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Human Genome Project offers
breakthroughs, ethical concerns By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
3/3/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--Breakthroughs in the treatment of cystic fibrosis, breast cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease and thousands of other genetic disorders will result from the 15-year project to map the human genetic blueprint, according to the Southern Baptist geneticist about to assume leadership of the effort.

At the same time, more knowledge about genetic makeup poses a range of moral and ethical dilemmas that must become the focus of discussion among the scientific, ethical, legal, political and religious communities, Francis Collins told more than 500 participants in the March 1-3 seminar on "Life at Risk: Crises in Medical Ethics" sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Collins will move from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he has been professor of internal medicine and human genetics, to direct the National Center for Human Genome Research in Bethesda, Md., later in March. He said he expects to allocate 5 percent of project funding to research and dialogue on ethical issues.

"I believe the vast majority of research of the Human Genome Project will be beneficial -- alleviating suffering, saving lives -- all the things God called us to do," he said.

Collins, who led the team which in 1989 identified the gene causing cystic fibrosis, said the "Human Genome Project promises the ability to do that for thousands of diseases."

On the other hand, when people are able to find out they are carriers for cystic fibrosis or at high risk for breast or colon cancer, ethical questions abound:

- Can this information remain confidential?
- Could people lose medical insurance because of their genetic makeup?
- Could they lose their jobs?
- When should they be told of genetic problems impacting child bearing -- before they conceive a child or during pregnancy?
- Should people be told of genetic problems that will lead to incurable diseases or only when the problem is something that can be treated?

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"We all feel we should not be discriminated against on the basis of our genes, but there are not adequate safeguards," Collins said. "The consequences of the Genome Project are not immediately upon us, but it won't be long."

He called on Christians to begin involvement with genetic issues by becoming informed.

"It is not sufficient to take a stand against something without understanding what that something is," he said. Churches "must get involved in such a way that they are for something, not against something."

Noting that science and the church "don't have a pretty history," Collins said he finds the two "wonderfully compatible."

Understanding the human body and its complexities "is a form of worship in understanding God's creation."

A Virginian raised in the Episcopal Church, Collins said during his college years he "skidded back into agnosticism and then to atheism." He was converted at age 27 and attended United Methodist and American Baptist churches before joining a Southern Baptist congregation, Packard Road Baptist Church in Ann Arbor, in 1984.

Collins cited progress on cystic fibrosis and breast cancer as examples of the breakthroughs possible through the Human Genome Project.

For breast cancer, which now affects 11 percent of women in the United States, a "breakthrough is imminent," Collins said.

While it is now possible to predict women at high risk in families where breast cancer is common, he said it soon will be possible to identify others as high risk and offer options including close surveillance.

"If testing offers you options you can do something about, then you have profited," Collins said.

Cystic fibrosis, the most common, potentially fatal disease among the Caucasian population, affects one in 2,500 newborn Caucasians, Collins said. Many adults are carriers of the disease who do not themselves suffer from it.

It is now possible to identify about 85 percent of the carriers of cystic fibrosis. Also, gene therapy is under way to treat those suffering from the disease, Collins said.

"Debate has been raging about whether we should offer CF screening to the general population," he said. Questions include what couples identified as carriers should decide to do about child bearing and whether screening should take place before or during pregnancy.

"As a Christian committed to the sanctity of human life, I believe people should have the information before pregnancy," he said.

While the questions pose dilemmas, the rewarding side comes in "benefits to very real people suffering from very real diseases," Collins said.

On Aug. 25, 1989, the day the discovery of the cystic fibrosis gene was announced, an 8-year-old girl with the disease wrote in her diary, "Today is the most best day ever in my life."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Christian Life Commission.

Former abortion provider
details her new lifestyle

By Jon Walker

Baptist Press
3/3/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--Former abortion provider Carol Everett said the abortion industry is motivated by profit, not concern for women. Everett, who once co-owned two abortion clinics, said her abortion counselors were actually trained telemarketers selling a product.

"Abortion is not about rights or choices or even about rape or incest. Abortion is about money," Everett told participants at the 26th annual Christian Life Commission seminar in Nashville March 1.

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"It's a skillfully marketed product sold to a frightened young woman at a crisis time in her life. She buys that product, finds it defective, but she can't return for a refund: The baby is dead," Everett said.

Everett opened her presentation with an emotionally charged story of a "botched abortion" that resulted in an emergency colostomy of the young woman. Everett said during her six years in the abortion industry she was not only responsible for 35,000 abortions, but also the death of one woman and the maiming of 19 others due to hysterectomies or colostomies. She said it was routine for doctors and abortionists to work together to cover up such mistakes and that these same types of complications are going on throughout the nation today, but the public never hears the truth.

"I was, indeed, the Scarlet Lady. I think of myself now as the Scarlet Lady, but it's different. It's (because of) the redemptive blood of Jesus Christ," Everett said.

Everett said she left the abortion industry because of a Baptist preacher who told her the plan of salvation. She asked God to show her very specifically that he wanted her out of the abortion industry. Within a few days, the CBS affiliate in Dallas ran an expose on abortion clinics doing abortions on women who were not pregnant by scraping the walls of their uterus.

"They showed clearly that we were doing abortions on women who were not pregnant and that we were using a man to do abortions who was not a licensed physician, which was perfectly legal in the state of Texas," Everett said.

She said after the television expose no governmental agencies investigated the clinic because it was doing nothing illegal. Despite public perception to the contrary, there is no governmental regulation of the abortion industry, she said.

"The veterinary clinics of my state and probably yours are regularly inspected by the health department, and the abortion clinics are not," Everett said. "We do take better care of the animals of this nation than we do our women."

Everett said the abortion industry has a specific agenda for selling abortions to the women of this nation. The plan includes introducing the very young to sex through school programs.

"We could tell when (the students) were put on any method of contraceptive that sexual activity would go from zero or once to five to seven times a week," Everett said. As a result of this sexual activity, "we could achieve our agenda of three to five abortions on women between the ages of 13 and 18."

Everett said she made \$25 an abortion and her income the last month in that business totaled \$13,625. She said abortionists now make a minimum of \$75 an abortion in this country. It was not uncommon for her to pay one \$900 a day as he performed 10 to 12 abortions per hour, she said.

Everett said she recently heard a doctor in San Diego claim he did 150 abortions per week. Everett estimates he makes \$45,000 a month.

"Under oath, that man testified he was paid cash at the end of the day. No Form 1099. No W-2 form. My friends, that's what abortion is about: a part-time job, working 18 hours a week, making \$45,000 a month -- cash."

Everett said the church needs to lovingly reach out to those women who have had an abortion because the world does not have the morals to make a difference. She said she speaks not only as a former abortion provider, but also as a woman who once had an abortion. "When the church reaches out in love and forgiveness, we who have experienced abortion ... can confess, repent and start to understand that the forgiving blood of Christ covers even abortion."

Everett cited the Oct. 20, 1992, USA Today as reporting 70 percent of women having abortions go to church and 27 percent are in church at least once a week.

"Every time I go into a church someone will squeeze my hand -- a deacon's wife -- and say, 'I know what you're talking about. I can't tell anyone,'" Everett said. "I am convinced that our nation is a mission field of pain from abortion and sexual activity outside of God's plan."

EDITORS' NOTE: Baptist Press offers a second story, following one in (BP) 3/2/93, on events thus far in the standoff between federal agents and cult leader David Koresh in Waco, Texas.

Hospital offers Christian compassion
in caring for wounded ATF agents By Toby Druin

Baptist Press
3/3/93

WACO, Texas (BP)--Federal agents received a hail of gunfire when they knocked at the door of a man who claims to be Jesus Christ. They were given a healing hand and comfort from a Texas Baptist institution that ministers in Jesus' name.

Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco received 16 of the casualties of the Feb. 28 raid by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on a cult housed in a 77-acre "Mt. Carmel" compound 10 miles northeast of Waco.

Two of the ATF agents were dead on arrival and a third died at the hospital. One other ATF officer and two cult members also were killed but were not brought to Hillcrest. Seven of the injured were hospitalized with a variety of gunshot wounds; all were listed in stable condition two days following the incident.

They were wounded when a firefight erupted as ATF agents served an arrest warrant on David Koresh, also known as Vernon Howell, leader of the Branch Davidians, which split off from the Seventh day-Adventist Church almost 60 years ago.

Koresh, 33, claims to be Jesus Christ and to hold the keys to the seven seals of the Revelation. But he also has been accused of many crimes, including child molestation, and reportedly has 15 "wives." The ATF raid Feb. 28, however, was staged to arrest him on federal weapons charges and to search the compound for automatic weapons and homemade bombs.

The shooting began shortly after 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 28. A force of several dozen ATF officers moved on the rambling compound but when the arrest warrant was served at the door they were met with a hail of gunfire. Shots were exchanged for more than a half-hour. A cease fire was arranged so both groups could remove their dead and wounded.

The Hillcrest Medical Center staff had no advance warning such an event was in the works but it didn't take long for them to respond.

Benita Jennings, an emergency room nurse and member of First Baptist Church in Hubbard, near Waco, said she called in at 11 a.m. and got the first report of the shootings. She was at the hospital at 11:30, she said, and the first of three ambulances, each with several wounded ATF agents, arrived within an hour.

She worked triage, directing patients to various levels of care, and was immediately struck, she said, by the spirit of camaraderie among them. The first ambulance had an ATF agent in the front seat and two in the back of the ambulance, one already dead. The man in the front seat had lost a thumb to a bullet, she said, but he refused to get out of the ambulance until the others were cared for.

Another in a later ambulance "kept asking about the others," she said. "He had heard one had been killed, and when I told him it was true he cried. He cried again when he found another agent from his squad had died. I told him it was all right."

She works as an EMT -- emergency medical technician -- and is used to seeing blood and gunshot wounds, but had never seen so much blood or such bad wounds, she said.

Jennings spent all of Sunday and Monday at the hospital, napping when she could and waiting for an expected second surge of gunshot victims from the compound.

"I haven't had time to think how this is going to affect me," she said late Monday afternoon. "I think it will affect me; I just don't know how.

"You can't let it get to you at the time. Sometimes you want to cry and break down, but you learn to deal with it then and break down afterward. I think God is the one who keeps me together. I don't believe a non-Christian could do it. I don't know of anyone who is in the emergency room who doesn't go to church."

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George Humbert, director of Hillcrest's emergency room services, said he was called when the ambulances were dispatched to the compound where the shootings occurred. Six nurses were on duty and he called in seven more and brought others in from other areas of the hospital.

ATF officers in full battle gear were arriving as he got to the emergency room, he said. There were rumors the Davidian cult would seek reprisals and the ATF agents "immediately secured the area and began to ask for phones." Their first questions, he said, were about the condition of their friends and "tell him I'm praying for him."

"You don't get used to it," said Humbert, who has been working in emergency rooms for 16 years, the last 18 months at Hillcrest. "You pretty much have to leave it here. But I felt really sorry ... I realized all these guys had families."

A spirit of family often develops in an emergency room between the staff and law enforcement officers who often accompany various victims to it, Humbert said, and it happened with the ATF officers and the nurses and doctors. "They become a part of us," he said. "We vent to each other."

The ATF has its own peer support team made up of other ATF officers who have been involved in shooting incidents, and they came to Hillcrest to minister to their fellow officers. The bureau also has a psychologist, Harold Solomon, from Washington, who came to help.

But Hillcrest's chaplaincy corps, director Curtis Holland and Hazel Thompson and Jake Remenschneider, bore the brunt of the counseling load immediately.

Holland, a member of Western Heights Baptist Church in Waco, said he got to the hospital about 1 p.m., just after the last ambulance had arrived, but much of his work has come later in comforting family members and easing them into their first meeting with their injured loved one.

A veteran of 20 years at Hillcrest, Holland said he was impressed with how the whole "team" at the hospital was drawn together, working with others to get the job done.

"This is what we want to happen every day, but you really see it happening when something like this happens," he said.

"It becomes a reminder of what a wonderful experience it is to be in a Christian environment and see the arm of the church reach out in a different way than hearing it in a sermon.

"You are doing the gospel, not saying pious words or in religious terms; you are just giving a religious response, putting it into action, and in everything that is done, you feel the uniqueness of what the whole meaning of the healing ministry is all about."

Richard Scott, president of the medical center, came to the hospital from a celebration honoring Bill Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church and a hospital director.

His role, he said, was simply to be supportive and available for any interpretation of hospital policy.

"But our people know that the best interpretation of policy is always that which shows that we are working in a Christian environment, to put our patients first, to work in teamwork situations and be respectful of them," Scott said.

"We do all kinds of disaster drills to try to prepare for anything," he added, "but we have never had a drill on a situation of this type. This isn't the type of thing you expect to happen in Waco, Texas."

Baylor University art majors
offered nude drawing class

By Toby Druin

WACO, Texas (BP)--Baylor University regents have approved a nude figure drawing class to be offered to advanced art students next fall.

The class, Advanced Figure Drawing, will be taught by Karl Umlauf, the university's artist-in-residence, said Mike Bishop, vice president for communications.

Female models will pose nude for the class. Male models will wear athletic supporters. None of the models will be students or in any way associated with the university, Bishop said.

A committee of the regents approved the course after lengthy study, said Bishop, to provide an adequate curriculum for students concentrating in figure drawing.

"Every other Texas college or university that offers such a concentration for many years has had a course in nude figure drawing," Bishop said. "Our students have had to go to another school to get the course for their portfolios."

The regents committee -- approval of the full board is not required -- assured themselves the course will be "well monitored and controlled," Bishop said. "There will be nothing salacious about it whatsoever."

Students taking the course, he said, will typically have to have completed four or five other courses, "putting them at or past the mid-point in the major" before they take the class.

"It is also important to note that any student who is uncomfortable with it can draw a clothed model," he said. "No student will be forced by any means to be in the nude drawing class."

"The class will be shielded for privacy," he added. "No one will be peeking in or accidentally dropping in on the class."

The class also will include lectures by physicians from the central Texas area on physical anatomy, bone and muscle structure to improve the experience of the students, Bishop said.

"Drawing nude figures goes back to Michelangelo and before," he noted. "Does anybody look at his drawing and think it is obscene? We are not the first Baptist school to offer this, but whether the first or last, it is the right thing to do for a university to offer it in appropriate circumstances where no exploitation of the human body occurs. Sex is not a part of this."

Baylor has previously banned Playboy magazine from the campus and students from posing for it and will continue to do so, Bishop said, noting he has been asked what is the difference in the university's policy toward Playboy and approval of the nude drawing class.

"Playboy Enterprises is in the business of commercializing and exploiting sex," Bishop said. "We object to that. We will not let Playboy on campus or allow the magazine to exploit our students. Nude figure drawing is a legitimate course in a figure drawing curriculum. It is an art form as old as mankind. There is nothing to be ashamed of in the human body."

Bishop noted medical students have to deal with unclothed bodies and "art students who have proved their commitment need to see it and understand it in an unclothed presentation where there is still dignity and reverence."

Bishop was quoted in the Waco Tribune Herald as saying the school's Baptist ties previously had caused the delay in offering the course. The university altered its charter in 1990 to limit its control by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which now directly elects only six of the 24 regents.

"What I wanted to convey," Bishop said, "was we will make changes in areas such as this more slowly, etc., because we are committed to our Baptist constituency. We are sensitive to the fact that there may be some Baptists and Christians who may be offended. We would like for them to understand why we came to this."

"We just don't pass it through a committee and do it the next semester. We took it to a committee and examined it very carefully because we love Baptists.

"We are a Baptist school and proud of that fact," Bishop said. "But we also are a university with a nationally acclaimed program and we are committed to continue to improve the quality of our programs. But we will never take rash actions that will separate us from Texas Baptists."

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Tailored mission offering
yields \$500,000 for FMB

By Donald D. Martin

Baptist Press
3/3/93

HOUSTON (BP)--Second Baptist Church in Houston raised more than \$500,000 for foreign missions using a mission emphasis that may become a pattern in some of the convention's larger churches.

The amount is included in an overall missions offering in which the church raised funds for foreign, home and local missions, explained Wanda Edminster, the church's director of missions involvement, who coordinated the mission project.

The Houston congregation, like a growing number of other larger Southern Baptist churches, takes up one annual mission offering rather than focusing on the traditional Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

The 15,000-member church, where Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young is pastor, asked the SBC Foreign Mission Board for specific projects and missionary needs to contribute to because many of its members are new Christians or new Southern Baptists.

The board must expand its concept of funding beyond traditional convention programs to deal with the realities of a changing world, according to Don Kammerdiener, the board's interim president, and David Coleman, director of development.

While the Houston church's approach isn't designed for every church, Kammerdiener and Coleman believe it is an innovative way to gain support for missions and accommodate a variety of Baptist preferences.

Coleman points out recent Sunday School Board surveys reveal Southern Baptist baby boomers' preferences for giving lean toward funding for specific needs. For example, their interest in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which channels funds for foreign missions use throughout the world, lags behind their support for disaster relief projects.

The board's future depends on support from both perspectives, Kammerdiener stressed.

"This method attempts to combine the best of the new Southern Baptist baby-boomer mentality with the best of the cooperative efforts that embrace the whole world," he said. "This idea brings together two approaches so those with special interest can have a part in what all Southern Baptists are doing around the world.

"We'd have no history without those who have traditionally embraced the globe in their giving and in their view of missions. Yet we equally embrace those who want to be part of programs with a local, personalized interest. But ultimately they are all giving to the same thing," Kammerdiener concluded.

"Our choice, as the Foreign Mission Board," Coleman said, "is to either not work with these larger churches and let many of their dollars go to parachurch groups, or to try to provide information to them about what we're doing and channel the money to immediate needs.

"I'm not saying that this is a model that needs to be duplicated in every Southern Baptist church. What I'm saying is that it's a model for many of the larger Southern Baptist churches that already have a single missions offering in their church, and that's a growing number," he said.

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Second Baptist, working with the board's development office, developed a list of specific mission needs and then assigned a mission project to each Sunday school class in the church to study and help fund.

"Many of the people in our church have not come from a background where they were aware of Southern Baptists' missions history," said Edminster, a former Southern Baptist missionary in Africa. "Many here come from other denominations or are new Christians. So we wanted them to have the opportunity to become personally involved and learn more about Southern Baptist missions through these projects."

For example, Jon Fricke's 50-member Sunday school class at Second Baptist gave \$3,500 to expand a Southern Baptist missionaries' outreach project targeting unemployed Peruvian women. During Second Baptist's October 1992 missions emphasis, "Discover Missions Month," the class studied Peru and prayed weekly for missionaries there. The money the class raised will help teach industrial sewing to unemployed Peruvian women.

"This approach was fantastic for our class," Fricke said. "We're a young class that started with three people about a year ago. We have a mix of people. Some have been Southern Baptist for years and others are brand new Christians. This worked for us because it was so specific in its approach."

Part of the Peru sewing project had gone unfunded for several years. But because Second Baptist wanted to tailor a mission offering to the giving patterns of its current church membership, the Peruvian project, as well as projects in several other countries, received funding.

Besides Fricke's Peruvian project, the assignments ranged from a singles class raising \$6,000 for evangelism in the Ukraine to the church's parochial school raising \$2,500 to purchase ducks for farmers in Bangladesh. The ducks are part of an outreach project designed to help farmers supplement their incomes by raising and selling poultry.

"Through this approach we have sought to give our people a personal sense of involvement that many had found in (supporting) parachurch groups, while helping them become aware of the variety and scope of Southern Baptist missions around the world," Edminster explained.

Overall, Second Baptist raised \$358,600 for specific foreign mission needs and \$164,860 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering -- a significant increase over 1991 when the church gave \$100,000 to foreign missions. The church's total budget in 1992 was \$12.8 million.

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MK helps parents turn 50th
into a Philippine reunion

By Bob Stanley

Baptist Press
3/3/93

MESQUITE, Texas (BP)--A "missionary kid" successful in the business world made it possible Feb. 27 for his parents to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with almost 70 missionaries and other people they worked with in the Philippines.

Steve Solesbee, president and chief executive officer of AnswerUSA, a telephone answering service and paging systems company, and his sister, U.S. Army Capt. Carol Solesbee, threw a Texas-size celebration for their parents.

Both grew up in the Philippines, where their parents, Bill and Ella Ruth Solesbee, served 25 years as Southern Baptist missionaries.

Early in February, as his parents discussed plans for a modest anniversary observance, Steve got the idea of inviting their former missionary associates and Philippine co-workers now in the United States to help them celebrate.

Those who could attend received round-trip plane tickets from places as distant as Washington state and the East Coast. Some of Steve's and Carol's fellow MKs (missionary kids) also came, along with their children. Ling Kang Yeh Go, the daughter of two of the Solesbees' Chinese language teachers, also attended.

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The Solesbees originally were appointed to China, but went to Baguio City, Philippines, for language study after Chinese communists took over mainland China. When subsequent events made it impossible for missionaries to China to return, they started work with Filipinos. The Solesbees worked in evangelism, helping establish churches throughout a wide section of Mindanao, the large southern island of the Philippines.

After the couple returned to the United States in 1970, Solesbee became pastor of Edgemont Park Baptist Church in Mesquite, Texas, where he served 20 years. Since retirement late in 1992, he has been interim pastor of First Baptist Church in Fate, Texas, in neighboring Rockwall County.

The program and reception honoring the Solesbees was Saturday, Feb. 27, at First Baptist Church in Sunnyvale, Texas. The next day, a number of the visitors spoke to Sunday school classes and at the worship service of First Baptist in Fate.

Some of the participants hadn't seen each other since they worked together overseas, and the reunion renewed friendships and brought back many memories.

"It's just a little bit of heaven," said retired missionary Faye Tunmire Fincannon.

At the close, Steve and Carol gave their parents the keys to a new automobile. The Solesbees also received a special recognition certificate from the Dallas mayor and city council for his church work and her teaching in Dallas area schools.

In addition, an endowment fund will be set up in their honor at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to help provide scholarships for students at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Davao City, Philippines.

Fincannon also announced that \$1,000 accrued from a fund set up by her and her late husband, optometrist Lin Fincannon of Elkin, N.C., will be sent to help students and faculty at M'lang Baptist College in the Philippines. Mrs. Fincannon worked with students at the M'lang college; the Solesbees had related to both schools.

Steve Solesbee, who has a long-range view to help other MKs as they return to the American culture, demonstrated his business skills even as a teen-ager in the Philippines.

He got his start early in business, which ranged from raising puppies for sale to obtaining his father's signature so he could trade on the Makati Stock Exchange. Older brokers were so impressed by his interest they often gave him tips on stocks to buy.

When the Solesbees were preparing to leave the Philippines, Steve said his dad was amazed at how much money had accumulated.

While still relatively young, he dabbled in real estate, at one time owned seven newspapers, and in 1982 founded his present company, which has branches throughout the United States and is now reaching out to other countries.

Now 42, Steve thinks growing up as an MK overseas was special, and he has set up a program to help MKs.

This past year he was instrumental in starting the new International MK Fellowship, which already has had one retreat in Tennessee for MKs and hopes to have another in Texas late this spring.

Growing up overseas, while largely beneficial, can sometimes leave scars and some MKs have problems adjusting to life in the United States, Solesbee observed. He hopes the new fellowship not only can help MKs spiritually but also help them know where they belong when they return to this country.

"I've always been proud I was an MK," said Steve, who said he counts himself fortunate to be the child of "two dedicated missionaries."

They didn't have much money, he said, but their home was "rich in the things that mattered."

Being the best requires teamwork,
commitment, BSSB workers told By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP)--According to Dal Shealy, there is only one way for the 1,800-plus employees of the Baptist Sunday School to achieve their fullest potential.

"Only when your character is full of the person of Jesus Christ can you be the best," Shealy, president and chief executive officer of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, told employees crowded into the Board's Van Ness Auditorium March 2. "We've got to have a revival inside and we've got to be a team right here if we want to be the best."

Shealy, a football and track and field coach for 35 years, was the featured speaker for the board's "We Can Be the Best Celebration Day." The event was designed to celebrate completion of the board's restructuring and the organization's commitment to achieving its vision by being the world's best provider of religious materials and services.

Shealy reminded individual employees their work is important "because without you the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Convention cannot be the best. They can only be as good as you help make them."

He complimented the board's vision statement which reads: "We will assist local churches and individual believers to evangelize the world to Christ, develop believers, and grow churches by being the best worldwide provider of relevant, high-quality, high-value Christian products and services."

"You have a plan. Now commit your work to the Lord," he said, challenging workers to get out of their "comfort zones."

He shared four other suggestions for helping employees be their best:

- Never stop growing and learning.
- Have "people-sense." (Know your people and, through working together as a team, shape attitudes, evaluate and raise expectations.)
- Develop good communication skills.
- Learn to stay calm under pressure.

BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. told employees the call to follow Christ "is always a call to be our best. It is a call to excel.

"We ought to be different. We ought to be special. We ought to be stretching the limits to be our best," he said.

Dan Collins, chairman of the board of trustees, said he lived a great part of his life "under the crippling impression that being the best meant being perfect. That's a terrible mistake to make.

"One of the great steps in Christian maturity is learning to live our lives by principles rather than by rules," he said.

He affirmed the culture of openness and teamwork at the board, pointing to Draper's leadership as a key factor.

"I truly believe I am standing before employees in the best organization of its kind in the world," he said.

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

**'Holman Bible Dictionary' makes
best-sellers list for second year**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The "Holman Bible Dictionary" was the fourth best-selling Christian reference book in the United States in 1992, moving up three places from the previous year's ranking, a national magazine reported.

The dictionary was included in Bookstore Journal's "Reference Premier 100" -- a list of best-selling backlist Christian reference books for 1992. Included in the March issue of the magazine, the list is compiled annually based on actual sales figures submitted by publishers. The dictionary was number seven in last year's listing.

Published by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Holman Bible Publishers, the 1,486-page book was released in 1991 and offers more than 600 color illustrations, maps, charts and articles by almost 300 contributors. A companion product, the "Holman Bible Handbook," was released last year to offer additional study helps on biblical backgrounds, themes and ethical and theological teachings.

Three other Holman products made this year's listing: "Smith's Bible Dictionary," "Pronouncing Bible Names" and "The Holman Concise Bible Atlas."

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