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On MLK Day, church remembers
member who devoted life to youth By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
1/18/93

WASHINGTON (BP)--Martin Luther King Day had a certain emptiness this year for members of Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in Washington.

Church deacon Fred Maise, 86 -- who founded the Boy Scout troop in Atlanta that Martin Luther King Jr. joined as a boy -- was killed in a robbery in late October.

Maise also was one of the first three African-Americans the Boy Scouts of America hired as national staff members.

A widower who lived alone, Maise was found Oct. 26 on the outside basement stairs of his house by his pastor, Charles Worthy, and another church deacon after when Maise failed to attend Sunday worship Oct. 25.

Maise had been beaten to death in a robbery, police reported, one of seven people murdered that weekend.

"I can't tell you how to write your story," Worthy told The Washington Post at the time. "But the headline ought to be something like this: 'Victim of violence gave life to helping youth.'"

Maise became active in Boy Scouts after graduating from then-Atlanta University-Morehouse, where he was a star fullback. He subsequently worked on Boy Scout staffs in the Atlanta and Tidewater, Va., areas before spending 17 years as the Scouts' director of training in the Washington area before retiring.

Maise joined Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in 1977 and a scholarship fund was subsequently created to honor him and a fellow church member, Bess Inman, a white teacher in Washington's public schools until she was 70.

Maise once wrote a poem stating his life's commitment to helping shape youths' lives: "A careful man I ought to be/a little fellow follows me/I do not dare to go astray/for fear he will go the self-same way./He thinks that I am good and fine/believes in every word of mine/The bad in me he must not see/that little chap who follows me./I cannot once escape his eyes/whatever he sees me do he tries/Like me he says he's going to be/that little chap who follows me./I must remember as I go/through summer's sun and winter's snow/I'm building for years to be/that little boy who follows me."

A native of Ennis, Texas, Maise is survived by a son, Fred, eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Full Clydesdales from parade,
CLC, other groups ask Clinton

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and 21 other groups asked Bill Clinton to remove the Budweiser Clydesdale horses from participation in his inaugural parade.

As of Jan. 15, the Clydesdales still were scheduled to pull Budweiser's beer wagon in the procession on Pennsylvania Avenue, a parade spokesperson said.

"The inauguration of a United States president should not be debased by having a nationally televised parade that includes an advertisement for beer," the health, consumer, religious and anti-drug organizations wrote Clinton in a Jan. 8 letter.

"We don't view this as an advertisement," said Sally Aman, an inaugural parade press official.

The Clydesdales "represent true Americana," Aman said. They were invited to be in the parade because the Clydesdales are a unique breed of horse and will complement equestrian units in the parade, she said.

"Is it not enough that Budweiser and its cohorts in the alcohol industry already bombard our nation with \$2 billion per year of alcohol advertising and promotion?" said James A. Smith, the Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "We were heartened that Bill Clinton called for a nonalcoholic election-evening celebration but extremely disheartened that he would give such a platform to a pro-alcohol message."

The Clydesdales also participated in George Bush's 1989 inaugural parade.

The horses, longtime symbols of Budweiser, were nominated to appear by Rep. Richard Gephardt, D.-Mo. The headquarters of Anheuser-Busch, the country's largest brewery and the parent company of Budweiser, are in Gephardt's district. Gephardt is a member of a church dually aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches.

The CLC's Smith also expressed displeasure with other participants in inaugural parade activities.

"The inclusion of Budweiser, the Gay and Lesbian Band and a lesbian couple is an outrageous and obscene exploitation of one of America's oldest traditions, our president's inauguration," Smith said. "We are disturbed that President Clinton would start off his administration with such an immoral message beamed across the nation by television and other media.

"The redefinition of the American family has just begun. It is especially ominous that the new administration would put forward a lesbian couple as one representation of the American family. We can only surmise that such an act will have disturbing implications for how the new administration will implement family policy."

The Gay and Lesbian Band, which consists of musicians from throughout the country, will provide pre-parade entertainment from a specific station along the parade route, Aman said. The band submitted a request to participate and was invited, she said.

A lesbian couple will appear among 60 persons on the "Family of America" float. The float will be in the fifth and final section of the parade, which is entitled "Faces of America."

The lesbian couple was included "because the gay and lesbian community is a very real part of this country," Aman said. The persons on the float "represent the diversity and richness of this country," she said.

In their letter, the 22 organizations opposing inclusion of the Clydesdales estimated Anheuser-Busch products "account for about 22,000 deaths annually."

They also say Anheuser-Busch has helped prevent the passage of legislation requiring health and safety warnings in all broadcast and print alcohol advertising. Vice President-elect Al Gore was chief Democratic sponsor of the bill in the Senate.

The letter was co-written by staff members of the Center for Science in the Public Interest and National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. Among groups signing onto it in addition to the CLC were the American Psychological Association and the United Methodist Church.

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EDITORS' NOTE: This story updates the Jan. 14 (BP) story titled "Baptist workers in Iraq watching what happens next."

Iraq workers indicate
no evacuation decision

Baptist Press
1/18/93

LONDON (BP)--Southern Baptist aid workers in Iraq indicated no intention of evacuating Jan. 18, despite the expansion of allied air strikes to Iraqi bases in the northern "no fly" zone where they work.

Paul Smith, leader of the workers in the area, contacted the London headquarters of Global Partners, the humanitarian organization for which they work.

"We're under pretty severe alert," he told a Global Partners official. "Lots of activity is close at hand and it's escalating pretty fast."

Still, he added, the aid workers are "OK and functioning."

The Global Partners workers live in Zakho, near the Turkish border in the northern "no fly" zone, where they aid Kurdish people through medical clinics, well drilling and seed distribution.

Smith earlier said the workers would cease operation for several days after the Jan. 13 allied bombing of Iraqi missile sites bordering the southern "no fly" zone. Allied authorities in the northern area warned foreign relief workers to prepare for an increased risk of harassment or terrorism.

Western workers in the northern region have been targeted repeatedly over the last year in bombing incidents, shootings and destruction of vehicles and relief equipment.

Should they need to evacuate, the Global Partners workers have a detailed plan and could be "out of here ... in 15 minutes" on the way to Turkey, Smith said Jan. 13.

Global Partners personnel in Zakho include Smith, of West Monroe, La., and his wife, Virginia, of Farmington, Mo.; physician Robert Pepper of Beaumont, Texas, and his wife, Rhonda, of Rutledge, Ga.; well-drilling coordinator Art Baker of Georgetown, S.C.; and Chris Unger, a German. Seed-distribution coordinator Bill Hinton of Hopkinsville, Ky., has departed for Turkey on his way home to the United States.

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Relationship unchanged,
WMU head tells missionaries

By Mary Jane Welch

Baptist Press
1/18/93

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP)--The relationship between Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's missionaries has not changed, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien assured missionaries Jan. 17.

"What we want you to know is that WMU loves you and will pray for you and support you. And that message comes loud and clear today just as it did almost 105 years ago" when WMU began, O'Brien told furloughing missionaries during a worship service at the Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

"You are still the reason we exist and we have recommitted ourselves to be better supporters of yours," she commented before moving into a message on needs in America and the world and how Christians are called to meet them.

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O'Brien's assurance came a few days after the WMU executive board made decisions which, she has said, should allow the organization to be the one entity that can relate to all Southern Baptists interested in missions.

Among recommendations adopted was one that WMU "provide prayer support and produce resources for Southern Baptist groups involved in missions, at their request." Some Southern Baptist Convention leaders have questioned what they see as increased WMU support of the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and its new mission program. Acknowledging missionaries already may have heard reports of the meeting, O'Brien noted she had brought copies of the open letter, "vision" statement, "core values" and recommendations adopted by the WMU board.

"We want you to know straight from WMU what our actions have been," she said, adding copies of the documents would be mailed to all missionaries.

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Mom of Alabama quarterback
proudest of son's witness

By Mark Baggett

Baptist Press
1/18/93

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Alabama and Auburn football is about to get more complicated -- if possible -- and Samford University football secretary Barbara Barker finds herself the person in the middle.

On one hand, her boss for the past five years, Terry Bowden, former coach at the Baptist college in Birmingham, took the Auburn head coaching job in December in a lightning-quick coaching change that made it hard for him to say formal goodbyes to his Samford staff.

On the other hand, there is her son, Jay, the quarterback of Alabama's national championship team.

"The day after the championship game, Terry called to congratulate Jay, and then he said, 'We go to war now,'" Barbara recounted. The Barkers are actively involved at First Baptist Church in Trussville -- Barbara, her husband, Jerome, Jay, and his sister, Andrea, a Samford graduate. "But we will still be close. We can talk about everything but strategy," Barbara said.

"We have been so happy for Terry. The sad part is that it breaks up the Samford football family and that everything happened so quick, none of us really got a chance to say goodbye the way we would have wanted to."

But the disappointment of losing Terry to Auburn was overcome on New Year's night when Jay quarterbacked Alabama over the University of Miami. Critics had been skeptical of Jay's ability, but he has never lost a game he has started at Alabama and he owns what hundreds of other Division I quarterbacks wish they had: a championship ring.

"I don't think it's totally sunk in yet," he said. "It's still kind of a dream. For a kid growing up in Alabama, first to be the quarterback at the university and, second, to win the national championship -- the Lord has blessed me twice."

A friendly, unpretentious and devout young man, Barker was pitted against the trash-talking Miami team in the Sugar Bowl, but he said he saw another side of some of the Miami players at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes breakfast. "You could tell there was something different about them," he said of Michael Barrows, Darrin Smith and others who gave their testimonies.

At Alabama, which has a strong FCA chapter with 125 or so athletes from all sports attending weekly, Barker said he tries to avoid a "holier-than-thou" image.

"We try to relate to non-Christians and not be so overbearing," he said. "We try to get them to come to our meetings and not to push religion on them, but to show them through our actions. We're not perfect, but we are trying to be more and more perfect in the image of Christ. The only thing we have that they don't have is the forgiveness and the hope of Christ in our lives."

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Barker said his own faith has helped him weather the tides of excessive praise and criticism that come with the turf of being Alabama's quarterback.

"My ritual is that every night before a game, I have a quiet time with the Lord, studying the Bible and praying, not to win the game, but that his name will be lifted up and that I will be an influence on the field for him.

"Then on game day, the FCA members on the team meet for 25-30 minutes for prayer and Bible study. This has helped our game. The emotional part dies out, but the spiritual part gets us through."

Of all her son's accomplishments, his mother is proudest of his "Christian witness." His autograph invariably includes one of two Bible verses -- Romans 8:28 or Philippians 4:13 -- which young autograph seekers look up, she said.

"I deal with the media in my job," she said, "and I'm proud of how he conducts himself. The press says no matter what we ask Jay, he won't be negative. This is part of his testimony to the Lord, how he's reaching young people as a role model, not only as a quarterback, but for Jesus Christ."

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Southwestern student helps
jail prisoners break free

By Matthew Brady

Baptist Press
1/18/93

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Mark Hollis specializes in jailbreaks. Instead of dynamite and trickery, Hollis, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, uses faith and a Bible to release inmates.

But for Hollis, when the prisoners are set free his work is just beginning.

A new program at the Tarrant County Jail in Fort Worth, Texas, has allowed Hollis to pursue his ministry of nurturing inmates in the Christian faith to a greater extent than ever before.

The jail, under the leadership of chaplain Chris Athey, has established a Christian "pod." The pod has 48 bunks and gives inmates a spiritual environment. Participation is voluntary.

Hollis said the pod works as a "missionary" training ground. Trained, mature Christian inmates will re-enter the prison system and start other Bible studies. Hollis said the program already has had an unforeseen immediate impact on the jail.

"Bible study and Christian services have broken out all across the jail system," Hollis said. Prisoners who couldn't get into the Christian pod "just went ahead and started Bible study in the pods they were in," he said.

Hollis is a student and chaplain intern for Southwestern's Inmate Discippler Fellowship, part of the seminary's continuing education department. Since the pod opened this summer, Hollis has led two intensive Bible study courses: "Step by Step Through the Old Testament" and "Step by Step through the New Testament." Both studies are part of the LIFE curriculum produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Of the 39 inmates who completed the Old Testament study, 12 finished with a grade average of 99 percent or above.

Southwestern is working to expand the type of program to Fort Worth's Wackenhut unit, a privately owned facility under contract with the state of Texas. Wackenhut is a short-term facility for non-violent offenders. The seminary hopes to sponsor classes on Christian basics there and give field education credit to students who work with the inmates.

Bill Vinson, program coordinator for the continuing education department, said materials for one Old Testament or New Testament LIFE curriculum cost about \$700 and help is need to defray costs.

Hollis said the goal of all these programs is to reduce recidivism -- the tendency of former inmates to return to crime and prison.

Said Hollis: "We believe the only way you can do that is through Christ."

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

Seminary couples combine
classes, family matters

By Matthew Brady

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--When they graduate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in May, Victor and Amy Boll will each receive a "PhT."

For Victor, the initials mean "Putting Her Through." For Amy, they stand for "Putting Him Through."

The certificates symbolize the teamwork needed for couples making time for marriage, two class schedules, two (or more) jobs and a ministry.

Victor and Amy, both religious education students, work four jobs. Victor drives a school bus and works as a church janitor. Amy is a secretary at the seminary and at a local church.

"There are so many things to juggle," Victor said. "You can't give yourself to one thing because another thing will slip."

Victor and Amy met at the seminary's annual Welcome Party in the fall of 1990. She was a new student and he had come the year before. They were married last summer.

In their opinion, being married and going to school is better than dating or being engaged while going to school. "At least we can come home to each other, and that's always nice," Amy said.

But it is still difficult to find time together. "Sometimes we just have to set everything aside and talk," Amy said.

"It's worth it to me to run a couple of hours late than for us to not have time out," she said.

Steve and Donna Bareis came to Southwestern as students and newlyweds. "All we've known as a married couple is seminary life," Steve said.

Both have jobs, Steve as a contract painter and Donna as a day-care worker. The struggle to pay bills "taught us how to live on a budget," Donna said.

A commitment to communication and to each other is the key, Steve said. "In your seminary journey, you've got to be committed to the right things."

Gerald and Rhonda Davis are veterans in the marriage-school-ministry challenge. They came to Southwestern in 1989 from Puerto Rico, where Gerald was a quality control engineer with General Electric. He is now outreach minister at Cornerstone Baptist Church in south Dallas. Rhonda is the coordinator of the Bethlehem Community Center in Fort Worth.

Adjusting to a different schedule every semester is the Davis' biggest difficulty. They try to take classes together, but it is still hard to find that "special quality time together," Gerald said.

The Davises feel a call to foreign missions. Because of that call, Gerald said, he sees their time at Southwestern as preparation for a lifetime of ministry together.

He said going to school together is good because "you know your wife is involved in seminary, getting good training and teaching as well." But he added, "We can often take that for granted and not really focus on each other spiritually."

The pressure of exams demand the most from their marriage. If they aren't sensitive to each other and do not follow the Lord's lead "we explode," he said.

The Davis' will graduate in May -- Gerald with the master of divinity degree, Rhonda with the master of arts in church social services.

Gerald advises couples considering seminary to remember communication and spiritual development because the time crunch makes it easy to lose touch with your spouse emotionally and spiritually.

"We need to be sensitive and concerned about each other's spiritual growth even though we're in seminary," he said.

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

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