

(BP)

-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232
NASHVILLE 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

September 9, 1993

93-151

GEORGIA -- Homosexuality resolution puts spotlight on Ga. county.
WASHINGTON -- Senate confirms Elders despite delay, opposition.
MIAMI -- Miami Baptist exec to retire; urges new associational approach.
CALIFORNIA -- Adventures begin for children's video; photos.
NORTH CAROLINA -- Southeastern ethics professor born into church-state tensions.
ALABAMA -- Record number of Activators were 'loving, committed, giving.'
ALABAMA -- Their search for ministry led to children unaware of Jesus.
NORTH CAROLINA -- Single adults give \$25,000 to Midwest flood relief.
NORTH CAROLINA -- She says social skills take practice, honesty.
NASHVILLE -- Notice concerning zipped files on CompuServe.

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

Homosexuality resolution
puts spotlight on Ga. county

By James Dotson

Baptist Press
9/9/93

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP)--Cobb County Baptists and other Christians in that suburban Atlanta county have found themselves in the national spotlight over the past few weeks regarding the county's recently enacted stance against homosexual activity.

On Aug. 10, Cobb County Commissioners approved a resolution pledging not to fund activities "which seek to contravene these existing community standards," standards which the resolution found included "the traditional family structure" and did not include homosexual lifestyles.

The move is considered the first time nationwide a county has acted to officially condemn the homosexual lifestyle.

Two weeks later, the commission voted to cut off all county arts subsidies after an earlier attempt to restrict those grants to arts groups supportive of "community standards" was met by charges of censorship.

Nelson Price, pastor of the 9,500-member Roswell Street Baptist Church, said he has been a long-time friend of Gordon Wysong, the commissioner who sponsored both actions.

"I worked with him privately long before this went public," Price said, adding his involvement also included drafting letters seeking support for the measures from 280 priests, rabbis and ministers. He said he "was tremendously amazed at the lack of response of ministers."

The intent of the resolution, he said, was the same as other efforts in recent years by governments aimed at heading off efforts to extend special rights and privileges to the homosexual community. The recent move by the Atlanta City Council to extend insurance benefits to unmarried partners was a contributing factor, he said.

"Communities all over the nation have had to act remedially, and it was thought to be to our advantage to act preventively," Price said. "What we've tried to do ... is to keep this from appearing to be a religious issue. It is, but it is more than a religious issue."

--more--

Price noted the findings of British sociologist J.D. Unwin, whose research included 88 civilizations. "The evidence is clear that a human society is free to choose between great energy and sexual permissiveness, but they are not free to do it more than one generation," he said, noting such civilizations historically have fallen when such permissiveness gets out of control.

Steve Kimmel, pastor of First Baptist Church of Smyrna, Ga., also supported the actions.

"When you consider the political arena has been the main point for advancing the homosexual agenda in this country, and the way they've hammered at the rest of the population, I think it's appropriate for the commission to draw a line in the sand and say we are not going to accommodate the forward progress of the homosexual agenda," he said.

Several pastors were disturbed by the way the issue has been portrayed through the media. Kimmel said the stand has been categorized "as being hate politics and bigotry." But for most Christians, he said, the issue is not one of condemning homosexuals, but of condemning a sinful activity.

Kimmel stressed "the imperative of approaching this sort of an issue with compassion and caring. Generally speaking, the media zeroes in on the radical element in the Christian community, that fringe of the Christian culture that is composed of bigotry and hatred. And that is opposed to the will of God."

Michael Woods, pastor of First Baptist Church of Powder Springs, Ga., also stressed the need for a proper perspective in the heated environment of public debate.

"We have decided we do not want to communicate that either we or God despises homosexuals, and we find those signs that say that kind of thing repugnant," he said. "But we do believe that we can take a stand against them in something that is harmful to family values."

Regarding the funding of the arts, Price and Kimmel said they would have favored retaining the funding with the parameters of the original motion, which required that programs support community standards. The arts funding issue grew out of complaints of reference to homosexuality in a production of Marietta's Theater In The Square titled, "Lips Together, Teeth Apart."

"The argument that arts are beneficial to the community at large is a rather compelling argument ... however, there is a radical element within the arts community that is not going to stand for any kind of parameters," Kimmel said.

"We have some tremendous arts groups here in Cobb County," Price added, "fabulous groups that deserve public support. But one thing government must have is accountability. They fund recreational programs, and they have league offices, umpires, officials -- they have accountability. But there was not accountability for how this money was used."

Don Parker, pastor of First Baptist Church of Marietta, said the issue "could have been handled with much less damage to the community" if commissioners had brought their concerns directly to the owners of the theater. "I've had some concerns with some of the things they've done at the theater, but I think we would have been much better off dealing with that without the press attention," he said.

--30--

Senate confirms Elders
despite delay, opposition

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
9/9/93

WASHINGTON (BP)--A month-long delay in Joycelyn Elders' confirmation vote did not prevent the U.S. Senate from easily approving the controversial nominee as surgeon general.

The Senate confirmed President Clinton's nomination of the former director of the Arkansas Department of Health by a 65-34 vote after a day of debate Sept. 7. Only four of 56 Democratic senators voted against her, while 13 Republicans supported her confirmation.

--more--

After the vote, Elders sought to overcome charges by some opponents that her rhetoric, which they described as divisive, made her unsuitable for the office.

"I am, by training and temperament, a healer," Elders said in a statement. "I intend to be the surgeon general of all Americans."

Elders has sharply criticized pro-lifers on numerous occasions, in addition to supporting abortion rights, Medicaid funding of abortion, condom distribution in public schools, sex education beginning in kindergarten and government funding of a birth control implant for drug-addicted prostitutes. In 1990 congressional testimony, she cited a decrease in Down Syndrome births as an "important, and positive, public health effect" of abortion.

While Republican conservatives had blocked a confirmation vote before the August recess, few, if any, senators had changed their votes when the Senate reconvened Sept. 7.

"I am convinced that there were many more citizens who were opposed to her confirmation than supportive of her confirmation," said James A. Smith, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "However, I am not surprised that she was confirmed. After all, this is the same United States Senate that confirmed Roberta Achtenberg."

In May, Achtenberg became the first avowed homosexual to be confirmed by the Senate for an executive branch position. She is an assistant secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In her post-confirmation statement, Elders did not avoid controversy, saying Americans should look forward "to a time when all American children are planned and wanted."

The "planned and wanted" terminology has been used often by Elders, Planned Parenthood and others to argue for full abortion rights and funding.

The president said he was "extremely pleased and gratified" at the vote on Elders.

"Dr. Elders has consistently demonstrated a high level of intellect, courage and wisdom in dealing with the wide range of health and social problems facing our country," Clinton said in a prepared statement.

The only Democrats to oppose Elders' confirmation were John Breaux of Louisiana, Robert Byrd of West Virginia, James Exon of Nebraska and Wendell Ford of Kentucky.

A week before the vote, the United States Catholic Conference released an exchange of letters among Baltimore Archbishop William Keeler, USCC president; Elders; and Clinton. In a mid-July letter, Keeler expressed to the president the USCC's objection to her characterization in a televised interview of the Catholic Church as a "celibate and male-dominated church."

In a 1992 speech to abortion advocates, Elders described the Roman Catholic Church not only as fighting the pro-choice movement but silent against slavery, mistreatment of Native Americans and the Holocaust.

In an Aug. 5 letter, Clinton told Keeler he could "assure you that, as a religious person herself, she respects the deeply held beliefs of others."

Elders, a Methodist, said in an Aug. 5 letter to Keeler she "never meant to malign or blaspheme the Catholic Church. If my statements have caused any offense, I sincerely apologize."

Some Catholics and evangelical Christians did not regard her letter as a sign of repentance.

"An important ingredient of an apology is a recognition of wrong," the CLC's Smith said. "By that definition, she has not apologized to the Catholic Church.

"Furthermore, she has not offered an apology, that I'm aware of, to evangelical Christians for the blatantly bigoted remarks she has made about us."

In her criticism of abortion opponents, she has called them "very religious non-Christians" and "non-Christians with slave-master mentalities."

Elders was sworn in Sept. 8.

**Miami Baptist exec to retire;
urges new associational approach** By Jack Brymer

MIAMI (BP)--The executive director of the Miami Baptist Association has announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31, with a plea for a new approach to doing associational work in this "foreign missionary territory."

Doyle Wetherington, a former pastor who has led the association almost 10 years, said, "We (the association) were hurting before the hurricane and are still hurting. We have more churches and more diversity than some state conventions, but less money and less staff. Really, we are called upon to do international and state missions as well as meet association needs."

The work in Miami is not that much unlike work in a foreign culture, Wetherington said. "Being where we are, we receive requests of all kinds. Many of our churches are new and mostly ethnic, small and not with Southern Baptist orientation. Traditional support has been lost as ethnic growth has occurred. This has vastly increased our responsibilities but with diminished leadership personnel and finances."

One of the greatest difficulties for the association during the Hurricane Andrew relief effort, according to Wetherington, was taking care of a greatly increased work load with diminishing personnel and no funds to correct the situation.

"At one point we were given \$100,000 to distribute to our churches but couldn't meet our own payroll," he said.

Despite all the hardships and frustrations, Wetherington said the year has had its high points as well. He mentioned the thousands of volunteers -- "all kinds of people, many not Baptists, some not even Christians, from all over the nation" -- who flocked into the area to help, particularly in the ethnic communities which suffered the most.

"There is still a lot to do," he said. "We need continued prayer, for it will be several years before this is over for us. Our opportunities for ministry are greater than ever before because people are now open to who we are and to the gospel of Christ.

"We still need volunteers," he continued. "A lot of homes are still not repaired.

"We still need church-encouraging work, such as backyard Bible studies. So many of our people spend all their time on repairs to the neglect of spiritual needs which will catch up with them eventually," he said. "We need people to see the Miami Baptist Association as a challenge to partner with in hands-on missions activity."

Another major concern of Wetherington as he retires is leadership for the association.

"The association needs a leader who can be a catalyst to enable the great variety of people in their cultural, lingual and non-traditional Southern Baptist setting to live together and love each other with a common purpose of reaching all people for Christ and to minister to their needs in his name," he said.

The Wetheringtons plan to remain in the Miami area for awhile and "continue to serve our Lord as opportunity and a less hectic schedule allow." He said they plan to move to the Orlando area eventually where a son and three grandchildren live.

--30--

**Adventures begin
for children's video**

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
9/9/93

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (BP)--"Rays of sunlight stream through the dense foliage sending shafts of golden sunlight onto an old man gently removing weeds in a backyard garden ... a girl, about 13, wearing overalls and a cap, enters from the back porch carrying a pitcher of iced tea and two glasses."

--more--

So begins the "Secret Adventures" of Drea (Andrea) Thomas, teen-age baby-sitter and star of a four-part children's video series recently produced in Hollywood, Calif., for the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers.

While the script for the opening scene may seem tranquil and anything but an adventure, the tiny, rented backyard of a Van Ness Avenue family in Hollywood was filled on a sunny August day with video and audio technicians, wardrobe personnel, a make-up artist, multiple pieces of equipment and organized chaos. Traffic on the busy street near major movie studios had to be stopped frequently to allow dialog to be recorded without the roar of engines.

"Secret Adventures" producers George Taweel and Rob Loos previously produced the award-winning "McGee and Me!" video series. For Broadman & Holman's videos, they have used two production units on location and a stage set, in addition to state-of-the-art animation, for the 30-minute episodes.

Taweel, who, like his partner Loos, is a committed Christian, said, "Rob and I have our company set up to do high-quality family programming that is entertaining and that has a strong moral message to it."

He said he believes "there is a great need throughout America for this kind of programming. We are aware that we live in the most sophisticated communications generation we have ever known. It requires us to be sophisticated, excellent and entertaining to capture the interest of kids.

"Jesus was a great storyteller," he continued, "and we want to take the gifts we've been given and tell stories that will change people's lives."

Taweel said before he and Loos formed their own company six years ago, each had worked "in a variety of entertainment media that had not changed people's lives, and we wanted to turn our talents in a direction that would make a difference. We are about some significant work here -- not just in terms of the kind of show we are doing -- we are pioneers in a way.

"We are producing material that exceeds network standards. These are mini-movies that are theatrical quality. Not only is the program going to affect viewers. It is in the doing of our work that we also affect people. We think this is, in some very interesting ways, changing the people who work in Hollywood. I think there is a great opportunity to share Christ for the first time with people who work on this project."

For the young viewers of Taweel and Loos' project, moral principles related to a variety of children's concerns are presented through a teen-age baby-sitter who entertains her young charges, ages 7 and 9, with adventurous imaginary excursions.

The first episode, "Spin," beginning with Grandpa and Drea in the garden, deals with honesty.

According to Harold King, director of Broadman & Holman's trade supplies and media department, "the children experience much more than fun, as the real and imaginary combine to teach both Drea and her friends how important Bible truths are for every day.

"The stories will relate moral principles, including such topics as jealousy, responsibility, peer pressure, pride, friendship, honesty, respect for others, perseverance, self-worth, fear and decision-making," he continued.

Drea's creative thoughts, animation and original musical scores are expected to result in talking toasters and other fantasy episodes designed to capture the interest of children ages 4 to 14.

"Secret Adventures" will be available through Christian retail stores, including Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores, beginning in October.

--30--

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

**Southeastern ethics professor
born into church-state tensions** **By Jon Walker**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The new Christian ethics professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary had an early lesson in church-state relations: His parents were missionaries to mainland China when the communists seized the government.

"I was born in a rural inn as my parents were being escorted by a communist patrol down a bandit-infested road to the nearest hospital," said professor Daniel Heimbach, one of three new faculty members hired at the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary this fall who held several positions during George Bush's presidency.

As the communist patrol slept on the floor of the inn, Heimbach's father delivered him while his mother gave directions.

"My parents were appointed as missionaries by the China Inland Mission," said Heimbach, whose father was an ordained Conservative Baptist minister. "Other mission agencies immediately pulled their people off the field when the communists took power, but the China Inland Mission's policy was to keep their missionaries in place until the government forced them to leave."

It was another year and a half before the communists ordered the family to leave China.

"So, at a very early age, I experienced personally the tensions present in church-state relations," said Heimbach, who has embraced those tensions throughout his life as a Naval officer in Vietnam and as a member of the White House staff.

"I became very challenged as I was growing up, that if the Christian life was true, then the God of the universe was concerned about all dimensions of life," Heimbach said. "It's not only a matter of getting people into heaven; that's absolutely essential. But it also matters very much how we live our lives. In other words, what does it mean to be a Christian and a doctor or lawyer or politician?"

In pursuing the answer to that question, Heimbach enrolled at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., where he received concurrent degrees: a master of divinity and a master of arts in the philosophy of religion.

With the understanding that God was calling him toward having "a positive moral impact on public policy as a Christian and as a citizen," Heimbach then enrolled at Drew University in Madison, N.J., where he received a doctorate of philosophy in law, politics and Christian ethics.

In 1985, he went to work for Republican Sen. Richard G. Lugar, the senior senator from Indiana, as an advisor for domestic policies such as family issues, child care, veterans affairs, Medicare and abortion. From there, he began working on the Bush campaign and eventually was appointed deputy executive secretary for the Domestic Policy Council in the Bush White House.

Ironically, from his domestic position Heimbach was able to influence President Bush as he developed a philosophy of just war in the Persian Gulf. Heimbach said the President intuitively understood the moral framework, but was having trouble explaining it. Since Heimbach's doctoral work included an analysis of the Christian approaches to the problem of war, he was able to write a memo outlining these approaches to the president.

Bush used that memo to define the moral framework of his leadership in the Persian Gulf -- a framework which the president delivered in an address to the National Religious Broadcasters Association.

Heimbach noted that speech "stimulated discussion in the national media about the new relevance of just war thinking in modern times."

"God called us to Washington to have an evangelical influence in Washington," Heimbach said.

That influence included organizing and leading the White House staff Bible study from 1989-1991. It also led Heimbach and his family to temporarily leave their Baptist roots by joining Falls Church, an Episcopal church in Falls Church, Va., with ties to noted Christian thinkers John Stott and J.I. Packer.

"As a Bible teacher, it was a tremendous opportunity because there were many people drifting in who had never really heard the gospel or seriously studied the Bible," Heimbach said. "We never saw ourselves as lifelong Episcopalians, but we knew God was telling us to commit to that local church for a season."

Heimbach left the White House to serve in the Pentagon as deputy assistant secretary for manpower at the Department of Navy.

It is this experience in Christian ethics and government that Heimbach brings to Southeastern. Southeastern President Paige Patterson said Heimbach has a "distinguished record already as an evangelical spokesman and is an able scholar who grapples with the salient issues of our time."

"We needed to add to our faculty the kind of breadth and experience Dr. Heimbach brings," Patterson said. "He is a colorful individual, and I'm grateful to have him coming home to his Baptist roots where he will make a monumental contribution."

Heimbach said he is pleased to return to his Baptist roots also.

"I was reared in a strong Baptist family, and my theology has been conservative, evangelical and Baptist from its very beginning," Heimbach said.

--30--

Norman Miller contributed to this story.

Record number of Activators
were 'loving, committed, giving' By Susan Doyle

Baptist Press
9/9/93

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--A record number of Acteens participated during the 1993 summer in the Acteens Activators program.

Acteens Activators is sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and state WMU offices for members of Acteens, the missions organization for girls in grades seven through 12. The program allows groups of Acteens and their leaders to participate at their own expense in mission tours to meet needs within this country and abroad.

Some 190 teams worked this summer with home and foreign missionaries. The teams were made up of more than 1,500 girls and their leaders. In 1992, 158 teams participated, including 1,358 girls and their leaders.

The program, which completed its 17th year this summer, has involved more than 8,500 girls and leaders since its beginning.

"Acteens Activators continues to be one of the most exciting things that the Acteens organization has going," said Marti Solomon, national Acteens specialist. "It gives the girls an opportunity to give of their hearts."

The program not only benefits the girls but also the missionaries with whom they work.

"I've already received many reports from the missionaries who worked with the girls telling of the quality of their work and the positive spirit with which they work."

Acteens Activators gives girls a chance to show what they are really made of, she said. Solomon used words to describe Acteens Activators participants which are rarely associated with teens -- loving, committed, giving.

One Southern Baptist missionary told Solomon how much the group which worked with her this summer meant to her personally and how they helped to strengthen her ministry. It was an encouragement to her to know there are teens who are willing to serve in Jesus' name, Solomon added.

"Acteens Activators gives girls an opportunity to see how their gifts and talents can be used to serve others," she said. "They have an opportunity to see that they can make a difference in their worlds. They're never quite the same."

Applications for the 1994 Acteens Activators program are being accepted now through Jan. 1. Applications must be requested from state WMU offices. Assignments will begin to be made after November.

--more--

Requirements for the Acteens Activators program include :

- Every team member must be an active member of Acteens.
- Every team member must be at least 15 years old or have completed the ninth grade.
- One adult sponsor per five Acteens must accompany the group.
- Each team member must complete a prescribed training and preparation program of at least 50 hours.
- Teams must serve at least one week on the assigned field.
- Each team must finance its own transportation, housing and expenses.
- Each team must work with a local supervisor on the assigned field.
- A written summary must be submitted to WMU following the trip.

Requirements for the Acteens Activators Abroad program include some differences.

- Every team member must be a Christian.
- Every team member must be at least 16 years old or have completed the 10th grade.
- Teams must be made up of a maximum of 10 people, including two adults.
- Teams must serve two weeks.
- At least one leader and two Acteens must have had one year's experience on a home missions Activators team.

Any Acteens Activators teams attending the National Acteens Convention next June in Birmingham, Ala., will be included in a special commissioning service.

--30--

Their search for ministry led
to children unaware of Jesus

By Susan Doyle

Baptist Press
9/9/93

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--What began as a trip to New Orleans, landed eight teen-age girls and four adults in Waterloo-Kitchener, Ontario -- proof, they believe, that God is more powerful than the best-laid plans.

The trip was the result of an Acteens Activators Abroad assignment. The Acteens Activator program is sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and state WMU offices for members of Acteens, the missions organization for girls in grades seven through 12. The program allows groups of Acteens and their leaders to participate at their own expense in mission tours to meet needs within this country and abroad.

"We had a wonderful trip and felt like Waterloo-Kitchener was where we were supposed to be," said Gail Denning, one of the Coats (N.C.) Baptist Church Acteens leaders.

When the group received their first assignment, it was to work with Southern Baptist home missionary Carolyn McClendon at the Friendship House in New Orleans. McClendon asks that a leader of any Activator group assigned to Friendship House make one trip there prior to the group's arrival.

Through a series of obstacles -- illness, prepurchased airline tickets which couldn't be transferred to another individual, dates which couldn't be rescheduled -- the initial visit couldn't happen.

Denning asked Marti Solomon, national Acteen specialist, for another assignment for her group. Solomon asked her if they were willing go out West.

"I told her we wanted to go wherever God wanted us to go," Denning said.

The group received an assignment to work in a church camp on the western coast of Canada. But it wasn't long before the camp's plans fell through, again leaving the group without a definite destination.

The girls gathered at church and prayed that God would work out the details of the trip and send them where he needed them.

"They were excited the whole time because they knew we were going somewhere," Denning said.

--more--

At last they received the assignment to go to Waterloo-Kitchener to work with Len Thomas, a church planter apprentice working through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. They were to lead backyard Bible clubs for children in parks in the mornings and work with youth in the afternoon.

"The girls had the responsibility for doing the Bible studies," she said.

"They sat there with the kids and told the stories and sang the songs."

Those responsibilities weren't as easy as they sound, according to Denning.

"It was so shocking to talk to those 9- and 10-year-olds and realize that they didn't know who Noah was or Moses or Jesus," she said.

"We would have to get a Bible and hold it up and say, 'This is God's Word' and then describe it as his 'road map' for us to follow. Then they would understand," she said.

The Acteens were told that only 7 percent of all Canadians are considered "Christian" -- a figure which includes Catholics and Lutherans. Only 1 percent of all Canadians are Baptist.

"Canada is a lost country, and we just didn't realize it," Denning said.

The afternoons didn't turn out quite like the group planned. Instead of having teens show up for the special things they had planned, the children who attended backyard Bible clubs in the mornings returned in the afternoons.

The girls and their leaders grew close to several of the children in their five days together.

"It's amazing how you can get so attached to children in just five days," Denning said.

When the children would ask the group what would be left for them when they left, the Acteens told them to go and spend time with Len Thomas. They especially encouraged them to go to Thomas' house on Sunday mornings.

After the Acteens returned home, they learned the children did just that. The very next Sunday, Thomas led a Bible study for the children.

"Maybe if just a few can come to know Jesus, then our trip was really worth it," Denning said.

On top of introducing a group of children to Jesus, the Acteens found other value in their trip.

"It made them more humble," Denning said. "It made them more thankful for who God is."

One of the girls plans to host one of the children in her home in North Carolina within the next year. Another Acteen feels a call to work in Canada with children when she finishes schooling.

The trip made Denning wish every Acteen could participate in an Activator trip.

"It changes lives," she said.

--30--

Single adults give \$25,000
to Midwest flood relief

Baptist Press
9/9/93

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Offerings totaling more than \$25,000 to aid Midwest flood victims were contributed by single adults attending five Southern Baptist Labor Day weekend single adult conferences.

The offerings will be sent to the Disaster '93 Midwest Flood Relief Fund administered by the Home Mission Board, according to Janice Holcomb, who coordinated the Labor Day events for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Some 6,500 single adults attended the five conferences scattered across the country, Holcomb said. Besides Ridgecrest, the conferences were held at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center; in Palm Springs, Calif.; St. Louis; and Tampa Bay, Fla.

--more--

More than 5,000 single adults at the five conferences committed during worship services to share Christ with at least one person over the next year. A four-part "Market Place Trak" was offered at each of the locations instructing singles how to witness while working, Holcomb said.

At the five conferences combined, more than 200 decisions to accept Christ or answer a call to the ministry were made, she said.

--30--

She says social skills
take practice, honesty

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press
9/9/93

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--You know his face, but his name has fallen into one of the deeper wrinkles in your brain. He smiles broadly and begins walking toward you.

You smile back, realizing you have three seconds to come up with a name, act like you remember it or 'fess up to forgetting. What do you do?

You 'fess up, according to Teresa Yingling, who led a seminar on "Personal Pizazz" during the Single Adult Labor Day Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"Be clear and honest and say, 'It's important to me that I remember your name. Tell me again,'" said Yingling, who works in marketing and sales at Opryland, U.S.A., in Nashville, and who is author of the humorous book, "I Planned for Life and Look What Happened," published by Family Touch of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"You can take the awkwardness out of the situation by being frank and then moving to the next step of relating," she said.

Yingling said people encounter all types of uncomfortable situations. Adding to that, single adults who live alone tend to forget some pertinent social skills, she said.

"Have you ever been in a situation where people have been alone for so long that they forget how to be polite?" she asked. "Emily Post said etiquette was designed to make people nice to be around.

"Simple things like not burping in public, chewing with your mouth open or talking only about yourself and not asking questions about the other person are those social skills" that might fall by the wayside if not exercised often, she said.

Yingling said all too often single adults choose to live in isolation.

"People use too many excuses to remain in isolation. You need to schedule the time to be relational. As a Christian you are empowered to add zest to other people's lives," she said.

Yingling describes pizazz as "flamboyance, zest and flair; spirited enjoyment."

"It's not a matter of being an introvert or an extrovert," she said. "It's a matter of being empowered with the relationship of God."

Yingling said personal pizazz "is not a plastic overcoming of our circumstances; it is a realization that Jesus is there for us in our honesty to others."

She said being honest with others sometimes means answering questions with positive phrases rather than negative ones.

She listed several positive rather than negative ways to make statements.

Instead of: "I have to do this and then I can help you," she suggested: "I'll be glad to help you, just let me take care of this phone call first."

Instead of: "I'll try to do it," and not even thinking about the request again, she suggested either saying "Yes" or "No."

"If you say no, say it in kindness, rather than saying yes with resentment."

Instead of: "My condition is hopeless," say, "I can improve the quality of my life by ..."

Don't say: "I'm no good at that." Say: "I'm getting better at that."

--more--

Instead of saying, "I have to spend time with my parents," say, "I am investing time with my parents."

Instead of saying, "If only I had ... ", Yingling suggested using, "Starting now, I will"

"I challenge you to make a list of starting-now 'I wills,'" Yingling told the single adults. "Let's try to be encouragers in our Christianity."

--30--

NOTICE: Beginning today, (9/9/93), the compressed Baptist Press files will be zipped using the new PKZip software. This software is available to you free of charge. You may download it from the Information and Help section of the SBCNet Library. It is under PKZ204.EXE.

You need to download this file, retrieve it at your DOS prompt; then replace this new Zip program for the one you already have.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

HOUSE MAIL



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

HOUSE MAIL

So. Baptist Library & Archives
901 Commerce
Nashville, TN 37203