



**-- BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFF  
SBC Executive Comm  
901 Commerce #  
Nashville, Tennessee 37  
(615) 244-2  
Herb Hollinger, Vice Presi  
Fax (615) 742-6  
CompuServe ID# 7042

**BUREAUS**

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522  
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232  
NASHVILLE Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

December 16, 1992

210-92

ATLANTA -- Southern trustees reject plan to pay for Simmons' departure.  
MISSOURI -- Battle with AIDS brings woman heartache, but hope; photo.  
INDIANA -- Indiana Baptist congregation votes to leave ABC, join SBC.  
TEXAS -- Bivocational ministries highlighted in conference.

EDITORS' NOTE: This story replaces the one E-mailed to editors 12/15/92 with the same headline. The last sentence in the first story has been dropped.

Southern trustees reject plan  
to pay for Simmons' departure By James E. Dotson

Baptist Press  
12/16/92

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees, meeting behind closed doors in a called meeting in Atlanta Dec. 15, voted against a proposal to offer controversial ethics professor Paul Simmons up to \$362,000 to terminate his relationship with the seminary.

The board debated for four hours in executive session at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel before voting 34-21 against a motion to offer the severance package.

Trustee chairman W. Wayne Allen, a Cordova, Tenn., pastor, declined all comment on the meeting and the discussion, other than to release a copy of the motion under consideration.

The motion would have empowered seminary President Roy Honeycutt to negotiate "the conclusion" of Simmons' relationship to the seminary "at a cost to the seminary approximating Paul Simmons' compensation through age 62 (not to exceed \$362,000)." Simmons, 56, is professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary.

The meeting was the latest attempt by trustees to deal with recurring controversy over Simmons, who has come under fire from conservative trustees for his recent support of abortion rights and homosexuality views. He is a tenured professor, which means he could be fired only for heresy (teachings in violation of the seminary's Abstract of Principles doctrinal statement) or for violating his contract.

According to trustee sources quoted by Associated Baptist Press, trustees earlier had rejected a severance package negotiated by Honeycutt estimated at up to \$650,000. Some trustees reportedly believe formal dismissal hearings would allow the conflict to continue and possibly taint the administration of the next president at the seminary. Honeycutt has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 1993.

Other trustees said they would prefer to seek dismissal through formal heresy charges.

Several trustees said they had been asked not to comment on the details of the Dec. 15 debate.

When asked about the cost of the called meeting, Honeycutt said he did not know the exact figure but that expenses for regular trustee meetings at the Louisville, Ky., campus usually come to about \$30,000 to \$35,000.

**Battle with AIDS brings  
woman heartache, but hope**

**By Shari Schubert**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A career in theater, getting married, having a child -- those were the dreams Carrie Peter had as she graduated from high school in 1985 and went away to college. Those dreams were shattered when she learned five years ago she was infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The Missouri Baptist young woman has not yet contracted one of the 23 life-threatening opportunistic diseases -- such as pneumocystis carinii or kaposi's sarcoma -- that signal full-blown AIDS. But she is sick practically every day with the effects of other infections her damaged immune system cannot fight off: fatigue, diarrhea, fevers, swollen lymph nodes, yeast infections, thrush.

She is affected financially as well as physically. Upon graduation from college, she was declared disabled. Because she was never able to hold a job and pay into Social Security, her disability income is minimal, only enough to pay rent on her Kansas City apartment. She receives some additional assistance in the form of food stamps and Medicaid. At age 25, she still has to call on her parents to help with unmet expenses.

The cost of two prescription drugs, DDC and AZT, which she takes to slow the depletion of her immune system's T-lymphocytes, is \$1,000 per month. And there are other medications she must take to control the related infections. So far, her medical expenses have been covered by insurance, but there is no guarantee her insurance won't eventually be canceled.

Speaking recently to a group of teen-age 4-H Club members from Missouri and neighboring states, Peter openly acknowledged unless a cure for AIDS is found soon, she is facing an early death.

"I do not foresee a cure anytime soon," she said. She pointed out so far no cure has been found for any virus, not even the one that causes the common cold.

"I'm not afraid to die," she said. "I know I'm going to heaven. But I am afraid of torture before I die."

The first person she knew who died from AIDS was a 6-year-old girl. The child contracted the virus from her mother, who also is infected.

Peter fought back tears as she told about learning how the child was provided a trip to Disney World through "Dream Factory," an organization that seeks to grant the wishes of terminally ill children. The child's wish was to meet Mickey Mouse.

"She died before she got to see Mickey Mouse," Peter related.

She recalled standing by the bedside of a friend she met through an AIDS support group, seeing him suffer from dementia as the disease attacked his brain. She knows she may be facing a similar agonizing death.

But along with the shattered dreams, daily struggles, shared heartaches and fears about the future, Carrie Peter -- her plaid shirt adorned with a red ribbon and a button declaring, "Someone Jesus loves has AIDS" -- spoke of the hope she has. It is the hope of heaven and the hope she can help others avoid the tragedy she now is living.

To many people, Peter would seem an unlikely candidate for AIDS. Growing up in Jefferson City, Mo., she was raised in a religious family, she accepted Christ as a girl in elementary school, she was active in the youth group and drama team of her home church, First Baptist in Jefferson City. Even now, on one AIDS "risk test" she took -- on which scores of 11 and up were considered high risk -- Carrie scored only 8.

Her story proves, she said, one does not have to be homosexual, or be living with a bisexual person, or be an intravenous drug user, or be living in some city like New York or San Francisco, to become infected with HIV.

"So many teen-agers think, 'Because I live in a rural area, that's not going to happen to me,'" she said. But she was attending college in a small Missouri town of about 3,000 people when she was infected, while involved in what she thought was a monogamous relationship.

--more--

She cited curiosity and the need for attention and acceptance as factors that led to her becoming sexually active outside of marriage. The possibility of getting AIDS was not even considered. She had received little education about AIDS as a teen, she recalled, and she knew only of a few AIDS cases that had made the news, such as actor Rock Hudson's.

"I thought, this just happens to gay people."

The man she was sexually involved with during college -- a man she was planning to marry -- had not told her of his past sexual contacts, she said.

She received a telephone call after donating blood in December 1987. When the caller said her blood had tested positive for HIV, Peter's first thought was there had been a mistake -- a clerical error. But two subsequent tests confirmed the presence of the virus. The boyfriend also tested positive.

Peter kept her infection a secret for four and a half years. But she eventually became convinced God was leading her to speak out about her experience as a way of helping others. She has addressed schools, youth groups, churches and even health care workers -- who she said need AIDS education as much as the general public.

Having learned a hard lesson from her own tragedy, she now urges teens to abstain from sexual relations until they are married. Monogamy, she emphasized to the 4-H'ers, "doesn't mean one person at a time; it means one person for the rest of your life."

Condoms are not 100 percent fail-safe, she pointed out. Even with a condom, according to one source, a person having sex with an HIV-infected person has a one-in-six chance of contracting the virus.

Engaging in unprotected sex is not a way to demonstrate love for a boyfriend or girlfriend, she said. "You have to learn to love yourself enough to protect yourself. ... We're talking about life and death here."

Peter urges young people who have put themselves at risk to have themselves tested for HIV. "You don't want to find out by getting sick," she emphasized. If HIV infection goes undetected until an opportunistic disease has already struck, the chances of successful life-extending treatment are greatly diminished.

Peter also emphasized the need to show compassion for people with AIDS, no matter how they contracted the disease, and the need to offer a message of hope to those who are facing death without Christ.

She has sought to share that message through her personal testimony and also by distributing copies of a brochure, "Why Me?" published by Scripture Gift Mission of London. The brochure contains Scriptures that address the reality of suffering, the compassion of Christ and the forgiveness available through him. She has placed copies of the brochure in places such as doctors' offices and pharmacies and has shared them with members of her support group. One friend in the support group accepted Christ because of the brochure's message.

So many people wait until they are in a perilous situation to work on their relationship with God, Peter observed. "We need to work on it every day."

--30--

(BP) photo available upon request from Word & Way, Missouri Baptist newsjournal.

Indiana Baptist congregation  
votes to leave ABC, join SBC

Baptist Press  
12/16/92

HANOVER, Ind. (BP)--A Baptist church in Hanover, Ind., has presented its first Cooperative Program check to the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana after voting by a 2-1 margin to leave the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

After Hanover Baptist Church voted 107-43 Nov. 29 to affiliate with the Southern Baptist Convention, its pastor, J.D. Traylor, presented a check Dec. 1 to the Southern Baptist-related Indiana convention for Cooperative Program ministries in the state as well as nationally and internationally.

--more--

Traylor voiced dismay over a vote earlier this year by American Baptists' general board refusing to condemn homosexuality as sin. He subsequently told deacons at the Hanover church "that I could no longer be a pastor of an American Baptist church," voicing concern over denominational positions he regarded as liberal on homosexuality and other societal issues.

Although the ABC later reversed its soft stance on homosexuality, Traylor felt the flap "showed a picture of where we were," he told the Indiana Baptist, newsjournal of the state's SBC-affiliated convention.

Traylor found supporters in the congregation for his stance, such as Carl Gaines and Richard Gray, who traveled with him to the state convention's headquarters in Indianapolis to present the church's first check for Cooperative Program ministries.

Both men told the state paper they were tired of hearing American Baptist leaders express sympathy for homosexual rights, abortion on demand and women's ordination -- leaders who "don't take the Bible literally," as Gaines put it.

"I want to get away from supporting the World Council of Churches," he added.

At least three families have left Hanover Baptist Church after the vote to affiliate with the SBC, the Indiana Baptist paper reported.

Commenting on the church's denominational switch, Charles W. Sullivan, executive director of the SBC-related state convention, said: "We are not courting and have not courted any American Baptist churches to become Southern Baptists. We are ready to receive with open arms any church that concludes they are of like faith and order as we are, and that was the case with the Hanover church."

--30--

Tammi Ledbetter contributed to this story.

Bivocational ministries  
highlighted in conference

By Susan Simko

Baptist Press  
12/16/92

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Second Baptist Church in Nashville needed a pastor, but with an average attendance of 42, the church could not afford to hire a full-time minister.

Four years ago, Michael Saunders responded to the need and became the church's bivocational minister, earning his income as a steelworker. Under Saunders' leadership, Second Baptist has grown to an average of 175 in worship services.

Saunders, who was recently named bivocational minister of the year, was one of more than 60 ministers and administrators who attended the annual National Council for Bivocational Ministers at Gambrell Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

The council was held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association Dec. 10-12. Saunders attended the conference to both encourage and learn from his fellow ministers, he said.

"I want to show the people that it can work, to give some of the bivocational encouragement that it can be done," he said. "I'm here to find some more ways we can work together."

Encouragement is necessary, said Carl Elder, consultant for smaller church development in the Baptist General Convention of Texas, because the need for bivocational ministry is expanding.

--more--

"For church planting, church starting and pastoring in the future, we must have more bivocational ministers," Elder said.

Leaders in Southern Baptists' bivocational ministries say they are preparing for tomorrow.

"In the last five years, the Southern Baptist Convention, state conventions and the Home Mission Board have recognized bivocational ministry as a legitimate, full-time ministry," Elder said.

The future need means ministry students must be open to bivocational ministry, said Dale Holloway, Home Mission Board staffer for bivocational ministries.

One of the purposes for the bivocational conference is "to alert ministry students to the need to choose and nurture a second vocation as an enabler for ministry, to amplify resources and training," Holloway said, as well as to "share with state leaders bivocational happenings across the nation and to focus on the importance and effectiveness of double-duty ministry."