



-- BAPTIST PRESS
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August 1, 1991

91-114

Jimmy Draper spends overnight
in hospital; feels fine

By Herb Hollinger

N-CC

EULESS, Texas (BP)--Five days after being elected president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, James T. Draper Jr. spent a night in a hospital for observation following a bout with an irregular heartbeat.

"I feel fine," Draper told Baptist Press. Draper said he experienced arterial fibrillation July 23 and was taken to the emergency room of a local hospital. The doctors on duty recommended he stay overnight for observation.

However, tests since and a physical conducted today (Aug. 1) have indicated no heart problem and no reason for the spasm. Draper said millions of Americans, including President George Bush, have suffered periodic heart fibrillations. President Bush's was attributed to a thyroid condition, Draper said, but doctors don't know what caused his.

Draper is taking heart medication for a month, a caution advised by his doctors. Draper said he experienced no pain and no discomfort at the time of the incident but he knew there was an irregular heartbeat. The heart returned to a normal pattern within about six to seven hours. The EKG and all the blood work was normal, he said.

Draper was elected president of the Baptist Sunday School Board July 18 in Nashville following a six month search by trustees. Draper, 55, is pastor of First Baptist Church, Eules, and 1982-84 was president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Cooperative Program gifts
pull even with last year

Baptist Press
8/1/91

N-CC

NASHVILLE (BP)--Cooperative Program unified gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for the month of July were slightly higher than last year bringing the total for the year-to-date nearly identical with the previous year.

The July gifts totaled \$11,591,866 compared to the same month last year of \$11,475,800, an increase of \$116,066 or 1.01 percent, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer.

"With world mission needs as they are I deeply regret churches are not giving more to world missions through the Cooperative Program," said Bennett. "I pray God will move Southern Baptists to give stronger support to our cooperative work together and support the Cooperative Program."

For the ten months of the SBC fiscal year, 1990-91, the total of \$117,234,356 was short of the comparable period of 1989-90 of \$117,740,707 by less than one-half of one percent (0.43).

The required basic budget monthly figure is \$11,444,377 and for a ten month period, \$114,443,770. Fiscal year for the SBC is from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

On the other hand, designated gifts for the month of July fell 20.89 percent over the same month of 1990: \$3,212,018 compared to \$4,060,221. For the year-to-date, designated gifts are 0.65 percent behind a year ago: \$120,125,839 compared to \$120,912,724.

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Designated contributions include the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Home Mission Board's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, world hunger and other special gifts.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting ministry and missions through state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the Executive Committee for national and international ministries.

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Furman approves plan allowing
South Carolina participation

Baptist Press
8/1/91

N-CO
SC

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--The Furman University board of trustees approved a plan July 30 that allows the South Carolina Baptist Convention to participate in the selection of the university's trustees.

In a 22-2 vote, the board adopted a recommendation made by its executive committee concerning the trustee election process. The recommendation came after the executive committee had reached a tentative agreement with the Furman/South Carolina Baptist Convention relations committee.

The board approved the agreement during a special called meeting on the Furman campus.

Generally, the agreement calls for Furman to submit 10 names to the convention for the five new trustee positions available each year. The convention will then select five of those nominees to serve five-year terms on the board and Furman officially will name them.

Three of the five positions on the 25-member board will be filled each year by trustees who are members of South Carolina Baptist churches. Furman will provide six names for those three positions and the convention will choose any three. A majority of Furman's board will be composed of members of South Carolina Baptist Convention churches. The fourth position will be filled by a Southern Baptist who may or may not be from South Carolina. Furman will submit names for that position and the convention will choose one.

The fifth position will be filled by an active member of a church, who may or may not be Southern Baptist or from South Carolina. Furman will provide two names for the fifth position and the convention will choose one.

All nominees shall profess the Christian faith.

The convention, at its annual meeting, will choose those who are recommended by the SCBC's nominating committee. Any amendments to the committee's recommendation must come from the original list submitted by Furman.

"We believe this arrangement represents the best interests of both Furman and the South Carolina Baptist Convention," said Minor Mickel, who is chairman of Furman's board and a member of the executive committee. "It allows the convention to play a role in selecting Furman's trustees, while preserving the board's right of self governance."

The agreement grants "Furman control over the selection of her trustee body while assuring that the trustee body will always be predominantly made up of South Carolina Baptists with the SCBC having input into the selection process. It is an agreement which respects the interests of both institutions and protects a long standing relationship," said Robert Shrum, chairman of the Furman/SCBC relations committee and pastor of Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill.

The covenant between Furman and the Furman/SCBC relations committee must be approved by the messengers to the 1991 South Carolina Convention which meets in Greenville this November. According to convention officials, if the agreement is approved the money originally designated for Furman in 1991 would be released from escrow at that time.

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The new agreement also would require a change in the convention's constitution, which would be voted on during the 1992 meeting of the SCBC. If the agreement is adopted, the covenant will be protected by a contractual agreement which will be binding on both Furman and the convention.

The action by the Furman trustees came nine months after the board voted to give itself, rather than the SCBC, the power to elect the university's trustees. The convention, meeting one month later in Columbia, voted to appoint a committee to negotiate with Furman in hope of reaching an accord.

The two committees met twice during the spring and on May 28 agreed upon a compromise to the trustee election process. The committees met one more time on July 11 to work out the final details of the covenant.

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Hispanic Southern Baptists
to minister in Nicaragua

Baptist Press
8/1/91

N-FMB

ATLANTA (BP)--Hispanic Southern Baptists are planning an "exploratory trip" to Nicaragua in November to develop a working relationship with evangelical churches in the Central American country.

Miguel Rivera, executive secretary of the Convencion de Iglesias Evangelicas in Managua, Nicaragua, asked members of the Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers Conference for their assistance in June. The Nicaraguan group includes 26 churches with 4,000 members. It also has 30 places where it hopes to begin new work.

Fifteen people from the United States will make the trip Nov. 18-24, said Bob Sena, pastor of Atlanta's First Spanish Baptist Church and coordinator of the SBC Hispanic group. The team will include pastors, teachers, medical personnel and music leaders.

"We want to help the Nicaraguans in leadership training and also provide support in the area of social services," said Yamile Fernandez, pastor in Santa Anna, Calif., and president of the Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers Conference.

The November trip will be the first of many efforts to work in Nicaragua, said Fernandez. "The idea is to continue to help this group."

The trip will launch a year of celebration in 1992 as the Hispanic community notes the 500th anniversary of their culture being introduced to America, Sena said.

"We are thankful that God brought us here from so many countries," Sena said. "Now we want to reach out and help others."

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'Little guys' newest addition to
Oklahoma Children's Home campus

By Dana Williamson

F-60
(OKLA.)

Baptist Press
8/1/91

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Sit down in Lucas Cottage on the Oklahoma City Children's Home campus and you immediately will be surrounded by seven adorable "little guys."

This special group of children represents a first in Oklahoma Baptist child care. The "little guys," as they affectionately are known on campus, are the first preschoolers to be housed in a cottage with a set of houseparents. Before, all children under the age of 5 who needed care were assigned to foster homes.

The idea of a cottage for preschoolers came from Oklahoma City campus administrator Rod Phillips.

"I had an empty cottage, and had been interviewing for house parents for older girls," Phillips related. "At the same time the chaplain from Mabel Bassett Correction Center kept calling looking for somewhere to place young foster children of inmates. They didn't have enough foster homes for the children."

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Phillips talked with social worker Tina Johnson who expressed the program would need a special couple with incredible patience as houseparents.

As it happened, Phillips was interviewing that special couple even as the program was in its embryo stage. Daniel and Becky Tague loved children, but were unable to have any of their own. Becky had experience in day care and working with children in Vacation Bible School. Daniel had worked in the grocery business for 15 years.

At the same time, Phillips knew he would need a preschool department to teach the children and provide recreational and playtime to ease the houseparents' full-time duty with the youngsters. He discovered the granddaughter of a set of houseparents was transferring to the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, and she had experience in the preschool area.

"All of this came together at the same time," said Phillips.

Since state law says that children under 5 years of age cannot be housed in a residential facility, Lucas Cottage was designated by licensing agents as a foster care cottage.

The seven children presently in the cottage range in age from 2 to 4 years. Among the children are three sets of siblings -- Jeremy, 4, and Mickie, 3; Amanda, 4, and Zachary, 2; and twins Monia and Sharday, 2. The seventh is 4-year-old Joyce, who has an older sister in another cottage.

Most of the children are residents of child care because of family problems -- mostly financial.

"Parents come to us saying they don't have a place to live or money to take care of the kids," said Johnson.

Becky Tague related one mother and one father are in prison, and one mother is going to school and can't financially support her children at this time.

"Most of the parents are very young, in their early 20s," said Johnson.

The cottage situation is preferred over foster care because of increased parental contact. In the foster care program, parents get only one visit a month, but in the new program they have weekly visitation and unlimited phone privileges.

"This has been especially helpful for Mickie and Jeremy who were previously in foster care," said Johnson. "The weekly contact with their mother has made a difference in their lives."

With seven children that young, there is always something going on, but the Tagues enjoy every minute of it.

"There is so much joy in everything new they learn," said Tague. "And the hugs for no reason are really special.

"They sleep through the night, and the older ones dress themselves and are even helpful around the house."

Tague related she recently emptied a dryer load of sheets and towels and threw it on the couch. While back in the utility room, she heard screams coming from the living room, and went to investigate. Mandy and Mickie had folded all the towels, and had spread a sheet on the floor to fold it. Some of the younger children had jumped on the sheet, and the older girls were trying to get them off so they could continue folding.

"It amazes me what they are capable of if allowed to do it," said Tague.

"We hope that because they are having the experience of a good home while they are so young, they will strive to have a better life," she said.

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While the program began last December with a six-month trial period, because of its success, it is "here to stay," said Phillips.

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(Williamson is a newswriter with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.)

(BP) photo available upon request from the Baptist Messenger

Centrifuge girls ask
questions about boys

By Terri Lackey

F-CD

Baptist Press
8/1/91

COLD SPRINGS, Calif. (BP)--Girls want to know why boys always try to act so "cool" around them, what guys look for in a girl and if it's OK to ask boys out on a date.

They also wonder why teenage boys are "always thinking about sex" and how far is "too far" when it comes to sexual relations.

Kevin Sigsby, camp director for the West Coast Centrifuge traveling team, answered the questions, written anonymously, during a "For Girls Only" class held at a Centrifuge camp at Jenness Park Baptist Assembly in Cold Springs, Calif., July 29-Aug. 2.

Sigsby, who has been on Centrifuge staffs for the past eight summers, visited the class once just to answer girls' questions about boys. He said boys always try to act so cool around girls because "sometimes guys just don't know how they are supposed to act. So instead of saying something stupid, they act reserved."

Asked about why guys "think it is so important to put girls down," Sigsby said guys are sometimes unaware about how harshly they come across to girls.

Because they don't talk about their feelings as freely as girls, Sigsby said boys are not as sensitive to the feelings of others. "Sometimes they just don't know how deeply some things hurt. Sometimes they just say things that come out badly."

When questioned about the guidelines of girls asking guys out on dates, Sigsby said boys are sometimes relieved to have girls doing the asking.

"Sometimes it's nice to have someone else in charge for a change," said Sigsby, a member of Holladay Baptist Church in Salt Lake City.

"It's sometimes scary for a guy to ask a girl out. If the girl says 'no,' the guy starts questioning himself," said Sigsby. "Guys are afraid of rejection and being vulnerable."

Sigsby suggested girls who ask boys out on dates make it clear who is paying and who will drive.

He also said if a girl does not want to go out on a date with a guy "for whatever reason," she should tell him so "in a nice way."

"If you don't want to go, just say 'No.' I would much rather you say 'No, thank-you' than string me out for a long time."

When asked what 15-year-old guys look for in a girl, Sigsby answered beauty first, then personality.

"To be honest, the first thing they notice is how you look. But past that, they begin to find out what kind of person you are.

"I think guys like girls who are fun, not air-heads or space cadets. They want girls who have sense and can think for themselves. Once you start spending time with someone, you want them to have a brain and you want to have common interests."

In answer to one girl's question, "Why do guys just have one thing on their minds," Sigsby said, "Sex is not the number one thing on guys' minds."

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"If you're running around with guys that think like that, then I would question if these are really the folks you want to be hanging around with," he added.

"Sports is the thing most guys spend their time talking about, thinking about and looking forward to," Sigsby said.

The question of "how far is too far to go in sexual relations" can be answered in the Bible, Sigsby said.

"I am a Christian, and as a Christian, I believe what the Bible says, 'Sexual relations are wrong outside of marriage.'

"Do I think kissing is wrong? No. But I think heavy petting and caressing and anything that could lead to sexual relations is wrong," said Sigsby. "When you are manipulating another person to get what you want, that is wrong."

Centrifuge is a camp for youth in 8th through 12th grades. The camps offer recreation, Bible study, worship and special classes. About 415 youth and youth leaders from California, Arizona and Nevada attended the camp.