



**(BP)**

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Southern Baptist Convention, 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

November 2, 1995

95-175

WASHINGTON--House votes to prohibit partial-birth abortions.  
TEXAS--Avery Willis: Unreached people don't have a chance...unless; photo.  
DALLAS--Texas Baptists set new record for Sunday school attendance.  
SPAIN--Evangelism campaign in Spain brings salvations, revival; photo.  
TEXAS--Promise Keepers end '95 season with nearly 60,000 in Dallas.  
VIRGINIA--FMB names Wally, Betty Poor correspondents for Americas; photos.  
TENNESSEE--Editors' Note.

House votes to prohibit  
partial-birth abortions

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press  
11/2/95

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act recently, marking the first time in nearly 23 years it has banned a type of abortion.

The 288-139 vote Nov. 1 is the only time either house of Congress has passed legislation prohibiting an abortion procedure since the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions of 1973.

The bill outlaws a procedure used by apparently a limited number of doctors in the second half of pregnancy. The technique, named "partial-birth" by the bill's sponsors but usually known as dilation and extraction (D and X), involves partial delivery of the unborn child before his or her skull is stabbed with scissors and the brain suctioned out.

Supporters of the bill had expected to win comfortably in the House, but the legislation's future in the Senate is less certain. Sen. Robert Smith, R.-N.H., has introduced a similar bill (S. 939) on that side. President Bill Clinton, meanwhile, has not committed himself on the measure.

"Only persons whose consciences are seared could participate in such a gruesome method of killing," said Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Only a Senate whose consciences are calloused could permit this procedure to continue unchallenged. Only a culture without a conscience could countenance a Senate which would not prohibit D and X abortions."

Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee, said in a prepared statement, "The overwhelming House vote now poses this urgent question to every U.S. senator and to President Clinton: Will you allow living babies to be pulled feet first from the womb, then stabbed with a scissors during the later months of pregnancy?"

Opponents of the legislation, which was H.R. 1833 in the House, charged it is part of a strategy to overturn abortion rights. They also said the procedure is used only in cases of severely defective children or a threat to the mother's life.

"This debate is not about the grossness of reducing the circumference of a fatally deformed fetus' head to allow vaginal delivery," said Rep. Nancy Johnson, R.-Conn., according to The Washington Post. "It is about women facing terrible tragedy and their right to have the safest appropriate medical treatment."

--more--

Martin Haskell, one of the leading practitioners of the procedure, has said, however, about 80 percent of his D and X abortions are "purely elective," according to a 1993 interview with American Medical News, a journal of the American Medical Association.

The Ohio doctor, who described the procedure in a 1992 speech and the 1993 article, and James McMahon of Los Angeles are identified more than any other physicians with the technique. Haskell has said he performs the procedure until 26 weeks of gestation, while McMahon has indicated he does it through 40 weeks. Both doctors have said the majority of babies are alive until near the conclusion of the procedure.

During the procedure, a doctor, using an ultrasound for guidance, uses forceps and his hands to deliver an intact baby feet first until only the head remains in the birth canal. The doctor thrusts scissors into the base of the baby's skull. The doctor inserts a catheter into the opening and suctions out the brain. Because the skull collapses, this provides easier removal of the dead child.

"If anyone treated an animal the way babies are brutalized in this procedure, they would be locked up," Mitchell said.

"There is no difference between this horrific form of abortion and infanticide. If this procedure is not made illegal, the next step will be the legalized killing of postpartum infants."

Only 15 Republicans voted against the bill, while 73 Democrats supported it. Rep. Charles Canady, R.-Fla., was the chief sponsor of the House bill.

--30--

**Avery Willis: Unreached people  
don't have a chance...unless**

**By Mark Christie**

**Baptist Press  
11/2/95**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--"They don't have a church. They don't have a Bible. They don't know who Jesus is. They don't know a Christian. They don't have a chance."

Avery Willis, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president for overseas operations, was reminding a seminary audience Oct. 31 of the 2,466 people groups who never have heard of Christ. His address followed a parade of flags by missionaries from around the world as Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, kicked off its Global Missions Week.

Global Missions Week, held every three years, is a cooperative effort of the Foreign Mission Board and Southwestern. Its purpose is to provide global missions awareness to assess urgent needs, highlight current opportunities and challenge students to consider the missionary dimensions of their callings.

The five-day international missions emphasis featured 46 foreign missionaries and 46 FMB staff involved in special chapel services, classroom visits, sharing of testimonies, a missions fair and a community-wide missions rally.

In addressing the capacity chapel crowd, Willis warned against forgetting "what is on God's heart most of all. What God desires is that the nations of the world praise him, glorify him and worship him."

Willis echoed the apostle Paul's urging in Romans 10 to go and send people to be missionaries. Just as God sent a person to tell the good news, believers are to send people to share, Willis said.

In an age when information is communicated through so many different mediums, it might seem easier to resort to impersonal methods of communication, he noted.

"When God sent the good news, he didn't send a book, he didn't send a video, he didn't send a CD -- he sent a person. That's how much he loved this world. That's how much his heart is on these people hearing," he said.

Willis, a former missionary to Indonesia and former president of Indonesia Baptist Theological Seminary, is author of the acclaimed "MasterLife" training program, which has been translated into 52 languages. His lifelong commitment to foreign missions is reflected in his writings on discipleship, including five seminary textbooks published in Indonesia.

--more--

Willis told the Southwestern community when Jesus gave the Great Commission, the population of the earth was approximately the current population of the United States.

"Now there are six times the population of the United States" who haven't heard the gospel, he said.

In a world with 24 evangelical missionaries for every 1 million people, the mandate is to respond to God's heart cry to gather to himself "a people who would be a glory to his name and who would bless the families of all the nations," Willis said.

"Somebody hasn't gone, somebody hasn't sent them, somebody hasn't proclaimed the gospel, somebody hasn't told them they can have faith in Jesus Christ. They wait now, not knowing."

--30--

(BP) photos available on SBCNet and from Southwestern's office of public relations.

Texas Baptists set new record  
for Sunday school attendance

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press  
11/2/95

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptists set a new Sunday school attendance record on Oct. 29 with 751,893 participating in the 22nd annual "Great Day in the Morning" high attendance day emphasis.

Churches that day recorded about 149,000 more in Bible study than on an average Sunday and broke the goal of 750,000, according to Bob G. Fuston, consultant in the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Sunday school/discipleship division.

"The weather cooperated with us this year, but more importantly, churches and associations around the state cooperated and worked hard to set this new high attendance record," Fuston said.

"The 750,000 mark has been an elusive goal for several years, and we are very grateful for the support and cooperation of churches that made Oct. 29 a real 'Great Day in the Morning.'"

Texas Baptists' previous top single-day attendance was the 1994 "Great Day in the Morning" with 745,368. The first high attendance day in 1974 drew 615,436, which included Minnesota-Wisconsin churches along with Texas Baptist congregations.

--30--

Evangelism campaign in Spain  
brings salvations, revival

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press  
11/2/95

MADRID, Spain (BP)--More than 100 people committed their lives to Christ during a 13-day evangelism campaign in Spain involving 105 Southern Baptist volunteers from several states.

That number is more significant than it first appears in a country where "many of our churches for months don't see one hand raised of a person accepting Christ," said Jos Carmet, director of missions and evangelism for the Spanish Baptist Union.

The campaign, which ended Oct. 23, also left Spanish Baptist churches with an increased zeal for evangelism.

"We had revival in most of the churches and some 100 to 150 professions of faith," said Larry Henry, the missionary who administers Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board work in Spain. "The team members, Spanish churches, pastors and missionaries are very satisfied with the results."

"From 3,000 to 4,000 people heard the gospel for the first time," Carmet said during a closing victory dinner in Madrid. "We distributed between 260,000 and 300,000 tracts and passed out 26,000 gospels and a thousand Bibles."

--more--

Among Spain's 40 million people, Baptists number only about 8,000 and evangelicals of all kinds about 70,000. Eighty percent to 90 percent of Spaniards are Roman Catholics, but missionaries say only about one in four ever attends a worship service. Spanish Baptist leaders insist Spain is one of Europe's major mission fields.

During the campaign, volunteers worked in 26 teams across Spain and the Canary Islands. Team members preached, sang, taught, visited in homes and institutions and handed out tracts and other materials.

The campaign also included a series of concerts by American gospel singer Willa Dorsey and pianist Martin Cuellar, piano professor at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss. Fifty people made spiritual decisions of one kind or another after the concerts alone, said W.H. "Dub" Jackson, Foreign Mission Board crusade coordinator for Western Europe. In one city a communist mayor attended a concert.

Fifty-three of the Southern Baptist volunteers were from Alabama, where Baptists are voting in November on undertaking a three-year partnership agreement with Spanish Baptists. Thirty participants were Texas Baptists; the rest came from 10 other states.

Team members were covered by television, radio and newspapers in some locations, giving Spanish Baptists a much-needed spotlight in the national media. In Barcelona, Alabama Baptist leader Harper Shannon preached on a Christian radio station. Shannon is associate executive and director of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Dick Barrett, an evangelist singer from Bremen, Ga., sang on the same station.

A team in Bilbao, a city on Spain's northern coast, distributed New Testaments to officers at a police station.

James and Edwina Jennings of First Baptist Church, Woodbury, Tenn., served in Vitoria, where they worked with a mission group now meeting in a home. Mrs. Jennings, a veteran of partnership evangelism in 15 countries, said the evangelism needs in Spain "were the greatest I've ever seen."

The success of partnership hinges on American and national Baptists learning from each other and sharing together in ministry, Jackson stressed. "Partnership is not something we do TO somebody," he said. "When we get normal, everyday Southern Baptists from the States together with normal, everyday Baptists overseas, God can use that chemistry to make amazing things happen. It happens like that in every campaign I've ever worked in."

Jackson is seeking participants in several campaigns in Western Europe during 1996 and 1997. These are: Norway, Oct. 9-22, 1996; Sweden, Oct. 16-28, 1996; Italy, Oct. 30-Nov. 12, 1996; France, May 21-June 3, 1997. The France campaign calls for 500 Southern Baptists, the largest such effort ever held in Western Europe, Jackson said. Interested people should contact the Foreign Mission Board at 1-800-888-8657.

--30--

(BP) photo (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Promise Keepers end '95 season  
with nearly 60,000 in Dallas

By John Yeats

Baptist Press  
11/2/95

IRVING, Texas (BP)--Gate counters registered 59,658 men jammed into Texas Stadium in the Dallas suburb of Irving. Many Southern Baptist men joined with men of other denominations and heard Tony Evans, a Dallas pastor and prominent Promise Keepers speaker, proclaim, "Our churches have too many members! What our churches need is disciples!"

America needs "a generation of men who live like Jesus is in charge now," Evans added in his message at the Oct. 27-28 Promise Keepers rally. "There must be no human allegiance with priority over Jesus."

--more--

The Dallas event was the final Promise Keepers gathering for 1995. The featured speakers, along with Evans, included the movement's founder, Bill McCartney, former head coach of the University of Colorado Buffaloes, and California pastor John Maxwell. The speakers challenged their all-male audiences to have faith in Jesus, love their wives and children, go to church on Sundays, support their pastors and form friendships with other men, especially men of color.

Promise Keepers held 13 conferences in 1995. Eleven were sold out. The organization anticipated 725,000 men paying \$55 each to hear biblical messages like: Don't cheat on your wives; Kiss your kids; Read your Bible; and Go ahead and wear witness T-shirts in public that say, "Real men love Jesus!"

"A real man, a man's man, is a godly man," McCartney said. "A real man is a man of substance. A real man is valuable. A real man loves his wife. A real man has a passion for God and is willing to lay down his life for him."

The PK organization drew 4,200 men in 1991 at a University of Colorado rally, 278,000 for events in 1994. The budget for the organization has doubled every six months.

Many Southern Baptist churches have a growing constituency of Promise Keepers alumni. According to James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, "In the last five years a number of men's ministry groups have emerged. Many of these are inter- and intra-denominational. Most of them, like Promise Keepers, have as their primary objective to facilitate men's ministries in local churches."

Bob Carey, editor of the Brotherhood Commission's Missions Today magazine, said, "Men are 'hands-on' people. People who like to 'do.' We're trying to provide the next step for Promise Keepers. The 'do' concept is necessary for a man's personal growth and personal accountability, and we help men mobilize to personally 'do.'" Carey added, "Our men's retreats, 'Legacy Builders,' build on the strengths of Promise Keepers, yet it brings the dynamics to the local church."

David Anderson, a deacon from First Baptist Church, Mansfield, Texas, and Promise Keepers attendee, said, "This is good. We have 30 men in our group, but this is my first time. I already have a different outlook. Of course, the key is follow-up groups. I can hardly wait to talk to my Sunday school class tomorrow."

In an interview, McCartney shared part of his future vision for Promise Keepers. He would like to see men filling stadiums in every state in the union simultaneously. Preliminary estimates of such an event exceed 3 million participants. He voiced excitement for the one-time-only clergy conference scheduled for Feb. 13-15 of next year in Atlanta. The purpose of the event, McCartney said, is "a calling together of God's men with one heartbeat, one outlook, that God's glory would manifest in the pulpits and the pews of America."

--30--

Yeats is pastor of South Park Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas, and editor of The Plumblin newsletter of Southern Baptists of Texas.

FMB names Wally, Betty Poor  
correspondents for Americas

By Mary E. Speidel

Baptist Press  
11/2/95

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Wally and Betty Poor, 27-year veterans of Southern Baptist missions in Latin America, have been named the Foreign Mission Board's first overseas correspondents for the Americas.

The Poores, journalists who have been missionaries to Uruguay since 1968, will report firsthand on Southern Baptist mission work in 36 countries in Central and South America, the Caribbean and Canada.

--more--

"No one tells the story of what God is doing on the field better than a missionary," said David Button, FMB vice president for public relations and development. "Missionaries have been 'in the trenches' and have seen the hand of God on a daily basis. I can't think of any missionaries who could do a better job of telling that story than Betty and Wally Poor. We could look a long time outside the organization but would probably have a tough time finding two people with as much dedication, experience and talent as the Poores. Their decision to accept this important responsibility is an answer to prayer."

"The Poores are rare jewels," added Louis Moore, the FMB's associate vice president for communications. "They both are trained journalists and veteran missionaries with strong language skills (Spanish, one of the region's main languages) and knowledge of Latin America. That combination is difficult to find."

The couple will join the FMB's overseas correspondent system, launched in 1985 to place professionally trained missionary journalists in each major region of the world.

The Poores move Nov. 16 to their new base in Hollywood, Fla., site of the Caribbean Baptist Communications Centre. Other FMB missionaries there produce audiovisual materials and publications used by Caribbean Baptists.

The couple began their missionary career doing media work through the Baptist Communications Center in Montevideo, Uruguay's capital. They later became church planters after filling in for a furloughing missionary, starting three Baptist churches and reviving several others. Their most recent church start was Baptist Church of the Coast in the fast-growing seaside resort of Solymar, Uruguay. That congregation itself has opened two mission points.

For many years he has been press representative for the organization of FMB missionaries in Uruguay, writing stories on missionaries and Uruguayan Baptists. Since 1994 the Poores also have covered mission work in South America's southern cone -- Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay -- for the board's communications office. This year Mrs. Poor received an award of excellence from the Religious Public Relations Council for a story she wrote on a missionary couple with an autistic child. The story was part of an FMB feature series on how missionaries handle grief.

"The Poores come with the enthusiastic endorsement of all three (FMB) area directors in the Americas," Moore said. "They are tested and true-blue veterans, already familiar to the Southern Baptist journalistic community."

Many Southern Baptists also know about the Poores' work in Uruguay because they were featured in the denomination's 1986 Foreign Mission Study, "A Measure of Success" by Roberta McBride Damon. The study includes the story of their individual calls to missions and how God led them as a couple to Uruguay.

Mrs. Poor, the former Betty Magee, sensed God's call to foreign missions while working as a single newspaper reporter in the late 1950s. That call was confirmed while attending a conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, where she saw a film about a young journalist who became a missionary.

Poor, on the other hand, at first resisted God's call. He thought becoming a missionary would mean giving up journalism. "It never even occurred to me that God could use a newspaperman on a mission field," Poor told Damon. "As far as I was concerned, that was for preachers and teachers and doctors. Whoever heard of a newspaperman going as a missionary?"

Before missionary appointment, Poor, 60, was state copy desk chief for the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel. Earlier he worked in editing and reporting jobs for the Lakeland (Fla.) Ledger, Tampa (Fla.) Times, Wellington (Kan.) Daily News, Newport (Ark.) Independent, and Carbon County News in Red Lodge, Mont. He is from Wheaton, Mo.

Mrs. Poor, 59, was a youth director at First Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla.; an editorial assistant for The Commission, magazine of the Foreign Mission Board; and a reporter for the Harriman (Tenn.) Record. She also was a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer missionary in New Mexico and a secretary at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. She is from Bloomfield, Mo.

The Poors both received the bachelor of journalism degree from the University of Missouri in Columbia. She also holds the master of religious education degree from Southwest rn seminary.

Poor attended Southwestern and holds the associate of arts degree from Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo. In 1994 he received that university's life service award for outstanding contributions to religious, educational and community life.

--30--

(BP) photos (mugshots) to be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutline posted in SBCNet News Room.

---

EDITORS' NOTE: In (BP) story titled "NOBTS presidential candidate declines; trustee meeting off," dated 11/1/95, please substitute the following for the third paragraph:

Lowery issued a statement Oct. 31, noting, "Yesterday, God confirmed in my heart that I was not to go to New Orleans. At that time I called the chairman and shared what I felt in my heart. Today I formally withdrew my name from further consideration."

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

---

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