my name to be put in nomination for registration secretary ... In my time of service I believe we have added a sense of integrity and confidence to the registration and balloting process. If the messengers at the convention believe that the cause of Christ, denominational harmony and a continued confidence in the integrity of the registration and balloting process could be extended with my serving as registration secretary and they vote to re-elect me, then I will be most happy to serve my convention and my Lord."

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In his statement, Porter said part of his moral decision is he does not have a place of service (following his retirement).

"I do hope to find a place of service for the next six or eight years with a church as pastor or with an association as a director of missions," he said. "I believe the Lord has some place of service for me as I continue to serve as registration secretary of the SBC."

Following the convention last year in New Orleans, Porter was told by board officials it would be "unwise" for him to serve as registration secretary again. Porter was said to have made disparaging remarks about Southern Baptist conservatives to a seminary class visiting the convention. He had told Baptist Press he would have a final decision about his candidacy in May prior to the Atlanta convention.

Last week he asked for an appeal of the administration's decision but was told there was no room for negotiations on the matter.

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Baptist leaders study ways
to share faith with Muslims

By Tim Fields

N-20

Baptist Press
5/17/91

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Leaders representing Southern Baptists and 11 other Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada explored ways to share their faith with Muslims and other religious and ethnic groups in North America during the annual meeting of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF).

"The goal of the fellowship is to find new ways these 12 Baptist bodies, which are all members of the Baptist World Alliance, can work together to win the United States for Christ," said Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, executive director and treasurer of the NABF. "In addition, our long-range goal is to develop within these Baptist bodies a core of specialists on other religions who can inform Baptists about these groups they will meet as they minister in this country," Crumpler said.

The 60 leaders who attended the three-day meeting at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Convention Building represent 12 autonomous Baptist conventions or federations with 133,700 churches and 29.5 million members in North America.

The major emphasis for the sessions of the meeting was on understanding and relating to Muslims who live in North America. Maurice Smith, Ron Ward and Joan Ward led in these sessions. V. Simpson Turner, president of the North American Baptist Fellowship and pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., said, "Muslims are a growing force on the North American continent."

If evangelism is to be effective in the 1990s, it must reach toward the many ethnic groups, including Asians, Africans, Hispanics and Native Americans in North America, he said.

Maurice Smith, interfaith witness specialist for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said the things Baptists do best -- preaching, singing, worshipping -- don't work as a strategy for sharing faith in Christ with Muslims.

Smith, who said he worries about the growth of Islam in America, warned Baptists will get nowhere with Muslims until they understand Islam without arrogance. "Of course, I'm not saying Baptists should stop doing what we do best but those things aren't attractive to Muslims," he said.

"They distrust preaching and missionaries. They don't propagate their faith through preachers. They often dislike hymn-singing and have no parallel for it in their own worship tradition."

Islam is a religion of lay people without a clergy class. The Baptist tradition of a church service led by a professional minister appears strange to Muslims and hymns often sound irrelevant and trivial to Muslim ears," he said.

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Smith estimated there are 4.7 million Muslims in the United States, made up of students from Muslim countries, immigrants and Americans who have been converted to Islam.

Smith predicted at its current rate of growth, Islam will have more members in America than Judaism by the end of the decade and will be the nation's second largest religion.

Baptists and Muslims do have some things in common, Smith said. Muslims believe in the God of the Bible and in Abraham and honor Jesus by calling him Messiah, prophet and even the word of God. However, they refuse to call Jesus the son of God and they reject Jesus' divinity.

Baptists should realize that Muslims respect the Bible but believe its message has been corrupted through misunderstandings and translation, Smith said. Muslims claim Muhammad who lived in seventh-century Arabia, was divinely chosen by God to be the last of the prophets stretching back to Moses.

"There are questions Baptists should not ask Muslims, such as 'Do you believe in God?' It's offensive to some Muslims and sounds a little ridiculous because they believe in the one God. A better question is, 'Tell me, what is your understanding of God?'" Smith said.

Baptists who relate to Muslims, whether at work, school or in the neighborhood, should be devoid of animosity or images of military conflict Smith warned. "Some Muslims think the Crusades happened only yesterday," Smith explained. "Let's not forget Muslims have suffered in the Middle East. Think of the Kurds; they're real people."

Muslims have misconceptions about Christians and often equate materialistic Western culture with Christian culture, Smith said. "They see Christians as worldly and irreverent. We Baptists don't think of ourselves that way, but that's how they see us."

"Take your Muslim friends to your church building when it's empty and explain what it all means," Smith advised. He suggests explaining the purpose of the pews, the choir and the pulpit.

"Explain that the pulpit is not in the center because the preacher is so important but because God's Word is spoken there. Muslims can resonate to the written word of God," he stressed.

Baptists should give copies of the Bible to their Muslim friends Smith added. He suggested they not give the King James Version but a more modern translation which would be easier for them to understand.

Ron and Joan Ward, missionaries of the Canadian Baptist Federation now working in Toronto, Ontario, recounted experiences among Muslims of that city. Ron Ward told of the great fear many Third World Muslims have of living in predominantly Christian Western culture.

The Wards were missionaries in Kenya, where they worked among refugees from Somalia. Joan Ward spent April 1991 in Kenya contacting family members of refugees now living in Toronto.

During their business session the leaders of the fellowship elected Richard C. Coffin, general secretary of the Canadian Baptist Fellowship, as president and Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, as vice-president.

The next annual meeting of the North American Baptist Fellowship is May 1992 in Banff Springs, Alberta, Canada.

Southern Baptists arrive
in Iran to aid Kurds

By Mike Creswell & Jim Burton

N. EMB

SANANDAJ, Iran (BP)--Nine Southern Baptist workers, three Norwegian Lutheran medical workers and outdoor kitchen equipment arrived in Iran by transport plane May 15 and have begun aiding Kurdish refugees.

A delegation of Iranian Christians greeted them with hugs and "hallelujahs." Most of the believers had driven seven hours from Tehran to help with the program. "They received us warmly and really made us feel at home," said Jim Furgerson, national disaster relief director for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn.

A second flight carrying six more Baptist workers and more equipment arrived in Iran May 16. Southern Baptist coordinators in the United States were waiting for word May 17 whether the second team had begun its feeding operation among Kurdish refugees.

The flights are among several efforts Southern Baptist are involved in to aid victims of the Middle East war. Some \$2.4 million in relief donations have been allocated and a continuous flow of medical personnel and other volunteers is being enlisted to work among Kurdish refugees.

Numerous volunteers still are needed for medical-related work in Iran and at refugee camps in northern Iraq. Two of the most recent needs are for women physicians, because Muslim women shy away from male doctors, and a nutritionist to provide consultation to relief workers in Kurdish refugee camps. Baptists interested in doing relief work among the Kurds may call Alvinia Michalec, Southern Baptist medical volunteer coordinator in Richmond, Va., at 804-353-0151.

Sanandaj, a city in west central Iran, is near the Iraqi border and is the capital of Kordestan province. Tens of thousands of Iraqi Kurds have fled to nearby mountains, escaping the violence associated with a failed Kurdish revolt against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War.

The feeding teams are prepared to feed up to 100,000 people a day, working initially at Marivan, Iran, where 21,000 refugees are living, and at Saqqez, with another 21,000 refugees.

Team members arrived 13 days after leaving Dallas. Their entry was held up more than a week by bad weather, aircraft mechanical problems and delays in acquiring permission to enter Iran.

A C-130 transport plane operated by LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry ministries of South Bend, Ind., was delayed in leaving the United States by a landing gear problem. Then, on a seven-hour flight from London to Larnaca, Cyprus, one of the plane's four engines failed. But it landed safely using three engines.

Departure from Cyprus was delayed while the LeSEA crew flew to Lisbon, Portugal, for an engine replacement. A hydraulic leak in an auxiliary brake system delayed departure one more day. Despite the problems, Southern Baptist relief workers commended LeSEA for relentless work to keep the plane flying.

When set up, workers will use four portable kitchens and water purification equipment to prepare more than three tons of rice daily at each kitchen. Rice is a staple food in the region. Each of the four kitchen units has 10 one-burner stoves, which will hold 20-gallon pots, said John LaNoue of Dallas, director of Texas Baptist Young Men and on-site coordinator of the project.

The Iranian government has agreed to provide 3,000 pounds of beef as well as potatoes, carrots and tomatoes for the team to prepare twice a week.

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Team members besides LaNoue and Furgerson who arrived in Iran May 15 are: Larry Blanchard, electrician from Lindale, Texas; Richard Hurst, physician from Tyler, Texas; John Lilly, retired computer programmer from Houston; Reggie Quimby, associate Brotherhood director for the Alabama Baptist Convention in Montgomery, Ala.; Jim Burton of the Brotherhood Commission; Mike Creswell, Southern Baptist communicator assigned to Brussels, Belgium; and Paul Obregon of Atlanta.

Serving with the team are Norwegians Bjorn Bratland, physician from Faervik, Norway; Idar Egeland, nurse from Porsgrunn, Norway; and Kari Westborg, a Norwegian social worker living in Egypt.

Southern Baptist workers who arrived in Iran May 16 are: Warren Hart, associate director of missions, Bell Baptist Association, Belton, Texas; Bill Atkins, Southern Baptist layman, Fort Worth, Texas; Cal Jones, associate Brotherhood director, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La.; Dennis Quinn, construction worker, St. Peters, Mo.; and Terry McMahon and Tom Scott, Southern Baptist communicators from Richmond, Va.

The Southern Baptist relief operation remains at a deficit in its Mideast efforts, but Southern Baptists' relief giving may be on an upswing, reported John Cheyne of Richmond, coordinator of human needs ministries.

Through April, Southern Baptist giving for hunger and general relief work in 1991 totaled \$2 million, or 10 percent below the first four months of last year. But the picture was considerably brighter than in January, when relief giving was 40 percent below the amount given a year earlier. In February, the giving deficit fell to 30 percent and, in March, to 20 percent.

"We're in a very positive trend," Cheyne noted.

Still, Southern Baptist relief efforts for the Mideast and for cyclone victims in Bangladesh have required the Foreign Mission Board to tap its \$1 million contingency fund for 1991.

"General relief is still absolutely empty," said Cheyne, referring to the account for non-food relief work such as shelter and clothing. Southern Baptists typically give far more to the board's other relief account, which targets hunger needs. In April, for example, \$468,000 in relief giving included only \$30,000 for general needs.

Donations for Persian Gulf ministry or general relief work may be sent to P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

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Bennett to retire
as Southern Seminary provost

N-CO
SBTS

Baptist Press
5/17/91

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--G. Willis Bennett will retire July 31 as provost of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary after 32 years on the faculty of the Louisville, Ky., school.

Bennett, provost since 1987, joined the seminary faculty in 1959 as associate professor of Christian ethics. In 1969, he helped establish the seminary's department of church and community and became the school's first professor in that discipline. He held the William Walker Brookes chair of church and community from 1969-90.

In addition to being provost, his administrative roles at Southern have included dean of the School of Theology (1983-88), director of graduate studies (1980-83), director of advanced professional studies (1975-80) and director of field education (1969-75).

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Bennett, a native of Candler, N.C., was pastor of Southern Baptist churches in North Carolina and Kentucky before joining the faculty. He earned the A.B. degree from Wake Forest University, the B.D., Th.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Seminary and the M.S.S.W. degree from the University of Louisville.

"His career of 32 years of dedicated service through Southern Seminary has contributed creatively to the quality of the classroom and to the excellence of the seminary," said Southern President Roy L. Honeycutt. Honeycutt said he expects to name a new provost within a few weeks.

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BSSB buys building;
completes remodeling

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5/17/91

N-SSB

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has completed the purchase of an office building near its downtown Nashville headquarters, for \$750,000. The building will be used for office expansion and possible conference space.

The building acquisition, a \$320,000 project to reconnect the board's property to a downtown viaduct that has been replaced and a \$3.75 million facelift for the Operations Building, are part of a master properties plan approved by the board's trustees in 1987 for the Nashville facilities.

Earlier phases of the plan, now completed, include the expansion of warehouse space beneath the Operations Building, adding 105,000 square feet of space and moving shipping and receiving docks and the construction of a \$15.5 million office/conference tower atop the Operations Building.

The purchase of the Eighth Avenue building, formerly leased by the board, adds 37,400 square feet to the publishing institution's already existing one million square feet of downtown building space. The building is adjacent to the board's complex and is directly in front of the Southern Baptist Convention Building.

Connection of the board's buildings to the Church Street viaduct is expected to be completed within two months, returning to employees and visitors access to the board's parking roof from the north side of downtown Nashville.

Work to replace the exterior surface of the Operations Building with precast concrete panels, compatible with the new Centennial Tower, will be done this year, pending final approval of a contract now under consideration. The remodeling was recommended by the board's architectural firm, Hart-Freeland-Roberts, Inc., due to deterioration of the existing veneer on the 32-year-old building.

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Bulgarian Baptists celebrate
at first congress in 40 years

By Stanley Crabb

Baptist Press
5/17/91

N-FMB

SOFIA, Bulgaria (BP)--Bulgarian Baptists gathered in a theater in Sofia May 15 to celebrate their freedom and participate in their first national congress in more than 40 years.

The 28th Congress of the Union of Evangelical Baptists Churches in Bulgaria highlighted Jesus' words, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life," as 115 delegates experimented with the democratic process, gave thanks for their new freedom and remembered past leaders who valiantly defended their faith.

The "new" democratic election process confused some. Many delegates had never attended such a meeting. But they elected Teodor Angelov as president and Boshidar Igov as general secretary, filled other positions in the union's structure, and discussed new missions goals.

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Vasil Vasilev, a pastor within the union for many years, was named full time evangelist. He is responsible for the five local congregations which he started, and he will start others as quickly as possible.

According to reports from the churches, Baptists have experienced rapid growth since the government granted religious freedom last year. Previously, nine churches with about 850 members constituted the union. Now 26 churches and missions report 1,350 baptized members. "Many are awaiting baptism," said Angelov, "at least 30 in the Sofia church alone."

In an address, Angelov presented some high goals. "Now we have open doors to work. We must increase our giving. And we could have 5,000 members by our next congress," he declared.

One of the problems facing Bulgarian Baptists is the money churches must pay to the government for each pastor. For every 100 leva they pay to their pastors, 35 leva must be paid to the government. That's a large amount, since pastors receive only a salary of about 10,000 leva (\$600) a year.

Igov, the new general secretary, listed some priorities in an address:

-- Church growth. "Bulgarian people," Igov said, "are open to the Gospel."

-- Helping churches to have full time pastors. "We now have only three; we want at least 10. Many well-trained laypersons are ready to work full time."

-- Training and more income for pastors.

"We must be thankful for this good congress," Angelov told delegates in conclusion. "Let us not think about the problems and difficulties we face, but let us be happy our churches are full."

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Stanley Crabb is director of European Baptist Press Service, Ruschlikon, Switzerland

HMB reintroduces WIN
for lay evangelism

By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
5/17/91

N-HMB

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--WIN schools for lay evangelism are being reintroduced by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Also known as Lay Evangelism Schools, the program was first introduced in 1971.

During 1971 and 1972, about 11,000 Southern Baptist churches nationwide held Lay Evangelism Schools using the WIN materials. The number of baptisms recorded in the Southern Baptist Convention rose 9.1 percent in 1971 and 12 percent in 1972. Southern Baptists have yet to surpass the total of 445,725 baptisms recorded in 1972.

Howard Ramsey, HMB director of personal evangelism, said he believes there is a connection between the increased baptism rates and WIN schools. In the climate of the Jesus Movement and other positive spiritual forces at that time, WIN schools equipped the laity to share their faith, he said.

Some churches have continued to have Lay Evangelism Schools, but the program has not been emphasized widely since its heyday in the early 1970s.

In preparation for a nationwide emphasis on personal evangelism in 1995, the HMB has reworked WIN materials. The updated program was introduced during the School of Evangelism and Church Growth at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in May.

There have been some changes in the program, Ramsey said, but there "has not been a major overhaul. I tell people who have used the materials before, 'You're going to appreciate the old and like the new.'"

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WIN is a means of equipping lay people in personal evangelism that does not require as much time and memorization as Continuing Witness Training, Ramsey explained. It is a flexible program that can be taught over four nights or one weekend.

The program includes three sessions of Bible study, creative activities and training in giving a personal testimony and using the "Eternal Life" tract produced by the HMB. In the fourth session participants are sent out to use the techniques they have learned.

Follow-up to the WIN school calls for weekly evangelistic visitation over the next 12 weeks.

WIN schools is one of three programs Ramsey hopes churches will use in preparation for the 1995 simultaneous revival/personal evangelism emphasis called "Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now."

The heart of the 1995 emphasis is to enlist 75 percent of Southern Baptists to share their faith 60 times during a 60-day period preceding nationwide simultaneous revivals.

Between now and 1995, Ramsey said he hopes 50 percent of all SBC churches will have WIN schools, CWT or One Day Soul Winning Workshops.

Used together, these three evangelism training programs offer techniques that will appeal to different people, he said. "If you're going to train your people, you cannot buy into just one thing. For example, not everyone can make the 13-week commitment required for CWT, but they might be willing to attend a One Day Soul Winning Workshop."

Information and materials for all three programs are available from the HMB's customer service center at 1 800 634-2462.

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Too many divorces said to be caused
by too few biblical marriages

By Mark Wingfield

F-HMB

Baptist Press
5/17/91

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--America has too many divorces because there are too few biblical marriages, a Christian psychologist said.

A biblical marriage is based on commitment, not on passion or romance, said Harold Hime, national leader on youth and family services with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Hime led a seminar on a biblical model for families during the first School of Evangelism and Church Growth at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Hime explained he was taking a dogmatic position in this presentation to stimulate thought. Participants were allowed to question and criticize his statements.

"Marriage is a faith thing," he said. "It's a commitment. The basis for marriage is not love, it's commitment.

"The kind of love you have when you marry is not the kind that will sustain a marriage," Hime explained. "It is not agape love, but passion."

A biblical family starts with a biblical marriage, he said. And while civil marriage is good, it does not ensure a biblical marriage.

A biblical marriage results in a couple becoming "one flesh" as the Bible says, Hime explained, noting "one flesh" has nothing to do with sexual intercourse.

"One flesh" and the admonition for a man to "cleave to his wife" could be illustrated by pressing two hands together, he said. Simply binding the hands together will cause them to rot and will not join them because the outer layer of skin will prevent bonding.

However, if that outer layer of skin is worn down by the friction of the two hands interacting with each other, the blood vessels and tissue of the hands will be exposed and able to grow together, he continued.

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Once the two hands have grown together, they cannot be separated except by surgery, Hime noted. In the same way, "biblical marriage cannot end in divorce. It is absolutely impossible to stop loving once you start loving with agape love."

That doesn't mean Christian couples will not experience divorce, he said, because not all Christians have biblical marriages. "Even saints make mistakes," he said.

"We have so many condemnations about divorce, but no teachings about marriage," Hime lamented.

The church should begin teaching about biblical marriage with youth age 12 and up at least once a quarter, he said. Waiting until pre-marital counseling is too late, he added.

The church could have a more effective ministry in preventative education at the top of the hill rather than running an ambulance service to the bottom of the hill, he said.

"The best evangelism is through the family. If you get families in your church and start meeting their needs, you won't have to go visiting. People will come to you."

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Family should teach children
about God, psychologist says

By Mark Wingfield

F-HMS

Baptist Press
5/17/91

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--The family, not the church, is the institution God has established to teach children about faith, a Christian psychologist and ministry expert said.

Harold Hime, national leader on youth and family services with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, led a seminar on biblical models of family during the first School of Evangelism and Church Growth at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

The family, he said, is God's primary institution. "The purpose of the family is to live out the will of God. The purpose of the church is to equip the family to live out the will of God."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 is the basis for this statement, Hime said. That passage says: "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

"It never says the church will teach them," Hime noted. "It says the family will teach them."

"It doesn't say to teach them Paul's missionary journeys or the correct interpretation of the millennium. It does say to teach them the laws and the statutes of God."

Doing this, Hime quoted from Deuteronomy 6:3, will ensure "that it will go well with you."

Jews have done an excellent job of teaching their children, he said, but Christians have read the New Testament to the neglect of the Old Testament. Like the Hebrews who lost the book of the law, Christians have "lost the book" on the biblical model of family, he added.

Hime said he does not recommend stopping Christian education for children in churches or blaming churches for what has happened. Instead, churches should use their current commitment to education to equip families for their responsibility to their children.

Parents are not parents by choice, but by the command of God, Hime said. "Parents have no rights to children, just responsibilities."

"The way we scandalize our children today is by failing to teach them that they are the children of God."

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Old Testament religious ceremonies were based in the home, not in the temple, Hime explained. "In Old Testament times, women and children didn't go to church.

"The passover was originated in the home. We've taken it into the church, and that's fine, but we need to keep it in the context of the family."

The church unwittingly has contributed to the weakening of the family Hime said. He cited the advancement of Christian education shortly after the United States adopted mandatory public education in the 1930s. "Parents had just been told they couldn't teach their children reading, writing and arithmetic, and the church said, 'Bring your children to us and we'll teach them the Bible.'"

This problem was compounded with the onset of World War II, when many mothers began working outside the home, he added. "In a period of about 14 years, parents stopped parenting and the church fell into it.

"We've said parents are non-essential, and we've said fathers are inept."

To restore biblical families, churches should "try to put parents in a priestly role," he suggested.

Contrary to modern practice, the role of the pastor and church should be to equip parents to teach their children, he said. "The family is responsible."

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Schaller to speak at annual
session of new work fellowship

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5/17/91

N-CD

ATLANTA (BP)--Lyle E. Schaller, church and denominational speaker and consultant, will address the annual session of the Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship Monday, June 3, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta.

Sessions will be from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Schaller will speak at both sessions on topics related to his recent book, 44 Questions For Church Planters. At the afternoon session Jim Maroney of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board also will speak. A business session will be conducted by George Bullard, president of the New Work Fellowship and director of missions division for the general board of South Carolina Baptist Convention.

A New Work banquet, cosponsored with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and hosted by HMB President Larry Lewis, will be held at 5 p.m. in the hotel. About 1,000 people are expected to attend. Tickets are available from the missions offices in each state convention.

The Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship is a national fellowship of ministers and laypersons involved in starting new congregations. It was formed during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Dallas in 1985. The annual meetings of the New Work Fellowship are financed by membership dues. Payment of dues will be required for the morning session. The afternoon session will be open to visitors.

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