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91-178

EDITORS NOTE: In the material state Baptist papers received from the WMU regarding the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions Kit, the following story needs to be corrected.

Please note a correction in the story in the press kit entitled "Southern Baptist Mission Dollars Reach Some Countries, Miss Others."

In paragraph 8, the figure should read "1.2 billion people have never had any opportunity to hear the gospel."

Thanks,
Susan Todd Doyle
WMU

Arkansas elects first layman as president in more than 60 years

By Colleen Backus

Baptist Press
11/26/91

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--The Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting in Little Rock on Nov. 19-20 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, elected its first layman as president in more than 60 years.

William "Buddy" Sutton, an attorney and member of Little Rock Immanuel Baptist Church, was elected in a 485-339 vote over David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association. Sutton was a central figure in the 1989 Arkansas Billy Graham Crusade and headed a recent successful fight against legalized lottery in the state.

Messengers approved a \$14,624,000 budget, a four percent budget increase from last year. The amount of the budget going to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program will be 41.75 percent, a .25 increase over last year.

Included in the 15 resolutions passed by the convention were: opposition to the ordination of women as pastors, support of the traditional family, opposition to active euthanasia, and opposition to the export of tobacco and alcohol products to Taiwan and other East Asian countries.

In an issue that surfaced twice during the convention, Jack Sawyer, a messenger from Little Rock Second Church, brought a resolution in support of Ruschlikon Seminary in Switzerland, as an affirmation of the commitment of Southern Baptists to evangelism.

Jack Bledsoe, messenger from Fordyce First Church and current Foreign Mission Board trustee, insisted the board had not defunded the seminary, citing a FMB news release as containing misinformation, and the final decision, pending legal opinion, would be made at the December trustees' meeting.

The motion in support of Ruschlikon failed by a vote on show of ballot.

As a point of clarification, the motion that passed in the SBC Foreign Mission Board meeting held Oct. 7-9, 1991, reads in the minutes as follows:

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"That the \$365,000 originally earmarked for Switzerland or Ruschlikon be returned to the budget for distribution to theological education in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Also that a copy of the 1978 and 1983 agreement with Ruschlikon be distributed to the trustees and that a legal opinion of these agreements be given to the trustees at the December meeting."

One of the most inspiring moments of the convention came at an unusual point -- during an agency report. Ouachita Baptist University President Ben Elrod gave his time over to a junior music major, Beth Ann Rankin, for a vignette of campus life.

The vivacious redhead enthralled messengers with her account of rooming with a young woman, Alia Dzhiembaeva, from the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, during the previous school year. In the normal course of dorm life, the girls got to know each other and Rankin was able to share her faith. She later learned Alia had accepted Christ, and thanks to the efforts of a missionary, was currently studying at Belmont (Baptist) College in Nashville, Tenn.

Elrod then surprised Rankin by bringing Dzhiembawva onto the platform for an emotional reunion.

The convention also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Arkansas Baptist Church Music Department with an evening musical extravaganza, coordinated by current director Lester McCullough.

The 1992 Arkansas Baptist State Convention will be held Nov. 10-11, 1992, at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "House upholds Bush's veto for pro-life win on Title 10" dated 11/22/91, the ninth paragraph should read as follows.

Although a free-standing bill was passed by the Senate and a similar version was approved by a House committee, the attempt to stop the Title 10 pro-life rules reached President Bush's desk in early November as part of an appropriations bill for the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education departments (H.R. 2707).

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Child of missionaries
drowns in pool accident

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COTONOU, Benin (BP)--Victoria Bartels, the 2-year-old daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Richard and Carmela Bartels, drowned Nov. 23 in the U.S. Embassy swimming pool in Cotonou, Benin.

The Bartelses, of Elizabethtown, Ky., and Kansas City, Mo., respectively, had joined missionaries and other American expatriates at the embassy's American Club for a casual gathering.

Victoria joined other children playing near the pool. Soon after, she entered the pool unnoticed. She recently had begun swimming with the aid of small floats on her arms, but she entered the pool without them.

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When the Bartelses checked for Victoria and their 10-year-old daughter, Chandra, they found Victoria unconscious in the pool. Attempts to revive the child beside the pool and later at the embassy's medical clinic failed.

"This is really hard. It's shocked all of us," said fellow missionary Phillip Oakley at his home in Cotonou. "All of us in the mission are working through this. It's so sudden and so unreal. It's almost like it couldn't be true." Twelve Southern Baptist missionaries currently are in the small west African nation.

The Bartelses, who adopted Victoria in the United States in 1990, planned to hold funeral services Nov. 26 at their home in Cotonou and bury their daughter in a nearby cemetery.

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Gangs present difficult, dangerous
challenge to Hispanic minister

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press
11/26/91

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Gang names such as "Bloods" and "Skinheads" are graphic, but no name describes the groups' behavior better than "Locos."

The Spanish word for crazy is the name of one of several gangs making an Oklahoma City neighborhood a dangerous place after dark.

Some people consider Josue Del Risco crazy as well, though he is not a gang member. As minister to Hispanics at Capital Hill Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, he has developed a rapport with area youth that puts him in the heart of gang activities.

One of Del Risco's first visits in Oklahoma City was to a family with two children who were constantly in trouble at school. Eventually the youth became Christians, and their transformation opened the door for Del Risco to minister to their peers.

Now the teenagers refer to Del Risco, a native of Cuba, as a "today pastor."

"We show them love, discipline and Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can change their nature," Del Risco says.

Del Risco ministers to the students at their schools and through church activities. The church is a youth haven on Wednesday nights, with as many as 80 people attending each week.

But for every youth in the mid-week church service, dozens more are involved in gang activities. Reaching them with the gospel message can be difficult and even dangerous.

Del Risco drives by a local high school and points out a police car. Drive-by shootings have made a police presence mandatory as youth leave the building at the end of the school day. Del Risco hesitates to visit families after dark because he might get caught in gang violence.

One boy is in the fifth grade for the third time. Del Risco says the boy has been kicked out of two churches, but Del Risco is determined to not reject the boy because of his behavior.

Another boy punched someone in the stomach the first time he came to the church's Wednesday night youth meeting. Del Risco says the boy knows no other way to interact with people. After months of ministry, Del Risco feels the boy will soon make a Christian commitment.

Del Risco's persistence has resulted in new Christians who want a Christian gang. They call themselves "Locos for Christ."

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**Radio and Television Commission
honors oldest employee's 80th birthday**

By Steve Gregory

How many employees get an 80th birthday office party? How many 80-year-olds get a party that is not to celebrate a retirement?

When Pauline Dooley Day was marked Nov. 25, the usual "office" party one sees in various departments of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission not only included the entire staff and former Commission presidents Paul M. Stevens and Jimmy Allen, but many prominent Fort Worth friends as well.

Even Mayor Kay Granger sent her representative, Virginia Nell Weber with a proclamation from the city.

Dooley and her husband Bill began work at the RTVC in 1956, when they followed their former pastor, Paul M. Stevens, who had become president of the agency.

She has been assigned for most of these years to the Lord's Supper display, even during a period when it was housed in downtown Fort Worth. During that time thousands have spent time with her before the unusually real, life-size wax figures which catch the colors, textures, and look of da Vinci's Last Supper in an uncanny way.

Bill Dooley went through several cycles of retirement and reentry with the Commission before retiring for the last time in 1985. He was unable to attend the celebration because of a recent hospitalization.

The party was not a surprise, since Mrs. Dooley's cooperation was needed to compile the guest list, but Commission staff did surprise her with a meaningful and appropriate dedication of a new "Book of Ministries."

The book, which was conceived by Commission President Jack Johnson, will become a focus for the prayer requests and testimonies from among thousands of calls fielded by the agency's counseling staff. Callers respond by the scores to 800 numbers posted on programs such as COPE, a daily talk show hosted by psychologist Karen Hayter on the ACTS network, and evangelistic hours such as Invitation to Life and The Baptist Hour.

Commission staff will use the book for private prayer times during morning hours when the Lord's Supper display is not open to the public.

"The book will be updated almost daily by our counseling department," said Johnson. "In addition to entries from telephone counseling, some will come from our daily staff prayer meetings held at coffee break time. Some come through the mail, and some come from staff members' travels and speaking engagements."

"Its pages serve as a reminder of why we are here," said Johnson. "Radio and television are means, not ends. We are in the business of reaching the lost for Christ and ministering to hurting people. We use radio and television to do this in creative ways."

Executive Vice President Richard T. McCartney presented a plaque to Mrs. Dooley. He read from a line which also appears in the dedication of the Book of Ministries, "Each time we pause to pray for the requests it chronicles, we will be challenged by the remembrance of her example among us."

That may sound like a memorial plaque. But tomorrow, Pauline Dooley will again show up for work, as usual ... and literally wait in the company of the Lord to smile and welcome the next Sunday school class or tourist bus ... and explain once more what it was like at that meaningful moment in history.

Southern Baptist youth
rank high in survey

By Susan Todd Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Southern Baptist youth are more apt than their counterparts in other denominations to have a mature faith, to have families who talk freely about their faith, and to feel at home in their congregations. But they're less likely than their counterparts to welcome ethnic diversity.

Those findings were reported by Merton Strommen, executive director of the Augsburg Youth and Family Institute at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn., when he spoke to the youth-related professionals of SBC agencies Nov. 19. It was the first time in 10 years the group of youth leaders had met together.

Strommen, author of the book "Five Cries of Youth," shared the results of research into youth and family ministries within seven denominations -- the Seventh Day Adventists, the Christian Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

From Strommen's study entitled "Four Imperatives: Youth and Family Ministry," more Southern Baptist youth grades seven through 12 were shown to have a mature faith than youth in the other six denominations. Of Southern Baptist youth, 28 percent were shown to have a mature faith. The next-highest level was shown within Seventh Day Adventists at 22 percent.

"Every major denomination is showing a decline in youth more than the country's decline," Strommen said. "Fewer congregations have the kind of young people who can form the core of a dynamic youth group."

Strommen completed research this year about what denominations can do to strengthen their work with youth. From that research, he compiled a conceptual model for a youth and family ministry, which he presented to the Southern Baptist youth leaders.

The model includes four imperatives for ministry -- a goal-oriented Christian education; strong, life-shaping families; a congregational sense of family; and a Christian youth subculture.

"You folks are seen by other denominations as having excelled in the area of Christian education -- particularly in your training programs and in your materials," he said. "That is a strength to continue."

Specific areas in which Strommen said Southern Baptists excel within Christian education include presenting a personal Christ and stimulating interest in Scripture.

Of the remaining six emphases within Christian education -- teach a grace orientation, teach moral responsibility, welcome ethnic diversity, involve youth in service, involve youth in mission outreach and encourage high self-regard -- Southern Baptists fell far short in welcoming ethnic diversity.

"This proved to be a weakness in your denomination," Strommen said.

The second imperative -- strong, life-shaping families -- is the frontier area within youth and family ministry, he said.

"In a major study of effective Christian education (reported in 1990) striking evidence was found that youth are powerfully influenced toward a faith when their parents share what they believe," he said. "Clearly, the modeling ministry of father and mother is of great importance to adolescents."

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Strommen told the youth leaders it is as important for youth ministers to work with and equip the parents as it is for them to work with and equip the youth.

"Nothing shapes the life and attitudes of young people more than the parenting styles, moral stance and faith of their parents."

Two keys to shaping a mature faith for young people are parents who will share their faith in the home and parents who will teach moral values, he said.

"In sharing one's faith in the home, you're way ahead in your denomination," Strommen said. "About half of the families within your denomination freely talk about God and faith in their families."

But in communicating traditional moral values, parents overall have not done as well as society, he said. While parents should be teaching their teens to care for their families, do good to others, protect the powerless, show generosity and mercy, keep promises and postpone self-gratification, they are allowing society to teach just the opposite -- look out for self, let instincts be the guide, don't make commitments, seek material success and seek immediate gratification.

"Values are communicated even when not verbalized," Strommen said. "Parents should know that in normal conversation they are communicating moral values. They've got to remember that and get their heads on straight."

Southern Baptists have done well with instilling a congregational sense of family, he said.

"You folks have a tradition in this church which you should celebrate."

When compared with Seventh Day Adventist youth and youth from mainline Protestant groups, more Southern Baptist youth agreed with the statement "My church feels warm." Southern Baptist youth ranked at 74 percent, Seventh Day Adventist youth at 44 percent and mainline Protestant youth at 63 percent.

When compared with the other groups, a higher percentage of Southern Baptist youth also agreed with the following statements -- "My church challenges my thinking" and "I experience the feeling that the adults in my local church care about me."

"It takes no prophet to predict there will be more hurting people, more psychologically scarred youth, more fragmented families in the future of congregations," Strommen said. "Fewer youth will know close family life and the security of being loved and cared for."

"That is why this third imperative is so important. Its intent is to give the experience of being cared for to people who will never know a close family."

The last imperative cited by Strommen was providing a Christian youth subculture.

"This is your area of expertise," he told the youth leaders.

Strommen referred to the informal fellowship groups found within Southern Baptist churches as the "glue."

As a point of reference, Strommen told of a survey which asked church members from several denominations to list who they would invite to a party. Of those who said they would invite two or more people from their church, 75 percent were Southern Baptist.

Strommen told the group his model of youth and family ministry should not be an agenda but should help them to define aspects of youth ministry which will contribute to their common goal.

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"I feel this model is important because we're going to see that the family will become increasingly dysfunctional. Therefore, our congregations are going to have to focus on becoming like a family -- a surrogate family.

"I see the congregation as my hope for the future."

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