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**Veteran BSU director at Baylor
is removed in wake of dispute**

By Toby Druin

**Baptist Press
5/21/93**

DALLAS (BP)--In the wake of a dispute over the "Welcome Week" program at Baylor University, Baptist Student Union Director George Louterbak has been removed at the request of university officials.

A veteran of almost 14 years at Baylor, Louterbak has been reassigned to lead a study of the Texas Baptist division of student work for the next year.

Jerry Dawson, director of the Christian education coordinating board, told the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly newspaper, last week "administrative leaders" at Baylor had advised him of "changes in internal university programs" and had requested personnel changes involving BSU work at the university.

"It is the policy of the Baptist General Convention of Texas that the division of student work serves Baptist universities as an invited guest," Dawson said. "Changes requested by Baylor University are clearly within the administrative jurisdiction of the school."

Louterbak has been reassigned to head a study of the student work program approved by the coordinating board in April that will include a review of the mission statement, effectiveness in accomplishing its stated mission, relationship to Baptist entities, changing educational dynamics on campuses, the realities of program funding and blueprints for the future.

Dawson said Louterbak, 50, is well qualified to head the study, which is to be completed and a report made to the convention in 1994. A graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, he earned a master of divinity degree at Southwestern Seminary and is working on a doctor of ministry degree at Golden Gate Seminary. He has been associated with the division of student work since 1967.

Louterbak's removal and reassignment climaxed a series of developments regarding possible changes in the format of Baylor's Welcome Week, a program begun by Louterbak shortly after he came to the university to acclimate incoming students to their new environment.

The "week" begins on Wednesday and ends with church services on Sunday morning.

The program, while emphasizing development in intellectual, physical, social and spiritual areas, has been frequently discussed and criticized by some for the last several years for what they saw as an overemphasis on the spiritual.

Two volunteers -- more than 700 return to Baylor each fall to help with the program -- are assigned to 15 to 20 students to get to know them and help them feel they belong on campus, said Louterbak.

The leaders give their personal Christian testimonies. Last year 51 of the 2,157 new students participating made professions of faith, 321 rededicated their lives to Christ and more than 900 indicated a desire to continue their spiritual growth while on campus.

"Some have complained that it is too religious," said Loutherbak. "Some have felt uncomfortable because of the Christian atmosphere, and some have felt that it was too 'Baptist.'"

Religious affiliation isn't mentioned, he said, but the volunteers talk Baptist terms such as "quiet time and walk with the Lord," and students from other denominations or no denominations are not accustomed to it. "They feel like we are trying to get them baptized," he said. "That is not our intent at all. All churches in Waco are invited to campus and the students have an opportunity to learn about them."

"We also have a lot of fun," he said, "singing, cheering, and some say it is more like a church camp than preparation for college. It does have that flavor, but the students want it to be fun."

"We talk about studying, and spend a half a day talking about academics, but it is hard to answer questions before the students know what to ask. You can tell them to study, but they have a choice."

Loutherbak said the Baylor administration had asked that leadership of the week next fall include Baylor faculty members only. Some leaders of Welcome Week have been regulars on the program for many years.

Baylor President Herbert H. Reynolds announced he was naming vice presidents William D. Hillis and Donald D. Schmeltekopf as co-chairs of a Christian Emphasis Task Force to be named soon which will "recommend a comprehensive plan for improving and expanding upon the Christian experience of Baylor students."

Reynolds said he will ask the task force to examine all existing programs at Baylor, including Welcome Week and the spring revival and the possibility of reinstating Religious Focus Week.

The president said he wants religious programs to be inclusive of the "entire Baylor family" and to have a "balance of the spiritual and intellectual in our religious life, a balance that reflects vigor, vitality and a winsome piety."

In a telephone interview with the Baptist Standard, Reynolds declined comment on Loutherbak or his removal.

The change in the format of Welcome Week or whatever is recommended by the task force is part of an attempt to make Baylor the "finest Christian and Baptist institution in the world -- that's my goal," said Reynolds.

"Whatever we do, we are going to emphasize that we are a Christ-centered institution. Those who think that any time we modify or study what we are doing in some way weakens or lessens our Christian emphasis are totally wrong."

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**Strategic partnership announced
by CIS, Automated Church System**

**Baptist Press
5/21/93**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Church Information System (CIS), the church management software service of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has announced a strategic partnership with a major competitor, Automated Church System (ACS) of Florence, S.C.

Effective June 1, ACS, a non-denominational, privately owned church management software development company, will provide product development, marketing and sales to SBC churches on a preferred vendor basis. Under an agreement announced May 21 by Charles A. Wilson, vice president for trade and retail markets at the Sunday School Board, and Hal Campbell, president of ACS, CIS will continue to provide support/trainers to its 1,300 current customers until March 1, 1995, when responsibility for those services will be assumed by ACS.

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While ACS has experience across all denominations, nearly 1,000 of its 2,500 customers are Southern Baptist churches, Wilson said.

"Through this partnership, we can assure our CIS customers of growth in software product alternatives while continuing to offer them high-quality support and service," he added.

Among terms of the agreement to enhance customer services, Wilson said, is the opportunity for churches that have purchased CIS Touch software since March 1, 1993, to upgrade to ACS software at no additional cost. ACS will offer those customers free admission to the ACS training school in Florence, S.C., and will offer its current SBC customers a free starter kit for SBCNet, the Southern Baptist data communications network. The Sunday School Board will continue to operate SBCNet and its customers will be unaffected by the CIS/ACS agreement.

Among other products and services which have been related to CIS but which will remain at the board are Broadman Prospect Service and church program-related software products.

"ACS has been an innovator of church management software development for more than 15 years, with a strong commitment to customer service," Wilson continued. "In this new relationship, ACS will continue developing and providing well-designed, powerful software to assist churches. The Sunday School Board will continue in the role for which it is best suited: that of providing training and consultative services to help churches to evangelize the world to Christ, develop believers and grow churches."

Wilson said about half of the current 28 CIS employees will be retained to fulfill the board's customer service commitment, while positions for others will be sought at the board and in other areas by its human resources department.

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Missions professor's heart
reaches around the world

By Jon Walker

Baptist Press
5/21/93

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The bicyclist had stopped to admire the beauty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's campus. Keith Eitel, remembering the man on the bicycle as a waiter from a local restaurant, paused to talk to him.

"This is a very spiritual campus," the man said.

Eitel, sensing a Divine appointment, began to share the gospel with this man of Jewish heritage. By the end of the conversation, the bicyclist had agreed to read chapters 52 and 53 in Isaiah and compare them daily to chapters in the book of John.

It is this sensitivity for the lost, as well as his proclivity for puns, for which Keith Eitel, professor of missions at Southeastern Seminary, is known.

Eitel's concern for the lost led him and his wife to Cameroon, West Africa, where they served for two terms as missionaries. Due to some health problems, the Eitels sensed God moving them in a different direction: missions education.

"I'll stay home as long as God lets me see people catch a vision of global missions and the need for the Great Commission," Eitel said. "As long as I can see that happening as a fruit of my ministry here in the U.S., then I'll understand that as what God wants me to do. Once that ceases, then I'll read that as a sign from him to go back to the mission field."

Eitel, co-director of the Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies at Southeastern, said he would consider it irresponsible if he were not somehow involved in the process of evangelizing the world. He said it is unconscionable that North Americans have absorbed nearly 90 percent of the world's Christian resources when they only comprise 5 percent of the world's population, yet large segments of people have never heard the gospel.

Eitel pointed out the Bible says we are to reach all the "eqnh" ("ethnae") of the world and, until we know all the "eqnh" have been reached, we have an obligation to evangelize them.

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"Even though God doesn't call us all to be goers," Eitel added, "we need to be active senders, not passive senders, and that means that even in our local churches we have to do something every day that not only shakes the community, but shakes the world."

Eitel said often American Christians have a mistaken notion of momentum, thinking that if they shake their communities, then they will eventually shake the world. The Great Commission suggests the momentum flows the other way, Eitel said. Christians are to reach out to the world, and as a result, the communities will be touched.

"Otherwise, we drive past 11 churches to go to our church each Sunday morning and think we have done the job," Eitel said. "If you can ever get out of Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria, and get into the uttermost parts of the world, even for a short term glimpse, you can come to the realization that we haven't yet succeeded in completely fulfilling the Great Commission."

Part of Eitel's educational philosophy includes sending students into the uttermost parts for a short term glimpse. He has traveled with students all over the world, encouraging them to embrace God's global vision wherever the Holy Spirit is at work.

"My philosophy is that we must break down that wall between theory and practice in education," Eitel said. "Traditionally in academic circles, if you are a thinker, then you are not a doer; and if you are doer, then you are not a thinker. Through academic quality, field experience, and inspirational input, my goal is to create thinking-doers who can shake the world for Christ."

One student who has benefited from Eitel's educational philosophy is Donald Crawford. Crawford, a Southeastern student, is currently spending a semester in a republic that was formerly part of Soviet Central Asia. Crawford said Eitel influenced him toward missions.

"I have watched Dr. Eitel's heart break for the lost people of the world," Crawford said. "He looks at things as if they can be accomplished. He'll present (mission outreach) situations to the class and say, 'This is what God is doing. We need to be a part of it!'"

Crawford said Eitel also taught him the Incarnational Model of missions, meaning: just as God became flesh to better communicate with us, missionaries must adapt to the culture of the people they are attempting to evangelize.

Eitel said this approach is important because missionaries used to arrive in foreign countries with an unintentional paternalistic attitude toward the nationals.

"Now there is the realization that the missionary's true task is to work himself out of a job," Eitel said. "We are to go in, establish the work, and then work alongside nationals. All the while, there is a vision for discipling the nationals so they can take full responsibility for their own work. We don't need to have missionaries going in and entrenching themselves for many years or generations in one location with an attitude of perpetual care."

Eitel's educational philosophy includes investing in the lives of his students. It is not uncommon to see him heading to the racquetball court or to a local restaurant with a student. He does this because he wants his students to grow spiritually as well as intellectually.

"I make an effort to get to know my students, because ten years from now they may not remember what was taught in the classroom," Eitel said, "but something in our relationship may stick with them through life. As a result of the exposure that I have to them and they have to me, God may use something to move and motivate them, prayerfully, in the direction of missions."

Eitel said, in more ways than one, he grieves at every graduation because of the closeness he feels with his students.

"We minister to each other," Eitel said. "Hopefully, I have challenged them to look beyond their own immediate horizons and develop a world view, and to assess or reassess their calling in light of that world view."

To love, honor, help each other:

Southeastern couple graduates

By Jon Walker

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Joe and Sharon Haigler had a dilemma during graduation ceremonies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. When the seminary's president asked the spouses of all the graduates to stand, the Haiglers were not sure what to do: they were both spouses and they were both graduates.

Despite stories describing the difficulty of seminary family life, the Haiglers elected to enroll simultaneously in the Master of Divinity program at Southeastern. On May 15 they graduated after three years of commuting 72 miles a day from their home in Fuquay-Varina, N.C. Joe is youth pastor at Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church and Sharon teaches piano to students in the area.

"I feel our marriage has always been a partnership, but it is much more evident now," Sharon said.

Joe and Sharon each won an academic award prior to graduation: Joe won the Edward A. McDowell Jr. Award for his excellence in advanced Greek studies and Sharon won the Williams-White Award for the Practice of Christian Social Concern for her work as an emergency room chaplain at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh, N.C.

The two mutually supported each other through their seminary years, taking classes and studying together.

"I even let him share some of my books," Sharon said jokingly.

Joe said, in a lot of ways, it was easier for them to go through seminary together because they understood what the other was going through on a daily basis.

With a twinkle in her eye, Sharon pointed out she graduated with a higher grade point average than Joe, yet he is the one continuing studies this fall at Southeastern as a Master of Theology student. Sharon, whose divinity degree included an emphasis in church music, is looking for a full-time ministry position.

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Creative use of buildings
necessary to reach world

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press
5/21/93

NEWARK, N.J. (BP)--If Southern Baptists are going to share the gospel with all people, they must limit spending on church buildings, said a Florida pastor.

"If we're ever going to give what we ought to give to missions, we will have to be creative enough to use the buildings we have over and over again" rather than build new facilities, said Charles Roesel, pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla.

His church is not planning to build any new facilities. "We'll just fill what we have over and over and give more money to reach the world," he told 300 people attending the Home Mission Board's annual school of evangelism and church growth.

One example Roesel cited is "Saturday Sunday School." From 1:30 to 3 p.m. each Saturday, 60 volunteers lead Sunday school classes for 350 children from the church's bus ministry. That frees more space for children on Sunday morning.

In addition to creative use of space and alternative times for services, churches must minister to hurting and lonely people.

"The world is not impressed with our buildings, our budgets or our baptisms," Roesel said. "But when we help hurting people, the world will sit up and take notice."

In a town of 25,000, Roesel's church has more than 70 ministries, including crisis pregnancy counseling, assistance for abused children and homebound care for the elderly.

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Each ministry's ultimate goal is evangelism, he said. Before the church became involved in such outreach, it never baptized more than 300 people a year. Since it began the ministries, it has not baptized less than 300 people a year.

Reaching hurting people requires lay leadership, he said. "We're not going to reach the world through clergy." Roesel said his most serious mistake as a pastor was believing he was the only person in the church God could use. The greatest decision he made was to trust the laity, he added.

To finance ministries, Roesel said churches must trust that God will provide. "If you're broke, start giving money away," said the pastor whose church received \$100,000 more than its budget requirements last year. "If churches will quit hording and start sharing, God will start blessing."

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