

(BP)

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

-- 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 71173,316

October 13, 1995

95-163

TENNESSEE--Upcoming meetings.

OKLAHOMA CITY--Church grieving, ministering 6 months after Oklahoma bombing.

OKLAHOMA CITY--Okla. City rescue workers face ongoing trauma, chaplain says.

TENNESSEE--SBC leaders protest Disney action for homosexual live-ins.

GEORGIA--HMB appoints missionaries, discusses SBC transition.

TENNESSEE--Strategic planning for churches should begin with God's activity; graphic.

NORTH CAROLINA--Seminary revival services bring youthful harvest.

CALENDAR

MISSOURI--Midwestern Seminary trustees, Oct. 16-17, Kansas City.

TEXAS--Southwestern Seminary trustees, Oct. 16-18, Fort Worth.

TENNESSEE--Brotherhood Commission trustees, Oct. 20-21, Memphis.

Church grieving, ministering

6 months after Oklahoma bombing By Dave Parker

Baptist Press

10/13/95

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--April 19, 1995. On that Wednesday morning six months ago, Oklahoma City and the nation were transformed when the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was blown up by terrorists.

The nation watched as Oklahomans struggled to deal with the worst terrorist act ever committed on U.S. soil.

The building is now leveled, the streets are reopened, many businesses are resuming operations.

Healing has begun but may take years for many people. Family members will soon face their first major holidays without loved ones present, which can lead to severe depression.

There were 168 men, women and children killed in the blast; 168 mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, grandparents, friends and loved ones.

Two Oklahoma City Baptist church buildings were damaged in the blast; Downtown Baptist Church had its windows blown out. First Baptist Church received more than \$500,000 in structural damages, and costs for other repairs are still being tallied.

First Baptist hopes to complete all repairs and move back into the sanctuary by Oct. 29, with repairs to the chapel due for completion by mid-November.

The church hit hardest in human terms, though, was 12 miles from the bomb site.

First Baptist Church of Nicoma Park, in far eastern metropolitan Oklahoma City, is not the largest church in the area; in fact, there are 17 churches in Capital Baptist Association with a larger Sunday school attendance. But, the church lost five members April 19, more than any other church.

Among those killed were three men, a young mother and her 2-year-old son.

Pastor Mark Estep said the tragedy is not something that goes away.

"There is not a Sunday goes by, I don't think, where our congregation doesn't remember," he said. "When the family members walk in we are reminded of the tragedy."

All of the surviving family members have remained faithful church members, he said.

--more--

"I am in constant admiration of the people who lost loved ones, because they have maintained their faith," he said. "They are not angry at God; in fact, this has strengthened their faith.

"I don't know if I could live it. I have often said I would rather preach about faith than live it, because living it is harder."

The church family also has responded well, Estep said.

"Our congregation is stronger than it has ever been," he said. "They have pulled together. When this first happened, I asked in a sermon, 'Why would God allow one church to lose so many?' I think it was because God knew we were going to be able to rise above it.

"They have allowed God to use this to make their faith deeper, their walk stronger."

One visible manifestation is in people's attitudes.

"Our people go out of their way to show appreciation for each other," he said. "It could be the last time we see each other. People say that all the time. Our congregation knows it.

"I don't know how God works, but I think that our church, over the long haul, will continue to go in the right direction."

The church rallied around surviving family members, providing money as needed, Estep said.

"But the most important thing they did and continue to do is being there, being a friend, taking meals to families," he said.

"Probably the most important thing is they cried with them," he added. "They didn't try to offer a lot of explanations, but just cried with them."

The church also has made calls, sent letters and made personal visits, especially on special occasions.

"When birthdays and anniversaries come around, our people have tried to be there for them," Estep said. "And for Christmas and Thanksgiving, they will make an effort to be there for them."

Estep said the church is still healing, but has made a great deal of progress.

"God's brought us through it," he said. "All things are not good, but all things work together for good. We wouldn't wish this tragedy on anybody, but we have to make the best of it."

A year before the bombing, the church held a baby dedication. Seventeen babies were dedicated, including Christopher Cooper, whose parents A.C. and Dana looked on.

Estep said he came across the video recently and had a hard time watching it.

"It's hard to believe that Christopher and Dana are gone," he said. "That video really broke my heart.

"If it weren't for God's grace, we wouldn't be able to go on. I don't know how people without the Lord can handle tragedy."

--30--

Okla. City rescue workers face ongoing trauma, chaplain says

By Dave Parker

Baptist Press
10/13/95

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--In any tragedy like the Oklahoma City bombing, there are two kinds of survivors: the immediate families of victims and the rescue workers.

Long after the last building is repaired and the last memorial service held, rescue workers will still deal with the trauma of what they heard, saw and felt as they dug through the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

It is known as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), first diagnosed among Vietnam War veterans but known as "shell shock" in earlier times. It can have long-term, life-destroying effects, if not treated.

Joe Williams, director of chaplaincy for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, was on the scene right after the April 19 bombing. His initial purpose was to find his daughter-in-law's father, Paul Ice, who worked at the building. He found Ice's car, but other rescue workers found his body, so Williams broke the news to the family.

--more--

After that, he spent most of the next several weeks at the bomb site, helping sift through rubble for bodies and helping comfort the rescue workers.

Even with his Christian faith and a strong family structure, the stress took its toll on Williams, and he attended a debriefing session provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Massachusetts.

Williams said the debriefing was crucial in helping him deal with PTSD from the bombing aftermath.

"Some of the characteristics of people suffering from PTSD are domestic violence, job absenteeism, a lot of acting out, loss of patience, loss of temper, violence and even suicide," Williams said. "We have had some rescue workers talk of suicide, but so far we have been able to talk it out. I would suspect that before a year is gone we will have a suicide.

"Some of the rescue people will be unemployable within a year," he added. "Some are already unable to work. We have already had some divorces. Some workers' personalities are so changed their spouses can't live with them anymore."

There were 6,000 workers involved in rescue efforts, including 4,000 Oklahomans. Many of them have received therapy provided by several different relief agencies. Williams said he expects therapy to continue for up to five years.

"We are still having people just surface with all different kinds of trauma," he said. "The big problem is these people live with denial. We deny our feelings because we're supposed to be strong. We deal with trauma so much that we come up with other ways to deal with it," such as sick humor.

The magnitude of the bombing, though, was something for which no rescue worker could be prepared.

"It has got to have an effect on people," Williams said. "They may become irritable or short-fused. Many times it will cause them to become introverted and hard to deal with. Especially when they go in and find different body parts and don't even know if they are from the same person. Multiply that by 10 to 20 and you begin to understand.

"Many times rescuers worked for a couple of hours to get a body out," he said. "All the time they were thinking, 'This is someone's loved one, and they don't even know yet.'

"A lot of rescue people thought there should have been something they could have done to prevent this.

"Men, especially, have a part of their personalities that make them think they ought to be able to protect women and children," he said. "But, there was nothing more we could have done."

Some of the images Williams retains are a man cut in half by the explosion, dead workers still sitting at their desks and the playground area used as a temporary morgue for children in the day care center.

Some people like to solve everything by saying God will ease their pain. Williams said it is not that simple.

"I think being a Christian and living a walk with God does make a difference, but we're still human beings," he said. "We are still dealing with a lot of people in denial, who say, 'That doesn't bother me.' Psychologists tell us it bothers everyone.

"If you are denying it, it is because you are afraid it is a sign of weakness," Williams said. "I understand that. That's where I was. That's what I thought. I had to admit that it bothered me before I could be helped.

"It is not a sign of weakness," he noted. "Every post-traumatic symptom is a normal response to an abnormal situation. The disaster was abnormal. To be healthy mentally is to realistically acknowledge the experiences we've had.

"Admit that you've been traumatized by this experience and make contact with the people who will direct them to proper therapy," he said. "That needs to be from a mental health professional who understands trauma therapy, not a marriage and family counselor."

One frequently asked question is, "Why would God let this happen?" Williams said.

"I don't know why," he said. "My daughter-in-law says she doesn't know why her daddy will never hold her baby or see her graduate from college. I don't know, either."

He encouraged people dealing with feelings of depression from any traumatic situation to stay in contact with other people.

"I didn't try to avoid people," he said. "I think staying busy has a lot to do with getting through depression. I also spend a lot of time with Jack Poe."

Poe is chaplain for the Oklahoma City Police Department, and he also spent a lot of time at the bomb site.

"We debriefed each other a lot," Williams said. "Some people just didn't want to talk about this, but we experienced a lot of grief together. We know each other's vulnerability a lot because we had to cry together."

That is a stereotype Williams said he had to struggle to overcome.

"My generation grew up believing men don't cry," he said. "I think that is one of the reasons women live longer."

Williams said he saw an interview with Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf, and the hero from Desert Storm said it was OK to cry.

"He said he would be afraid of a man who didn't feel the need to cry," Williams related.

Williams asked for any rescue workers, pastors or others facing emotional difficulties from the bombing to seek help through local relief agencies.

--30--

SBC leaders protest Disney
action for homosexual live-ins By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
10/13/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A Walt Disney Co. decision to provide health insurance to live-in partners of homosexual employees is stirring strong criticism from key Southern Baptist Convention leaders.

"This is extremely disturbing to Southern Baptists across the country," said Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The organization handles arrangements for SBC annual meetings; Disney World's home, Orlando, Fla., was the site of 1994 SBC sessions and is scheduled again for the year 2000.

"It's a travesty that Disney is no longer a pro-family industry," Chapman said. "It clearly has joined forces with others in the entertainment industry intent on waging war against biblical beliefs and family values that have been the backbone of this country." Disney, he reminded, "built its reputation and business around family values."

The new Disney policy, announced in a newsletter to the company's 70,000 employees the week of Oct. 2, will go into effect Jan. 1. While covering live-in partners of homosexuals, it will not cover live-in partners of heterosexuals. A report in the Associated Press quoted Disney spokesman John Dreyer as saying, "We made this decision because it brings our health benefits in line with our corporate nondiscrimination policy."

Asked how the decision will affect the Disney image, Dreyer would only say, "We are a family oriented company."

Said Chapman, "Disney has distorted the definition of 'family.' I pray that th American people will challenge this attempt to redefine the family."

Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, said, "This lamentable decision by Disney is yet one more indication of the radical gay rights movement's efforts to g t preferential treatment for its lifestyle. Heterosexuals who live together without benefit of matrimony are not covered, but homosexuals are.

--more--

"Disney says they are a 'family oriented company.' What kind of 'family' are we talking about?" Land asked. "Should we next expect to hear from Disney that Mickey has left Minnie and moved in with Donald? Is that Disney's definition of 'family'?"

Chapman said contractual obligations already in place for convention facilities likely will prevent a change in site for the SBC meeting in Orlando in 2000.

But, he said, "It is certain that Southern Baptist families who attend the annual meeting could be extremely selective when making choices about spending recreational funds with organizations that oppose their basic beliefs."

Jack Wilkerson, SBC convention manager and Executive Committee vice president for business and finance, said, "We have seen the shift in the Disney organization over the last several years." The pro-homosexual Disney health insurance action "will be disturbing to our site selection committee and will be another input to the site selection process," he said.

Orlando had been selected by the SBC, he said, "because of the geographic location of Southern Baptists, the remodeled and expanding convention/hotel facilities and the recreational opportunities available to families who attend the annual meeting."

--30--

HMB appoints missionaries,
discusses SBC transition

By Martin King

Baptist Press
10/13/95

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board executive committee approved 16 new missionaries and heard an initial report from the committee charged with overseeing the HMB's merger with the Radio and Television and Brotherhood commissions.

The missionaries will serve in seven states as church planters and in ministry positions. They join nearly 5,000 home missionaries who serve in partnership between the HMB and state Baptist conventions, associations and local churches.

Charles Fuller, chairman of the HMB's transition committee and pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., reported the group held its first meeting and discussed the committee's relationship to similar committees established by other agencies involved in merger of the SBC entities.

"I have been in contact with Bob Reccord who is chairing the SBC Executive Committee's implementation task force," Fuller said. Reccord is pastor of First Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Va. "We discussed the relationship of our committees in light of bylaw 20 and governance of the agencies," Fuller said, referring to bylaw 20 of the SBC constitution which addresses responsibilities of the SBC Executive Committee. Sub-part (i) states, "The Executive Committee shall not have authority to control or direct the several boards, agencies and institutions of the Convention."

"Our intent," Fuller reported, "is to stay on top of the transition, to have everything open and aboveboard." He also told HMB directors he would be in contact with the chairmen of the RTVC and Brotherhood Commission implementation committees as well.

Larry Lewis, HMB president, told board members, "It is appropriate for the SBC Executive Committee to monitor progress of the merger so that each agency doesn't go off in its own direction." However, he said, it is also appropriate for each affected agency to have its own transition committee.

--30--

Strategic planning for churches
should begin with God's activity By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
10/13/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--What is God doing in our midst?
What gifts and strengths does our church have?

--more--

How can we build on who we are to become all God wants us to be?

These three questions begin the strategic planning process for churches introduced in "Kingdom Principles Growth Strategies" by Gene Mims and Mike Miller, a resource kit produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board's church growth group.

"A lot of churches have thought planning meant developing a calendar and a budget," said Miller, director of the church leadership services division and interim director of the pastor-staff leadership department. "This tool begins with the kingdom of God and the gifts of the church. Resources (people, money, space, time and training) come later in the process."

The kit enables a church to apply the principles outlined in "Kingdom Principles for Church Growth," the book by Mims, vice president of the church growth group, which outlines the 1.5.4 concept of church growth.

Beginning with the Bible's Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, which he terms the driving force for church growth, Mims outlines five essential church functions -- evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship and worship. Carrying out the five functions effectively leads to four results -- numerical growth, spiritual growth, ministries expansion and missions advance. Results will differ from church to church.

"It is tempting for leaders to begin with a model in mind for the kind of church they want to be," Mims acknowledged. "But if you don't know what God is doing and who he's made you, you'll miss him."

Brooks Faulkner, senior manager of the church ministry section in the pastor-staff leadership department, said the planning process outlined in the kit "compiles the basic research of 40 years into a simplified process any church can use to grow. The amount of time needed for the leadership group to work through the process will vary with the size of church."

The foundation of the process is the growth strategies map, Faulkner noted. It begins with a strategic view where the church leadership team conducts a detailed study of the Great Commission and develops a mission statement.

"This is the only resource in church growth literature that does strategic mapping," Miller said. "Churches literally map their future."

After identifying its mission, the church leadership team uses the kit's "ministry gifts inventory" to identify gifts of the leadership, membership and a composite of church gifts.

Miller said the inventory in the kit was provided by Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., which annually uses it to fill more than 800 leadership slots. In addition, the board created a computer program accompanying the inventory which churches can use to develop composite giftedness profiles of the membership, leadership or other groups. The disk became available with the kit in September. Those who bought earlier editions of the kit are receiving the disk by mail.

Next, the church conducts a community survey and then analyzes its own strengths, gifts, opportunities and threats. This completes the strategic phase of the map.

The second facet of the planning process includes three actions. For the first, church function development, the map guides the team to prepare ministry possibility grids for the five church functions. Then they analyze their resources for implementing the grids.

With the resource of time, Mims and Miller emphasize "people have only a limited number of hours to spend attending and serving in a church. Some estimate that the average church member will spend only three hours per week in church."

Kit materials enable leaders to evaluate their activities in light of members' available time.

"A lot of churches are spending a lot of time doing things that don't accomplish anything to support their mission," Miller said. "When they see what they're spending their time on, it's very revealing."

With resources measured, the leaders identify changes and results they can expect to achieve. Results are identified in two categories -- hard changes (numerical, ministries, missions) and soft changes (spiritual, feelings, moods and attitudes).

In the third planning facet, actions, church leaders develop a biblical process model. From that they are ready to develop a calendar and a budget. In the final facet, evaluation, leaders identify weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual measures for success.

"This is an open-ended, simplified process for principle-based ministry," Mims said. "A church that works through this process will take a long look at itself and get to know the Lord intimately."

Phil Neighbors, pastor of Valley Baptist Church, Bakersfield, Calif., taught Mims' book during last summer's Bible preaching-church growth leadership conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

"This is a good instructional manual for all church leaders," he said. "God's plan and purpose in his kingdom is to grow. We need always to remind ourselves that it is God's work, not my work."

In his new book, "The Purpose-Driven Church: Growth without Compromising Your Message and Mission," Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif., commends "Kingdom Principles for Church Growth." "Any church that wants to be purpose-driven can start toward that goal by reading and applying this helpful book," Warren said.

In addition to a leader's guide and spiritual gifts inventory, the kit includes two videos, a copy of "Kingdom Principles for Church Growth," an instruction sheet and overhead transparencies, calendar and catalog.

--30--

(BP) graphic of the strategic mapping process mailed to state Baptist newspapers and posted on SBCNet by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press.

**Seminary revival services
bring youthful harvest**

By Dwayne Hastings

**Baptist Press
10/13/95**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The evening began with 55 boxes of pizza consumed on the lawn; it closed with youth packing the altar at the front of Binkley Chapel.

The first night of the third annual Sandy Creek Week services at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary boasted a youthful emphasis and saw at least 29 young people come to know the Lord Oct. 10.

Beginning with more than 400 young people crowding the steps of the Wake Forest, N.C., school's chapel for a contemporary Christian music concert and a pizza dinner on the grounds, the night drew to a close three hours later as young people and seminary students who served as counselors found whatever place they could at the front of the chapel to get alone and talk about Jesus.

Joe Wood, a second-year student in Southeastern's master of divinity program, served as a counselor. "It was just an overwhelming night. Even before the service started I knew it was going to be a great night because so many people had been praying for a real outpouring of God's Spirit. So many responded that we had to recruit more folks to talk with the youth."

He counseled a 11-year-old boy who came forward at the close of the service crying uncontrollably. "He told me he had just been saved. It reminded me of when I came to the Lord at age 13," Wood said, adding he was so excited that night he couldn't fall asleep and walked the halls of the men's dormitory until 2 a.m.

James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga., led the service, asking those under 18 years of age in the packed chapel audience of youth and adults to stand. He promised to tell them what John Lennon and Kurt Cobain would say if they could come back from the dead.

Citing the account of the division between the rich man in hell and Lazarus the beggar in heaven in Luke 16, Merritt said Jesus has given us a snapshot of what happens on the other side of the grave, telling the youth, "You are here tonight because God has an appointment with you. He wants to radically change your life."

--more--

Merritt said the road to hell is a one-way street. "There is a road that leads to hell, but there is no road that leads out of hell. It is the broad way, the way to destruction." It is a place of unbelievable pain, of unanswered prayer, of unquenched sinful lusts and a place of unchanged people, he said.

"Between people in hell and people in heaven there is a grand canyon, and nobody can cross that canyon," Merritt said. "The Bible teaches the eternal security of the sinner. Once a person dies lost, he will stay lost forever. There is no second chance, no purgatory.

"You are going to spend eternity where you decide to spend eternity; if you decide you want to go to hell, God will let you go to hell. If you decide you want to go to heaven, God will let you go to heaven. You are to spend eternity somewhere," Merritt warned.

"I am here to give you some wonderful news tonight. You don't have to go to hell if you don't want." Merritt told them there is no one that cares for them more than Jesus. "Nobody loves you like Jesus loves you and he wants you to go to heaven, and so do I."

Justin Hardy, two-time Atlantic Coast Conference wrestling champion from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in giving his testimony, asked the crowd in Binkley Chapel, "Where is God in your life? Is he there?"

Telling the students they need to take a stand for Christ, the South Dakota native said: "You're either walking for God or you're walking against him. There is no walking the fence. When you make a stand for Jesus, who can stand against you?"

"God can give you the power -- you've got to tap into that power." The 265-pound All-American college wrestler said it isn't by man's strength that one prevails against worldly temptations.

"Everybody tells me I'm big and strong and so I can tell people I don't want to drink and do drugs. They're going to listen to you. Well, I'm telling you God is a lot more powerful than me. He's the man. You've got to tap into his power," Hardy said.

HOUSE MAIL

(BP)	BAPTIST PRESS 901 Commerce #750 Nashville, TN 37234
F I R S T C L A S S	Southern Baptist Library and Archives