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March 27, 1995

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Roy Fish sees parallels
to 1970, 1949 revivals

By Ferrell Foster

Baptist Press
3/27/95

CORSICANA, Texas (BP)--One of Southern Baptists' most respected experts on evangelism believes there are signs of revival in the United States today. He sees parallels to earlier movements of God this century, as well as one distinctive.

Roy Fish, distinguished professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, likened what is happening today to revivals in 1949 and 1970. It's "part of the paradigm for revivals in this century," he said in a telephone interview.

But he noted one difference. "I'm hearing of more churches that are having extended services and unusual things that are happening than I did in 1970," Fish said.

The 1949 revival centered around Wheaton and Asbury colleges. The 1970 awakening started at Asbury and was part of the "Jesus revolution," the professor said.

The revival now in progress seems to have started at Coggin Avenue Baptist Church, Brownwood, Texas. It has spread to other churches, college campuses, small gatherings of pastors and larger meetings in several states. It also has crossed denominational lines.

Distinguishing marks of the revival, Fish said, are "extended meetings characterized by honesty, transparency, sincere confession, evidence of repentance and reconciliation."

Fish said one of three terms could be used to describe what is happening -- awakening, revival or renewal. "I like the word revival... where it happens on a pretty good scale," he stated.

The professor said a revival is "an outpouring of the Spirit of God" which enables those affected "to love each other unconditionally, to rejoice in the Lord plentifully, to praise him appropriately, to live lives which are godly, to serve him productively and to witness for him convincingly."

Fish noted "the Bible does say, 'confess your faults one to another.'" And then he offered a "guiding principle" for confession -- "that the circle of one's sin, as a rule, should be the circle of one's confession." However, he added, "I think there are exceptions to this.

"Extreme discretion should be used when confessing sins in the area of sex or sexual immorality," Fish said.

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**Spiritual renewal reported
by churches in Illinois**

By Ferrell Foster

CARLYLE, Ill. (BP)--Broken relationships have been mended and excitement has returned to First Baptist Church, Carlyle, Ill., in recent days, according to pastor Nathan Argent.

Argent's report of spiritual renewal is one of several recently experienced in Illinois.

Prior to Sunday, March 19, the Carlyle church was "in desperate need of renewal and revival," Argent said. "We had just basically reached the point where we just did not feel the presence of God here."

There was "a lot of discouragement," and that extended to the pastor. "Personally, ... I had really gone through a crisis time, ... doubting whether God wanted me in the ministry," Argent said.

But the pastor and his wife attended Illinois Baptists' evangelism conference in O'Fallon, when, on Tuesday night of the meeting, Argent said he "felt like ... God descended on that place in a miraculous way God spoke to my heart, and God spoke to my wife, ... bringing us to the breaking point."

Argent prepared a message for March 19, which was to be youth Sunday at First Baptist in Carlyle, but for the first time in Argent's preaching ministry, he stepped to the pulpit and said, "I have absolutely no idea what I'm going to say." He then told of what had happened at the evangelism conference and in recent stirrings of revival in Texas.

He then said, "The altar's open and the microphone's available" for people to share and pray. The instrumentalists did not play.

He said he realized God was present in the service in a special way when the choir sang a song matching the Scripture passage he planned to read from, Psalm 103. Then one of the church's teen-age girls said in the service that she wanted to see revival in the church.

About 30 people came forward. There were 90 people in attendance.

"It was just an unbelievable time," the pastor said. "We have just never experienced anything like that."

The church now is praying they will not hinder anything God is wanting to do, Argent said.

At Smith Grove Baptist Church, near Greenville, Ill., pastor Roger Lipe recounted, "Thursday night (March 16) we had a real visitation of God."

The church held revival services that week. On Wednesday night, Harmon Mills, director of missions for Kaskaskia Baptist Association, told about what happened at the state evangelism conference on Tuesday in O'Fallon.

Lipe spent Thursday afternoon praying and reading the Bible. He spoke later of "a weight that was on me." He didn't know at the time, but youth pastor Bryan Green was praying and reading Scripture as well.

That evening, Lipe told the congregation he had "let God down ... and let the church down." Green also shared.

"The next thing I knew the altar was full of people praying for us," the pastor said.

Testimonies and confessions from others followed. Visiting evangelist Tim McIntyre, pastor of Winkle Baptist Church, Coulterville, Ill., never got to preach.

Lipe said the church had been praying for revival since last August. "It's been a gradual moving of God."

Sunday school attendance in the rural church has climbed into the 140s in recent weeks. The Sunday before the revival services, five people made professions of faith in Christ. During the week, another nine accepted Christ.

Now, "some people have a real sense of urgency" about being right with God and reaching others for Christ, the pastor said. He asked that Baptists pray that they will know what to do next.

"I think God's done a work" at Whitelaw Avenue Baptist Church in Wood River, said pastor Ken Spires.

During the church's Sunday morning worship service March 19, Richard Farrow, the church's mission pastor, took 20 minutes to tell what God had done recently at Brownwood, Texas, and O'Fallon, Ill.

Farrow invited anyone who wanted to pray, seek forgiveness or confess sins to come forward, Spires said. "They began to come right away." He said many asked for forgiveness from the church or from individuals.

One young man came forward to confess drug use, and he accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, the pastor said. "That really created a lot of happiness, joy and crying."

There were about 200 people in the service. Seventy-five of them came forward, and the service was extended an extra 40 minutes, Spires said.

It then "flowed over" to Sunday night, as Spires asked with anyone had anything to say. "One of our real dedicated teachers said she had a special prayer request, and it just started the that process all over again," the pastor said. "I didn't preach."

Fifteen people came forward that night.

"We didn't manufacture anything" that Sunday, Spires said. He just wanted the Holy Spirit to have a chance to work and the people to have a chance to speak.

"We're excited," he said. "I've never been part of anything like that."

"We're humbled" by the experience. Spires added he wanted no individual or the church to receive any praise -- only God.

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**Stewardship book suggests
fewer carry financial load**

By Orville Scott

**Baptist Press
3/27/95**

DALLAS (BP)--The oft-quoted statistic that 20 percent of the members give 80 percent of the money coming through Baptist churches needs updating, according to Bob Eklund, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' stewardship division, in a new book, "Partners With God: Bible Truths About Giving."

"I have found that in a majority of churches, more like 12 percent give 80 percent of the money, and 50 percent of the members give nothing," Eklund said.

Co-author of the book is Terry Austin, a writer and former pastor who is coordinator of the church services division of Drug Prevention Resources, Dallas. Austin also serves as a consultant for the BGCT stewardship division. The publisher is Convention Press of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Eklund sounds the warning that "80 cents of every dollar seems to be coming from people over 55."

He added, however, that where strong biblical principles are taught, younger adults will give, and even tithe, through their church.

In the book, Eklund and Austin stress the biblical foundation of cooperation and the Cooperative Program as the most successful method of missions support ever devised.

Partners With God, which BGCT Executive Director William M. Pinson Jr. called "a clear inspiring presentation of the Bible teaching about giving," emphasizes it is every Christian's responsibility to be a partner with God and stresses far more is involved than giving of money.

Said Eklund, "God is greatly concerned with our attitudes toward and performance with the money he allows to come into our possessions."

Eklund, who wrote a book on spiritual awakening while serving as associate in the BGCT evangelism division, said, church and biblical history indicate sacrificial giving often has resulted in spiritual awakening.

"The great need in Southern Baptist life today is revival," he said.

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Partners With God, which is available in Spanish or English, may be ordered from the Baptist Sunday School Board's customer service line, 1-800-458-2772. Also available is a 200-page "Teaching Guide" and a 96-page "Teaching Workbook."

Bernie Spooner, director of the BGCT Sunday school division, noted the book "not only addresses biblical principles, but it also gives solid guidance to help Christians get control of their finances."

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City hands Southeastern
setback in rezoning request

By Dwayne Hastings

Baptist Press
3/27/95

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's request to rezone a parcel of the school's land was rebuffed March 21 by the Wake Forest, N.C., town commission.

Ignoring the recommendation of the town's planning board and siding with the area merchants who had voiced opposition to the school's plans, town commissioners voted 4-1 to deny Southeastern's request to rezone 63 undeveloped acres for business and commercial use.

The property, located a mile from the school's campus and fronting U.S. Highway 1, is under contract to Baita, International, an Atlanta development company. Baita's offer to purchase was accepted in January by Southeastern's board of trustees with a contingency that the property be rezoned.

The land currently is classified "rural holding," which means any use of the land would require the city to rezone the land for the particular use.

Saying the request did not match the town's land use plan, commissioner Joseph Cooke made the motion to deny. He noted the board's rejection of a similar zoning request for property a mile farther south late last year.

Cooke reminded the council they previously had voted to rezone a site north of the seminary property for commercial development: "We just approved a shopping center down the road. I don't think it's fair to pull the rug out (from the rezoned site), you know, (and) don't even give them a chance," he said.

That rezoning request met with no resistance from local business owners. A local business journal reported one of the developers in the approved project is part-owner of Thee Doll House, a Raleigh, N.C., adult nightclub.

Commissioner Mac Turner, who cast the lone yea vote in Tuesday's meeting, said he didn't remember anyone going up and down the street trying to protect the town's two smaller independent grocery stores when the existing shopping center on U.S. 1 was built. The two markets have since closed.

Saying this was the most difficult decision he has faced since being elected to the town commission, Richard Finke said, "I even asked for some divine intervention. I didn't receive any. I thought maybe I'd get some guidance, but he left me to do this on my own." He voted against the seminary's request for rezoning.

"We are, of course, disappointed," said Paul Fletcher, Southeastern's vice president for internal affairs, saying the school will continue to pursue the matter with the prospective buyer.

"We believe deeply this project would make a significant and positive contribution to the town's future both by increasing its tax base and by providing employment opportunities for our citizens," Fletcher said.

He estimated development on the land would bring an infusion of \$2 million in taxes to the town of Wake Forest. The community, with a population of approximately 6,500 people, is on the outskirts of the Raleigh-Durham metropolitan area.

"This town is plagued by an aging infrastructure," Fletcher said. "Utility bills and property taxes within the city limits are among the highest in the area. There is a need for planned, responsible growth of the kind we have proposed."

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The seminary's request to rezone was met by a flurry of activity by some merchants in the town's business district and from the owner of a shopping center near the property. The merchants expressed their opposition to the rezoning, warning the town's commissioners that approval of the request would negatively impact their businesses.

An article in the Jan. 27 Triangle Business Journal, an area business weekly, focused on the development dilemma that Wake Forest is facing. The piece portrayed Wake Forest's current downtown business district as a "smattering of gift shops, restaurants, antiques dealers and professional offices."

A petition circulated among the merchants said development on the seminary's parcel would be "clearly in direct competition" with their stores and "in all probability destroy the merchants completely."

Banks Kerr, founder of the Kerr Drug Store chain, sent a letter to the town's manager, Mark Williams, in which he warned that new businesses on the rezoned seminary property would "simply erode the potential for profit" of existing ones.

Calling on the town to maintain a minimum of one mile between commercial developments, Kerr wrote, "Spreading out your retail just makes good common sense. Good planning dictates that goods and service are available at key central locations." Kerr is owner of the lone shopping plaza on the Wake Forest portion of U.S. Highway 1.

In the Feb. 3 letter, Kerr asked Williams for a response in order to "follow up with whatever representation I need from my end."

Following the vote, two of the commissioners released copies of a private letter sent to them by Southeastern President Paige Patterson. The two -- Joseph Cooke, a local businessman, and Rod Byard, a former administrator at the seminary -- accused Patterson of threatening them.

Patterson indicated his letter was prompted by the repeated refusal of several of the council members to meet with him to discuss the vote. In the letter, Patterson said it would be unfair for town officials to criticize the seminary for its tax-exempt land holdings if the town refuses to bring the U.S. 1 property into its tax base by a change in its zoning.

Noting the school came with a proposal that would place the large parcel of land in a "taxable posture," Patterson said a denial of the request "would make it impossible for the seminary to do precisely what many have wanted us to do."

"The plan would do wonders for the city as well as for the seminary. It is a plan which, by the very nature of the agreement we have with the company developing it, would keep out those industries which would be unhealthy for the Wake Forest community."

Patterson said the seminary "had made every attempt in recent months to respond to the city to work out a way to meet both our needs and the needs of the city," but that he could only interpret the commissioners' refusal to cooperate as "placing economic self-interest above the interest of the community."

In the letter, Patterson appealed to the commissioners to support "one of your biggest customers (in) an opportunity that may not come along again for years," saying it was "pettiness" that threatened "to restrain both the seminary and community from the growth that is possible."

Southeastern, the town's largest employer, owns more than 350 acres of undeveloped land separate from the school's main campus in Wake Forest.

Fletcher said part of the seminary's agreement with the developer would allow the school to exert architectural control over the project, explaining the commercial development would match the Georgian style of buildings on the school's historic campus.

"We're a permanent neighbor, we can't leave," Fletcher noted. "We want to maintain a campus atmosphere from the U.S. 1 thoroughfare all the way back to our main campus."

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A former mayor of Wake Forest and the town's current planning director served on the seminary task force that developed Southeastern's land use plan. The proposal targeted the parcel along U.S. 1, a primary north-south corridor through central North Carolina, for commercial development.

It was only two weeks ago that area businesses enjoyed Southeastern's largesse as the seminary gave its gymnasium over to 59 Wake Forest merchants to set up displays as part of the local chamber of commerce's first annual Business and Commerce Conference.

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EDITORS' NOTE: Please substitute the following story for one in Baptist Press, 3/24/95, with the same headline.

Seminary controversy continues
over Mohler's dismissal of dean By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
3/27/95

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Controversy surrounding the school of social work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary continues in the wake of President R. Albert Mohler Jr.'s removal of Diana R. Garland as dean.

A trustee committee will be appointed to study the future of the seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work, according to Vice President for Academic Administration David Dockery. The committee will study whether to keep the school in its present form, change it or discontinue it, Dockery said. The trustee committee will be appointed in April, with a report due by October, he said.

Mohler met with faculty for more than two and a half hours March 23. Comment about the meeting, however, is minimal. A seminary spokesman said Mohler will not comment on faculty or other internal meetings at the seminary. James Chancellor, chairman of the Faculty Committee and associate professor of missions and world religions, also declined to comment to Baptist Press, except to say he had consulted with Dockery and the situation is "very complicated."

The Organization for Student Social Workers at the seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work issued a seven-point "request" of Mohler March 22 including a call for Garland's reinstatement as dean; further dialogue with Mohler; a specific statement of Mohler's plans for social work studies at the seminary; Mohler's stance on homosexuality, abortion and women in ministry "and the role of ministers in relating to these issues;" written comment from Mohler on whether the National Association of Social Workers code of ethics is "congruent with biblical and theological values and ethics;" and public disclosure of "all processes for choosing faculty" at the seminary. The students asked for a written response by April 3.

The student organization's president, Andy Patterson, also has been quoted as saying the group has asked the seminary's accrediting agencies to investigate the upheaval at the school.

The students also conducted a sit-in in front of Mohler's office the week after Garland's removal as dean, with about six to 12 students present at any one time during the day.

The seminary spokesman said Mohler would not issue specific responses to student requests, instead reaffirming his statements in a March 22 letter to students at the Louisville, Ky., seminary.

Mohler wrote in the letter, "... we remain committed to continue the work of the Carver School. We will not concede that the school cannot find faculty who can meet all the requirements for election or appointment. We will work to forge a future for the Carver School which is fully in keeping with the mission and identity of Southern Seminary.

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"Second, we remain committed to those students currently in programs of study through the Carver School. We will do all within our power to see these students through their courses of study. If necessary, we will seek to make special arrangements with other schools in order to ensure that students will graduate."

Meanwhile, David Sherwood, the nominee Mohler turned down for an opening on the social work faculty -- the action that precipitated a challenge by Garland alleging restrictive hiring procedures at the seminary -- released answers he provided to Mohler on the seminary's doctrinal Abstract of Principles and various social issues.

Mohler had cited Sherwood's view on women as pastors as the reason he turned down the nominee, who is director of the social work program at Gordon College, Wenham, Mass., and editor of the journal, Social Work and Christianity.

In his answers to Mohler, Sherwood wrote of women in ministry, "In my understanding of Scripture, God's Spirit blows where it wills and certain (but not all) women may be called to any role in the ministry of the church, just as certain (but not all) men may be. Evangelical scholars committed to the full authority of Scripture differ over this issue. I am sensitive to those differences and I can respect and work with those whose understanding is different from my own, recognizing that I might be wrong. I would expect the same respect and recognition from them. In all these things we must seek to 'preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace ...'" he wrote, quoting Ephesians 4 in the New Testament.

Mohler, on March 21, issued a statement to Baptist Press concerning his view on women in ministry: "Based upon the New Testament, I believe there is a clear pattern of male leadership in the congregation, especially reflected in the office of senior pastor. The New Testament clearly reveals a complementary pattern of relationships between men and women. Spiritual gifts are not gender-specific, but some roles within the church were and are limited to men, just as other roles are more properly fitted for women. It is simply not acceptable to allow a secular egalitarianism to obscure the New Testament pattern. We must maintain trust with the churches we serve, and Southern Baptists have spoken loudly concerning their convictions on this issue. We are a Southern Baptist institution, and we will not apologize for maintaining loyalty to the denomination we serve."

Sherwood, in an interview March 23, said a stance such as Mohler's is "very unusual" among evangelicals. An elder of North Shore Community Baptist Church, Beverly Farms, Mass., affiliated with the Baptist General Conference, Sherwood said, "It seems, within a Baptist context, there ought to be room for honest, biblically based differences, certainly on issues like this that are matters of principle and interpretation. It's not a question of biblical authority in any sense."

Sherwood said he is grieving over a controversy that is "seemingly so unnecessary."

Although Garland has been removed as dean, she remains Gheens Professor of Christian Family Ministry at the seminary. She joined the faculty in 1983 and was appointed dean in 1993. Her husband, David, also teaches New Testament at the seminary.

The faculty selection process was among the concerns addressed by Mohler in his March 22 letter to students:

"The faculty selection process calls for search committees to seek candidates for recommendation to the faculty and then to the President for possible nomination to the Board of Trustees for election. At each stage of this process, issues and questions are raised in order to determine that the candidate meets all the appropriate requirements and expectations of service on this faculty. This is not a new process -- it has served this institution for many years.

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"When a candidate is presented to me for consideration, I take this responsibility with great seriousness. I must know that the candidate's convictions are commensurate with the Abstract of Principles (our Seminary confession of faith), with the (1991) Covenant Renewal document, and that the candidate's convictions on an entire range of issues fall within acceptable parameters. Should the President recommend a prospective faculty member for election, the Board of Trustees then has the responsibility to interview the candidate through the Committee on Academic Personnel. The trustees also bear the responsibility of ensuring that the candidate is fully suitable for election to this faculty.

"This is the rightful expectation of the churches and denomination we serve, and it is the rightful role of the President and trustees. The process guards the appropriate roles of faculty, administration, and trustees, each acting in their proper sphere."

Mohler also noted: "We would never coerce the conscience of any individual. Those who cannot eagerly and freely stand within the parameters set by the trustees and administration should not come to serve on this faculty. This is honest and fair -- and it is fully Baptist in tradition. It reflects the statements made by the founders of this institution. This has been the expectation of this institution from the founding era to the present."

Dockery, in an interview, acknowledged the seminary is operating on four requirements for faculty nomination that reflect a strong consensus among trustees: 1) affirming women in ministry and their giftedness but restricting the role of women in the church from the office of senior pastor; 2) affirming the exclusiveness of salvation in Jesus Christ alone; 3) being clear that the Bible teaches that all homosexual behavior is sinful; and 4) acknowledging that the sanctity of life is pro-life and against abortion except in the most extreme circumstances.

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Many musicians may give a hoot
to play in a church ensemble

Baptist Press
3/27/95

GLEN BURNIE, Md. (BP)--Do you have a neighbor who can be heard practicing music day and night? If so, he or she may be a prospect for your church instrumental ensemble, according to Bob Williamson, instrumental consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Williamson, author of the pamphlet, "Every Instrumentalist is a Prospect," said he regularly sees people join an orchestra and then make professions of faith in Jesus. He shared the story of the conversion of one entire family of musicians whom he met through a classified ad for a french horn.

Regarding strategies for growing instrumental ensembles, Williamson said the most obvious beginning point is to survey your congregation. Find out who can play an instrument or who might have an instrument that they do not intend to play anymore, said Williamson, who led a recent instrumental workshop for Maryland/Delaware Baptists, with more than 30 participants from 12 churches.

For a more unique approach, Williamson said he once went to the local high school library, asked for copies of yearbooks and copied the names of former band players. "A lot of instrumentalists are just waiting to play," said Williamson, who has been involved in music ministry 25 years.

Don't be afraid to "take out-of-shape players," work with them and let them play when they are ready, he said. "Once music gets in your blood, it never gets out," he said.

"It has been 20 years since I played in a band this size," said James Coleman, trumpet player from Hockessin Baptist Church, Delaware.

Most Maryland/Delaware churches do not have full-size orchestras, but several use instrumental ensembles on a regular basis. The workshop was so well received, however, it was determined that Maryland/Delaware Baptists should have a symphony, meeting periodically for rehearsals and playing for a few yearly events.

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Attendance was negligible for a concert that concluded the workshop, but Williamson reminded the instrumentalists they were playing for a "much greater audience" and that their objective as part of a worship team should be to please God.

In Missouri, two similar instrumental workshops attracted about 165 participants.

More and more churches are seeing they can do something with instrumental music, reported Bobby Jones, Missouri Baptist Convention worship development team leader. "They see one church with an ensemble and say, 'We can do that too.'"

Some areas of the country have associations of church instrumental directors, noted Terry McNatt, minister of instrumental music at Germantown (Tenn.) Baptist Church, who conducted one of the Missouri workshops. Atlanta alone has more than a dozen full-time church orchestra directors, he said.

McNatt sees a current trend of churches moving away from larger orchestras. "Many churches are going more to smaller ensembles like praise bands and worship teams" usually a rhythm section with a few wind instruments

Also, he said, "I've seen where many churches are using brass ensembles and similar smaller groups to accompany hymns."

One of the challenges involved with a church orchestra is the many different instruments needed to perform the literature, particularly in rural areas where there may not be accomplished string, oboe or bassoon players.

But McNatt said the way Christian instrumental music has been arranged is changing to where the instrumentation is no longer as big a problem.

"Because more churches are using orchestras, publishers have responded by arranging for the kind of instrumentation a church is likely to have." He said 10 years ago orchestra literature required every part to be played. "Now, the music is written so that it still sounds good even if all the usual instruments aren't there."

The advent of computers also has helped. Several music arranging programs are available that will transpose a piece of music almost instantly. "I can punch a button and change a French horn part into an alto sax part," McNatt said. "I can spend less time putting the music down on paper and more time making the music on the paper come alive, and that's where my first love is anyway."

But even with computers that can provide parts for any instrumentation, finding quality musicians is an ongoing challenge for any music ministry.

"It can be tough to get someone to commit to playing every Sunday until Jesus comes," said Jim Campbell, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Raytown, Mo. "But with the smaller ensembles, the orchestra might play a few times a month and the brass ensemble accompany hymns the other times."

John Jackson, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Farmington, Mo., said he has set up a network with band and orchestra directors in the local schools.

"Building those relationships helps us to know who is out there and what instruments they are playing. The directors know which kids can play well enough to recommend them to us."

McNatt coordinates a school of music at Germantown Baptist Church, which he said was another method of outreach. The school has a current enrollment of about 350 students.

McNatt said church members recognize quality. "I really would rather not have the congregation say, 'Bless their hearts, they'll get there.' I don't want a group to perform until they're ready."

Jackson added the motives behind recruiting young people for a church orchestra should not simply be to have a better group musically. "We approach it as an evangelistic tool. By involving them in the church orchestra, maybe we can have an impact on their lives that will have an eternal consequence."

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Compiled from stories by Ellen Walker in Maryland-Delaware Baptist Life and Brian Smith in Missouri's Word & Way newsjournals.

**Golden Gate names dean
for n w Arizona campus**

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--David McCormick, Southern Baptist missionary to Hong Kong since 1975, has been elected director of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's new regional campus in Arizona.

McCormick was elected unanimously by the executive committee of the seminary's board of trustees. The Arizona campus, based on the campus of Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, officially opens in mid-April, offering the master of divinity and master of arts in Christian education.

"We welcome Dr. McCormick to our leadership team," said GGBTS President William O. Crews. "He strengthens our efforts to provide theological education throughout the growing centers of mission outreach in the West."

McCormick began teaching at Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary in 1976 and has continued as professor of pastoral care and evangelism since that time. While on the mission field, he also has served as interim pastor of five churches.

He completed certification as a supervisor of clinical pastoral education while on leave of absence from the Foreign Mission Board in the late 1980s and early 1990s. During that time, McCormick taught as an adjunct professor at Golden Gate's Southern California Campus in Brea, teaching in the areas of pastoral care, preaching and counseling.

Pastor of two churches in the United States before serving abroad, McCormick received doctor of philosophy and master of divinity degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, a master of science from California State University in Fullerton and a bachelor of arts from California State University in Long Beach.

"Throughout the years, Dr. McCormick has developed a healthy concept of lay involvement and 'pastor-people mutuality' in ministry," noted Rodrick Durst, the seminary's vice president for academic affairs. "The concept of a shared, intentional ministry is important to his goal of seeing churches grow qualitatively, quantitatively and organically."

McCormick and his wife, Deana, have two grown children.

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