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Network ranks True Love Waits
among top 1994 newsmakers

Baptist Press
12/29/94

DALLAS (BP)--USA Radio Network in Dallas has rated Southern Baptists' "True Love Waits" campaign among the top news stories of 1994 in the network's year-end wrapup.

The network provides 24-hour news coverage to 1,146 domestic radio stations and four short-wave, overseas stations, including Armed Forces Radio.

John Clemens, news director and vice president of the Dallas-based network, said he had selected approximately 10 stories, "in no particular ranking of importance," as the most significant during the past year.

"The magnitude and the significance of having 25,000 youngsters proclaim their faith and their walk with the Lord in a pledge of abstinence in the nation's capital is a monumental event in these dark days," Clemens said.

He said the July 29 national True Love Waits celebration on the National Mall emerged as a top story for the network along with stories related to government actions, assisted suicide issues, homosexual rights, the November elections and the December resignation of U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders.

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Trustee committee approves
music dean for Southwestern

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A new dean for the school of music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Benjamin Harlan, was elected to the position Dec. 14 by the trustees' executive committee in a telephone conference call.

Harlan, 40, who earned a doctor of musical arts degree from Southwestern in 1981, has been assistant professor of church music at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary since 1989.

Harlan will begin his duties with the start of spring semester classes Jan. 16, said Scotty Gray, executive vice president at the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary and acting dean of the music school the past five months.

Harlan succeeds James McKinney, who retired July 31 after 37 years as dean of the music school.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Gray said Harlan received "unanimous and enthusiastic" approval in a meeting with Southwestern's 24 music faculty members prior to his formal recommendation for the post in early December by the trustees' academic committee and seminary President Ken Hemphill.

The Dec. 14 vote by the trustees' executive committee was not reported to Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention based at the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn. News of Harlan's election was reported by Associated Baptist Press Dec. 21.

The trustees' executive committee acts in behalf of the full board between regular meetings. The next scheduled trustee meeting is May 1-3 in conjunction with Hemphill's May 1 inauguration as president.

"I think he (Harlan) will achieve a balance of musical integrity and what can be meaningfully appreciated by people in the churches," Gray said when asked about a controversy over contemporary versus classical music styles that pitted trustees against former Southwestern President Russell H. Dilday Jr. Trustees voted to fire Dilday last March, and the music issue was among concerns they cited; twice they had rejected Dilday nominees for McKinney's successor.

Harlan's balance is "what the board and the music faculty have been wanting," Gray said, noting both groups were unanimous in their approval of the new dean. "He has strong academic preparation, extensive practical experience, and he brings to Southwestern a commitment to preparation of students for music ministry in the 21st century."

Gray was the music school's associate dean for doctoral programs when Harlan was pursuing his doctorate, and he taught at least one course Harlan took.

T. Bob Davis of Dallas, a member of the trustee executive committee who was involved in the controversy, told Associated Baptist Press that Harlan is "an excellent composer-arranger, excellent keyboard artist, with an excellent personality." Davis, a dentist active in the music ministry at Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, where Harlan once was a staff member, predicted the new dean's "effervescent, gregarious approach" will be what the program needs.

Trustee chairman Ralph Pulley, a Dallas attorney, issued a statement Dec. 29: "We are delighted the Lord led Dr. Harlan to Southwestern. He will bring an additional dimension to the life of the seminary as dean. He will be a positive force for the future of the school of music."

Harlan, a Winnfield, La., native, earned bachelor and master music degrees from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, before undertaking his doctoral study.

He has held music positions in three churches -- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; First Baptist Church, St. Francisville, La.; and Prestonwood in Dallas.

He and his wife, Connie Lynn, have three children.

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N.Y. convention marks
its 25th anniversary

Baptist Press
12/29/94

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of New York celebrated the 25th anniversary of its constitution Nov. 3-4 at the Sheraton Convention Center in Syracuse.

There were 263 registered messengers and more than 200 visitors who attended the event which celebrated the convention's original 70 churches in 1969. Currently, the convention encompasses 227 churches, 120 mission-type churches and 113 Bible study/fellowship groups.

Building on a three-year emphasis of "A New Day for Mission Advance," the convention closed with a missions rally featuring SBC President Jim Henry as keynote speaker.

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During each session of the annual meeting, former and current church members and staff presented historical vignettes from first 25 years of the convention. Many former staff members were present and were recognized during the report periods of the appropriate divisions. The two previous executive directors, Paul James and Jack Lowndes, both attended.

In matters of business, the convention adopted a total budget of \$2,731,875, a 3 percent decrease due to a \$101,549 decrease in total funding from the Home Mission Board. A 2 percent decrease is projected in gifts from the churches. For the sixth consecutive year, the convention voted to increase the percentage of undesignated contributions sent to the Southern Baptist Convention by one quarter percent to 26.5 percent for national and international missions.

After considerable discussion, some of which was very passionate, the convention adopted a "Resolution of Racial Repentance" which dealt with the racism in the world and the church. It also acknowledged responsibility for past racism as a denomination and as individuals and expressed repentance. The resolution further pledged to work for acceptance of all people of all races in a mutual commitment to uphold and proclaim the gospel.

Sam Simpson, pastor of Bronx and Wake Eden Baptist churches, Bronx, N.Y., was elected convention president with a plurality of votes in a ballot with two other nominees. The state convention constitution does not require a majority of the votes case, so no runoff was necessary. Simpson previously served two terms as president, 1987-88.

Other officers elected were Nancy Ryals, Glen Ridge, N.J., first vice president; Dale Meredith, Amherst, N.Y., second vice president; Steve Blake, Hurley, N.Y., recording secretary.

The convention's 1995 session will be Nov. 2-3 in New York City.

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Ruschlikon seminary campus
sold to Swiss insurance firm

Baptist Press
12/29/94

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--The International Baptist Theological Seminary sold its Ruschlikon, Switzerland, campus Dec. 19 to a Swiss insurance firm for about \$20 million.

Seminary trustees plan to use proceeds from the sale to pay for a new 14-acre site in Prague, Czech Republic, renovate the 22 buildings there, and relocate. They also plan to establish an endowment to provide scholarships for future students.

The seminary plans to complete its relocation to Prague this coming summer. The new owners will take over the site Sept. 1 and use it for a training facility and guest housing.

The 45-year-old Ruschlikon seminary has graduated 1,200 students in its full-time program and hundreds more in short-term courses mainly for pastors and lay persons in Eastern Europe. Former students serve in 65 countries throughout the world.

Through the years it had also become a popular conference site for Baptists in Europe.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board founded the seminary in 1949 but later turned it over to the European Baptist Federation. Board trustees stopped funding it in 1992, citing philosophical and theological differences.

In deciding in 1993 to relocate eastward, the European Baptist Federation considered such factors as the opening up of Eastern Europe to religious freedom and the high cost of living in Switzerland.

In the sale contract, European Baptists kept the seminary chapel and the land on which it sits. The chapel was built using funds from Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

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**Corts named president-elect
of Southern Association**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Samford University President Thomas E. Corts has been elected president-elect of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional accrediting organization that represents more than 12,000 public and private schools at all levels of education.

Corts was elected during SACS' annual meeting Dec. 12-14 in San Antonio, Texas. He concluded his second term as chairman of SACS' Commission on Colleges at the same meeting. He will assume the presidency of the association at the annual meeting in Atlanta in December 1995, the association's centennial year.

SACS is one of six regional accrediting bodies in the United States, covering 11 southern states from Virginia through Texas as well as American schools in Latin America.

The organization is a nongovernmental agency which oversees accreditation, a peer-evaluation process to ensure that an education program meets standards set by educators from other similar schools. Membership is voluntary. It has separate commissions for elementary and middle school, secondary and middle schools, and degree-granting colleges and universities.

Corts, in his 12th year as Samford president, also serves as president of the American Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities. He is past president of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Universities.

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Bob Maddox to edit
Capital Baptist

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Former White House official Robert Maddox was named editor of Capital Baptist by the District of Columbia Baptist Convention's executive committee Dec. 8.

Maddox, 57, assumes the part-time editorial position Jan. 1. He also will continue as pastor of Briggs Memorial Baptist Church, Bethesda, Md., his full-time pastorate the past three years.

As editor, he succeeds Victor Tupitza, who handled the convention's news duties the past three years and indicated his desire last summer to retire at the end of the year.

In addition to the monthly periodical, Maddox will edit the news summary for pastors, Capital Baptist Weekly.

Prior to becoming Briggs' pastor, Maddox was executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State from 1984-92, with duties including oversight of a monthly periodical.

Maddox initially achieved national recognition while pastor of First Baptist Church, Calhoun, Ga., and President Jimmy Carter invited him to become a member of his speechwriting staff. Maddox also headed the White House's Office of Liaison to the Religious Community. He left those positions in 1980 with Carter's defeat for re-election.

During his years as Briggs's pastor, Maddox has been a member of the D.C. convention's executive board and executive committee.

Maddox said he views his new editorial work as a continuum of his pastoral ministry. "I'll be writing as a local minister seeking to translate that experience into a convention perspective," he said.

His ministry at Briggs, he added, "has given me a daunting and exciting task - that of reaching people in the capital area."

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Maddox has prepared articles for the "Laymen's Bible Commentary" and Bible studies for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Other articles have appeared in "The Explorer," an environmental encyclopedia, and a variety of journals. He is the author of two books, most notably "Preacher at the White House," recounting his years in Washington, and "The Separation of Church and State: Guarantor of Religious Freedom." With his wife, Linda, a youth and adult conference speaker on spiritual development, he is coauthor of a third book, "Get Off My Back."

The Maddoxes are parents of three adult children and reside in Falls Church, Va.

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Preacher kept promise
to reach out to inmate

By Jerry Pierce

Baptist Press
12/29/94

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Because a Baptist preacher kept his word to a stranger nearly 18 years ago, Don Holt's life has changed radically.

"I couldn't for the life of me figure out what his reason was," Hold said of Irvin Judd's frequent visits to the prison where Holt was jailed. "I learned later that (Judd) had met my brother on an airplane to California."

During that flight Judd promised Holt's brother he'd visit Holt once he returned home to western Arkansas.

Holt was a four-time felon serving 500 years in the state penitentiary at McAlester, Okla., when Judd first tried to contact him.

During his mid-teens Holt started using nose inhalers, then harder drugs. Before long he was stealing to buy drugs.

Authorities arrested him at age 21 after he robbed a post office east of Oklahoma City.

Holt spent more than 15 of the next 22 years behind bars.

"I'd find myself in prison or the county jail before I came to my senses," he said. "That was the pattern of my life for those 22 years."

The last time he went to prison was in 1975 for an armed robbery he committed with two other men in Tulsa. The 500-year sentence was due to his previous felonies.

In the spring of 1976, he escaped over the prison wall at McAlester with several other inmates and was caught the next day trying to steal a truck.

The warden sent him to a maximum-security cell for nine months in a section of the prison inmates called "The Rock."

"It's a prison within a prison," Holt said.

While there the Holy Spirit began to convict him.

Also, it was during that span that Judd began writing Holt.

After authorities sent him back to the main prison population, Judd, who'd taken an interim pastorate only 25 miles away, was allowed to visit Holt.

"As soon as he got off 'The Rock,' I started going to the prison very week and started dealing with him," said Judd, now pastor of Friendship Baptist Church near Porum Landing, Okla. "I really started seeing changes in him. He began to blame himself instead of everybody else for the things he'd done."

As a teen-ager, Holt responded to an altar call during a revival at Oklahoma City's Agnew Avenue Baptist Church but the "neat feeling" he gained was soon lost.

"I guess I figured getting saved was sort of a transaction you made," Hold said.

On his birthday, March 15, 1977, Holt tried to quit smoking. After battling his urges for 10 hours, he finally lit up a cigarette.

Broken and frustrated by his inability to change, Hold was in his 5-by-7-foot prison home that day when the supernatural occurred.

"I was in my cell when I was visited by the Holy Spirit, and it was the same Holy Spirit I'd met when I was 17 over in that church on Agnew," Holt recounted.

"That was the turning point in my life. That's the one event that I can point to when there was definitely a reversal."

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Holt spent the next five years in prison "witnessing to everybody who would listen."

"He made his change and he stood with his change," Judd said. "He had what it took to do things different than a lot of men did in prison. They're expecting you to walk your talk. He did that."

In 1981, Marvin York, then president pro tempore of the Oklahoma Senate, was touring the Harp Correctional Center in Lexington, Okla., where Holt had been transferred when he noticed Holt, whom he'd defended as a young lawyer in the 1960s.

"I had an opportunity to witness to (York)," Holt said. "I touched him in such a way he came back to visit."

York told Holt: "I don't think you belong in here anymore."

In February 1982, York and Holt petitioned the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board to release Holt. On Jan. 19, 1983, Oklahoma Gov. George Nigh signed Holt's parole papers.

Once free, Holt worked two and a half years in a Tulsa cabinet shop and got involved with a supportive group of believers.

In March following his release, he was back in prison -- this time voluntarily -- to witness for Christ.

"I'd go back any way I could," he said.

In 1985 he moved to Oklahoma City to work for a window company. He joined Hilltop Baptist Church near Norman and submitted himself to the authority of the pastor.

In 1989, Gov. Henry Bellmon granted Holt a full pardon, releasing him from a parole that would have extended well into the next century.

One year later, at age 50, with 30 hours of college credit earned in prison, Holt enrolled in Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., on a Charles Colson Scholarship.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Christian education in 1993 and now works for Campus Crusade for Christ's prison ministry.

Currently he is raising support for a position with Campus Crusade in Atlanta in which he'll write discipleship material and train ministry teams to work with newly converted inmates.

"One thing about an inmate; you don't have to tell him he's a sinner," Holt said. "He knows he's a sinner."

In Judd, who now visits death row inmates almost weekly, he found a lifelong friend and mentor.

"I guess he just wanted to show me that he loved me," Holt said. "That's grace."

"I just kept my word to his brother," Judd said. "I saw a need and went ahead and tried to meet it."

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Pierce is a writer with the South Oklahoma City Leader.

Managing time wisely
means controlling events

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
12/29/94

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--People who constantly feel events are controlling them more than they are controlling events have a time management problem, a seminar leader told a group of ministers to students during a national student missions conference.

"There is admonition for us as Christians to use our time wisely," Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said in a time management seminar during Mission 95, Dec. 27-31 in Louisville, Ky., sponsored by national student ministry of the Baptist Sunday School Board in cooperation with the Home and Foreign Mission boards, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission.

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"If you think of time only as a clock, you can't manage it," Sheffield said. He suggested defining time as the occurrence of events one after another and time management as the act of controlling events.

To be an effective time manager, he said "each person has to find a system that is comfortable and then work that system." He outlined his personal five-step approach, beginning with analyzing how you spend your time.

"Most people are spending their time on things they don't consider priorities," he said.

Second, he called for prioritizing work, "determining which things are vital and important and which are urgent. The problem is that we spend too little time on things that are important but not urgent. If we say time management is important but not urgent, it's not getting done.

"What we need to do in our planning is to put a sense of urgency on that which is important," Sheffield said.

Every person should do annual, monthly, weekly and daily planning, he noted.

"If you're not spending a minimum of 15 minutes a day in planning, you're missing the boat," he said.

The third step in Sheffield's system is organizing both one's work and work area. Then he said people must energize their bodies, minds and spirits.

Emphasizing that a Christian's body is the "temple of the Holy Spirit," he said, "If you're going to do your best job, you've got to be in physical shape."

Intellectual health is vital for every adult, but is particularly important for a person working with college students, Sheffield said. He urged reading at least one book a month, listening and looking at tapes and being a learner.

Spiritually, he said Christians need energizing from special events such as Mission 95. However, he said a "daily, disciplined time with God" is even more important.

Finally, Sheffield said persons must make maximum use of their time and the tools available to them.

For example, "Go into your meetings with a well-planned agenda. You have other things to do and your students have other things to do."

Sheffield said time management has evolved through three stages, beginning with processes for reminding oneself of work needing to be done, such as to-do lists. The second stage was the introduction of calendars and appointment books with an emphasis on efficiency and planning ahead. Stage three has emphasized planning and "clarifying your values, setting priorities and developing long- and short-range goals."

He noted that Stephen Covey, a well-known business consultant, has called for a fourth stage of managing time based on the guiding principles of a person's life.

With this idea, "we would start our time management with the basic biblical principles we live by," Sheffield said.

He advised the development of goals, even if not required, as part of employment. Goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and trackable, he said.

"From your goals, plan the actions to reach the goals. Then place the actions in your calendar. Goals will help you focus your energy, measure your progress, use resources wisely and be a cause for celebration when you reach them," Sheffield said.

Time management is a tool both for efficiency and effectiveness, he noted. As a tool, it must be managed with flexibility.

"People are more important than things. Always remember that," he said.

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