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June 8, 1995

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Celebration to focus
on Baptist volunteers

By David Winfrey

Baptist Press
6/8/95

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists from around the country will gather for a celebration of volunteer missions work this September in Arlington, Texas.

The meeting not only will recognize previous volunteer accomplishments, but also educate potential volunteers about missions needs, said event chairman Bob Mills.

"All over the world, each year more than 87,800 Southern Baptists respond to God's call to hands-on kingdom service of every kind imaginable," said Mills, director of Mission Service Corps volunteers at the Home Mission Board.

"The whole experience is to be that of celebration," he added. "We want to celebrate what volunteers have done, what volunteers are doing and what volunteers will do to enhance the kingdom."

Under the theme "Love more than words," the celebration will be held at the Arlington Convention Center, Sept. 15-19. The program includes Bible studies led by Calvin Miller, professor of communication and ministry studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Music and drama will be performed by The Company, a drama team from Southwestern.

Composer Ragan Courtney and singer Cynthia Clawson will lead worship. Speakers include Bob Briner, author of the book "Roaring Lambs," about Christians' role in positively influencing American media.

The celebration comes at a time when the number of Southern Baptists contributing their time to missions continues to rise.

Last year, more than 13,100 Southern Baptists volunteered for foreign missions work, jumping 27 percent from 1993's total of 10,269 volunteers.

In home missions, nearly 69,000 Southern Baptists volunteered for missions work in 1994. That was up almost 10 percent from 1993.

Mike Riggins, associate director of the Mission Service Corps program, said while some civic agencies have experienced declines in volunteerism, Southern Baptists are seeing just the opposite.

"I think we've just seen the tip of the iceberg as God moves among his people to get involved in missions and in ministry."

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Still, many missionaries' volunteer needs are unmet. As many as 40 percent of home missionaries requests for short-term workers go unfilled, said Mike Robertson, director of the HMB student missions department.

The Foreign Mission Board, meanwhile, canceled 376 missions projects last year, many because volunteers were not available.

From an economic standpoint, the work of volunteers for HMB programs is worth more than \$100 million annually, Mills said. "We've got more and more people who are retiring earlier and they're wanting to continue to make a contribution."

He added the outpouring of assistance during the federal building bombing in Oklahoma City proves Southern Baptists have a drive to serve. "They want to help. They want to make a difference, and they're willing to spend their time and their money to do it."

The celebration is sponsored by the Home Mission Board, with participation by the Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union.

Registration costs \$40 per person, excluding meals and lodging. Three-day meal packages are available in advance for \$58. More information is available from state Baptist volunteer coordinators or from the Home Mission Board at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

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A page of camera-ready clip art of the celebration's logo has been mailed to state Baptist newspapers. Also mailed was a sheet of state Mission Service Corps statistics for localizing this story. That data is also available in the SBCNet News Room.

**HMB's Lewis to support PSSC
if 3 amendments accepted**

By Martin King

**Baptist Press
6/8/95**

ATLANTA (BP)--Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis said he will fully support a proposed restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention if three amendments are made in the plan.

Lewis' proposed changes to the report of the Program and Structure Study Committee were outlined in a three-page memorandum to HMB directors and members of the SBC Executive Committee June 2. The Executive Committee has approved and will present the restructure plan to the SBC in Atlanta June 20.

The memorandum follows a 12-page position paper Lewis issued May 25 in which he addressed a number of concerns with the restructuring proposal. He said the detailed nature of his observations caused some observers to misunderstand his position.

"The only part of the PSSC report that I oppose is that which deals with home missions philosophy and strategy," Lewis explained in the June 2 correspondence. "With a few simple word changes, I could support the entire report and would be glad to do so on the floor of the convention."

Lewis' proposed changes are:

1) Amend the sentence "The North America Mission Board is charged to focus upon direct mission strategies with a focus on direct evangelism and church planting" to read "The North America Mission Board is charged to focus upon direct and cooperative mission strategies with a focus on evangelism and church planting."

Lewis earlier had called for a deletion of the sentence, but after further analysis said this amendment would sufficiently clarify the sentence. He said, "The historic focus of home missions has been cooperative missions with an emphasis on state conventions increasing administrative and financial responsibility as they can. I now understand the Program and Structure Study Committee did not intend to suggest direct missions as opposed to cooperative missions. This change would provide helpful clarification.

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2) Delete the word "career" in the provision which directs the NAMB to "appoint, approve, support and equip career missions personnel."

The wording as proposed, according to Lewis, could be interpreted as prohibiting the use of short-term missionaries such as church planters who compose 75 percent of the present home missions force.

3) Amend the report's endnote which calls for larger, primarily southern state Baptist conventions "to fund their evangelism and missions staff and program." The amended version would read, "to fund more of (or a greater portion of) their evangelism and missions staff and program."

Unless changed, Lewis said, this note could lead to state conventions immediately assuming total responsibility for home missions work in their respective states, "including 1,300 home missionaries."

Lewis told Baptist Press reactions to his proposed changes have been very positive. During a regularly scheduled staff meeting June 7, the HMB's 125 administrative-level staff approved a staff-initiated resolution "to express our affirmation and support of Dr. Lewis' leadership in this critical issue." He said he expects to present the proposed changes to the Home Mission Board executive committee during its meeting the day prior to the convention. Lewis said he also anticipates presenting his proposed changes either to the SBC Executive Committee or to the convention and giving full endorsement to the report if these amendments are adopted.

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**Billy Graham becomes ill
during Toronto meetings**

**Baptist Press
6/8/95**

TORONTO (BP)--Billy Graham remained hospitalized the morning of June 8 after becoming ill during a June 6 speaking engagement at the outset of his Mission Ontario crusade in Toronto's SkyDome.

Graham, 76, who is scheduled to address the Southern Baptist Convention's closing session June 22 in Atlanta, was said to be in good spirits and resting comfortably at Toronto East General Hospital, according to a news release issued by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Graham had experienced flu-like conditions Monday night, June 5, but kept a Tuesday luncheon engagement with two Toronto civic groups, the Empire and Canadian clubs. He cut short his address when he began to feel faint.

Toronto physicians attending Graham issued a statement June 7, noting, "Results from routine tests today show he has experienced bleeding in his colon, which at present appears to have stopped. No tumor was found. Further tests will be conducted to determine the cause." They said his "voice and vital signs are strong" and they were "cautiously optimistic that he will be able to continue his mission later this week as planned."

Graham's meetings in the SkyDome were scheduled to continue through June 9. BGEA associate evangelist Ralph Bell preached June 7.

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**Baylor won't compromise ethics
in Big 12, new president says**

By Laura Horne

**Baptist Press
6/8/95**

DALLAS (BP)--Baylor University needs an additional \$5 million a year for its athletic program to compete with other Big 12 schools. But new President Robert B. Sloan Jr. pledged the Baptist university won't compromise its Christian ethical standards.

As it enters the Big 12 Conference in 1996, the Waco, Texas, school is "committed to a program that is economically sound and ethically beyond reproach," Sloan said at a June 7 news conference in Dallas.

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Sloan was asked how Baylor, as the only private school in the conference, would ethically handle the move to the Big 12 since it is a big business with trials and temptations.

"Never allow the tail to wag the dog. Baylor is first and foremost a Christian institution. That's our mission. That's our calling," he said. "There is a great potential for good and there is a great potential for evil. It's what you do with that potential."

He also said that in competitiveness, Baylor would be "satisfied with nothing less than excellence."

At the Dallas press conference to introduce the new president who assumed office on June 1, Sloan said his vision for Baylor University includes:

- reinforcing Baylor's historic connection with the BGCT and Baptists everywhere.
- preserving the legacy and traditions of the university.
- making sure the university will forge ahead with curriculum that preserves, protects and extends the ideals, values and culture of Western civilization.
- encouraging open debate on the great issues of the day by promoting an environment in which there is a free exchange of ideas.
- enhancing the reputation of Baylor as an institution where scholarly teaching is the heart of the mission.
- keeping tuition and costs in the range of a median family income.
- engaging in several major capital projects over the next five to seven years, including new facilities for the law school, a student center, a seminary campus and a museum.

Baylor has an aggressive plan to expand Truett Seminary beyond Waco, Sloan said. An extension site is planned for the Dallas area in conjunction with Park Cities Baptist Church, but no opening date has been set.

"We want to make sure we have funds in place so we will not draw funds from any other place. The funds must be in place before the opening date."

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SBCNet membership hits 5,000,
doubling users in 10 months

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
6/8/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The number of people joining SBCNet, the Southern Baptist data communications network, has doubled since August 1994 with the 5,000th subscriber going on-line June 6.

The milestone achievement came almost on the heels of the last significant increase. Membership stood at 4,000 on March 10, up more than 1,000 users from Nov. 9, 1994.

Total membership stood at 2,500 in August 1994, according to David Haywood, coordinator of the network. He projected membership will reach 10,000 by summer 1996.

The number of on-line hours per week within SBCNet has increased from 116 to as high as 1,913 since August 1993, when the flat monthly rate for SBCNet charges was instituted. Individuals accessing the network weekly since that time increased from 393 to as high as 2,120.

SBCNet is coordinated by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Its services include supplemental teaching helps for adult and youth Sunday school lessons in three curriculum series; Baptist Press, news service of the SBC; CompassionNet, the Foreign Mission Board's worldwide electronic prayer network; Home Mission Board Library; bulletin boards for selected state Baptist conventions and a variety of other services aimed at specific interests of church staff and church members.

Effective May 1, the network expanded to three forums, adding more message and library areas and providing for expansion in services for the future.

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SBCNet may be accessed by using a computer, modem and a membership kit distributed free by the Sunday School Board. Kits, which provide access to services of CompuServe and SBCNet, contain software, account information and a monetary credit toward initial charges. They are available in DOS, Macintosh and Windows versions.

The flat-rate cost of SBCNet, \$7.95 monthly, and CompuServe basic services, \$9.95 monthly, provides users the ability to read and download files and participate in on-line conferences, without per-minute charges.

The CompuServe charge provides unlimited use of more than 120 basic services, including a limited time each month on the Internet. Thereafter, additional charges apply for additional time on the Internet and for extended services. People who are already members of CompuServe may join SBCNet by simply typing "GO SBCNet" at any CompuServe prompt.

Among the CompuServe Basic Services available to SBCNet subscribers are news, sports and weather; the opportunity to read classified ads, support forums and the member directory; travel and shopping services; games and entertainment; reference library; and Money Talks, including stock quotes and other financial services. To order an SBCNet kit or to obtain additional information, call 1-800-325-7749.

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EDITORS' NOTE: The following two columns focus on the Promise Keepers movement.

Coach McCartney answers
Promise Keepers altar call

By Terry Mattingly

Baptist Press
6/8/95

WASHINGTON (BP)--As the Promise Keepers band soared into the anthem "Godly Men," Bill McCartney stood and lifted his hands high in praise to God. "Lord help us turn from sin and begin again, as godly men," sang the former University of Colorado football coach, along with 52,000 men who filled RFK Stadium in Washington in May. "Though we know we sometimes stumble, may the promise that we keep be to honor you with all our hearts and to worship at your feet."

Spotting the coach perched near the press box, many men rose, raised their hands and sang with new vigor. The warm-ups were over and another two-day Promise Keepers marathon had begun. It would be 12 more hours of preaching, cheering, singing and praying before McCartney took to the pulpit to urge them to repent, be faithful to their wives, serve their families, support their brothers and stop worshipping their careers.

But this sermon had a twist. Five years after his first vision of men packing stadiums, McCartney explained how this message finally cut into his heart and left him in the poignant position of needing to heed his own altar call.

The true value of a man's life, he said, can be seen in his wife's face. Last year, this test left McCartney shattered.

"She was in so much pain. ... I became convicted that I was not doing everything I could to bring my wife to splendor in Jesus Christ," he explained during a break in the rally, using one of his typically Scripture-soaked metaphors. "Once I faced that the issue became: Is continuing in coaching the best way to do that? ... For 32 years we had chased Bill McCartney's dreams, not Lyndi's dreams. She was married to a man who was so focused, so driven, so possessed. ... It was like God opened my eyes."

Adding insult to injury, one of football's fiercest competitors had added another obsession to his life -- Promise Keepers. This nondenominational movement for men had grown from 4,200 in 1991 to 278,000 in seven 1994 gatherings. Participation doubled every six months during four often-chaotic years. The group expects to draw 700,000 to 13 rallies this summer and its leaders are studying 36 possible sites for 1996.

Just what McCartney's family needed: a showdown with God and the gridiron.

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Lyndi McCartney rarely speaks to the media. But in a newly revised edition of her husband's autobiography, "From Ashes To Glory," she describes one tense moment: "I told him I needed to be on his calendar, so he began penciling me in. But then I got erased a couple of times. So I went back and told him I wanted to be written in ink -- 'It's ink or nothing,' I said."

The coach listened, concluding that he had been sinfully selfish -- a taker, not a giver. As the 1994 regular season ended, he took advantage of an exit clause in his 15-year contract. His last University of Colorado ties end June 30 and, on July 1, he joins the Promise Keepers staff, with the title of "founder."

History is full of fierce, focused and even fanatical religious leaders who light spiritual fires and then fall in flames -- often taking their movements with them. McCartney is trying to back away from the abyss, settling into a life of private prayer and public speaking. The general will try to go on retreat.

"Everyone in (Promise Keepers) is so busy. ... The numbers are expanding so rapidly. Everyone is caught up in a beehive of activity. Somebody has to stop and be quiet before the Lord," he said. "Right now, I'm not worried about whether I'm going to build a building or a movement or anything else. All I can see is what a vile heart I have and how far away from God's will I have been. All I am, right now, is one man who is brokenhearted before God."

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Mattingly writes this weekly column for the Scripps Howard News Service and teaches communications at Milligan College in Tennessee.

**Promise Keepers' challenge:
healing black-white wounds**

By Terry Mattingly

**Baptist Press
6/8/95**

WASHINGTON (BP)--One punch after the other, Wellington Boone hit his listeners with jabs of scripture, followed by powerful parables torn from modern life.

This sermon was about the sin of racism and Boone wasn't going to let the 52,000 men at a May 27 Promise Keepers rally just sit there. As a master of the call-and-response oratory beloved in black churches, he wanted to hear shouts of "praise God," "keep preaching" and "amen!" The crowd caught on quick.

The Bible insists that all people are created in God's image, thundered Boone, whose usual pulpit is at Manna Christian Fellowship in Richmond, Va., not RFK Stadium in Washington. Folks who have trouble getting along on earth will have even more trouble facing God and each other in heaven, he said.

"Listen to me," said Boone. "What race is love? What culture is meekness? What gender is mercy? What socio-economic level is loving-kindness?"

Some would say this was a risky sermon in a stadium packed, in large part, with white, male, evangelical Protestants.

Critics claim Promise Keepers -- which will draw about 700,000 men to 13 rallies this summer -- is booming because its message appeals to the so-called angry white males and, perhaps, a few others who yearn for the past. Critics note some Promise Keepers leaders have ties to the Religious Right.

It's true that parking lots outside Promise Keepers rallies contain rows of cars, vans and even church buses sporting bumper stickers opposing abortion and homosexual rights, or backing conservative politicians.

But it's also true that half of the speakers at the recent Washington rally were black or Hispanic. Other Promise Keeper events this summer -- such as the subsequent Houston rally or the June 16-17 gathering in Denver -- feature a similar cast.

The movement's founder, former University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney, said he begins every day by praying God would provide strength and inspiration to those seeking to heal the wounds caused by racism in America and the church.

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"I know that Promise Keepers has been growing at a phenomenal rate," he said, during a break in Washington. "But, you see, I think the big explosion is still around the corner. I believe we will see real revival across this land. But that will only happen after we've faced the issue of racism and meet it head on."

Thus, those who join Promise Keepers sign a pledge card that says they will, in addition to working to strengthen their faith and their marriages, commit to "reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate ... biblical unity." The group is working hard to appeal to racial minorities.

This does have political overtones. As a Christianity Today editorial put it: "Committed African-American Christians are often less conservative politically than their white evangelical counterparts (though often as conservative theologically). ... The best way to keep Promise Keepers spiritually vital and politically incorruptible is a thorough commitment to racial inclusiveness."

In Washington most Promise Keeper speakers talked about a national moral crisis rooted in the sins of men who have physically, emotionally and spiritually abandoned women and children. They urged leaders of white churches to form partnerships with ethnic churches, allowing them to share time, talent and resources. A key need: men willing to serve as mentors for boys who will never know their fathers.

This movement wants to promote a unity that is built on faith and conservative morality, not politics, said Bishop Phillip Porter of All Nations Pentecostal Church, Aurora, Colo.

"It's going to take a power greater than politics to get us out of the mess we're in," said Porter, who was one of the first black church leaders to join Promise Keepers and now serves as the group's chairman. "We're talking about God changing human hearts. We're talking about sin and forgiveness and reconciliation. That all transcends politics."

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Mickey Mantle undergoes
liver transplant at Baylor

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
6/8/95

DALLAS (BP)--Baseball legend Mickey Mantle received a liver transplant June 8 at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, a Texas Baptist hospital.

Mantle, 63, had been hospitalized since May 28 at Baylor, one of seven hospital systems affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

On June 7, his doctors announced the former New York Yankee slugger had liver cancer and Hepatitis C. They said Mantle would not survive unless he received a transplant within a couple of weeks.

Nearly 3,000 patients have received donor organs or bone marrow transplants at Baylor. More than one-third of those patients received liver transplants.

Mantle, a longtime Dallas resident, enjoyed a Hall of Fame career as the major league's greatest switch-hitting slugger in spite of a long history of problem drinking. In 1993, he was treated for alcoholism at the Betty Ford Clinic, and he had suffered cirrhosis of the liver.

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Baptist Standard names
Toby Druin as next editor

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
6/8/95

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptists' largest state newsjournal, the Baptist Standard of Texas, named longtime associate editor Toby Druin as editor-elect.

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The Baptist Standard's board of directors met June 6 in Dallas and unanimously elected Druin, 60, as successor to Presnall Wood. Wood, 63, will retire at the end of this year after 17 years at the Standard, the longest tenure of any editor in the paper's 107-year history.

Druin will assume his new duties effective Jan. 1, 1996. He has worked as associate editor of the Baptist Standard since 1976.

Noting the board's action will be announced officially in the June 14 issue of the Standard, Wood said he "rejoiced" in Druin's election.

"Toby Druin knows and loves Texas Baptists and the Baptist Standard, and he will be a great editor," Wood said. "He will have no greater supporter than Presnall Wood."

The newspaper board's search committee "really sensed the Lord's leadership" in their choice of Druin, according to chairman Danny Andrews, editor of the Plainview (Texas) Herald.

"We have a lot of respect for Toby both as a journalist and as a Christian gentleman. It really cinched it when he shared with us his spiritual and professional pilgrimage. You could just see the hand of God on his life everywhere he has been."

Druin is "well-respected by people on both sides of the aisle" within Baptist life, Andrew said, and he has "paid his dues" in denominational and journalistic service. He was selected from among a field of about 20 serious candidates for the editorship.

Druin came to the Baptist Standard from the news service of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Earlier, he had served as associate editor of the Biblical Recorder in Raleigh, N.C., and as news director for Baylor University, Waco, Texas. He also had worked at Texas newspapers in Amarillo, Borger, Wichita Falls and Plainview, and he has served a number of Texas and North Carolina churches as minister of music.

Druin is a native of Amarillo, Texas, and a graduate of Baylor with majors in journalism and religion. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from Dallas Baptist University in 1994.

Druin is current president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the organization of state Baptist newspaper editors. The Baptist Standard is the largest of the 39 state papers, with a weekly circulation of about 260,000.

He is married to the former Larra Rodgers of Amarillo. They have three adult daughters.

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Armstrong portrait safekeeping
entrusted to 31-year employee

Baptist Press
6/8/95

ATLANTA (BP)--In preparing to move to new offices, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staff trusted their most-valued possession -- a portrait of Annie Armstrong -- to the board's longest tenured employee.

During final chapel services in the midtown Atlanta location, the portrait was given to Brenda Hendrickson to take to the new building in Alpharetta. Hendrickson, senior accounting clerk, has worked for the board 31 years.

Armstrong's portrait hung in the lobby of the HMB offices in Atlanta and will be prominently displayed in the Alpharetta building.

Wally Buckner, assistant vice president who led the chapel service, asked Hendrickson to take the portrait because "some things are too valuable to trust to the movers."

Armstrong was the first corresponding secretary for Woman's Missionary Union. She was instrumental in raising more than \$5,000 for the first "Week of Suffering for Home Missions" in 1895. The annual offering for home missions was named for her in 1934.

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Currently, receipts from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions provide 49 percent of the HMB budget, and all the offering income is spent on the mission field.

Armstrong also rallied Southern Baptists to minister to immigrants, blacks and Indians.

The new HMB address is 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30202-4174. The new phone number is (404) 410-6000.

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Revival services yield
subsequent marriage

By Mark A. Wyatt

Baptist Press
6/8/95

WESTWOOD, Calif. (BP)--Revival services held during April at First Baptist Church, Westwood, Calif., led to an unusual worship experience a few weeks later, according to pastor John Lipford.

Worshippers attending evening services at the church May 7 witnessed the wedding of Armin Williams and Christine Gonzalves.

The couple had been living together for several years. On more than one occasion, they asked for and received food and financial assistance from the church.

Lipford shared "a witness for Jesus" each time, but said Williams remained unresponsive to the gospel until one afternoon during the church's revival, when the pastor and guest evangelist Don Hargis delivered some prescription medication to Williams.

"After about two hours of sharing, Armin gave his heart to Jesus," Lipford said. That evening, when the invitation was given at the conclusion of the revival service, Williams shared his salvation testimony with the church.

Christine, who said she had been saved as a child, tearfully recommitted her life to Jesus the same evening.

Soon afterward, Lipford got another call from Williams. But this time he wasn't asking for food or medicine.

"He told me he and Christine knew God was not going to bless them until they were married, and they wanted to be obedient," Lipford recounted. He said the couple asked him to perform their wedding ceremony "before the church to show their commitment to God, his church, and each other."

On Friday, Williams and Gonzalves obtained a marriage license and the next day Lipford met with them for a premarital counseling session.

On Sunday evening, after the usual singing of hymns and praise songs, Lipford delivered a sermon from the Song of Solomon before conducting Williams' and Gonzalves' wedding ceremony. Surprised church members expressed their approval, offering congratulations and encouragement to the newlyweds. A member who had been tipped off about the wedding brought a cake she baked especially for the occasion.

Lipford said everyone present "agreed the evening was a unique" experience, but "not necessarily the last" combination worship and wedding event.

Neither was it the final result of revival at First Baptist Church of Westwood. Three weeks after their wedding and more than a month after the revival, Armin and Christine Williams were baptized May 28. Lipford said both are enrolled in a discipleship training class with other new Christians using "Survival Kit" materials to help reinforce their commitment to follow Christ.

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