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91-121

**Texas lawmakers approve lottery;
grassroots gambling fight begins**

By Ken Camp

N-Texas

DALLAS (BP)--Texas lottery opponents suffered a major setback last week when Lone Star lawmakers meeting in special session yielded to intense lobbying pressure, voting to place legalization of the state-run numbers game on November ballot.

But anti-gambling advocates pledge an all-out, grassroots campaign to inform voters the lottery is "all smoke and mirrors," not the answer to the state's budget woes.

In spite of a more than seven-hour filibuster by Sen. John Leedom, R-Dallas, the state Senate approved the lottery measure 22-5 on Aug. 10. Leedom took the floor at about 7 p.m. Aug. 9, soon after the Senate gave tentative approval to the lottery referendum by a 24-7 vote on second reading. His lone voice echoed through the virtually empty Senate chamber until the wee hours of the morning.

Legislative approval of the bill means a constitutional amendment legalizing lotteries will appear on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot.

Weston Ware, citizenship associate, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, said approval of the lottery proposal was the result of a concerted lobbying effort by the governor, lobbyists for the lottery industry and lobbyists for horse and dog racing tracks "all of whom have taken advantage of the state's fiscal situation to see what they could foist off on the people of Texas."

"They had a lot to offer the legislators," added Sue Cox, director of Texans Who Care. "All we had to offer was good government."

"Now the question is whether we can let Texans know the truth about the lottery," Ware said. "Many have been convinced that the lottery would enable the state to avoid a massive tax increase. What will happen when Texans learn that was all a lot of smoke and mirrors?"

Lottery proponents cleared their first major hurdle when HJR8 won the needed two-thirds majority approval in the state House of Representatives on Aug. 5 by a 101 to 46 vote.

On the eve of the House vote, Gov. Ann Richards sent a videotaped message to television stations throughout Texas, urging citizens to ask their representatives to approve the lottery legislation. In the video release, she said, "Either we have a huge tax bill or we approve a lottery. That's what it comes down to."

But soon after the House approved the lottery measure, the governor conceded "the lottery does not resolve all of the financial problems of the state of Texas..(and) undoubtedly there will be some form of a tax bill."

During House debate on the lottery measure, Rep. Billy Clemons, D-Pollock, made a pointed reference to highly paid, pro-lottery lobbyists seated in the House gallery and to the intense lobbying effort they had waged.

"Look at all the lobbyists," he said. "Do you think the taxpayers sent them up here? No! They represent private industries from out of state."

Lottery opponents such as floor leader Rep. Glenn Repp, R-Duncanville, urged lawmakers who had voted against the lottery earlier to stand firm against the numbers game, which he termed an unfair, inadequate, inefficient and unstable source of state revenue.

In February during the regular legislative session, the House had rejected a lottery 90-56--ten votes short of the two-thirds majority needed for a constitutional amendment.

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Retiring Southwestern Seminary
professor a testament to teaching By Matthew Brady

F-10
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Baptist Press
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FORT WORTH (BP)--It seems to former Indiana pastor David Garland that no matter where he goes, he sees a former student.

That's because in his 31 years as professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Garland estimates he has taught more than 18,000 students. Since his retirement, effective July 31, Garland admits he will miss the students the most.

"You can learn an awful lot from them -- about the effects of Christianity upon their lives upon their dreams and hopes," he said.

It is these students whom Garland believes make Southwestern "the shortest distance around the world.

"It's just amazing. You can go almost any place in the world and run upon someone who has been a student of yours," he said.

And that reminds him of the time he and his family were on sabbatical leave sailing across the Atlantic Ocean on the Queen Elizabeth. In the ship's laundry room his wife met two American women whose husbands had graduated from Southwestern. They were on their way to Africa as missionaries.

"There is no way of determining the influence of this student body around the world, and to be given an opportunity to participate in the ministry here is just one of the great things that happens in life," he said.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Garland attended Union University before joining the U.S. Navy during World War II.

But he had felt called to pastoral ministry since his middle teens so soon after the war ended he entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. While completing his seminary work, Garland served as pastor of First Baptist Church in West Baden, Ind.

At Southern, Garland concentrated on Old Testament, earning both the bachelor's of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees. He said his decision to major in Old Testament was due mainly to the inspiration of one of his professors, the late Clyde Francisco.

"He made Old Testament come alive," Garland explained, "and it was very exciting to me."

After his seminary career, Garland served as pastor at Baring Cross Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Ark., for seven and one-half years. And while he thought teaching might be in his future, he was not seeking a position when Robert Naylor, then president at Southwestern, approached him about a position at the seminary in 1958.

"If I have any talents or gifts, I think they are probably in the classroom," Garland said. "I'm most comfortable there, plus I enjoy and appreciate the students. I have a lot of confidence and trust that they are going to make a difference in the world."

Next to the students Garland said he will miss his colleagues on the faculty whom he said are "great men who have had a profound influence upon my life."

And Garland believes the future of Southwestern's school of theology, where he taught throughout his career, is bright.

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He believes the new theology dean, Bruce Corley, will provide great leadership through what he said is an approaching crossroads in theological education.

"Pressures from the various social groups are trying to bring about compromise and consensus," he said. "These things are going to challenge us and call for our best in education and in conviction."

"A democracy may allow it, but that has nothing to do with whether it is legitimate and honorable. Social mores have very little to do with the rightness or wrongness of a thing," Garland said.

As for parting advice for his colleagues and students Garland said simply to "keep doing what we've been doing, and try to do it better. Stand by your convictions no matter what it costs."

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Loring urges ministers
to avoid 'burden of divinity'

By Pat Cole

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Ministers must avoid bearing the "burden of divinity" admiring church members sometimes assign them, a Texas pastor told participants at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Pastor's School.

Congregations often place ministers "on a pedestal as someone who represents the Lord," said Ben Loring, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas. Ministers, he added, are prone to "listen too carefully" to the plaudits of their church members. "We have assumed the messiah complex," he said. "We believe too much in ourselves without the proper perspective."

Loring addressed 48 registrants from 15 states Aug. 5-9 at the Louisville, Ky., seminary's third annual Pastor's School.

Instead of striving toward a divine identity, ministers should use the "fragility of humanity" to represent God's power to transform lives, Loring said: "It is through our humanity that we make contact with people to represent the difference Christ can make."

Ministers often limit their effectiveness by not allowing themselves to be vulnerable to the wide range of human emotions, Loring said. Still, he stressed ministers must also "avoid getting our own needs met through being a care giver." This tendency often leads to the moral failure of ministers, Loring noted: "If we are not aware of our own need level in our lives, we can fall prey to the fragility of our humanness."

Ministers must make their "relationship to God through Jesus Christ" their top priority, Loring emphasized. "His grace is as tangible as our own flesh and blood. If that's not true, I have no hope, but I'd bet my life that it is true."

In addition, he said ministers should also build strong relationships with other people. "I need a warm, gentle nudge and sometimes a 2 by 4 between the eyes from those who care for me. . . .," said Loring. "I need people around me who love me and who give me their embrace."

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Christians called to
the caring business

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--About 90 percent of the hurting people in churches could be helped by fellow church members, a conference leader said.

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"As Christians, part of our ministry role, whether we are pastors or church leaders or not, is to be a caregiver to people. We should all be in the soul-care business," said Jim Hightower, pastoral leadership consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department. Hightower led a series of seminars titled, "Called to Care: The Basics of Caring for People," during Bible-Preaching-Administration Week Aug. 3-10 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"There is no way pastors can do all the pastoral care in a church," Hightower said. "They simply don't have the time. Other members of the church staff, deacons, Sunday school teachers, any concerned Christians, can provide help."

One of the keys in providing counseling to hurting people, Hightower said, is "knowing your boundaries."

"One sign of a good counselor is knowing when to intervene and when to refer to someone else," he explained. "There are some people I can help, and others whose problems are too complex and will require professional medical or psychiatric attention."

Hightower urged pastors and church members to refrain from referring to any professional counselor "that they do not personally know and feel comfortable with." While he does not believe it is imperative the counselor be a Christian, Hightower said it is important he or she "take the religious part of the client seriously."

Hightower shared with conference participants three "maxims" in determining whether they should offer help to someone who is hurting: 1) You can't help folks who don't want help. 2) You can't help people if they don't know what they want. 3) Only you know your boundaries -- what you can help people with and what you can't.

He also said people with the following problems will require professional help: delusional thinking, severe depression, eating disorders, thought disorders and addictive behaviors, such as alcoholism or drug addiction.

"All of these have a common component," Hightower explained. "They have a medical component that lay people will not know how to deal with. But these are only 5 to 10 percent of the people who are hurting in the church. The other 90 to 95 percent, we can do a good job with."

Hightower said the best pastoral counselors are people who have endured suffering themselves.

"One way we can make whatever we suffer in life meaningful is to use it to comfort other people," he said.

Hightower, a licensed counselor and marriage and family therapist, compiled a book on pastoral counseling titled, "Called to Care: Helping People Through Pastoral Care." The book was published by Convention Press in 1990.

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Volunteers make videos
to teach deaf kids

By Lawanda Smith

F-COXY

Baptist Press
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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Two new children's videos produced by Mission Service Corps volunteers feature a Christian message delivered without spoken words. The videos, produced by Louisville-based Deaf Opportunity Outreach, were made by deaf children for deaf children.

The project was the idea of Vesta Bice, a full-time Mission Service Corp volunteer at DOOR, which is staffed completely by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board volunteers. Although DOOR has been in operation nine years, it offered few resources for children until last year, when more requests began coming in.

"Parents wanted to know how to teach their deaf children to pray, how to teach them about Christian doctrines," Bice said. "They even wanted to know how they could teach their children to sing."

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In keeping with the goals of DOOR, Bice believed the best way to reach deaf children was through deaf children. For this project, she selected 15 children from Christian homes who communicated through sign language.

The children, ages 6-10, came from 11 states. They are Ketsi Carlson and Daniel Lute of Wisconsin; Ryan Carrera of Florida; Sunny Saavalainen and Allison Tyler of Maryland; Fara Wilson, Sarah Wilson and Adan Burkes of Missouri; Danielle Burnton of Kentucky; Daniel Pfaff, Sara Reis and Rachel Lawrence of Indiana; Hannah DiMaria and Rebecca Kruefzer of Pennsylvania; and Laramie Burris of Georgia.

Bice and the children formed a discipleship group called Deaf Kids' Club for Jesus. Other deaf children who contact DOOR are invited to join the club.

"One of the most lonely things to a deaf child is the fear that he or she might be the only deaf child in the world," Bice said. "Being a member of the club--receiving a t-shirt, button, quarterly newsletter--helps them feel included."

A primary focus of the club is producing videos to teach music and Christian doctrines to other deaf children. The group filmed their first music video in early July and started work on a five-part series later in the month.

They wrote the songs in sign language. Then Marshall Lawrence of Elkhart, Ind., watched the signing and wrote the musical score. "He basically interpreted the music for the hearing community," Bice explained. "As far as we know, this is the only project of its kind in the United States."

The group's goal is to produce five videos in five years, each to teach a different concept of Christianity. The first focuses on the doctrine of God. The video was taped at various locations. For example, the segment "God as Creator" was filmed at the Louisville Zoo.

Bice said the purpose of the videos is to reach out to isolated deaf children. But they also could help parents who know limited sign language or who are unsure of how to teach their children about God.

A release date will be set when funds are available to edit and duplicate the videos, Bice said. "We do each part of the project as the funds come in."

For information on the videos, contact DOOR at P.O. Box 3999, Louisville, Ky. 40201.

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Lawanda Smith is a correspondent for the Western Recorder, the newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Sermon planning relieves stress,
conference leader tells pastors

By Chip Alford

F-SSB

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--"For every minute you spend in the pulpit, you should spend an hour in the study," according to an old adage.

But is it really possible?

"There is no way a pastor can do that if he is doing all the things that his job requires," Martin Thielen told pastors attending Bible-Preaching-Administration Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Thielen, a design editor for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, led a series of seminars titled "Getting Ready for Sunday."

While one hour of study per one minute of preaching may be unrealistic, Thielen said planning sermons in advance can save pastors time and relieve stress.

"There is enough stress and anxiety in a pastor's job without worrying yourself to death about what you are going to preach about on Sunday," Thielen said. "It is just too much work to start from scratch each week."

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Thielen, who served as pastor of several churches in Arkansas before joining the board, said he planned his sermons a year in advance using a manila folder divided into two six-month sections. But he stopped short of advising the same method for others.

"You have to find a time frame that works for you. Some pastors plan monthly, some quarterly and others for six months or a year. The important thing is that you plan in advance," he said.

In addition to saving pastors time and relieving anxiety, Thielen said advance planning allows pastors more time to gather supporting materials and illustrations for their sermons.

"Every pastor should have an idea file," he said. "If you don't have one you're working too hard. As you go along, you can drop in articles and (Scripture) passages that relate to your sermon topics."

Advance planning also encourages balanced preaching, Thielen said. Pastors can maintain a written record of how many sermons they preach on discipleship or evangelism, servanthood or encouragement, and keep track of Old Testament versus New Testament texts, and other categories, he said.

In planning their sermon topics, Thielen suggested pastors consider the following sources: Christian, secular and church calendars; denominational emphases; and their personal calendars. He also advised against long-term sermon series.

"It is my feeling that we (pastors) are a lot more enamored with our series than our folks are," he explained. "You might consider shorter series for Sunday mornings and longer series, such as on a particular book, on Sunday evenings."

While planning is a must, Thielen said pastors must remember sermons chosen in advance are only "tentative."

At times circumstances will require a change in the sermon topic, Thielen said. He recalled the death of an 18-year-old boy in one of his previous churches. The Sunday after the boy's death he had planned to preach a sermon on stewardship.

"Do you think I preached that sermon? No way. It wouldn't have been appropriate. The people in our church were hurting. I went to Habakkuk and preached on faith in times of trial."

At other times, Thielen said pastors feel God is speaking to them about a particular passage or issue, "and you will have to throw a prepared sermon out the window."

Even so, planning in advance can make "a world of difference" in preaching effectiveness and the overall ministry of the church, Thielen said.

Thielen, editor of "Proclaim" and "The Deacon" magazines, has written three Broadman books about sermon planning: "Getting Ready for Sunday," "Getting Ready for Sunday's Sermon" and "Getting Ready for Special Sundays."

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Victor Martinez ganging up
for the gospel in Dallas

By Tim McKeown

Baptist Press
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DALLAS (BP)--These days Victor Martinez gets a kick out of ministering to Hispanic gang members on Dallas' southeast side.

But not too long ago the kicks were all on him.

In the old days it wasn't unusual for Martinez to be ignored, laughed at, threatened or even spit upon.

Looking back, Martinez a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of El Pueblo de Dios Church, believes God was trying to teach him about perseverance.

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"The greatest time of testing always comes right before it gets good," Martinez said.

Martinez attributes the change in the church's ability to get through to the mostly unresponsive Spanish-speaking culture to a few men who were dramatically saved in 1987.

"I was out walking the streets and the people didn't want to believe in Christ. Then I would tell them I was a preacher and that made it worse," Martinez said. "But then Abner (Fajardo) came and said 'Victor, I want to be discipled.' And I said 'Alright, come walk with me.'"

As Martinez brought along newly converted Abner Fajardo and Luis Rodriguez along on his witnessing walks, "The people on the streets started listening and then it got better. Then they (Fajardo and Rodriguez) started preaching and sharing, and it got even better. These guys made the difference," Martinez said.

The challenge of working with first-generation Mexican-Americans is made tougher with the growth of gangs in Dallas.

"There is such a culture change from Mexico. The parents don't understand their kids," said Martinez a native of Puerto Rico. "They don't like their music, they don't like their hair, they don't understand the language. Then the young people don't understand their parents who are mostly from the Ranchos or the mountains of Mexico."

Martinez said parents in Mexico raise their children by letting them roam around outside. "When they do that here, the kids can end up becoming part of gangs, trying to cope with a change in their culture," he said.

One way the church is reaching the new generation of Mexican-Americans is with its own soccer team. While other teams take beer to the Sunday afternoon games the El Pueblo de Dios team members take Bibles and hold Bible studies for the soccer fans at half time. The team won third place in the league its first year and first place last year.

Martinez sometimes preaches or teaches a Bible study at the games but usually defers to some of his deacons in the church. Martinez said Fajardo, a deacon and regular Bible study leader at the games is one of the best players in the league and is widely respected among the soccer players. Many people responded to the new converts' change in lifestyle and others also accepted Christ, Martinez said. But it wasn't an easy transition from being lost to being saved.

"They struggled with drinking and drugs," Martinez said. Due to the heavy Catholic influence, many wives will resist their husband becoming evangelical Christians even though in some cases the husbands have been physically abusive to them prior to their salvation.

As a result, Martinez said the church tries to work with the entire family and get all of them to become Christians through a three-pronged relationship evangelism method.

"Before we win them to Christ, we win them to ourselves by being a friend and loving them. Then once they know us and trust us we're able to lead them to Christ. Then we win them to being committed to the church.

"But the key is relationships," Martinez said. "If the church wants to do the Great Commission, it is not through tracts but discipleship -- self-death and reproducing."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary