



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, CompuServe 70420,250
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232, CompuServe 70420,115
NASHVILLE Linda Lawson, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300, CompuServe 70420,57
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151, CompuServe 70420,72
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223, CompuServe 71173,31

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

December 8, 1994

94-199

TENNESSEE--Volunteers without electricity; fresh water rationed in Haiti.
VIRGINIA--Christmastime devotionals becomes church's tradition.
ILLINOIS--Pastors facing cancer bolstered by the congregations they serve.
TENNESSEE--Broadman & Holman decides not to publish textbook.
TENNESSEE--Southern Baptist Foundation trustees note assets growth.
DALLAS--Fixed Fund target range announced by Annuity Board.

Volunteers without electricity;
fresh water rationed in Haiti

By Tim Yarbrough

Baptist Press
12/8/94

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Fire in a major power plant in Port-au-Prince has knocked out electricity in many parts of Haiti's largest city and has delayed Southern Baptist World Relief food distribution efforts by at least a week.

Mickey Caison of the Brotherhood Commission, coordinator of Haiti relief efforts, said two of the generators at the Haiti Baptist Convention's annex offices have ceased to operate after running long hours following the power outage Nov. 29.

"Some parts of the city have power but the annex offices do not," Caison said. "The generators were too small to be used for such an extended period of time and now have broken down and must be replaced. Also we've had problems with the water pumps at the compound and they must be replaced too."

The absence of all but one operating water well at the annex has resulted in the need to ration water used by volunteers, Caison said. Not only is the fresh water used as a drinking source for volunteers, but it also used in the food distribution operation.

Distribution of family commodity packs containing rice, beans, flour and cooking oil started Dec. 5. More than 200 volunteers are being recruited by the Brotherhood Commission to work in food distribution through March 11.

"Team members continue to struggle with these problems and still keep up with the demand for family packs," Caison said. "We're hoping to produce 500 packs daily. We're a week behind schedule now because of these problems." About 1,500 of the packs have been distributed since Dec. 5.

Although the overall enlistment of volunteers for Haiti relief is going well, Caison said critical weeks still remain unfilled.

"A team of 10 volunteers is still needed for the week of Dec. 16-24," Caison said. "If we don't fill this team, it will put us two more weeks behind in food distribution."

Information about the Haiti relief effort may be obtained by calling the Brotherhood Commission at 1-800-280-1891 or (901) 272-2461. Financial contributions for the Haiti project may be sent to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, or to the Foreign Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767.

Christmastime devotionals
becomes church's tradition

By Valerie Hancock

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. (BP)--The meaning of Advent is clear to members of Tomahawk Baptist Church, Midlothian, Va. -- as clear as the star that shown so brightly that first Christmas.

Like the shepherds who walked the road to Bethlehem to greet the newborn King, the church family approaches each Advent season with unity, sharing personal experiences as they await the celebration of Christ's birth.

"I have come to realize that people's stories -- whatever their stories -- are the most effective means of communicating whatever it is we're speaking about, particularly when you're talking about the gospel," said Clay Thornton, the church's pastor. "Hearing how God has touched the lives and hearts of people you know and hearing about the things that have happened to them -- that's what it's all about."

Members of the church find truth in the pastor's words as they spend time in meditation and prayer with the church's annual "Advent Devotions," a booklet written by members of the church since the late 1980s to aid families in worshipping together during Advent.

"It is a way to personalize the Advent season for our church and to touch people with stories they can relate to," Thornton said.

Jim Wagoner, chairman of the deacons, wrote in one of his devotions: "As a child, I remember that there were many meals that consisted of nothing but cornbread and milk Looking back I realize that there probably was little else in the house for (my mother) to fix. My mother, however, always made this simple fare of cornbread and milk seem like a meal fit for kings. She spoke only of how good it was and I must admit 'brainwashed-or-not' that cornbread and milk is still a favorite of mine to this day As we begin the Advent season, let us reflect on simple things and how God used even the humblest beginning to present His Son when He came to dwell among us."

In this year's edition, Wagoner is one of four writers, who each composed seven devotions around one of four themes -- prophecy, peace, joy and love. Thornton gave suggested Scripture passages and songs for the writers to consider, and then the writers modeled their ideas and experiences around a central theme. There is also a Christmas symbol and prayer thought suggested for each day.

According to Thornton, the idea is to give families a guide to having devotions together daily during Advent. Hopefully, families will read Scripture, sing a carol and possibly display the symbol in their home, he said. He also suggested families light candles in an Advent wreath, decorate a chrismon tree or display a creche, more commonly known as a Nativity scene, adding figures as Christmas approaches.

With a mailing list numbering more than 600 families, Thornton said the community would be disappointed if the church did not continue to publish the booklet.

"We have set an expectation each year. Now we have a responsibility to help people with this type of devotion," he said.

Gail King, one of the booklet's authors, says the devotions are intended to help families remember the true meaning of Christmas among all the events going on in people's lives.

Recently diagnosed with a serious health problem, King chose to write on the subject of peace. "Since that time I have come to walk so much closer to God and I am doing very well. My doctor calls me a walking miracle," she said.

Not only does King write of the peace she feels, but also of the peace she has been able to make with family members in her life.

A section in one of her devotions states: "There had been a rift in my family that no one seemed to be able to heal. Two of my sisters had not spoken to each other for many years In the past year one of these sisters has found out that she has lung cancer. My brother and I are also ill, so we wanted to get all six (siblings) together as soon as we could. I prayed for the wisdom to help heal the breach. The Lord sent me a miracle. Through His love He gave me the right words to say and my family was once again made whole."

--more--

Forcing themselves to put their thoughts on paper gave the four church members an opportunity to think back over the gifts God has given them and the blessings they continue to reap from his grace, Thornton said.

"It surprised me how personal I was able to be with all my writing -- God gave me the ideas and ability to write meaningful words," said Sarah Cosby, the church's secretary, who contributed devotions on joy.

Even though Cosby's twins will soon be 18 years old, she still remembers the complications she encountered when she gave birth. But ultimately she remembers the joy God bestowed.

In one of her devotions Cosby recounts: "I believed (the twins) were really mine, and I have always been thankful to God for giving our family two healthy babies that night ... God was with us ... And as Mary did the night of Jesus' birth, I quietly treasure these things in my heart and often think about them."

King said she knew many of the things she wrote about, but had never before been forced to verbalize them. "It crystallized my feelings into tangible things -- into words. A lot of it floats around in your mind and you don't ever nail it down," she said.

"I think I knew some of these things intellectually, but maybe not emotionally and having to write about it made me feel it in an emotional way."

Thornton said he hopes all who read the devotions will be forced, as the writers were, to reflect on their relationship with God and each other during the Christmas season.

--30--

Hancock is lifestyle editor at the Register-News, Mt. Vernon, Ill., and a free-lance writer.

**Pastors facing cancer bolstered
by the congregations they serve** By Ferrell Foster

**Baptist Press
12/8/94**

BOURBONNAIS, Ill. (BP)--They have stood with others who walked through the valley called cancer. Now, pastors Rick Ozee and Duane Faulkenberry are in that valley themselves, and others are walking with them.

Both men have had to face the possibility of imminent death, and both have been blessed by churches that have ministered to their minister.

Rick Ozee has "ups and downs." He knows many people are praying God will heal him of tumors that have attacked his colon and spine, and that gives him courage. But, "at the same time," he said, "if I look at it scientifically, it's terminal."

Ozee is a 47-year-old husband and father. Several months ago, the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Bourbonnais, Ill., had no idea of the trial waiting on the horizon for him and his family.

The first concerns surfaced in March. A colon biopsy resulted in a "benign" verdict. A few days later, a doctor expressed new concerns. Surgery revealed the cancer. Chemotherapy and radiation followed a colostomy.

Tests later indicated the colon cancer was responding to treatment. Then, on Sept. 27, scans revealed spots on Ozee's liver and a tumor by the number one vertebra. And the colon cancer has returned.

"It's most likely inoperable because of the spread," the pastor said. "They're treating me with chemo in hopes that it will shrink the tumors or cause them not to grow so fast."

The ordeal has been worsened by a health problem faced by Ozee's son, Chad, a student at William Jewell College in Missouri. He has been diagnosed with having hypoglycemia. And Ozee's wife, Bev, received a scare from a mammogram in early September; but subsequent tests revealed there was no problem. (The other member of the Ozee family is Christa, a 15-year-old high school sophomore.)

In the midst of the trials, Ozee faces his own cancer with memories of others with the disease whom he has stood by as their pastor. "I know what cancer can do to the body," he said. It can cause extreme pain that can lead to the use of drugs that take a person "to the point where it's really not life."

--more--

But he has also learned, through his own illness, something about ministry to cancer patients. "Some of the things I thought might be helpful to them might not be helpful at all," Ozee said.

For instance, he cited his use in the past of words like, "The Lord's working his will in your life." It's true, the pastor said, "but it does not relieve the fear of pain and suffering."

So what, has he discovered, does a cancer patient need?

"You need to feel the presence of people who care, not their words but their touch."

And Ozee has received that touch from people in Bethel Baptist and from churches where he has served in the past.

"The greatest thing has been that I have a tremendous support group" in the church.

Ozee made special note of the deacons. "We have a tremendous group of deacons in this church, and they're not afraid to hug me."

On one difficult night, several of them came to Ozee's house, knelt with him and placed their hands on him. "There was just a peace that came that was hard to describe, the feeling that they're available and willing to come. ... The whole church is that way."

The deacons also proposed that Ozee take a six-month paid sabbatical, but understood when he said he wanted to keep working.

Then they each decided to prepare a sermon so they would be ready to fill in for their pastor if, on short notice, Ozee was not able to preach. And they covered the Wednesday night service for a number of weeks.

The church has helped in another way -- providing air travel for the family. Someone gave money to fly Chad home for his father's surgery, and there is still money for one or two more trips. The church also paid for Bev to fly to Kansas City to be with their son during his health struggles.

Then there's the Women on Missions group in the church that brought Ozee a "Sunshine Basket" containing gifts to be opened on days "when you're feeling down."

And "the prayer support has just been phenomenal for me."

Despite all the wonderful support, Ozee still has a cancer that threatens his life.

"I wrestle with what I know God can do as opposed to what God will do," the pastor stated.

And he's honest about not being ready to die. "It hit me hard that I may not be able to see my family grow up," Ozee said. Chad will soon be ordained into the ministry, and Christa has acknowledged a call to missions. And, yet, their father is concerned for them now. "They live with the knowledge that I may not be around."

But in the midst of all the struggles, the pastor speaks of a genuine appreciation for the church that called him five and a half years ago. "This church has been just the greatest church," Ozee said. "I can see why pastors have had lengthy stays at Bethel."

For Duane Faulkenberry, 36-year-old pastor of Hurricane Memorial Baptist Church, Herrin, Ill., "Facing your own mortality is a defining moment in your life." When that moment arrived for him this year, he no longer saw life as being a series of "endless tomorrows."

A June biopsy revealed his malignancy. Faulkenberry has Hodgkin's' Disease, a cancer of the lymphatic system.

The pastor took some comfort from doctors' pronouncements that "if you must have cancer, this is the kind to have because it is the most curable and treatable," Faulkenberry said.

But still, he grew depressed. The Hodgkin's had begun at his collarbone and spread to his chest.

Duane: "The uncertainty of everything is so difficult to deal with. ..."

Rhonda, his wife: "I think I've taken it better than he has. ... He gets depressed."

Duane: "I've seen more cancer. ... I've just seen too much. I've been with a lot of my parishioners. ..."

Rhonda: "On the ride home (after getting the bad news), he talked about wills, dying. ..."

Duane: "I was very negative. I saw the worst side in everything. I asked (the surgeon), 'How long am I going to live?' ... I was resigned to it."

The situation also tested Faulkenberry's beliefs. "It was a time when I had to figure out if the stuff I had been preaching was real," he said. "I've been telling folks that God will give you the strength to deal with it ... He will bring glory to himself. And we have to have faith and trust God.

"I've also told people that life is eternal, that death is not something you should be afraid of," Faulkenberry said. Now, regarding his own situation, he said, "I'm not afraid of death, but I dread dying."

In the midst of the fears and the struggles, Hurricane Baptist Church stepped forward to support its pastor. Faulkenberry had only been there since early in the year.

The deacons called a secret meeting (so the pastor wouldn't know). The result was a proposed resolution of support for their pastor, which the church unanimously adopted in July. It reads:

"We the members of the Hurricane Baptist Church resolve to support our pastor ... and his family, in good times and bad, in Christian love, prayer, fellowship, ministry, and financially, to the extent of our resources."

Deacon Chris Nielson said that even in the "secret" meeting, "not a person" spoke against the proposal. "We've got a couple of good older leaders that are servant-oriented," Nielson said by way of explanation.

"Everybody knew there had to be uncertainty" in the Faulkenberry household, and the resolution had to be "strong enough to take away some of that uncertainty," Nielson said.

The deacons were right. Faulkenberry said he had wondered, since he was new on the field, "how much patience the church family would have with me," whether they would "pay me if I can't work."

The church answered those questions without them being asked. And, the pastor said, "The folks at Hurricane really consider this thing rather unremarkable." They have the attitude of "this is what we do."

Their response has confirmed what Faulkenberry heard from two former pastors before he went to Hurricane. They "told me the deacons at Hurricane are a ministering body that cares about the pastor."

And in late October the Faulkenberrys received some good news. There has been a 75 percent reduction in the cancer since he began chemotherapy.

In the midst of it all, Faulkenberry said, "I have never felt so loved and cared for in all my life."

--30--

**Broadman & Holman decides
not to publish textbook**

**Baptist Press
12/8/94**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A textbook on principles of biblical interpretation will not be published by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers as earlier planned and announced in a catalog because the manuscript did not meet doctrinal guidelines of the Baptist Faith and Message, according to Charles Wilson, vice president for trade publishing.

"Hermeneutics and Theology: A Scriptural Approach" by Charles J. Scalise was scheduled for release in August 1995. Scalise, associate professor of church history at the Seattle extension center of Fuller Theological Seminary, formerly taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The Baptist Faith and Message, a doctrinal statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963, is the editorial standard for all materials published by the board.

--more--

"When we contract with an author, we enter that relationship fully expecting to publish a book," Wilson said. "However, the publisher has the right to make a decision that a book should not be published. In this instance, we have exercised that right.

"While it is unusual for us not to go forward with a publishing project, it is not unprecedented," he added.

Scalise, in a prepared statement, said, "By breaking its contract to publish this book, Broadman and Holman Publishers has demonstrated that it is an untrustworthy partner in the ministry of serious evangelical Christian publishing."

Scalise said after contracting with Broadman & Holman in late 1992, he submitted the final chapters of the manuscript in July.

Wilson noted that, after receiving the final chapters, editorial work was completed and the conclusion reached in November that the manuscript would not be published.

A catalog containing information about the forthcoming release was distributed earlier in the fall, a development Wilson called "unfortunate, but a necessary and routine process in the book publishing world."

"In the process of developing promotion pieces, including the catalog, we regularly include information about books that will be released in the next few months as well as those already available," he said.

In the catalog, the book is described as a "textbook for college and seminary courses" that "also makes an excellent resource for lay study groups and self-guided personal study."

"Before the Enlightenment," the catalog states, "Christian disagreements on this question were tempered by a core of agreement on foundational issues regarding the historical accuracy of Scripture. With the advent of modernity, however, even these foundational issues came into dispute as Christians began to question traditional definitions of history and debate the relationship between history and theology.

"In this volume, Charles Scalise introduces the hermeneutical problem that has divided Christians for two centuries and presents a canonical way for thinking Christians to reflect on the doctrine of God," the catalog continues.

Wilson said all rights to the manuscript now belong to Scalise and he is free to seek another publisher.

--30--

Southern Baptist Foundation
trustees note assets growth

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press
12/8/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foundation heard reports, elected new officers and noted the SBC agency's assets under its management increased the past year to a record \$166,740,060.

Elected to a one-year term as chairman of the trustee board was Leonard M. Brannan, a businessman from Chattanooga, Tenn. Brannan was vice chairman for 1993-94. Terry M. Turner was elected vice chairman and Roy L. DePue, secretary. Both men are from Nashville.

In other action during the board's annual meeting Dec. 6-7, trustees approved a strategic plan for 1994-97 and a resolution adopting an amended supplement to the agency's Convention Annuity Plan with the SBC Annuity Board.

Little mention was made, and no action taken, regarding a once-proposed plan by the Annuity Board to enter the investment management field as a competitor. Foundation President Hollis E. Johnson III told trustees he had met with the special Program and Structure Committee of the SBC Executive Committee which is studying the programs of the various SBC agencies. The report from that committee is expected sometime next year.

Although calling the "market environment for fixed income ... extremely treacherous," Johnson said the foundation was able to minimize the effect of that environment by maintaining large cash positions throughout most of the year. Assets under management increased \$8,112,748 in market value to a new record total of \$166,740,060, Johnson told trustees.

--more--

"Despite the slowdown in growth of assets over the past two years, assets under management have increase at a compound annual rate of 11.9 percent over the past five years," Johnson said. "We didn't lose a client in a tough year."

The income produced by th assets increased \$598,369 to a record total of \$10,682,350 or a 5.9 percent increase over last year, Johnson said.

For the agency's operating budget, income exceeded expenditures by \$72,700, leaving the operating fund at the end of the fiscal year at \$403,640 compared to \$330,940 last year.

The major source of funding for the foundation's operating budget is the Cooperative Program but its share of the budget has declined from 95 percent seven years ago to 51 percent in 1993-94, Johnson said, with fees charged clients making up the difference. The SBC provided the foundation with \$301,667 last year but \$285,202 was distributed, undesignated, back through the Cooperative Program from trusts administered by the agency.

The strategic plan adopted by the trustees will seek to focus on the "process of delivering investment services, communication with clients and other constituents, a review of the program statement and the sufficiency of present sources for the operating budget." Implementation of the plan will allow the foundation to be a "more effective provider of trust and investment services to Southern Baptists," Johnson said.

Elected to the trustees' 12-person executive committee were Hoffman C. Harless, Nashville, and John Nanney, Jackson, Tenn. The executive committee meets monthly with the staff in directing the work of the foundation.

The foundation was established to "motivate and encourage the making of gifts, donations and benefactions by deed, will, gift annuity, or otherwise for the advancement, extension and maintenance of the various causes and objects fostered by the SBC." Trustees are representatives of each SBC board, agency, institution and commission, plus 15 members at large.

--30--

**Fixed Fund target range
announced by Annuity Board**

**Baptist Press
12/8/94**

DALLAS (BP)--Officers of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention are projecting a 1995 earnings range for the board's Fixed Fund of 5.25 percent to 6.25 percent, a slightly higher return than projected for 1994.

John R. Jones, senior vice president for fiduciary services, said, "I am glad to note the beginning of an upturn in the projected earnings range following an extended period of falling interest rates."

The Fixed Fund credited a cumulative 5.15 percent through November 1994, which placed it on track for a 1994 performance about mid-point of the projected range of 5.15 percent to 6.15 percent.

"Observers of the Fixed Fund will recall that it is less volatile than our other investment funds. In falling interest rate environments it does not fall as fast and in rising interest rate environments it tends to lag the uptrend in interest rates," Jones said.

The Fixed Fund target range is not guaranteed, but the board believes there is a high probability of performance within the range.

"The crediting rate each month is the actual performance of the fund, and there are fluctuations based on month-by-month experience," Jones said.

Members can change the fund or funds to which contributions are made by notation on their monthly billings or by calling the Annuity Board's toll-free number, 1-800-262-0511.

Accumulations in funds can be moved once each month by written instruction to the Annuity Board.

Jones encouraged members to secure Annuity Board brochures describing funds and possible diversification strategies before making decisions on investment of contributions and accumulations.

--30--

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, TN 37234

F
I
R
S
T

C
L
A
S
S

Southern Baptist Library
and Archives