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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 24, 1991

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**Parks urges Southern Baptists
to avoid damage to Lottie Moon**

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks has urged Southern Baptists to avoid allowing denominational controversies to damage giving to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering at a time of great opportunities for world missions.

Some Southern Baptists, opposed to an action of FMB trustees to defund the 1992 operating budget of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, have issued statements which Parks said he believes could hurt the offering.

Parks, who opposed the defunding vote, fears some Southern Baptists will either withhold contributions to Lottie Moon or request the money they would normally give freely to the offering be used instead for the Swiss seminary.

The seminary lost 40 percent of its 1992 operating budget when trustees voted 35-28 on Oct. 9 to defund its \$365,000 contribution and redirect the funds for theological needs in Eastern Europe.

Parks affirmed Southern Baptists may designate funds to the seminary or to any other cause they wish. But he urged they do so over and above Lottie Moon contributions, which make up more than 45.7 percent of the board's budget.

"The cooperative system of support which Southern Baptists have remains the best way to finance missions," Parks said, noting the next-largest source of support is the Cooperative Program, which provides 38.3 percent of the 1992 budget.

If Lottie Moon suffers, Parks said, the board will fall short of financing its \$183.7 million missions program, which supports nearly 3,900 missionaries and their work in 121 nations.

The mission board based its newly adopted 1992 budget on the expectation Southern Baptists will dig \$4.6 million deeper into their pockets at Lottie Moon time this December. In approving the 1992 budget, trustees voted to use receipts over the offering's \$84 million goal to support a massive "Green Alert" project designed to capitalize on an emerging openness to the gospel in the former Soviet Union.

Despite reports to the contrary, the Foreign Mission board cannot spend Lottie Moon receipts to help support the Ruschlikon seminary's operating budget. Every penny of the offering must be used to fund budgeted items.

All of the Lottie Moon offering is included in the board's budget. Part of the underlying agreement of the Lottie Moon offering is it will be used exclusively in the overseas budget, according to board officials. None is used for stateside administrative or promotional expenses.

It is possible for the Foreign Mission Board to accept Lottie Moon funds designated to a specific country, program of work, or institution on the field already in the board's budget for that country, program or institution. Some congregations choose to do this to personalize their giving.

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If Southern Baptists designate funds for a particular cause outside the budget, the board will accept funds as a designated gift for that cause, not as Lottie Moon contributions, board leaders said.

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Southwestern trustees elect
new chairman; approve strategic plan By Scott Collins

Baptist Press
10/24/91

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary elected a new chairman, approved a four-year strategic plan for the school and added a Southern Baptist pastor to the seminary's faculty during their regular meeting Oct. 21-22 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Jim Bolton, a member of First Baptist Church of Dallas, was elected to fill the unexpired term of trustee chairman James T. Draper Jr., who resigned from the board to accept the position of president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Bolton, chief executive officer of CDWord Library, Inc., said he hopes to continue the positive relationship between trustees and Southwestern President Russell Dilday.

"I think we have an opportunity for building the trust between the president and the board," Bolton said. "I'm excited to work with Dr. Dilday."

Bolton, who was reared in Wichita Falls, Texas, along with Dilday, said trustees and members of the seminary faculty and staff "must continue the process of understanding each other."

A part of that process, he said, is to "encourage the board to be policy setters and allow the administration to carry out those policies."

Pat Campbell, pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in St. Charles, Mo., was elected vice chairman, filling the position vacated by Bolton when he was elected chairman. Both Bolton and Campbell will serve until March, when regularly scheduled elections will be held.

Board members also unanimously approved a strategic plan which will guide the seminary through 1995. The plan, called "Vision For Excellence," includes seven major objectives to be supported by 39 goals and nearly 170 action plans.

The seven objectives approved are:

- To develop and support educational programs that will provide quality leadership for the expanding ministries of the denomination;

- To encourage fresh approaches to quality teaching including appropriate innovative methods and faculty development;

- To renew an emphasis on attracting quality students who have experienced the call to ministry and on providing expanded services for those students and their families;

- To generate, allocate, and manage expanded financial resources needed to accomplish the institutional objectives and goals;

- To refine and monitor the administrative structure, managerial organization, and operation of the seminary;

- To continue the development of the campus master plan through construction, upgrading and property acquisitions;

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-- To conduct an ongoing study of campus space for the most effective and efficient utilization of that space including renovation of buildings.

The plan, developed by Dilday, follows three similar strategic plans during his tenure as president. Scotty Gray, executive vice president and the person responsible for directing the plan, said formulating it "has included what is probably an unprecedented involvement of a broad spectrum of interested persons."

Gray also reported to trustees the status of Southwestern's reaccreditation process. The Association of Theological Schools has approved the seminary for the next 10 years, he said. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which also accredits the seminary, is expected to release its report in December.

Four notations given by the accrediting agencies are being addressed and should be corrected by the spring, Gray said. The agencies issue notations, recommendations and suggestions based on each school's own extensive self-study. Gray said ATS and SACS require a response to the notations, but action on recommendations and suggestions is voluntary.

"This is a good report," Dilday told trustees. "It's outstanding. And while some schools choose to live with notations, we are committed to our self-imposed goal to be fully accredited without notations."

Trustees unanimously elected Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., as professor of communication and ministry studies and writer-in-residence in the school of theology effective Nov. 1.

Dilday said Miller has written 26 books, is recognized for his expertise in evangelism, pastoral ministry and preaching, and is a popular speaker on college campuses across the United States.

Miller is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and holds two degrees from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

In other business, the board:

-- Accepted a recommendation by Dilday asking the trustee chairman to appoint an ad hoc committee to develop objective procedures for appraising the work of the president and the board, designing trustee development and education, and addressing the working relationship between the board and Dilday. Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston, will be chairman of the committee.

-- Requested the seminary administration bring to the board a report and recommendation concerning the relationship of faculty members to non-Southern Baptist Convention organizations. The issue was raised by Charles Lawson, trustee from Maryland/Delaware, who questioned the relationship of three faculty members as associates with the Baptist Center for Ethics, a moderate organization in the SBC.

-- Approved the formation of the Robina Drakeford Professorship of Marriage and Family Counseling and the Virtus Gideon Professorship of New Testament. Drakeford is the wife of long-time Southwestern professor John Drakeford. Gideon, who died in 1988, taught on the seminary's faculty for 31 years.

-- Approved giving the B.H. Carroll Award to eight people. The award is given each year for outstanding contributions to the life of Southwestern and is named for the seminary's founder. Receiving the award in March 1992 will be: Robert and Oleta Garmack, Hinton, Okla.; Paul and Ernestine Henry, Tulsa, Okla.; Bill and Melba Justice, Dallas; Myra Slover and her late husband, J. Roy Slover, Liberty, Texas.

-- Approved several changes in the seminary's bylaws.

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The next meeting of the board will be March 9-10, 1992. The trustees approved the 1993 meeting dates for March 8-10 and Oct. 18-20.

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Southwestern Seminary trustees
to study women in ministry issue

By Scott Collins

Baptist Press
10/24/91

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A special committee of the board of trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has been assigned the task of planning and leading future discussions about the role of women in ministry and the seminary's relationship to the issue.

The committee, appointed by outgoing trustee chairman James T. Draper Jr., will be led by Pat Campbell, pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church of St. Charles, Mo.

The purpose of the committee is to lead the board to a better understanding of the issue, not to recommend any policies on the subject, Draper said in a statement released following the meeting Oct. 22.

In the statement, Draper said:

"In the light of previous discussion about the role of women in Christian ministry, the board of trustees has appointed an ad hoc committee to plan and lead the board in a forum discussion of this issue in a future meeting.

"The committee will enlist the help of Southwestern faculty and other evangelical scholars to prepare papers and suggested approaches leading to a responsible biblical discussion of this sensitive issue."

The purpose of discussing the issue is to educate trustees about views of women in ministry, Draper said.

The intent of studying the issue is not to keep women out of the ministry, Campbell said. "I don't think there is anybody (trustees) who has said women shouldn't be in the ministry," he said.

"I think the real issue is women teaching in a theology department. How do you deal with that and women in the office of pastor. Those are two real critical issues," Campbell said.

The role of the committee will be to facilitate the trustees' discussion, Campbell said.

"The basic approach of the committee is going to be to get input from various faculty members who have expertise in this particular area," he said. "We'll be doing research, we'll be reading articles that have already been written."

No time frame has been set for the committee's work, Campbell said, but added anticipates a meeting in January or February before the entire board of trustees meets in March. He said the first step in the process will be to "lay out the direction" of the discussions.

The issue surfaced when Don Taylor, a trustee from North Carolina, said the seminary needs to take a stand on the issue.

During discussion, Draper suggested a study be undertaken now to avoid extreme responses in the future.

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Campbell, who was elected vice chairman of the board during the meeting Oct. 22, said the issue is being discussed by the trustees because "it has come up at the last trustee meeting we had and at other times, and how do we relate to that as trustees at one of the largest seminaries in the world.

"There have been various thoughts from different people concerning 'Should a woman be a pastor, should a woman teach men in a seminary structure in theology, should a woman take the M. Div. (master of divinity) degree with the preaching just as a man who is going to be a pastor?' These have been discussion questions various trustees have talked about," Campbell said.

The time has come for trustees to look at the issue and "get a dialogue going" because it is being discussed on several levels, he said.

"We don't have any agenda right now," Campbell said. "We have just formed the committee for the purpose of discussion as a committee and then to the larger board of trustees, leading to a responsible biblical discussion of this sensitive issue."

Trustee Bill Grubbs, a member of First Baptist Church of Dallas, cautioned the board about addressing divisive issues such as women in ministry.

"We're going to come up with some answers, and these answers are not going to please a lot of you," Grubbs said. He said it would be "totally unfair to ask one person from our school of theology to come in here and give an exegetical understanding of what the Bible says about women in ministry."

The forum approach allowing trustees to form interpretations of their own that are biblically based is the best way, Grubbs said.

"You need to accept the fact that we may come out of this with varying thoughts, varying opinions, and you've got to accept this as diversity and not get into a street fight in here on the issue," Grubbs said.

Telling trustees he has studied the issue personally, Grubbs said, "I'm not nearly as hardheaded on this as I once was."

Campbell said he is unable to predict when the forum will occur, but he hopes to have a timetable in place next spring.

Other members of the special committee are: Taylor; Bartis Harper, Mississippi; C.A. Johnson, Arkansas; and Paul Balducci, Alabama.

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Calvin Miller elected to
Southwestern Seminary faculty

By Scott Collins

Baptist Press
10/24/91

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Calvin Miller, a prolific writer and speaker throughout the evangelical world, has been elected to the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

In a unanimous vote Oct. 22, seminary trustees elected Miller to be professor of communication and ministry studies and writer-in-residence in the school of theology. He begins his duties Nov. 1.

"We see Dr. Miller's election as a real coup for Southwestern Seminary," President Russell Dilday said. "He brings unique skills in a number of academic disciplines."

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Known for his 26 books and numerous articles in evangelical Christian publications, Miller, 55, has spoken often to college and seminary students. Since 1986, he has spoken at more than 100 conferences and lecture series.

His first book "The Singer," published in 1975, has also been published in three other countries and sold more than one million copies.

In addition to his book publications, Miller was a regular contributor to Christianity Today magazine for more than two years, using the pen name "Eutychus." He has continued to write for Christianity Today, as well as for several other periodicals.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Miller has been pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., since 1966. During that time the congregation grew from 10 members to more than 2,500, establishing Miller's reputation for church growth and evangelism, Dilday said.

William Tolar, vice president for academic affairs and provost at Southwestern, said Miller will teach courses in evangelism, preaching and several other areas.

Miller and his wife, Barbara Joyce Harmon, have two grown children.

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Southwestern trustee Dacus
urges return to basics

By Matthew Brady

Baptist Press
10/24/91

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Restore integrity, release resentment and return to the basics, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustee Gerald Dacus told seminary faculty, students and staff in chapel Oct. 22.

These three steps, part of the year of Jubilee described in Leviticus 25, served as a "course correction" in the life of Israel and can serve the same function today in the life of ministers and the church, Dacus said.

Dacus, pastor of First Baptist Church of Walnut Valley, Calif., described the devastation that resulted from King David's adultery with Bathsheba and the effort Joseph made to avoid the same situation with Potiphar's wife.

"If you are somebody today on the verge of that little diversion or trapped in it already, let me say to you now, out of the depths of my heart, it's a long, long, long way back," he said. "And, oh, the carnage, and the devastation and the heartache and sorrow and the loss of integrity."

Christians also lose integrity in conflicts with each other, Dacus said. Jesus outlined the proper procedure for confrontation in Matthew 18 so that "perhaps you'll gain a brother and reconciliation will take place," he said.

"What I'm finding in far too many cases is we go from A to C in our steps, or we skip A and B all together and move to C and go public," he said. "The result is confusion, polarization, a loss of integrity and a great deal of heartache that could have been solved had we only been people of integrity."

Israel's year of Jubilee also involved a release of captives. Modern-day captives are "our own anger and resentment, and self-righteous demands that we lay on other people," Dacus said.

"I believe it is time in our nation, in our convention, in our churches and in our personal lives to set some prisoners free," he said.

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In closing, Dacus described the simple faith and trust in God illustrated in the year of Jubilee. Dacus urged the seminary students to follow the advice evangelist Billy Graham gave him to "get back to the basics" of Bible study and prayer and "allow God to warm your heart."

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

Midwestern trustees challenged to demonstrate support for seminary By Brenda J. Sanders

Baptist Press 10/24/91

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The desire for trustees to take a leadership role in financially undergirding the ministry of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was a recurring theme during the board's semi-annual meeting, Oct. 21-22.

The challenge for trustees to demonstrate support for the institution came from the administration and from trustees themselves.

"Trustees should participate 100 percent in the Annual Fund," Midwestern President Milton Ferguson told the board, referring to the basic fund which provides the seminary with financial support for various projects and needs.

"I urge you to be a contributor," he continued, "because the bottom line is support, enthusiasm and encouragement for the overall seminary program."

Trustees heard a report from the board's finance committee, noting the seminary completed the 1990-91 fiscal year with a positive operating balance of \$56,013 -- as opposed to an operating budget deficit of more than \$78,000 the previous fiscal year.

Sam T. Switzer, Midwestern's vice president for business affairs, told the board: "While this is very positive for us and an excellent turnaround ... our reality is that we are still facing a time of very tight relationships of revenues versus expenditures."

Finance committee chairman A.C. Woodburn, a retired educator from Las Cruces, N.M., emphasized, "Fiscal solvency is achieved only at the expense of program cuts. We sit here and approve programs for Midwestern, then apply a stricture on our administration to 'stay within the budget.' That cuts programs."

To undergird the 1991-92 current fund budget, trustees voted to designate \$50,000 in reserve funds as a contingency resource, to be utilized if necessary during the fiscal year.

The board also adopted a motion from the finance committee "that a balanced budget for the 1992-93 fiscal year be submitted for a vote of the trustees at the April 1992 annual meeting."

Trustee chairman Sid Peterson, pastor of Stine Road Baptist Church in Bakersfield, Calif., recently sent personal letters to all board members asking them to consider making individual contributions to the G. Hugh Wamble Fund for Religious Liberty Studies at the seminary.

Wamble, professor of church history at Midwestern for 32 years, died in an automobile accident in September.

During the October trustee meeting, Peterson noted, "I felt this was something we could do as a body to honor the memory of Hugh Wamble, as a tribute to him and his service. I felt a contribution like this was something substantive we could do."

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Another call for financial support of the seminary came from Marvin Nobles, chairman of the board's development committee and director of missions for Jefferson Baptist Association in Missouri. He reminded trustees of their 1988 pledge to raise \$50,000 toward the establishment of the Leonard Sanderson Professorship in Evangelism at the institution. At present, he noted, the board lacks about \$19,500 in commitments to reach its goal.

"I feel it's time to bring a close to this trustee phase of the Sanderson fund," Nobles said. "I encourage you to bring your commitments up to date ... to do some thinking, planning and giving before we come back for our April meeting."

In other business, trustees:

-- Heard a report from James B. Dobbs, an attorney from Columbus, Ohio, and chairman of the board's land use planning and development task force. The ad hoc committee was formed one year ago and charged with studying the prospect of land sales or leases to financially undergird the seminary.

The group has decided "to move aggressively to pursue full development of our entire 200 acres," rather than dividing seminary land into a series of parcels to be marketed separately, Dobbs said. He noted the task force would continue to study the matter and seek the means to establish "a significant monetary endowment for this seminary to ease some of the strain on our budget."

-- Adopted a resolution in gratitude and appreciation for a financial endowment of \$15,000 to establish the C.W. Scudder "School of the Prophets" Memorial Lectureship in Christian ethics at Midwestern. The endowment, which later will be increased to \$25,000, has been provided by Lyle and Kathy Scudder, the widow and daughter (respectively) of the C.W. Scudder, vice president emeritus of the seminary.

-- Heard a report that enrollment figures at the seminary have reflected a slight increase this fall in comparison with the fall of 1990. According to the seminary's registrar, Royce Ann Collins, 463 students were enrolled in Midwestern classes by Oct. 1, as compared to 457 students enrolled by the same date last year.

In addition, the seminary has noted an 18 percent increase in the number of new students on campus this fall, compared with last year's statistics. The seminary enrolled 90 new students this fall, compared to 74 new students in the fall of 1990.

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Ferguson: 'Celebrate continuity
in the midst of change'

By Brenda J. Sanders

Baptist Press
10/24/91

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--"Life is one long process of learning how to celebrate the continuity of things that we value in the midst of change all around us," said Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in a recent address to the institution's board of trustees. "I urge you to keep your mind and heart open and sensitive to the reality of change, and to the privilege of the challenge which it brings."

Ferguson pointed to the positive aspects of life's transitional experiences as he addressed Midwestern trustees during their semi-annual meeting, Oct. 21-22.

"With change comes the privilege of helping to mold and fashion the future," Ferguson said.

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"Our God is a God who goes before us. ... The rhythm of God's own story, of his own purpose, of his own nature, keeps us pointing toward the future," Ferguson said. "When God's people ... accept the challenge and the risk of becoming every day fresh and new, through change, more and more like Jesus Christ, then we are moving toward that time when we shall ultimately be fashioned in his likeness.

"The people of God are people who live with change," he continued. "Change is the open door through which God invites us into the privilege of growth and development."

Midwestern Seminary is experiencing change, Ferguson acknowledged, due to changes within the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Change in the life of our denomination has been dramatic ... and we are part of that change," the seminary president said. "This part of our institutional life presents us with the challenge of receiving and responding to those forces that are larger than we are and which are not under our control.

"Through the grace of God, we must find in those developments the positive opportunities by which we can continue to be that which Christ intended," Ferguson noted. "It would be a tragic, fatal error if we were, at any point, ever to conclude that change has made it impossible for us to be who we are called to be, or to accomplish and to do what we are to do.

"No matter how radical the change may be, it is our responsibility to make the best effort we can of it," Ferguson said. "We must remember that even if there are excesses in change from our perspective, that does not mean that God is not in the process. ... God works with his people where they are, and sometimes what seems to be tragedy is really the open door to victory."

While dealing with change, Ferguson challenged the trustees to "look for the joy in hard times" and "focus on the integrity of our common commitment."

"You and I may not agree on the value of each part of change, but we are challenged to take a look at our basic commitment -- who we are and what we are called to do -- and see if in the process of change there is yet one opportunity in which we can continue to bear witness and give ourselves to God's purpose. That is our stewardship," Ferguson concluded.

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Texas veterinarian free after
three-month Afghan ordeal

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10/24/91

LONDON (BP)--A Texan detained in a rebel-controlled region of Afghanistan for more than three months reached Pakistan unharmed and was en route home Oct. 23, according to the relief agency that sent him to the area.

William Lewis, 64, a retired veterinarian from Decatur, Texas, arrived in London from Pakistan Oct. 22 for a reunion with his wife, announced Global Partners, a private humanitarian and development agency based in the United Kingdom.

A member of First Baptist Church in Decatur, Lewis had done similar humanitarian work in Bangladesh and Pakistan before going to Afghanistan in June, the agency said.

Lewis told his wife and several colleagues "a friend" had escorted him out of Afghanistan. Other details about his departure were unclear. He reportedly has lost weight from a recent bout with the flu and has swelling in his legs but otherwise is in reasonably good condition.

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However, an unidentified American translator working with Lewis apparently was still being held in Afghanistan. Lewis said he had last seen the translator two weeks before leaving Afghanistan, and the translator was in good health and good spirits. Global Partners continues to work for the departure of the translator and expressed concern about his safety.

The two Americans were training Afghans in animal inoculation in the isolated Ghazni province of central Afghanistan under the sponsorship of Global Partners, the agency said.

Global Partners reported the men encountered unrest in the area July 7, shortly before their scheduled departure. They were detained by at least one Afghan rebel group and were kept in local homes -- sometimes together, sometimes separately. Lewis said they were well-treated and continued to inoculate animals despite the dangerous situation.

The relief agency said nothing earlier about the status of the two men in order to protect their lives, a Global Partners spokesman said. Agency officials feared wide publicity about the case would make it more difficult to obtain the pair's safe exit. The translator and his family have asked he not be identified.

The two Americans left for Ghazni province, one of the poorest areas of Afghanistan, from a Pakistani border town June 20. Relief workers often enter such areas of Afghanistan -- controlled by mujahideen forces fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul -- to help people ravaged by war and hunger.

After the men were detained, humanitarian agencies working in Afghanistan met in Pakistan to discuss the situation and other similar incidents that have occurred recently in rebel-held regions. They suspended aid projects.

While complicated communications between Global Partners, other Western organizations and numerous Afghan parties in the region progressed, Lewis and the translator sent and received several messages. They were seen several times in the area and were allowed to receive food and supplies from friends.

Afghans in the area have indicated "widespread satisfaction" with Lewis' efforts to improve the health of livestock, Global Partners said. After the safe departure of the translator, Global Partners hopes to continue such efforts to aid the people of Afghanistan, the agency said.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers, and to others upon request, by Baptist Press central office

Family focus essential to solving
societal woes, authors say

By Chip Alford

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Authors of a new book on parenting are offering some "tough-minded" solutions to today's complex societal problems.

The key, the authors say, is to focus on the family.

"The family is the motor of the world. I believe our society, our nation, the whole world, will rise or fall in direct proportion to the efficiency and viability of our families," said Joe Batten, one of the four authors of "Tough-Minded Parenting" released in October by Broadman Press of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Every person who functions in our society is a product of a family; what they've become is a result of the conditioning, guidance and leadership, or the lack thereof, they received from their family. As a result, all our social problems can only be addressed in a realistic way by improving the way our families function," he explained.

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Writing "Tough-Minded Parenting," was in itself a family affair for Batten, a leadership consultant, speaker and author of the best-selling book "Tough-Minded Management." Co-authors for the recent book included Batten's two adult daughters, Gail Pedersen and Wendy Havemann, and long-time business associate and friend, Bill Pearce.

Batten is chairman of the board of Batten, Batten, Hudson and Swab, Inc., a Des Moines, Iowa-based human resources company engaged in creative management research, film production and educational services. He also is chairman of the board for Healing of People Through Education (HOPE), a non-profit corporation, also based in Des Moines, created to help children, families and organizations deal with addiction and other problems of modern life. Pearce is executive director of HOPE and Pedersen is president of the board of directors. Havemann is a member of the HOPE board of directors and a contract staff member who counsels with children and adolescents.

In addition to their professional roles, each of the authors is parent to two children.

The "tough-minded" approach to parenting, Batten said, involves loving your children unconditionally, expecting the best from them, providing consistent discipline and teaching positive Christian values.

"I feel deeply that the teachings of Christ are the fuel and foundation for badly needed values throughout our world today," he said. "If these are taught and carried out in the family with consistency and passion, it can make all the difference in the world."

Batten's co-authors agreed a personal faith is vital to the development of positive values. All four authors are active church members -- Batten and his daughters at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines, and Pearce, at United Church of Christ in Berwick, Iowa.

In the book, the authors encourage parents to think of child development as "the growth of a child's value system." While each family must create its own positive value system, the authors suggest the inclusion of values such as these:

- The truth, when used warmly, wisely and skillfully, liberates both children and adults to discover and reach their real potential.

- People find themselves by losing themselves in service to their children, other people, their country and their personal faith.

- The more people give of healthy love, reasonable and stretching expectations, understanding and compassion, the more they will receive.

- Parents need to focus on their own and their children's existing and potential strengths, understanding that what usually is called a weakness is actually an absent, unused or undeveloped strength.

- Giving and accepting consistent earned praise is a powerful reflection of integrity. Giving and taking credit lets people see their own value.

- Integrity and strength are the same.

While her parents instilled a strong sense of values in both her and her sister, Pedersen said too many children are being raised in "valueless" homes by parents who don't know how to express love.

"So many (adults) don't love and value themselves, so as a result they are seeking outward approval through materialism," she said. "You have to learn to love yourself so you can teach your child to love himself or herself. I really think the heart of the tough-minded philosophy is that parents have got to work on themselves."

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Havemann said she believes parents in the current "thirtysomething" generation are hungry for real answers to their concerns about parenting.

"We've been called the 'me generation' because we're always looking for instant gratification," she explained. "But I think that is beginning to change. People are becoming tired of the quick-fix mentality and are realizing that solutions more often come from long-term consistency in behavior, values and discipline."

The authors introduce "The Pledge of the Tough-Minded Parent" which encourages parents to expect the best from their children, teach and lead by example, find and develop the strengths in every family member and "to change yelling, telling and commanding to asking, listening and hearing."

"Tough-minded parenting is the true opposite of permissiveness," Pearce said. "And the true opposite of permissiveness is not control, it is expecting the best of your children and getting it."

The book applies the "tough-minded" philosophy to a variety of issues, such as runaways, child abuse, sexual experimentation and the harmful effects on children caused by divorce, the electronic media and alcohol and drug abuse. Also included are appendices with advice on family finances and nutrition and guidelines for developing personal and family mission statements which define a family's ultimate beliefs, values and goals.

All four authors hope the book will be an encouragement to parents.

"You don't have to have a Ph.D. to be a good parent," Havemann said. "Anybody can do it if they take the time and are willing to go through the effort."

Pearce agreed. "I have encountered parents who are afraid because of everything going on in our society," he said. "They are afraid they won't be good parents because they don't know what to do."

"But most parents already have the answers. They are in the Bible. They are in our culture. They are in the wisdom of grandparents, neighbors and friends. All they have to do is take the time to look for them."

"Tough-Minded Parenting" is available at Baptist Book Stores. Two related products will be released in January: a condensed version of the book on audiocassette, and a complementary video featuring interviews and dialogue with the authors.

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The Pledge of the Tough-Minded Parent and (BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by SSB bureau of Baptist Press