

(BP)

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
SERIALS AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

-- BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355

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) 828-5100
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

June 14, 1993

93-98

HOUSTON -- SBC messengers likely to consider resolution on Clinton's views.
HOUSTON -- WMU board launches VISION fund, issues no Executive Committee reply.
HOUSTON -- Women in Ministry materials to state their perspective.
HOUSTON -- Columnist calls for new paradigm for church in address to pastors.
HOUSTON -- Evangelistic thrust yields 962 professions of faith.
HOUSTON -- Top Marine chaplain against changes in homosexual policy.
HOUSTON -- Prayer strategy, results focus of pre-SBC conference.
HOUSTON -- Help unchurched young adults find their way, says researcher.
WASHINGTON -- Abortion clinic access bill has problems, witnesses say.
NASHVILLE -- Southern Baptists hit cover of Woman's Day.

**SBC messengers likely to consider
resolution on Clinton's views By Chip Alford**

**Baptist Press
6/14/93**

HOUSTON (BP)--A resolution opposing President Bill Clinton's views on abortion and homosexuals in the military is likely to be submitted for consideration by messengers to the 136th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 15-17 in Houston.

The SBC resolutions committee, chaired by James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., held a pre-convention meeting June 12 to discuss possible resolutions that may come before the convention. While resolutions are not officially introduced until the convention begins, messengers are urged to send "preview copies" for the committee to consider.

The proposed resolution on Clinton urges Southern Baptists to "use their influence" to encourage the president "to stand for biblical morality and reverse his stands" on abortion and homosexuals serving in the military.

The resolution says Clinton has repealed the pro-life policies of the previous two Republican administrations and specifically mentions his support for making a French abortion pill available for marketing and distribution in the United States; his request for funds from Congress to pay for elective abortions through the federal Medicaid program; and reported consideration being given to including abortion coverage in a national health care insurance program.

--more--

The document also mentions Clinton's request of the Department of Defense to present to him a "draft executive order" repealing the ban on declared homosexuals serving in the military; his meeting with homosexual leaders in the Oval Office; and his appointment of homosexuals and pro-choice supporters to high-level government jobs.

Although the actions or views of U.S. presidents have been criticized in previous resolutions adopted by the SBC, the proposed resolution on Clinton could be the first focused entirely on a president.

Merritt cited three reasons for focusing a resolution on Clinton.

"First of all, he's a fellow Southern Baptist. Secondly, he represents the most severe shift in moral perspective and policy formulation of any president in history. And, finally, I feel there is a need for us to inform the public that he does not represent mainstream Southern Baptist thought on such key contemporary issues as homosexuality and abortion," he said.

While the proposed Clinton resolution represents the first opportunity for Southern Baptists as a national body to express opposition to the president's views, about half of the SBC's state conventions and fellowships did so in their annual meetings late last year.

In addition to the Clinton resolution, the resolutions committee is considering two separate resolutions related to homosexuality and abortion. One opposes lifting the ban on gays in the military and all efforts "to provide government endorsement, sanction, recognition, acceptance, or civil rights advantage on the basis of homosexuality." The other affirms "the biblical prohibition on the taking of unborn human life except to save the life of the mother" and opposes the passage of "the radical abortion on demand bill, the Freedom of Choice Act."

The committee also is considering resolutions calling for Southern Baptists to work aggressively for full and free accommodation of religious expression rights in public school policies; urging racial and ethnic reconciliation; opposing diplomatic relations with the Vatican; and affirming the value of the Cooperative Program and "The Finality of Jesus Christ as Sole and Sufficient Savior."

The committee will begin officially accepting resolutions on Tuesday, June 15, at 9:30 a.m. The committee's first report to the SBC will be at 11:05 a.m. June 16.

Committee chairman Merritt has scheduled a news conference at 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, in the SBC Newsroom.

--30--

**WMU board launches VISION fund,
issues no Executive Committee reply**
By Linda Lawson

**Baptist Press
6/14/93**

HOUSTON (BP)--A special fund to accept contributions for missions projects and the ongoing work of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union was authorized June 12 by the WMU executive board, along with plans to fund annual projects addressing critical social issues.

--more--

No action was taken, meanwhile, in response to resolutions by Southern Baptist Convention and state Baptist convention bodies concerning the executive board's January 1993 decision to consider requests to produce missions materials for other evangelical groups.

The SBC Executive Committee voiced concern in February that WMU would no longer maintain exclusive relationships with the Home and Foreign Mission boards. FMB trustees subsequently affirmed the Executive Committee resolution. Other groups and individuals have expressed support for WMU, including a June 8 resolution of support by the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said the WMU executive board discussed the issue in its traditional Saturday morning executive session preceding the general session but determined no response was needed.

The new fund, titled the "VISION" fund, will enable the national women's missions organization to achieve its vision for the future, O'Brien said, and will provide needed support in light of reductions in traditional funding sources, including sales of magazines and products.

"To ensure the ongoing of our ministries, we must pursue other sources of income," she said. To administer the fund, O'Brien announced the formation of a development office to be overseen by June Whitlow, WMU associate executive director.

Board members also voted to conduct national projects to alleviate hunger in 1993-95 and to address the issue of AIDS in 1995-96. They delayed until January 1994 decisions about what issues should be addressed for the remainder of the decade.

In other business, approval was given to develop plans for a WMU enlargement campaign to be launched in June 1994.

"You can hardly pick up a Baptist state paper and not read about WMU," O'Brien said. "It is important for us to follow up on the visibility we've had with an enlargement campaign."

Meanwhile, the executive board approved a 1993-94 budget of \$14.5 million. Also approved was a goal of \$86 million for the 1994 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and a goal of \$42 million for the 1995 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. O'Brien said the goals were proposed in cooperation with the two mission boards.

The board also approved an adult curriculum plan for 1995-96 and agreed to postpone until January 1994 a decision on a name for its adult organization.

The first three recipients of R. Keith Parks scholarship grants were announced. Recipients are Patricia Ann Jones of Richmond, Va.; Roseline M. Minikon of Louisville, Ky.; and Helen Hoggatt Price of Summit, Miss.

The scholarship fund was begun by WMU to honor the contributions to missions of Parks, who retired earlier this year as FMB president.

--30--

Women in Ministry materials
to state their perspective By Lesl y S. Vanc

Baptist Press
6/14/93

HOUSTON (BP)--With approximately 500 members in their 10th year, Southern Baptist Women in Ministry has two goals: to educate and to encourage, according to the organization's president, Terry Huneycutt.

--more--

At WIM's June 13 pre-Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston, Huneycutt said in an interview, "The person in the pew does not understand that it's scripturally acceptable for women to be in ministry. We want to help them understand that women can serve in roles of ministry." Huneycutt is minister of Christian education at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church in Cary, N.C.

WIM officers are developing a guide, "Biblical Basis for Ordination of Women," and an educational brochure to be used as tools to educate people about women in ministry. The guide will highlight the reasons and theology behind women being ordained, while the brochure gives a historical time line of women in ministry.

"Being a part of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry is encouraging. We have found a bond of joint ministry," Kathy Sapp, clinical pastoral education resident at Memorial Hospital Southwest in Houston, said in an interview.

"God has not brought us this far to leave us now. So we keep going," Sapp said.

WIM encompasses members from both the Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. "We even have many men who attend our meetings and events," Huneycutt said. "They offer great support.

"We want to lift all women in ministry up and encourage them to fulfill their individual calling," Huneycutt said.

According to Krista Gregory-Watson, chaplain resident at Memorial Hospital Southwest in Houston, "Over the years God has confirmed my calling to be a pastor. I have worked through it biblically, theologically and in prayer. But it is difficult finding a church to pastor. This group has given me encouragement to continue to heed God's call on my life."

Carolyn Plamplin, a retired missionary and WIM member, is developing a 30-year bibliography of publications about women in ministry.

"Many Baptist institutions are already receiving bibliographies," Huneycutt said, to be included in curriculum materials.

WIM's theme for 1993 is taken from Revelation 3:8, "Behold I set before you a door which no one can close."

"A lot of doors have been opened in the last 10 years for women in ministry, but many more need to be knocked down," Ruth Matthews, WIM member and an ordained minister, said.

"We are not a phase. We are here to stay," Huneycutt said. "We have learned of God and his calling through our Southern Baptist Convention churches, but sadly we are having to leave those to answer our calling. The home that nurtured us and taught us does not always allow us a place to serve."

"Hope and Humor" will be the theme of WIM's October retreat in Nashville. "We will look at where we have been and look forward to where we are going," Huneycutt said.

**Columnist calls for new paradigm
for church in address to pastors** **By Michael Clingenpeel**

HOUSTON (BP)--National columnist Cal Thomas, in an address to Southern Baptist pastors, warned their churches will need to make radical changes over the next quarter century if they are to transform American society.

They will need a greater emphasis on prayer, heightened involvement of the laity -- and withdrawal from public schools, Thomas said in a June 13 address to the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"We need to exchange some of the old paradigms for new ones," said Thomas, who attends Fourth Avenue Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Md.

"Under the old and still practiced paradigm our goal has been a decision; under the new it would be a disciple. Under the old America is a Christian nation; under the new we see America as a pagan nation and mission field. Under the old we concentrated on church membership; under the new we focus on discipling the believer.

"I am here as a critic of the church of Jesus Christ," announced Thomas, whose twice-weekly commentaries are carried by more than 300 newspapers. He blamed a "compromising, undisciplined, disobedient church of Jesus Christ" for much of the moral and spiritual decline in America over the past 25 years.

"Where is the church of Jesus Christ in all this? It is largely invisible, powerless and irrelevant and it's of little use to the living God. It used to be said of the devout that they are so heavenly minded they are no earthly good. Now it could be said of much of the church that it is so earthly minded it is of no use to heaven or anyone on earth, save those who care only for the kingdom of this world.

"If the church and its leaders cannot be transformed by the renewing of their minds and marriages," Thomas asked, "how can we ever hope to transform culture? Why should culture even bother to listen?"

Thomas noted the problems in America "are not primarily economic and political but moral and spiritual" and urged the pastors to renew their love for Jesus.

"Less about politics, less about social issues, just for a while," Thomas urged, "and more about the fundamentals of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ."

Increased prayer, he said, is the first of three changes churches must make to transform culture. "We don't do enough of it. Nothing moves God more than prayer."

Next he suggested change in the pastors' understanding of the structure of church, placing more emphasis on the ministry of laity.

"We are too program-oriented and too little people-oriented. Too many churches put on a show, and the people come to watch as if they were attending a theatrical performance. The church needs to be less a theater and more like basic training."

Calling himself in full-time Christian service to the nation's newspapers, Thomas reminded pastors his calling is "just as valid as yours -- not more, but not less either."

In what he admitted was his most controversial recommendation, Thomas exhorted pastors to "remove ourselves from American public schools and establish a superior school system. What's wrong with us being the standard and drawing them to our schools?"

Claiming this is both "radical and biblical," Thomas stressed it is necessary to rescue the next generation. Being missionary to secular public schools is important, he agreed, "but not if it means the loss of our children."

Christians should bear the cost of such schools, he said, and should organize them regionally. They should be places, according to Thomas, where the Bible is taught and prayer is practiced.

--30--

**Evangelistic thrust yields
962 professions of faith**

**Baptist Pr ss
6/14/93**

By Sarah Zimmerman & David Winfrey

HOUSTON (BP)--Southern Baptists recorded 962 professions of faith during the fifth Crossover evangelism effort prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston.

Preliminary reports include 221 professions of faith from door-to-door surveys, 135 from rallies and revivals, 277 from street witnessing and 329 from block parties.

"In every case where churches participated enthusiastically, there were a multitude of seeds sown and a tremendous harvest," said Darrell Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism. Crossover is jointly sponsored by the HMB and the host state convention and local association.

In addition to professions of faith, 4,300 people were fed during block parties and at least 1,448 prospects were discovered for local churches.

Darrell Copeland, pastor of Jersey Village Baptist Church in suburban Houston, said he expects a long-term impact from Crossover. His church participated in door-to-door surveys by matching a church member with an out-of-town volunteer. This was the first door-to-door experience for some of his church members.

People participating in the door-to-door thrust used a survey that questioned residents about their church membership, what would attract them to a church and if they thought a local church cared about them. The survey led to the opportunity for volunteers to share their testimony.

"This is opening their eyes to their community," Copeland said. He said it was good for his church members to realize how many people in their neighborhood do not attend church.

Lloyd Tomlinson, member of Jersey Village, said he previously "shied away" from witnessing, fearing the questions people might ask. He was paired with Jim Sims, pastor of Allentown Baptist Church in Allentown, Pa., for the witnessing effort. Tomlinson said watching Sims witness gave him courage to do it himself.

People shared the gospel 1,364 times during the door-to-door surveys and the resulting 221 professions confirmed previous experience that a conversion results one out of every six times the gospel is presented, Robinson said.

Volunteers witnessing at parks, shopping centers and other places with high pedestrian traffic were added to the Crossover agenda in 1991 when the convention met in Atlanta. This year's result of 277 conversions was the most successful statistically, said Norman Harbough, coordinator of the 35 street teams.

--more--

Street evangelism last year at Crossover Indianapolis reported 198 professions of faith; Crossover Atlanta had 156, he said.

In additions to the conversions, Crossover also generated excitement among local church leaders, Harbough said. "People now have a vision of what can be done."

One church reported that despite no professions of faith it developed more than 300 prospects, he said. "I do believe that a lot of seeds were planted."

Dick Thomassian, minister of music and missions for Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., said he thinks street teams are often more successful in the North because the South is more saturated with the gospel.

"In the southern cities, they hear it all the time, and they're a little hesitant to come over here," said Thomassian, who has participated in every Crossover since the first one in Las Vegas in 1989. "In the South, they hear it so much ... they've already decided for or against Christ."

More than 500 volunteers braved humidity and temperatures in the upper 80s to witness, serve food and entertain people coming to the 21 block parties, said Bill Cox, coordinator of the parties.

Mission pastor Sergio Rios of Ebenezer Baptist Mission said Crossover helped his church deliver its message to the community.

"It lets the neighborhood know the main purpose of the church, 'I was hungry and you fed me,'" said Rios, whose church hosted a block party, complete with barbecue and a clown team from Soldier Creek Baptist Church in Midwest City, Okla.

Although they were not added to Crossover events until last year, evangelistic block parties started six years ago when True Vine Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif., sought to impact the nearby 700-unit Acorn government housing project, said Bill Simms, who was involved in the first effort.

The parties are successful because they minister to needs while sharing the gospel, Simms said.

"This is a bridge. People who won't come to church will come here," he said. "Because of block parties, we find out about peoples' needs, so we minister seven days a week."

Woods Watson, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., said he came to Crossover Houston because he is attracted to Southern Baptists having a better witness than "adding to the coffers and filling the convention center for a few days."

"I like the idea of making an impact on the city more than just coming a few days to do business."

Watson worked Saturday and Sunday distributing tracts at a flea market where the customers were predominately Hispanic. "The good news is we're passing out a lot of tracts. The bad news is they're all in English."

Despite any obstacles, Watson said he believes the Holy Spirit is able to overcome them.

"You can't harvest it unless you're out there in the field," he said. "I believe more often than not God has prepared people for the divine encounters that we're having."

Valdis Berzins, a Chilean native and member of Houston's First Baptist Church, agreed. "We just plant the seed and God says his word will not return void."

Jerry Passmore, director of evangelism for Florida Southern Baptists, said plans already are being made for the evangelism emphasis to precede next year's annual meeting in Orlando.

Six associations will participate, Passmore said, and churches within a 50-mile radius of Orlando will be involved. Passmore said he hopes 150 Florida churches will participate and that messengers will come early to share Christ.

"We're trying to evangelize the state, and we need all the help we can get," Passmore said.

--30--

**Top Marine chaplain against
changes in homosexual policy** By Art Toalston

**Baptist Press
6/14/93**

HOUSTON (BP)--The U.S. Marine Corps' top chaplain has voiced support for current military policy toward homosexuals to senior military officers via a position paper prepared by his deputy -- and in comments to the New York Times.

Navy Captain Larry Ellis' stance is reported in the premier issue of SBC Life, a new Southern Baptist Convention publication to be distributed during the SBC's annual meeting, June 15-17 in Houston.

Ellis is an SBC Home Mission Board-endorsed military chaplain, a former Bible teacher in missions conferences at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center and a 1964 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

After news broke last year of the position paper prepared by Ellis' deputy, Chaplain Gene Gomulka, Ellis told the New York Times: "Legislators and military leaders have a legitimate role to play in checking the spread of homosexual behavior, especially among young people whose minds and characters are in formative stages, thus preventing physical and/or psychological harm that could injure many innocent people."

Ellis also told the paper it is "not uncharacteristic for military chaplains to voice opinions on controversial issues."

The issue of homosexuals in the military has been in the news since President Bill Clinton announced his intention earlier this year to open military service to openly homosexual individuals.

Ellis told SBC Life his stance brought negative responses from Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, among others, but that he stands by his statements.

He told SBC Life: "Homosexuals, sadly, tragically, are the best example I know of the wrath of God revealed."

But, he said, the Apostle Paul's words concerning homosexuality in the New Testament Book of Romans does not mean God hates homosexuals.

"God loves the homosexual person just as much as he loves the heterosexual person. In fact, the reason for the stern warning of Holy Scripture is that it is not God's will that any persons destroy themselves. God wants us all to live healthy, happy productive lives."

Ellis added a further caution about "gay bashing, either by word or deed": "Nothing could be further from the Christian approach Persons who practice homosexual behavior have enough problems. They do not need, nor will it help them for us to be vindictive or hostile.

--more--

"What they need is the truth spoken in love," Ellis said. "And speaking the truth of God's will is an act of love even if it is not well received."

Concerning his opposition to Clinton's intention to end the ban on homosexuals in the military, Ellis acknowledged, "Because he is our commander in chief, the freedom of military personnel to speak to issues on which he has spoken is somewhat limited." Ellis also acknowledged "the potential dangers to military leaders if they are perceived as countermanding his guidance."

"Chaplains, however, are a special case," Ellis said.

"In the exercise of our ecclesiastical function, we are not dependent upon the authority of the Department of Defense or the federal government. Historically, the separation of church and state has included protection to speak our conscience from the pulpit and to faithfully represent the teaching of our faith group This is a most precious right and freedom. It must be preserved at all costs or the whole concept of chaplaincy has been dealt a mortal blow."

SBC Life, published by the SBC Executive Committee, will begin regular publication in October, replacing the Baptist Program.

--30--

Prayer strategy, results
focus of pre-SBC conference

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
6/14/93

HOUSTON (BP)--Prayer that precedes spiritual awakening focuses on God, not the needs of people; Christians doing the praying look for God's initiatives in the world rather than asking God to join theirs, according to speakers at the 1993 National Prayer Conference June 10-12 at Second Baptist Church in Houston.

"The Lord Jesus didn't come to meet needs. He came to do the will of the Father," Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told more than 300 participants in the conference preceding the Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 15-17 here.

"He (Jesus) did not let the needs of people set his agenda for ministry," Blackaby said. "When God takes the initiative in prayer, he always has eternity in mind."

Blackaby cited recent response among adults volunteering for missions, not primarily from seeing the needs of people, but because they believe "God has called them to an awesome assignment."

Minette Drumwright, director of the international prayer strategy office at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said prayer has been the board's foremost strategy for missions since 1986. More than 2,000 assignments have been given to churches and groups willing to pray for unreached people groups and nations closed to the gospel.

"In these years, walls have come down, doors have been opened. Now there are believers among many of these people groups. In some, there are congregations," she said.

Prayer as strategy brings the person praying "into a position before God of humility and openness to receive God's direction of how, for whom and what to pray," Drumwright said. "Prayer releases God's power into the lives, situations and people for whom we pray."

--more--

"God has chosen to accomplish his purpose in response to the prayers of his people. He has chosen to give us a strategic role in partnership with him," she continued.

However, she warned, prayer takes the person or group praying "into the realms of spiritual warfare. Prayer as strategy is a battle fought, spiritual armor in place, on our knees."

In other sessions, coordinators of prayer ministries in Houston churches outlined multi-faceted ministries built around intercessory prayer conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"God is doing mighty work in Houston, Texas, for such a time as this," Jill Griffith, prayer coordinator at Second Baptist Church, said. However, she emphasized that prayer should be an emphasis of the entire church, not just those involved in the prayer ministry.

In addition to volunteers who commit to praying one hour per week, others are part of a cooperative ministry with 96 area churches to pray for local law enforcement officers. Others pray for children who attend the church's day-care center, write notes of encouragement to people who have requested prayer or pray during worship services for the leaders and for those who need to make spiritual decisions.

"No matter what size your church is, it is a house of prayer. You start where you are," Griffith said.

Steve Shanklin, prayer coordinator at St. Agnes Baptist Church located in the inner city of south Houston, said prayer intercessors receive training in prayer and also in understanding that God is sovereign and life is a war.

"We're seeing a change in our community," he said.

Larry Thompson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and national director of the Watchmen National Prayer Alert, warned: "If we do not pray, we are going to lose this nation. One of the great problems is we have so many breaches in the church that the enemy has come and gone as it pleased and the body is weak."

More than 2,000 Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation are participating in Watchmen National Prayer Alert, committing to pray at a designated hour during the week for revival and spiritual awakening.

Avery Willis, director of the discipleship and family adult department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, said interdenominational prayer efforts are in the planning stages in several cities, including Boston, Houston and Nashville.

"When God sends revival, he never limits it to one denomination, if it's real revival. God is moving in lots of ways for prayer," Willis said.

--30--

Help unchurched young adults
find their way, says researcher

By Douglas Hollinger

Baptist Press
6/14/93

HOUSTON (BP)--Unchurched young adults are not so much anti-religious as individualistic, according to a Southern Baptist researcher.

Ron Dempsey, winner of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship's 1993 award for research excellence, presented his findings at the group's annual pre-convention meeting in Houston June 12.

--more--

A former director of academic services at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dempsey recently was named associate dean at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C.

Dempsey's survey results came from students at Kentucky's University of Louisville and Jefferson County Community College, but he said the results are applicable throughout the Southeast region of the United States.

A full 70 percent of unchurched respondents identified themselves as Christian, Dempsey found. These members of the "baby bust" generation gave several reasons for avoiding church, however.

"About 30 percent indicated (religion) is a private affair," while "many indicated they just hadn't found the right place" to worship, Dempsey said. Over 50 percent indicated disillusionment with organized religion, citing everything from historical instances of religious oppression to negative personal experiences.

Lack of time was another frequently heard theme, he added. "We as a church are also vying for that time."

Dempsey outlined some key implications of this research for local churches seeking to minister to young adults.

Churches must learn to approach unchurched people "as people who actually have religious motivations, religious feelings and (who) have just not found appropriate places to express them," he emphasized.

"They are people who are struggling religiously. They are not pagans; they are not heathens."

In light of negative attitudes toward institutions of all kinds, including the church, local congregations would do well to heed the call for greater relevance, according to Dempsey. Though our "message is eternal," he said, our methods must be up-to-date.

"Are we going to try to be contextual with the methods we use to get people into our local churches?"

Fellowship officers termed the study, titled "Unchurched Young Adults: Findings and Proposals," a "very good baseline work" that will serve as a foundation for similar research throughout the nation.

--30--

Hollinger is a free-lance writer based in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Abortion clinic access bill
has problems, witnesses say**

By Tom Strode

**Baptist Pr ss
6/14/93**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The lone witness in favor of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act admitted in a recent hearing there is a constitutional problem with the House of Representatives version of the bill.

Under questioning by Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R.-Wis., Georgetown University law professor David Cole agreed language in H.R. 796 exempting labor protesters from prosecution should be removed.

In his prepared testimony, Cole said of the exception for labor protests, "If this is construed to mean that labor picketers can physically obstruct women from seeking abortions while others cannot, it would violate both the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause."

When he repeated under Sensenbrenner's questioning his criticism of the labor exemption, the Wisconsin Republican made sure it was noted the "majority's witness impeached the constitutionality of the bill."

--more--

The June 10 hearing was the second of the year in the House. The first was held in mid-April, even though the Crime and Criminal Justice Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee already had OK'd the bill. Rep. Charles Schumer, D.-N.Y., chairman of the subcommittee and chief sponsor of H.R. 796, called the hearing to consider whether the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) should be expanded to include not only blockades of abortion clinics but harassment of abortion clinic personnel and their families.

It still is possible the bill's scope could be enlarged to include other protest activities, a subcommittee spokesperson said. The full Judiciary Committee has not acted on H.R. 796. A vote on the Senate version, S. 636, was expected in the Labor and Human Resources Committee the week after the June 10 House hearing.

The second hearing was scheduled when Sensenbrenner invoked a rule enabling the minority party to hold another hearing. The pro-life witnesses in the first hearing were not from the mainstream, he said. All of the witnesses, except Cole, were invited by Sensenbrenner to the June 10 hearing.

In his opening comments, Sensenbrenner said FACE "tramples on the First Amendment rights of anti-abortion protesters."

Joseph Helm, a lawyer from Menomonee Falls, Wis., called it unconstitutional and "religious thought cleansing."

"H.R. 796 puts the federal government in the position of punishing behavior only when that behavior is motivated by a particular viewpoint," Helm said. "No conviction would be possible under H.R. 796 unless the prohibited motivation ... is demonstrated."

The bill does not institute a thought crime, Cole said in his oral testimony, any more than laws prohibiting obstruction of voting rights or housing rights would be.

"No court has ever held that there is any First Amendment freedom to blockade abortion clinics," Cole said. "The issue is we are not permitted under the First Amendment to impose our viewpoint on (others) by force."

"Violence is not the issue. Force is the issue, whether peaceful or not."

FACE "singles out one group -- that of pro-life protesters -- for special penalties imposed on no one else, harshly discriminating against them, based on the content of their beliefs," said James McHugh of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Katie Mahoney of Operation Rescue said, "Political expedience has come to rule the day in this capital too often, not the freedom and right to dissent afforded us in the Constitution. ... we, too, are harassed, intimidated and constantly pressured by abortion advocates."

"We understand that civil disobedience has a cost, and we count and accept that cost which we risk for the sake of human lives," she said. "There is sufficient remedy of law now to deal with the abortion dissent at clinics."

Schumer said the bill would not prevent picketing or sidewalk counseling in front of abortion clinics, a contention which Sensenbrenner and some witnesses questioned.

--more--

Pat Mahoney, director of the Christian Defense Coalition/Joshua Project and husband of Katie Mahoney, told the chairman Attorney General Janet Reno was not willing to make such an assertion when she testified recently on behalf of the Senate version of FACE. That was a different bill, Schumer said, and added he was willing to include legislative history to clarify that.

--30--

**Southern Baptists hit
cover of Woman's Day**

**Baptist Press
6/14/93**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Three Southern Baptist Convention employees -- two from the Sunday School Board and one from the Christian Life Commission -- were quoted in the June 29 issue of Woman's Day magazine.

Kay Moore and Mary Betts of the BSSB's discipleship and family adult department and Karen Cole of the CLC each gave a suggestion on ways to keep a healthy spiritual life.

In the article listed on the front cover of the magazine, "Food for the Spirit: 50 ways to grow in grace all day long," women all across the nation were interviewed about how they stay spiritual.

In suggestion number three of 50, Cole advised women to "say a prayer when you hear a siren."

"I always do -- it's such an awakening sound," Cole told Woman's Day writer Salley Shannon. "I've taught my children to do it too. We pray for those who need help and those who do the helping."

In number 10, Moore, who prays out loud as she drives to work each day, suggested giving thanks for little miracles.

"I always start by naming five little miracles that have happened in the last 24 hours," she said. "I'm convinced we all will find them if we look."

In number 45, Betts suggested keeping a prayer diary.

Write down the gist of prayers, Scripture that seems meaningful that day and other thoughts, she said.

"Looking back over it is a great way to see how God is working in your life."

Woman's Day is published by Hachette Filipacchi Magazines, Inc., of New York, N.Y.

--30--