



-- BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-8919
CompuServe ID# 70420,17

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 Strade, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

July 28, 1992

92-119

**FMB, WMU board members
meet to discuss future**

By Susan Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Representatives from Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union met July 27 for a discussion about the past and future relationship between the two entities.

The dialogue came at the request of FMB trustees who voted in June to meet with WMU leaders to discuss the 104-year relationship between the FMB, a mission-sending entity, and WMU, a mission-supporting entity. The dialogue included four WMU leaders and four FMB leaders.

The three-hour dialogue ended with two agreements: that John Jackson, FMB trustee chairman, initiate dialogue with leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and that the FMB and WMU continue the dialogue. The CBF is an organization of Southern Baptist churches formed in protest to the Southern Baptist Convention's current leadership and direction.

Much of the discussion centered on the perceptions surrounding recent actions taken by both the FMB and WMU.

FMB leaders asked pointed questions about WMU's relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

WMU has been asked to consider providing some missions education materials tailored for the Fellowship, FMB leaders were told. However, the decision to produce those materials has not been made, WMU leaders said.

WMU has not been asked to initiate or promote a missions offering for the Fellowship, contrary to rumor, the WMU leaders said.

Concerns about the FMB's relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship were raised by the WMU leaders. Jackson was asked by the WMU leaders to initiate a dialogue with Fellowship leaders and, specifically, to underscore the FMB's willingness to appoint people as career missionaries who have been involved with the Fellowship.

Pointed questions were asked by WMU leaders concerning the replacement of FMB President R. Keith Parks. Parks will take early retirement effective Oct. 30 after a 38-year career in foreign missions. He has cited philosophical differences with trustees in his retirement decision.

The WMU leaders urged the appointment not be a politically motivated appointment. Instead, they asked that FMB trustees seek someone with a history of career missionary service.

The group agreed to continue the dialogue by sending representatives to each other's board meetings beginning with the WMU executive board meeting in January 1993 and the FMB trustee meeting in February 1993. They each agreed to send seven representatives -- five trustees and two staff members.

Both WMU and FMB leaders agreed healing within the controversy-torn Southern Baptist Convention will only be possible if discussions such as this one continue.

--more--

Representing the FMB were Parks, Jackson and trustees Karen Gilbert and Phyllis Randall. Gilbert is the board's recording secretary. Randall chairs the trustee mission personnel committee.

Representing WMU at the request of national WMU President Carolyn Miller were national WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien and board members Virginia Caughman of South Carolina and Gerry Dunkin of Texas. Miller also attended the meeting.

--30--

GGBTS president: relocation
no longer issue at seminary

By Robert J. Hastings

Baptist Press
7/28/92

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--After nearly six years as president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, one question continues to pester William O. Crews: Do you still plan to sell the Mill Valley campus and move to a new location?

"The answer is 'no,'" he tells visitors. "We're here on this lovely 150-acre campus overlooking the San Francisco skyline and we intend to stay."

Crews regrets the two and a half years spent in limbo when the school considered moving.

"We were land-rich with 150 acres of prime real estate in Marin County, one of the highest income areas of the nation, so yes, we did consider selling out," he said. "We spent tons of time looking for sites, plus meetings with 100 or more developers. It was frustrating, because I thought the land issue could be settled quickly.

"Also, recruiting new students suffered from our uncertainty," he said. "But that's over. We're here to stay."

After many delays, the seminary is selling 24 single-family home sites, plus space for a 30-unit condominium. Water lines and all the improvements are in place. Golden Gate expects to net \$10 million from the sales for permanent endowment.

"Endowment is critical because living expenses here are 54.4 percent higher than anywhere Southern Baptists have seminaries," he said. "For example, we could never pay our faculty enough to afford a house in his area. Hopefully, the day is coming when we can subsidize home-buying with something like interest-free loans, payable when the home is later sold."

Since coming to the seminary in 1986, Crews said he believes his greatest accomplishment is achieving financial stability.

When Crews arrived, the seminary was accumulating an annual deficit of \$300,000.

"Frankly, we were budgeting on hope -- hope we could sell out and relocate," he said. "When that didn't materialize, we got realistic. Although it meant a reduction in services and staff, we cut our budget \$1 million a year. Now we're in the black; we ended 1991 with a balance of \$160,000 rather than a deficit." Final figures are not in but the seminary expects to end the 1992 fiscal year with another surplus.

Golden Gate is one of six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and the only SBC agency in the western United States.

Crews is a seminary president who takes pride in being viable and accessible: "I believe in stability and availability. I move around the campus, drop in on other offices, keep an open door for students. I like people. I don't need to go off campus to find something to do. I rarely take a revival or other engagement that lasts a week. Here in California, I try to limit off-campus events to one day."

--more--

Since Southern Baptists are a minority in the state, Crews uses every opportunity to build bridges with local people. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, serving on its board of directors, and a member of a Rotary Club.

As a result of his civic involvement, he averages about one invitation a week to speak before non-church audiences, including senior adults. One of his popular topics is "Learning to Laugh and Live Longer."

With the question of relocation settled, Crews is involving himself even more in campus life. Next spring, he will teach an elective course in preaching, majoring on expository preaching in a contemporary church setting.

--30--

Hastings is former editor of the Illinois Baptist, newsjournal of the Illinois Baptist Convention.

G.W. Lankford nominated
to manage Ridgecrest

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
7/28/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--G.W. Lankford, manager of the engineering, maintenance and construction section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's property management department, will be recommended to become manager of Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, effective Sept. 1.

Board trustees will be asked to approve Lankford, 48, during their semi-annual meeting at Ridgecrest Aug. 17-19, according to T. Michael Arrington, executive vice president for operations.

Lankford, who previously worked at Ridgecrest five years, would succeed Ken McAnear, who retires Sept. 1 after 25 years as manager of the national conference center.

A native of Aiken, S.C., Lankford holds a bachelor's degree in industrial management from Clemson (S.C.) University.

He began work for the Sunday School Board in 1984 as foreman in the building maintenance unit at Ridgecrest and was promoted to his present position in 1989. Prior to his employment at Ridgecrest, he was the city building official for Seneca, S.C., and a self-employed contractor.

A member of First Baptist Church of Franklin, Tenn., he holds professional memberships in the International Facility Managers Association and the National Association of Homebuilders.

He and his wife, Evelyn, are the parents of one son, Andy, and a daughter, Melissa.

--30--

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the SSB bureau of Baptist Press.

Food and fellowship:
explore healthy options

By Shari Shubert

Baptist Press
7/28/92

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Baptists like to get together for worship, prayer, study and fellowship. They also like to get together and eat.

The good news is worship, prayer, study and fellowship are sugar-free, fat-free, sodium-free and healthy for everyone. The bad news is, when church activities involve meals or refreshments, individuals on restrictive diets may be unintentionally excluded or limited in participation.

--more--

About 14 million Americans have diabetes, according to American Diabetes Association statistics. Thousands of others have been diagnosed with some form of cardiovascular disease.

For many of these individuals, a carefully controlled diet is not just a matter of attractiveness or physical fitness but a matter of life and death.

Nutritionists estimate in a typical group of people at a church dinner or other such function, one-third could eat whatever is served with no problem; another one-third could benefit by watching their intake of fat, sodium and sugar; and the remaining one-third would definitely need to be on low-fat, low-sodium and low-sugar diets.

"I don't usually let anything stop me" from participating in social functions where food is served, said Cindy Rice, who is diabetic. She is director of foundation development at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo. Rice said she has long since overcome any hesitancy about refusing items that are not allowable or asking for a substitute such as fresh fruit instead of a dessert high in sugar.

But not everyone feels that comfortable with dietary restrictions, according to Alice Lumbley, dietary director for the Baptist Home retirement center at Ironton, Mo. For diabetic residents, especially, she said, "this is a very hard thing for them" when they go out to a "beautiful church dinner... with everybody's favorite dessert" and see ~~so many things they cannot have.~~ Some feel sensitive about asking for anything different from the regular fare offered, she said.

Selecting appropriate items from a menu of dishes prepared by others involves more than just passing up dessert. Even vegetables may be off limits for some dieters if they are cooked with butter or drenched in a salad dressing high in sugar or fat, Rice noted.

An informal survey of several churches with Wednesday evening fellowship meals indicated most don't offer any special menu for diabetics or others on special diets. One church offers a low-calorie plate; several make a salad bar available. Some noted they have members who bring their own food and come for the fellowship.

While not recommending a ban on brownies or a resolution denouncing coconut creme pie, several dieticians did suggest churches make an effort to include healthwise foods along with the heavier fare at their food-and-fellowship functions. Offering menu options lower in sugar, salt and fat not only makes meal participation more accessible to people on restricted diets; it also makes good health sense for people who aren't on diets, they pointed out.

Reducing fat is a "common thread" in most diets, including diabetic diets, noted Cathy Bowey, outpatient dietician at Missouri Baptist Medical Center in St. Louis. Tips for cutting down on fat include:

-- Substitute unsaturated fats for saturated fats in preparing recipes. For instance, use one cup of margarine or three-fourths cup of vegetable oil instead of one cup of butter or shortening; use one cup of low-fat yogurt or blended low-fat cottage cheese instead of one cup of sour cream.

-- Trim visible fat from meats. Refrigerate soups, stews and gravies and skim off the fat before reheating and serving. Try broiling, boiling, roasting, grilling and stewing instead of frying. Roast meats and poultry on a rack to allow fat drippings to drain away.

-- People with dentures may have trouble chewing some meats and raw fruits or vegetables, Lumbley reminded. If these not-so-tender items are on the menu, it would be helpful to provide some softer options as well -- macaroni and cheese, meatloaf, casseroles, cooked vegetables and fruits.

--more--

"You can always cut back on salt," suggested Jo Tegtmeyer, a registered dietician at St. Mary's Hospital in Blue Springs, Mo. Leaving out half the salt will not hurt most recipes, she said.

Using a white sauce as a base for casseroles instead of canned soup also will help cut down salt, noted Cindy Fluekiger, chief dietician at Baptist Medical Center in Kansas City.

"Good sense" should prevail in the kinds and amounts of seasonings in dishes prepared for a large group, she added. Many people are sensitive to "overly hot" seasonings.

People on sugar-restricted diets should be offered dessert options, Lumbley suggested. Fruit, either fresh or packed in fruit juice, is one possibility. Sugar-free mixes and recipes are available for custards, puddings and gelatin desserts. If necessary, these could be identified as "sugar-free" with a small sign on a toothpick or straw.

Lumbley also suggested using alternative sweeteners instead of sugar in the preparation of powdered fruit drinks or punch. Offering a choice between regular or decaffeinated coffee is helpful to many individuals, she added.

Along with healthwise food options, the dieticians suggested offering a generous helping of sensitivity and courtesy. If refreshments are offered, and someone says, "No, thank you," don't push them to partake, Bowey emphasized. "They're showing lots of discipline by saying, 'No, thank you.' "

--30--

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "HMB hopes to see 250 'key churches' by 1995," dated 7/20/92 on CompuServe and 7/24/92 on hard copy, a phone number offered is a Home Mission Board in-house number not accessible from outside the HMB buildings. Please substitute the following last paragraph:

More information is available about the HMB's Key Church Strategy by contacting J.V. Thomas at (404) 898-7702.

Thanks,
Baptist Press
