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Senate joins House to save
sexual abstinence program

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
8/12/94

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate has followed the lead of the House of Representatives in restoring funding to a sexual abstinence program deleted by the Clinton administration in its 1995 budget.

The Senate recently voted 87-13 to approve a spending bill which includes \$6.7 million for Title XX, the only federal program promoting sexual abstinence among teen-agers. The bill appropriates funds for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

Earlier, the House approved the same amount of funding in its version of the Labor, HHS and Education legislation. Although the versions will go to a Senate-House conference committee to work out differences, supporters believe funding for Title XX, also known as the Adolescent Family Life program, will remain in the final bill.

Because the funding amounts are the same, the Title XX provision "should be safe through the conference committee," a congressional aide said.

"We are grateful that Congress has rejected the Clinton administration's attempt to abolish the AFL program," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "This is an important win for those of us in America who believe kids can be trusted to act responsibly if only the adults will lead them to do so. We intend to monitor how the Clinton administration carries out Congress' clearly demonstrated will that there be a federal program devoted to promoting a sexual abstinence message."

Sen. Slade Gorton, R.-Wash., and Rep. Lamar Smith, R.-Texas, led an effort in their respective chambers to restore Title XX after the White House proposed its elimination. In its budget, the administration put forth as an alternative \$6.8 million for establishment of the Office of Adolescent Health to address a variety of teen problems. Promoting abstinence would be a part of the program, administration officials said.

Supporters of Title XX expressed doubts the administration would support abstinence through the new office.

"It doesn't make sense to eliminate a good program addressing the problem (of teen-age pregnancies)," Gorton said in a prepared statement after the Aug. 10 vote.

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Teen-age sexual abstinence recently received widespread attention in Washington via the "True Love Waits" celebration on the National Mall. A year-long campaign initiated by the Baptist Sunday School Board and endorsed by many other national organizations culminated in 211,000 pledge cards being staked in the mall in front of the Capitol building. Each card was signed by a teen-ager committing to be sexually pure until marriage.

In addition to its uniqueness as a federal program supporting abstinence, Title XX is the only program which promotes adoption among adolescents. The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Population Affairs administers Title XX.

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'Victim-survivor' reaches out
to those touched by suicide

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
8/12/94

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--For more than 30 years now, Peggy Payne has lived as one of the "walking wounded."

Two weeks before then 21-year-old Payne graduated from nursing school, her clinically depressed mother used a shotgun to end her own life. The tragedy so traumatized Payne that it took 10 years for her to follow through with her career in nursing.

"The shock was so bad that it seemed unreal. I can remember hearing a voice screaming and not realizing at first that it was mine," recalled Payne, now a psychiatric mental health nurse and certified clinical specialist in Charlotte, N.C.

Her pain was magnified by the social stigma attached to suicide.

"It is different from all other types of grief because of the way people react to it," she explained. "Many people believe that if you lose someone in your family to suicide, you could have done something to stop them. So you have all this guilt on top of your grief.

"But that's just not true. If someone is determined to do it, you can't stop them. We even lose people in hospitals where we are watching them 24 hours a day."

Through her job and volunteer work, Payne has helped numerous others who have lost family members, friends or loved ones to suicide. She refers to them as "victim-survivors."

"So many people in our society have been affected by this. I try to give them a safe place to express their anger and hurt," Payne said in an interview with Baptist Press at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. She also led a support group for "People Touched by Suicide" during the Church Growth-Sunday School Leadership Conference.

Since the session was not announced in time for inclusion in the conference program, only a small group of seven attended. All, however, were eager to talk about the impact suicide has or is having on their lives.

One woman recently had lost a brother-in-law who had "everything to live for. We just can't understand it. We were totally surprised."

An adult Sunday school teacher said two of her class members had recently lost family members to suicide. She was looking for ideas on how to minister to them.

A man shared about his sister's two recent attempts to take her own life through drug overdoses. He and his wife were looking for suggestions on how to prevent a third attempt.

Payne said sharing their pain is an important step in the healing process for those touched by suicide. She said she also received strength and comfort from her faith in God and supportive Christian friends.

"Unfortunately, I've sensed a real reluctance on the part of many Christians to deal with this issue. That's a shame because we could be offering people the healing grace and love of Jesus."

Part of the problem, she said, is many people feel ill-equipped to reach out to emotionally distraught families dealing with the aftermath of a suicide.

"They don't know what to say or they're afraid they'll say th wrong thing. Som think the family probably won't want to talk about it. But all they need to do is reach out with their presence. You say what makes sense: 'I care. I'm here for you. I'm willing to listen if you need to talk.'"

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As a resource for those involved in ministering to the grieving, she recommended the book "Good Grief" by Granger E. Westberg.

During the support group session, Payne also discussed some fallacies about suicide, such as:

-- If somebody talks about it, they won't do it. "Take all suicide threats seriously," Payne warned. "It doesn't hurt to take somebody seriously who doesn't follow through, but it does hurt to fail to take somebody seriously when they do follow through. And there are no second chances."

-- If you mention suicide to someone you think might be contemplating it, you'll plant the idea in their mind. "In fact, what you are doing is giving them permission to share a scary thought they are having," Payne said.

-- Christians don't commit suicide and anyone who does take their own life will be condemned to hell. "Suicide affects all kinds of people from all kinds of backgrounds," Payne said. "And though it certainly is not what God wants for us, we know from the New Testament that our belief and faith in Christ determines our eternal security, not our works or actions, even self-destructive ones like suicide."

While not everyone gives indications they are suicidal, Payne said there are some common signs to look for, such as isolation, social withdrawal, depression, giving away valuables, refusing to make plans for the future, sudden mood changes, a sense of hopelessness and an inward or "simmering" anger. Among the most common contributing factors to suicidal thoughts, she said, are financial problems, unemployment, marital/family problems, failing health and stress caused by major life changes.

She urged anyone who suspects a friend or loved one is suicidal to be direct with them.

"Express concern and then ask them directly. If they are suicidal, ask them if they have a plan. If they answer, 'yes,' then ask them to share it with you. Notify a doctor or other family members and friends to help intervene. Don't wait."

Payne said verbal no-suicide contracts also can be helpful.

"Just ask the person if they would be willing to call you whenever they have suicidal thoughts. Just making that agreement will keep most people from taking their own life."

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Parent-minister partnership
advocated via support groups

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
8/12/94

RIDGECREST, N.C.(BP)--Can youth ministers and parents form a partnership in raising today's teen-agers?

According to Sherry Spillman, the answer is "yes" if a relationship of honest communication trust and is built between the two groups.

"Parents and youth ministers can become enemies or they can become each other's heroes. It depends on how the two groups work together," Spillman, a youth conference leader and former youth minister at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., said. She led the seminar, "Partners in Parenting: A Team Approach," during the Church Growth-Sunday School Leadership Conference Aug. 9-13 at Ridgecrest, N.C.

"With all the pressures parents are facing today, they are looking for help from people they can trust. We're both interested in training up youth in the way they should go. If we can form a partnership, the results can be really incredible," Spillman said.

One way to develop that partnership, she said, is for churches to start parent support groups for parents of teen-agers. Such groups "allow parents to become part of a community that ministers to their emotional needs as well as their need for information about how to better parent their teens." They also provide an excellent communication vehicle for youth ministers to inform parents about what their teen-agers are studying in church and upcoming activities, she said.

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"When I was a youth minister, I would teach the parents of youth on Sunday night the same thing I would be teaching their teen-agers on Wednesday. That way I could get their input and buy-in ahead of time. It also gave the parents a chance to talk with their kids about what they were learning in church."

Spillman suggested parents support groups be made available both to parents of teens and preteens and, possibly, extended to parents from the community who are not church members. The group can meet on Sunday afternoon or evening, Wednesday night -- anytime during the week, she said.

While the group facilitator does not necessarily need to be a youth minister, teacher or therapist, he or she does need to be familiar with small-group dynamics and the emotional tension that can sometimes accompany honest expressions of feelings.

"If you get somebody who doesn't know what they're doing, it can really open up a can of worms," she said. She suggested group leaders review the book "Ministry With Youth and Their Parents" by Richard Ross and G. Wade Rowatt, Jr., and other resources available from the Baptist Sunday School Board, such as the "LIFE Support Leader's Handbook" compiled by Johnny Jones.

The subject matter for parents' groups will vary, Spillman said, based on the needs of participants. Part of the group's function can be providing parents an opportunity to share problems and frustrations they encounter in raising their teens.

"It always helps when we feel we're not alone," she explained. "Parents can share ideas, role-model parenting skills and encourage one another.

"The group needs to be a place where everybody is free to say what they need to say without being judged," she added. "There needs to be a feeling of 'I want to invest in your life as you invest in mine.' It's not a lecture or a conference; it's a time of sharing."

Other group sessions, Spillman said, could utilize outside professionals such as counselors or therapists to discuss topics like stress, the effects of peer pressure, family relationships and communication.

Among other ideas for parent support group sessions shared by Spillman were:

- leading a study on helping youth prepare for marriage;
- planning a career fair for teen-agers;
- holding a parent/youth discussion about dating;
- reviewing available family worship resources parents can use with their teens.

She also suggested holding a "DiscipleNow" weekend for parents where they gather in a home for the weekend to discuss one or more of the above topics.

"Just make sure that first meeting meets a need or you'll kill it before it even gets started," she said.

The Church Growth-Sunday School Conference was sponsored by the Bible teaching-reaching division of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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They were buoyed by faith
after flood waters of '93 By Laurie Lattimore & Tim Palmer

Baptist Press
8/12/94

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--A year after the Flood of '93, fewer visible signs remain of the relentless waters that washed through Missouri and other parts of the Midwest for weeks on end. But testimonies from some of the hardest-hit areas along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers give evidence all things work together for good.

Homes were destroyed, churches were badly damaged, lives were devastated. But bolstered by their faith and the support of others, many Baptist flood survivors are counting their blessings.

The Missouri Baptist Convention, in conjunction with local associations and command centers, had a part in helping many communities in the state cope. The MBC coordinated hundreds of out-of-state and local volunteer teams for feeding stations and cleanup crews and doled out nearly \$1 million for food, supplies and construction.

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"This gave us a deep appreciation of how God's people reach out in compassion," said Ron Ratliff, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pattonsburg. "The thousands of dollars and so many offers to help ... it was just a real humbling experience."

Don Anders, MBC flood cleanup coordinator, praised Baptists from Missouri and elsewhere for their unbending support to families hurt by the flood.

"It has never been so easy to spend so much money. As soon as I write a check, more money comes in," Anders said. He noted although donations have fallen off, money has been coming in every month, even a year after the great disaster. Currently about \$225,000 remains in the disaster relief fund with \$50,000 committed to rebuilding projects. Anders anticipates all money will be expended by October.

Following are testimonies of the flood's impact on churches along the two great rivers one year after the unforgettable Flood of '93:

-- When members of Alexandria Baptist Church were told last summer to move furniture out of the church and to hold July 4 services somewhere else because of treacherous floodwaters, few really believed it was necessary.

"We did it halfheartedly because we thought we'd be back in it in a few days," said Don Waterman, pastor of the church when the Flood of '93 submerged the northeastern Missouri town of 300. "On July 18, the church was 13 feet under water. We knew our church was gone."

But one year later, the church has survived. While the building awaits remodeling and a new sanctuary at the end of this month, the members have kept the church alive, not missing a Sunday since the flood hit.

Waterman, who was opposed to rebuilding in Alexandria for fear of a future flood, has since resigned as pastor. But he gives credit to the members for not giving up. "Man, they hung together with no intentions of disbanding."

Member Don Gregory said he had his doubts at first, but members determined the church they had called home still had a purpose: "As long as there were people to minister to, there should be a church," he said.

The church was featured in a "MissionsUSA" Home Mission Board video segment titled "Faith in Adversity." In spite of the hardship suffered by 19 church families, the church has become an active participant in Southern Baptist and Missouri Baptist Convention flood relief efforts.

"We didn't have to look very hard for a missions project this year. The Mississippi River provided that for us," said Waterman, missions chairman for Mt. Salem Wyaconda Association who continues to load up his trailer with sacks of food and supplies for anyone in need.

The church's visible role in meeting local families' needs -- whether food, supplies, help in cleaning out a home or rebuilding one -- became a vehicle for the church to reach others in the community. Although church membership has dipped since the onslaught of the flood, many new faces have since joined the church.

"I'm at the point where I can say, 'Praise God for the flood,'" Waterman said. "There are new faces in this church as a result of this flood and the church's ministry. There has been a lot of hardship, but God is going to be glorified."

-- An average of 10 more people in Sunday school and worship at Hartsburg (Mo.) Baptist Church -- plus Vacation Bible School for the first time in seven years -- is a direct result of a new attitude among church members, pastor Don Snyder said. That attitude emerged from surviving last summer's flooding.

The church sanctuary and educational unit suffered approximately \$50,000 in damage from several feet of standing water, while a half-dozen church families were affected personally by the flood.

A year later, the church has no complaints about how God has taken care of them. Donated money through the Missouri Baptist Convention and the Little Bonne Femme Baptist Association plus volunteer cleanup crews helped the church and community pull through the disaster, and pull through stronger at that.

"This is something we want to build upon," Snyder said. "We have a new growth and a new element of leadership in our church to reach out into the community."

While Hartsburg members awaited construction on their church last summer, they held joint Sunday morning services with Peace United Church of Christ outside the firehouse -- a local command post and feeding area during the flood. Many local families would stay for the services, which sometimes resembled counseling sessions.

"We needed to remind ourselves that God had not gone on vacation and forgotten about us. He did not make the flood happen, he allowed it to happen," Snyder said. "Now a year later, we can see why he allowed it."

-- Last summer's flood nightmare came with a few blessings for members of First Baptist Church in Pattonsburg -- a rural northwest Missouri town nearly washed away by the flood.

"Last year at this time, it just looked impossible to overcome, it just looked impossible," said pastor Ratliff, whose church was nearly destroyed along with the parsonage because of two floods in July. "But believe it or not, it was a good experience. It made us realize how uncertain life is."

Ratliff and his family lived in five different places last summer and fall before moving back into the parsonage on Christmas Eve. Residents are still awaiting word from state and federal officials about where they will be relocated. The government has approved moving the entire town to protect against a massive wipeout in another flood.

The ministry of the church plus volunteer and financial support were key factors in getting through the ordeal.

Merlin Bozarth, a farmer and member of the church, didn't have any damage to his home but lost about 600 acres of cropland during the summer. Volunteer labor and donations were overwhelming, he said.

"It would blow your mind how good people were," he said. "We realized that there are people out there who care. You had to see it to believe it."

Patsy Holcomb, whose mother and two sisters and brothers-in-law moved in with her family of four for 37 days, has no doubt it was the grace of God that got them through the flood. Despite the hassles and the losses, she was thankful for the benefits reaped from the flood.

"It opened my eyes. There was so much love extended to us from churches around the nation. It was very humbling," Holcomb said. "It really touched our lives and dr w us closer together as a family and a church."

Holcomb was active in the church's effort to provide meals for volunteer crews cleaning up the mess. The church also cooked meals two days a week for prisoners from St. Joseph who were bused in daily to clean up. Holcomb noted without the flood, First Baptist would never have had opportunity to open its doors to the inmates. Or opportunity to deliver a homemade pie to every family in town.

"At prayer meeting tonight I was thinking how far God has brought us in a year," she said. Holcomb noted when the town relocates, the church will have even more chances for ministry. "It has really made me look at things differently. We worship a wonderful God."

-- As the flood waters rose and neighbors lost the battle to hold them back, layman Larry Goodwin recalled, all eyes in Festus/Crystal City turned to First Baptist Church's sandbag walls withstanding the mighty Mississippi.

"People were asking, 'How can this be?'" Goodwin said. "And there was only one way: God spared that church for a purpose."

The struggle was day to day and got down to hour to hour, Goodwin noted. "When things seemed to be totally impossible, the Lord just brought people and materials and resources together to accomplish the task."

First Baptist still sustained considerable damage. Because of seep water in the basement, the kitchen and education space had to be redone. The parking lot also needed to be put back in shape.

"It's been a year of recovery for our people -- emotionally, physically and in restoring the plant," pastor Richard Adams said.

Adams said the flood brought some new faces into the congregation. He also pointed to a spirit of optimism born of the members' appreciation for God's providence during and after the crisis. "God put us on this corner and preserved us." The church also took a step toward self-preservation. It spent approximately \$230,000 for a floodwall.

Now Goodwin and Adams are eager to see what the church can do next. "It would be a wonderful thing if we could direct our energies in winning people to the Lord like we did in protecting that building," Goodwin remarked.

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-- The Flood of '93 helped wake up Red Star Baptist Church in Cape Girardeau to ministry needs in the immediate area, pastor Alan Berry said. Berry, who became pastor in October, said he found the church relieved that its own damage was limited to cleanup and also found members newly attuned to ministry needs in the surrounding community.

Many church members live some distance from the church, Berry noted, and "we had sort of ignored our own backyard." The church became a Red Cross feeding station during the flood, and contacts with people in the immediate area alerted members to their needs.

As a result, the church started a food pantry and later expanded it with a clothing closet. Another new ministry is Adventure Monday, which brings in young people every Monday for meals and Bible studies.

The church also helped remodel houses that were badly damaged in the flood and channeled some money to flood victims.

Attendance at Red Star is running 20 to 40 people ahead of last summer, Berry reported. Vacation Bible School attendance was the highest it had been in years. "I attribute it to kind of a rekindling, a resurgence in local ministry," the pastor said.

Member Grace Parry, whose husband Mike was interim pastor at Red Star last summer, recalled volunteers used dry and wet vacuum cleaners around the clock for eight weeks to keep the church floor from being ruined by water. "It was a really hard time, but a very strengthening and bonding time for our congregation," she said.

Mrs. Parry said one memory she has of the flood is the eerie stillness. "The power, the magnitude of it all just kind of filled you with awe and wonder. You knew God had created it, and yet you wondered how it was all going to work out. It's something none of hopes to go through again, that's for sure. But you can really see the blessing that came out of it."

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Montana Fellowship executive
announces his retirement

Baptist Press
8/12/94

BILLINGS, Mont. (BP)--James W. Nelson, executive director of the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship since 1985, announced he will retire Dec. 31.

Nelson, 70, made his announcement at the fellowship's executive board meeting July 7, according to his column in the fellowship's monthly journal The Montana Baptist.

"The decision to leave what I think is a dream job has been a hard struggle," Nelson wrote, although he added "it's time for new leadership."

Nelson said he would retire either Dec. 31 or earlier, "depending on the time of the election of my successor."

The board's administrative committee is the search committee, according to policy and procedure, Nelson said.

Paul Jones will chair the committee which includes Mark Custalow, Don Jones, Connie Kempf and Jack Park. Serving ex-officio are board chairman Sammie Daniels and the fellowship's president, Doug Hutcheson.

Nelson did not announce his retirement plans.

He and his wife, Annis, are natives of Alabama, he of Albertville and she of Boaz. They have six children.

Prior to the Montana post, Nelson was director of missions for Marshall Baptist Association in Alabama. He also held various positions with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, was a home missionary in the Canal Zone and New Mexico and also was director of missions for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico. He was a pastor in Alabama and Mississippi from 1951-59.

Nelson is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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At 'The Edge,' they learn trust,
self-esteem, biblical principles By Joe Scott

ROACH, Mo. (BP)--I was sweating and breathing heavily, clinging to a telephone pole 20 feet in the air, my right leg shaking uncontrollably. My left foot was planted firmly on top of the pole. All I had to do was stand up on the pole -- with nothing to hold on to.

A thought crossed my mind more than once: "What in the world am I doing up here?" I stayed there for what seemed like an hour, battling with my will and common sense. Shouts of encouragement came from below, and finally I stood slowly, my right foot easily covering the remaining bit of uncovered pole.

I inched my way around to face a trapeze several feet away, and leaped toward it -- a "leap of faith." Only one hand found the trapeze; the other thrust too far. Momentum and sweat caused the bar to slip from my grasp. I plummeted down toward the sun-baked earth before I bounced back up like a bungee jumper and dangled in midair from the belay line attached to my harness.

That was just part of Windemere Baptist Assembly's new challenge course, "The Edge." The course, constructed earlier this summer, has low and high elements. The Edge's low elements include a platform for a trust fall, in which a person falls backwards into the arms of other participants; a spider web, where groups use teamwork to get through a web-like rope course; and a swinging log that everyone must negotiate.

The high element includes a zip line, which requires you to hang on to a pulley attached to a cable that angles downward and ride it nearly to the ground.

Windemere registrar George Lakatos and nine staff members went through an intensive training course to learn to become facilitators on "The Edge" and even work biblical principles into the training.

"There are a lot of analogies to tie in with the Bible -- like what poles represent in your life," said Charles Peterson of Adventure Experiences in Trinity, Texas. Peterson trained the facilitators for Adventure Experiences, which constructed the \$30,000 course for the Missouri Baptist campground.

"It may feel safe on the poles, but you have to cross over that cable," he said. "God doesn't always want us to remain in our comfort zones.

"We can talk about the ropes holding us, and how that's like Christ in your life," Peterson said. "You're not always aware the rope is there, but it will catch you and keep you from falling."

"Going through the course does several things," Lakatos noted. "It builds self-esteem by giving a sense of achievement. It builds trust in other members of the group and group unity. And it's just fun for people to test their ability."

It "pushes you beyond your limits," Lakatos added, "and that helps you learn about yourself and about others."

Some facilitators still are afraid of heights, he said, but they are now at home on the high element, 30 feet above ground. They have learned to trust their ability, the belay lines that catch them when they fall and their teammates who work some belay lines.

The role of the belayer is critical when one is climbing 30 feet in the air. The belayer has one end of the rope that may be needed to prevent a fall.

"One of the really important things is that you really have to put complete trust in the person belaying," said Miriam Rogers, another Windemere staffer. "I have more confidence being belayed (when I'm up on the high element) than when I'm belaying, because then I'm responsible for the other person."

Dan Davis, another facilitator, noted their group became friends quickly at The Edge. "It gets the staff talking," he explained. "It dispels all the silliness of getting to know each other. It helps you get to the heart of who a person is."

The course is for youth groups and other groups. "It's good for families to come and go through the course," Lakatos said. "It's a lot better than going to see a movie together."

Rogers said The Edge helps build relationships. "For a group of people who don't know each other or who do know each other and don't trust each other, this is a good way to get away from their normal environment and start from scratch on a new relationship."

People on the ground may learn as much as those on the course because every effort is accompanied by shouts of encouragement.

Julie White, an intern at Windemere, had some trouble while trying the "kitten crawl," a high course element that required her to cross two 10-foot lengths of cable. "I was about ready to come down," White said. "But then everyone started yelling, 'You can do it,' and really encouraging me -- and I did it."

Meanwhile, those on the ground saw the powerful effect their words of encouragement could have on people. "It just seems like you're able to do a lot more whenever you have people encouraging you," Rogers said.

Encouragement stretches people. So does accomplishing a difficult task and applying spiritual lessons learned high above the ground.

As I began a long drive home, I wondered what else I could do that I had been afraid to try before.

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Scott is a correspondent for Missouri Baptists' Word & Way newsjournal.

FIRST-PERSON

Hemphill made first team then;
he's likely well-prepared now

By John Roberts

Baptist Press
8/12/94

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--Ken Hemphill was 15 when I met him that muggy July day in 1963. He was soaked with perspiration, but his smile was engaging and his very grown-up handshake was firm. Still nothing about him told me he would one day be a Baptist seminary president.

I was living in Thomasville, N.C., where I was director of public relations for the Baptist Children's Homes and editor of the weekly Charity and Children. Carl Hemphill, my neighbor down the street, was pastor of Carolina Memorial Baptist Church. I had stopped by his house on some errand and was preparing to leave.

"Come downstairs before you go," Carl Hemphill had said with a mischievous grin. "I want to show you what my boy does on hot days like this."

The parsonage basement had been turned into something of an exercise room where the hard-working teen was lifting weights to make his muscular frame still stronger.

The father showed obvious pride as he told of his son's plans for the football season. Assured of making the high school team, Ken's goal now was for a starting position. "It won't be easy for a sophomore, but by building himself up all summer he just may put some older boy on the bench."

Ken Hemphill made the starting team and later played outstanding football at Wake Forest University, where he also won high academic honors. He then earned doctorates from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Cambridge University. I had moved to Greenville to become editor of South Carolina's Baptist Courier and saw little of his football playing. But I did see him at least once as he courted and married Paula Moore of Greenville.

His name surfaced often in Baptist circles as he wrote another book, made a major address, led First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., from 1,000 to 7,000 members.

Now he is the new president of the 4,000-student Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. I imagine he is as ready for that task as he was to win a starting place on the high school football team 31 years ago.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Texas CP study committee proposes 3 giving avenues," dated 8/11/94, please change the first sentence of the last paragraph, beginning "In 1993 ... " to:

In 1993 the SBC Executive Committee approved a policy regarding gifts received by the committee from churches and individuals "for distribution to SBC agencies only" by identifying those gifts as "Cooperative -- SBC Causes," not as Cooperative Program.

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "22 jobs, \$1.4 million pared from HMB in reorganization," dated 8/11/94, please replace the second sentence of the final paragraph with the following: A 13-year HMB employee with more than 40 years of denominational service, in addition to what he is now doing, Banks will assume special responsibilities related to development and fund-raising.

Thanks,
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