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November 18, 1993

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Kenyan students take
'True Love Waits' pledge

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
11/18/93

NYERI, Kenya (BP)--"True Love Waits" has gone international.

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board program stressing the Christian plan for love, sex and marriage was recently completed by students at Nyeri Baptist High School in Nyeri, Kenya.

At a commitment service following three weeks of study, 130 students came forward to pledge their resolve to wait for true love -- and marriage -- before expressing their feelings sexually.

"The commitments demonstrated the students' faith in God's plan for love and marriage," said Jill Branyon, a Southern Baptist missionary and acting headmaster at the school. "The maturity and sensitivity displayed during the sessions confirmed that youth can make good decisions when they're given accurate information. Many of those who advocate 'safe sex' have failed in their own commitments or receive financial gain by selling safe-sex devices.

"Adults assume youth cannot make choices for themselves; Nyeri Baptist High School students assume otherwise."

During the first session, Nyeri students presented original skits, songs, poems and essays on the theme "Why True Love Waits." The second session, "Biblical principles for Marriage and Sex," established the foundation for a commitment to wait for sex until marriage.

The students considered love for their unborn children, their future mate, their friends, themselves and God as reasons for abstinence.

A third session included personal Bible study and a covenant with God. More than a third of the student body stepped forward in front of the entire school to sign their pledges.

Thousands of American students are signing similar abstinence pledges as "True Love Waits" continues to grow in popularity and attract national media attention in the United States. But the program takes on an additional urgency in Kenya, where one recent report predicted up to 5 million people may die of AIDS by the year 2000.

Branyon, Southern Baptist journeyman Todd Crabtree and five Kenyan Christians on the school staff led the Kenyan campaign.

S.C. Baptists ask institutions for strengthened relationships

By Lawrence Webb & Ben McDade

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--Messengers to the 173rd annual meeting of South Carolina Baptist Convention voted to sever legal ties with their hospital and approved a plan asking convention institutions to further clarify their relationship to the convention with changes in their charters.

As the convention severed ties with its hospital, the two groups agreed to enter into an agreement known as "Commitment To A Shared Ministry." This agreement calls for the hospital, with facilities in Columbia and Easley, to contribute \$3 million over a three-year period to assist ministers.

The plan was worked out by hospital and convention officials in response to an August decision by hospital trustees to make their board self-perpetuating. Prior to that decision, hospital trustees were elected annually by the convention, which had been naming trustees and providing funding for the organization for 80 years.

Before voting on the agreement, messengers defeated a substitute motion that would have required the hospital to pay the convention a "buy-out" fee of \$20 million and drop the word "Baptist" from its name.

The agreement between the hospital and convention stipulates the hospital fulfill several contractual obligations over the next three years. The agreement also calls for the hospital to continue its present policy of performing abortions only "when medically necessary."

Messengers gave first reading to a process that would "enhance, clarify, and strengthen" the convention's relationship to its institutions. A 12-member committee presented proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws. Second and final reading for approval is expected in 1994.

The convention asked trustees of its institutions to amend their articles of incorporation in anticipation of adoption of the documents next year. Trustees were asked to bring the revised articles to the October 1994 meeting of the general board and then to the convention Nov. 15-16, 1994, in Columbia.

A list of 13 "trustee expectations" also was adopted that included "serving as guardian of the convention's rights and interests" and acting as "a steward for the convention."

Committee chairman James Herron, director of missions for the Greenville Baptist Association, cited two basic rights the convention has in relation to the institutions: to elect trustees to govern the institutions and to approve the institution's charter and any amendments to it.

Convention institutions include Anderson College, Charleston Southern University, North Greenville College, Connie Maxwell Children's Home, Baptist Ministries for the Aging, Baptist Foundation Inc., and the convention's newsjournal, the Baptist Courier.

Steve Hogg, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rock Hill, was elected president of the convention. Hogg led a slate of conservative-endorsed candidates who defeated a moderate slate headed by E.C. Watson, a retired denominational employee. The presidential vote was 1,294 for Hogg, 871 for Watson.

Other officers to lead the 1994 convention include Jerry Lethco, pastor of Clearview Baptist Church in Charleston, first vice president; Danny Hedgepeth, pastor of Dutch Fork Baptist Church in Ballentine, second vice president; Joe Mack, a layman from First Baptist Church in Columbia, recording secretary; and Gerald McCants, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Florence, registration secretary.

The convention's \$23.4 million 1994 budget approved by messengers reflects a \$405,000 increase over the current budget, and it retains allocations of 60 percent for South Carolina causes and 40 percent for Southern Baptist Convention national and international causes. The budget also features a new approach to funding a supplemental retirement plan for ministers.

Through resolutions, convention messengers spoke to half a dozen social issues, including:

-- urging South Carolinians to reject cash payoffs for video poker machines.

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-- opposing premeditated acts of euthanasia.

-- opposing a proposed national Freedom of Choice Act, calling it the "most radical pro-abortion legislation Congress has ever considered." -- supporting South Carolina's Abortion Clinic Regulation Bill and The Women's Right to Know Bill.

-- rejecting homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle, saying homosexuality is in "direct opposition to the teaching of the Scripture."

Another resolution encouraged each of the 1,840 churches affiliated with the state's largest religious organization to organize a Christian Life Committee to help keep its members informed about critical issues and to suggest appropriate responses.

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Webb is assistant professor of journalism at Anderson College; McDade is associate director of communications and marketing for the South Carolina convention.

N.C. Baptist convention sets
'Great American TV Turnoff Day' By R.G. Puckett

Baptist Press
11/18/93

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)--North Carolina Baptists elected moderates as convention officers, debated and finally approved a budget unchanged from the one proposed by their general board and enthusiastically endorsed May 1, 1994, as the "Great American TV Turnoff Day."

The 5,108 messengers and visitors registered for the 163rd annual session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Nov. 15-17 in Winston-Salem, almost equaled the 1992 total of 5,150.

Alfred T. Ayscue, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Mount Airy, won the presidency in a runoff with Coy C. Privette, a former president of the convention and current executive director of the Christian Action League, a lobbying organization in the area of public morals.

A third candidate, Curtis L. Barbery, pastor of the Beulah Baptist Church in Bennett the past 31 years, was eliminated on the first ballot.

Ayscue received 2,172 votes and Privette received 1,750 votes on the first ballot. In the runoff, Ayscue received 2,289 votes to Privette's 1,910 for a 54.5-45.5 percent division.

It was the largest margin of victory, in votes and percentage, since E. Leon Smith defeated Ned Mathews for the presidency in 1987.

Ayscue was supported by the moderate "Friends of Missions" organization and Privette was endorsed by Conservative Carolina Baptists.

Moderates also took all other offices as Kathryn H. Hamrick, a Boiling Springs insurance executive, won the first vice presidency over M.O. Owens, a retired pastor in Gastonia, by a margin of 63-37 percent.

Jack Glasgow, pastor of the Zebulon Baptist Church, was elected second vice president by a 57-43 percent margin over Joe B. Craig, a retired dentist in Charlotte.

Marian Grant, a member of Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, was elected recording secretary for the 13th year without opposition.

The \$28.8 million budget for 1994, proposed by the convention's general board, is unchanged from the total for 1993 with the same division -- 62 percent for state causes and 38 percent for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Within the allocation to the SBC, there is \$2 million earmarked for ministerial and non-ministerial Expanded Annuity. This arrangement prompted much discussion in 1992 when the 1993 budget was approved but it was not debated this year.

The budget contains an "Option Budget" which retains the 62 percent for the state Baptist convention but provides 12 percent for the SBC, 8.4 percent for theological education in N.C. Baptist colleges/universities and 17.6 percent for special missions.

The special missions section includes:

-- 10 percent for foreign mission partnerships.

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- 5 percent for home mission partnerships.
- 1 percent for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.
- 1.6 percent for the Baptist World Alliance, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and Associated Baptist Press.

Included for the first time, the item for the Richmond seminary sparked extended debate and three different attempts to delete or modify the amount before they were defeated.

An effort to reduce funding for the Biblical Recorder, the state Baptist newspaper, also was defeated. A proposal was made that the amount from the Cooperative Program designated to pay for subscriptions to active and retired pastors, church staff members and missionaries be given to needy annuitants and the evangelism division of the general board staff.

The motion called for the people whose subscriptions currently are provided through Cooperative Program funds to pay for their own subscriptions. The motion was defeated after brief discussion.

The proposed budget was approved by a 90 percent margin without any changes, according to those on the platform.

Clay Warf, pastor of Roxboro Baptist Church, offered a motion which asked the convention to make May 1, 1994, the "Great American TV Turnoff Day."

The motion, which invites other state conventions to share in the event, was approved enthusiastically and without opposition. (Morality in Media's third annual "Turn Off TV Day will be Feb. 11.)

Prompted by an editorial in the Biblical Recorder which called television "a powerful medium that portrays illicit sex, alcohol and drugs and violence of all sorts as the norm," Warf told messengers that if television could not be turned around, it could be turned off.

Warf suggested the May 1 date because it is the beginning of Christian Home Week in Southern Baptist churches. The motion calls for the convention's Christian Life and Public Affairs Council to give leadership in implementing the action.

A similar motion by Thomas Austin, pastor of Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, was approved which asked the convention to explore ways to work with other religious groups in addressing moral issues and problems in society.

Only two resolutions were presented. One was the traditional expression of appreciation to the host city and the other pertained to action by the state's General Assembly relating to the sale of alcohol in the western part of the state near the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The 1994 convention will be Nov. 11-12, a Friday and Saturday, in Winston-Salem's Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, in an experimental schedule to determine attendance patterns for laypersons. The same schedule will be maintained in 1995.

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Mississippi Baptists maintain
CP despite projected shortfall By Tim Nicholas

Baptist Press
11/18/93

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Mississippi Baptists, meeting Nov. 16-17 at First Baptist Church of Jackson, approved a static budget and stuck to positive statements in their resolutions.

The 1994 Cooperative Program budget remained at \$22,452,000, with 37 percent (or \$8,307,240) going to Southern Baptist Convention causes outside the state, the same amount and percentage as 1993. This was in the face of an expected 1993 budget shortfall of \$750,000 and despite a floor attempt to increase the SBC portion an additional half-percent.

Elected president was Rex Yancey, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pascagoula, and a former chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's executive committee. He defeated Malcolm Lewis, pastor of Northcrest Baptist Church in Meridian, in a ballot vote, 735-598. Voting numbers fell off after that. Ballots cast for the second vice president a few hours later totaled 626.

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Other new officers are first vice president, Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Baptist Church near Corinth and second vice president, Richard Johnson, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Greenville.

Resolutions ranged from appreciating decisions of some Mississippi TV stations to commending Mississippi College trustees.

Messengers commended the five American Broadcasting Company television affiliates in Mississippi for choosing not to broadcast "NYPD Blue," a network program "which features gratuitous sex and dehumanizing violence," said the resolution.

Noting this week's U.S. Supreme Court's upholding of a Mississippi law requiring parental consent for a minor child to have an abortion, the convention passed a resolution commending members of the 1986 state legislature for writing enacting the law.

A resolution noted the conclusion of a missions partnership with Illinois Baptists and another concerned convention-owned Mississippi College. It commended trustees for their announced intention of releasing a comprehensive report concerning the troubles at that institution and promised prayer for current and former college officials.

Earlier this year, college President Lewis Nobles resigned in the face of an investigation of misuse of funds. Federal prosecutors are looking into charges Nobles converted some \$3 million in college monies to personal use.

In other business, a move to study the feasibility of moving in future years the convention to other sites in Mississippi failed.

Messengers apparently were satisfied to continue holding the convention in Jackson where sessions have been held more than 40 years.

A motion from the floor failed in an attempt to bypass a committee which is determining future use of the property in Newton of now-defunct Clarke College. The motion would have had the convention accept a proposal from a group wanting to open a Bible institute. The rejection of the motion only kept the recommendation in the hands of the committee which reports back to the executive committee, the convention board and ultimately to the full convention.

The 1994 convention will be Nov. 1-2 at First Baptist Church in Jackson.

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Florida Baptists elect Anglo,
ethnic, WMU leader to top posts By Barbara Denman

Baptist Press
11/18/93

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (BP)--A longtime West Palm Beach pastor, a Hispanic bivocational pastor and a south Florida Woman's Missionary Union leader were elected to lead Florida Baptists during the coming year.

Elected as officers of the Florida Baptist State Convention during its annual meeting Nov. 15-17 in Fort Lauderdale were George Thomasson, pastor of the Northwood Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, president; Rafael de Armas, pastor of the Primera Iglesia Bautista in Orlando, first vice president; and Tanna Dawson, a layperson from First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale.

Thomasson, 46, was nominated by Keith Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach who praised Thomasson for leading a declining church in inner-city West Palm Beach to become a rapidly growing congregation with a new building in the suburbs.

The election of de Armas represents the first time an ethnic or a bivocational has been tapped to serve as a state convention official.

Dale Kinsey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Clermont, was elected to a 10th term as recording secretary.

De Armas is a Cuban native with a general law practice in Orlando. He has served the Orlando congregation, which was originally a mission of First Baptist Church of Orlando, for 24 years. Also during the convention, de Armas, 57, received the Metro Bivocational Pastor of the Year award, received by the Florida Baptist Theological College in Graceville.

A South Florida missions pioneer, Tanna Dawson has served as president of the Florida WMU and vice president of national WMU.

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The 1,441 messengers approved a \$24-million budget for 1994, the same as 1993. The same percentage allocation will remain of 49.6 percent for Florida Baptist causes; 42.2 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes; 5 percent for church pastoral aid; and 3.18 percent for church annuity programs.

Messengers also authorized foreign missions partnerships with Tanzania and the Caribbean islands and OK'd a constitutional amendment opening the door for churches in Haiti to affiliate with the Florida Baptist Convention. In recent years Haitian congregations in Florida have started 60 new mission churches in Haiti.

Approved with no discussion were resolutions:

- encouraging Florida Baptists to register to vote and participate in a petition effort being circulated to amend the state constitution that protects homosexuals from discrimination.

- supporting the role of bivocational ministers and encouraging their representation on state convention boards, agencies, associations and institutions.

The convention's 1994 annual meeting will be Nov. 14-16 at Daytona Beach.

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D.C. Baptists discuss
financial shortfalls

By Victor Tupitza

Baptist Press
11/18/93

WASHINGTON (BP)--Finances were a key topic of concern when District of Columbia Baptists gathered for their 117th annual session at People's Community Baptist Church Nov. 4-5.

In discussions about the 1994 convention budget of \$969,528, Normal Taylor, finance committee chair, noted annual shortfalls have become a serious trend that eventually may lead to curtailing mission programs. The adopted budget is \$27,000 less than that of the previous year, he noted, and contributions must be increased to avoid a 1994 deficit that could total as high as \$70,000. Georgetown pastor C.J. Malloy called churches to a "sense of urgency" relative to diminishing financial support.

The \$969,528 budget includes an estimated \$445,000 in gifts from the 83 churches and 10 missions in the convention, encompassing more than 60,000 Baptists. Apart from designated gifts, 75 percent of undesignated funds from local churches will remain for Baptist work in the District of Columbia, while the remaining 25 percent will be split between the two denominations with which the convention is aligned, the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

Also during the convention:

- Executive Director/Minister Jere Allen underscored convention inclusiveness, stating his determination for it to continue to grow as the body of free, diverse and inclusive body of believers it has become.

- Messengers elected Ishmael Shaw, pastor of Paramount Baptist Church, as president and Jerold Williamson from Bethesda, Md., as vice president.

- The convention unanimously accepted two new congregations into the convention family: Front Royal Baptist Church and Parker Memorial Baptist Church.

Among convention speakers, William O'Brien of the Global Center at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., spoke on missions, noting too many churches are "cocooning" or turning inward rather than toward the dead world. More than 20 percent of the world population has never even heard the gospel, he said. "And while they have never heard, we 'cocoon.'"

O'Brien reminded the group "God's mission is alive and well. It is bigger than any church or denomination, it's even larger than our world. And God will bring that mission to its ultimate fulfillment with us or without us."

Susan Newman, an executive with Children's Defense Fund, admonished the convention to "reach out beyond the church," to become "fishers of men" and not "keepers of the aquarium." Addressing the growing need for the church to minister to children because "when you save a child you are saving the community and the future," she pointed out "not since slavery has the black family suffered the family breakdown that we see today."

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Newman characterized many of today's children as those who find their streets war zones and as having "assault weapons instead of pencils when they go to school." In the black community, she said, too many children are growing up sick and dying and too many are hooked on violence. It's in other places, she conceded, "but I am looking at the place where I live."

The church must surmount the status quo, Newman said, and everyone needs to do something to save today's children. Integral to that responsibility, she said, the church needs to examine itself -- how have we become lax? "God has no hands but our hands, no feet but our feet."

The 1994 convention will be held at the E. Washington Heights Baptist Church Nov. 17-18.

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Pam Parry contributed to this story.

Utah-Idaho Baptists name offering for
pioneers Harold, Opal Dillman By Debbie Ward

Baptist Press
11/18/93

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (BP)--Messengers to the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention renamed the annual state missions offering the Dillman State Mission Offering in memory of and appreciation for Utah-Idaho pioneer Baptists Harold and Opal Dillman.

The action, upon recommendation of the convention's executive committee, honors the Dillmans, who owned a mortuary in Roosevelt, Utah, and were charter members of the first Southern Baptist church in Utah, Roosevelt Baptist. Harold died in 1980; Opal died this past summer.

"Redeeming the Time" was the theme for the 29th annual convention session Nov. 9-10 at Calvary Baptist Church in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The 137 messengers and 21 visitors heard messages on taking encouragement as well as warnings from the past, on using time wisely and on making the most of every opportunity.

Two new churches were unanimously accepted into the convention: Trinity Baptist Church in Boise, Idaho, and Revelation Baptist Church in Ogden, Utah.

Mike Gray, pastor of Southeast Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, was unanimously elected president. Ron Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Bountiful, Utah, who served as second vice president this year, was chosen as first vice president. Bennie Wright, pastor of First Baptist Church in Fruitland, Idaho, was elected second vice president and Bailey Anderson, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Vernal, Utah, recording secretary.

An overall budget of \$1,580,347 was adopted for 1994, with an anticipated \$458,178 in Cooperative Program giving from Utah-Idaho churches. The convention will again retain 79 percent of CP gifts for Utah-Idaho Baptist work and send 21 percent to Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries.

Judy Barking, who chairs the convention's constitution committee, told messengers changes may be necessary in the next few years due to possible changes in Utah's nonprofit corporation laws.

The 1995 convention will be Nov. 14-15 at Calvary Baptist Church in Boise, Idaho.

Among eight resolutions approved by messengers were:

-- Encouragement to each church to increase its giving to the Cooperative Program in light of a projected \$2 million shortfall in the SBC budget for home and foreign missions.

-- Affirmation of SBC stances opposing abortion on demand and homosexuals serving in the armed forces and commitment to wholeheartedly pray for President Clinton, his staff, the Congress and the judicial system to be led of God as they make decisions that shape the moral fabric of the nation and which God will judge.

-- Support for "True Love Waits" and encouragement to churches to stand firm on the issue of sexual abstinence outside of marriage by promoting the SBC national campaign.

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-- Encouragement to all churches to engage their congregations in witness training during 1994, to enlist their members in the 60-day "Share Jesus Now" gospel-sharing effort during January-March 1995 and to participate in the nationwide, simultaneous "Here's Hope" revivals during the spring of 1995.

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Ward is associate editor of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Witness.

EDITORS' NOTE: The following story can be used in tandem with two stories in (BP) dated 11/17/93 on the Baptist Sunday School Board's Fall Festivals of Marriage.

FIRST-PERSON

Columnist reports festival
yields 'satisfied' couples

By Mike McManus

Baptist Press
11/18/93

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--"I am here to spend more time with my wife," said Marshall Matthews, 45, who works two jobs to pay for college tuition. "We are spending more time working so there's less time to spend together."

Time together is the reason most often given by Southern Baptists for attending one of 20 Fall Festivals of Marriage this year. Some 13,000 have attended -- up 4,000 over 1992. The numbers will grow in 1994 as the Baptist Sunday School Board holds festivals in spring as well as fall.

Thus, Southern Baptists are using retreats to strengthen marriages and people are responding enthusiastically: 60 percent of attendees are satisfied returnees.

This fall's theme was "Celebrating Sex in Your Marriage."

Attendee Harvey Clayton was surprised the keynote speaker was Jimmy Draper. "He was president of the Southern Baptist Convention when the fundamentalists really took over control," Clayton said. "I expected him to be straight-laced and not comfortable talking about sex. He was at ease. It was refreshing."

Draper, now president of the Sunday School Board, the nation's largest religious publisher, surprised others by having his wife of 37 years, Carol Ann, join him in the pulpit.

"God made sex and called it a symbol of our relationship with him," he said. "It is the most beautiful expression of godly love."

He turned to his wife, saying, "Tell them what you told me." She squirmed.

Gently, he nudged her, and she said, "If you forget everything else about this weekend, remember, love God first, above all else." She paused, and added, "And sleep naked!" Laughter and applause rang out.

He smiled, "Now you know why we are still on our honeymoon!"

Draper turned to chapter 4 of the Song of Solomon and read, "My darling bride is like a private garden, a spring that no one else can have, a fountain of my own." He confessed, "I went into marriage as a virgin. What we know is what we have learned together."

Participants could attend five of 22 workshops on a wide range of topics on Saturday and Sunday morning offered by a faculty of 80 people. The ones my wife and I attended ranged in quality.

One favorite was "For Men Only: Loving Your Wife."

Jim Toole of Gastonia, N.C., said: "Women tire more easily than men because their blood contains 20 percent fewer red blood cells. When you come home, you can be frisky and she can be tired ... But a warm bath relaxes your wife."

"She gets tense all day long. Sitting in a hot tub lets her unwind emotionally and physically."

Men, in producing testosterone, undergo a cycle twice a day and twice a year, Toole added with a smile. "Our lowest point is in the spring and at 8 p.m. Our high point is at 4 a.m. If she says, 'What's wrong?' -- you can reply, 'My testosterone is low.'"

Ron Stewart, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., has led a marriage retreat for his church each of the last 10 years. It's a reason his present congregation has grown from 250 to 1,000 in five years.

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"Marriage is a do-it-yourself kit," he said. "You get out of it what you put into it. If the fire has gone out, it may simply be that you have stopped stoking the fire! If some of you keep on doing what you have been doing, you will keep on getting what you have been getting.

"Communication is the master key to your marriage. Unlocking it is the door to joy, happiness. If you refuse to develop communication in your marriage, some doors will remain locked forever.

"First, you have to accept responsibility. Don't blame it on him or her Renew your devotional life with God. Marriage is a triangle of three people: husband, wife and God.

"If the communication between any two is broken and hurting, all three are affected. If the wife is not in communication with God, it affects her communication with her husband.

"Adam and Eve were 'naked and unashamed.' You can't hold back any portion of yourselves from the other person. Adam knew his wife."

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McManus, of Bethesda, Md., is a nationally syndicated columnist. Used by permission. (BP) photo to be available from (BP) central office in Nashville.

SBCNet adds resources
for innovative ministry

Baptist Press
11/18/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--SBCNet, the data communications network for Southern Baptists, has added an Innovative Ministry library to provide a network of information on creative methods in evangelism, worship, organization, Bible study and discipleship.

Ralph Hodge, innovative churches consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division, is coordinator of the library, with Gene Wilkes, pastor of Legacy Drive Baptist Church of Plano, Texas, as library manager.

Articles are expected to deal with relevant worship resources, contemporary preaching ideas, drama, management concepts, organizational issues, demographic/cultural trends, evangelistic methods, discipleship, curriculum and methodologies, small groups, age groups, family issues and change-related issues.

Book reviews on church growth and related fields will be included, as well as articles on growth in different demographic settings. Designations will include metropolitan/urban, micropolitan (50,000 or smaller), rural and urban fringe.

Persons who wish to submit articles for the library should contact Gene Wilkes at CompuServe address 70423,600.

SBCNet may be accessed by using a computer, modem and a membership kit distributed by the Sunday School Board. Kits are available in DOS, Macintosh and Windows versions and may be ordered by calling 1-800-458-2772. Additional information about SBCNet may be ordered by calling David Haywood, SBCNet coordinator, at 1-800-325-7749, ext. 2895.

Other services available on SBCNet include Baptist Press, the official Southern Baptist news service; News Room, offering news and feature stories from Southern Baptist agencies and state conventions; Facts & Trends, the Sunday School Board's newsletter for church and denominational leaders; and Facts & Trends Information Service, news briefs from the Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board with usage suggestions for church newsletters; supplemental teaching helps for adult and youth Sunday school lessons series; and life applications in the Acrobat format for persons who teach fifth- and sixth-grade children using "Bible Searchers Teacher."

Also included is Clip Art, a collection of ready-to-use art pieces; Bold Mission Prayer, requests for prayer from home and foreign missionaries; DiscipleLife Plus, a youth discipleship supplement which includes the quarterly edition of "Youth Prayer Corps Newsletter;" "Powerline" scripts from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission; and Minister's Corner, a collection of sermons and illustrations.

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**Iowa's Friendship Baptist Center
seeks funds for new building**

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP)--When residents of Des Moines' inner city have needed clothes, food or a personal hand of comfort, the staff and volunteers at Friendship Baptist Center have been ready and willing to help.

During the flood of 1993, the center saw what was perhaps its greatest impact on the community when it served as a fresh water distribution site, staffed by local Iowa Baptists and Baptist disaster relief teams from Texas. Tens of thousands of gallons of fresh water were handed out to area residents.

Until recently, the center has operated out of an old church in the heart of Des Moines' inner city. As the condition of the church building began to deteriorate, a special committee was formed to explore the possibility of building a new facility. However, while plans were being reviewed for a new building, a new owner of the old church asked the center to vacate the current location by Oct. 1.

Because the center was felt to serve a vital need in the community, an immediate search was begun to locate temporary quarters and a new facility. Through the effort of volunteers and prayer, a new opportunity was laid before the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship and a new building was purchased through an emergency loan provided by the fellowship.

The new building will be available Feb. 15, 1994. A ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony is planned for early March. In the meantime, the center is housed in a rented building a few blocks from the newsite.

The new building will offer the same facilities as the proposed new center, but at a cost of only \$55,000 -- a savings of \$270,000 over the cost of a new building. The new building is about 10 blocks from the site of the old location and is in an area of current need and of even greater future need.

The fellowship has formed a special committee to raise funds to repay the loan made by the fellowship.

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Polly House contributed to this story.

Let it snow, let it
snow, let it snow

By Dana Williamson

Baptist Press
11/18/93

BLAIR, Okla. (BP)--A snowstorm saved Jennifer Goode's perfect attendance record.

The 24-year-old Blair, Okla., resident has not missed Sunday school since she came into the world Sept. 10, 1969. Born on a Wednesday, she was in the church nursery at four days of age.

Her only close call was after the birth of her first son. Jeremy was delivered by Cesarean section on Thurs., Dec. 23, 1987. Doctors told Jennifer she would be hospitalized through Sunday, which meant she would miss Sunday school for the first time in 18 years.

Jennifer's mother, Betty Adams, church clerk at First Baptist Church in Blair for years, was trying to figure out how Jennifer could be released from the hospital to attend Sunday school, when a massive snowstorm hit the area. Sunday school at Blair was cancelled. Jennifer's record was intact.

Since the birth of Jeremy, Jennifer and her husband, Johnny, have had two more children. But she made sure their births did not interfere with Sunday school.

"Because Jeremy was a C-section, the other two were also, so we scheduled their births on Mondays," she said.

Jerrad was born Oct. 16, 1989, and Jordan was born Dec. 16, 1991.

Asked if she's ever thought of missing Sunday School, Jennifer said it has never been an issue.

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The youngest of seven children, Jennifer isn't the only member of her family who is faithful to Sunday school. She says the credit for her perfect attendance belongs to her mother, who has long stretches of perfect attendance herself. And her brother, Kim, at one time had a stretch of 15 years perfect attendance.

Jennifer said she was never too sick to attend Sunday school, and when the family was on vacation, Sunday school was always a part of the trips.

Jennifer, who made a profession of faith when she was 8, says she doesn't go to Sunday school just to keep a record going.

"I learn something new every Sunday," she emphasized.

The young mother now is imparting the importance of Sunday school attendance to her three children. So far Jeremy, Jerrad and Jordan have not missed a week going to Sunday school in their young lives.

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EDITORS' NOTE: Please substitute the following paragraph for the second paragraph in the (BP) story "Cable networks to air 'True Love Waits' special," dated 11/17/93:

Part of the Contemporary Christian Music Television (CCM-TV) program, the special will be broadcast Nov. 27 on the Family Channel and Nov. 29 and Dec. 3 on the VISN-ACTS Network. The program also will be carried on the Inspirational Network, but broadcast dates were unavailable.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

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