



CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

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A Moment of Truth

Recently, I preached a sermon entitled "The Moment of Truth." The Scripture text was John 12:20-28. The second part of the sermon was about the necessity of paying the price, built on verse 24, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone."

In the moment of truth, Christ came face to face with the price that was required for Him to fulfill the Father's will. For Christ the price was the cross. He could have escaped the cross, but the Father's will would not have been accomplished.

For each of us, our moment(s) of truth will come. We will have to stand up and be counted. We will come face to face with whether we are willing to become the "living sacrifices," of which Paul wrote in Romans.

Will we be identified with the Common Man in Robert Bolt's magnificent drama, *A Man For All Seasons*? The concluding scene has the Common Man to step to the edge of the stage, just after the godly Thomas More has been beheaded for defying conscience' sake the wrathful Henry VIII. The Common Man says to the stunned audience: "I'm breathing—are you breathing, too? It's nice, isn't it?"

It isn't difficult to survive. All it costs is refusal to pay the price that comes from saying yes to the Father's will.

Most of us serve our Lord in difficult and challenging places. Some of those places are the Persian Gulf, a remote assignment, an overcrowded prison, an intensive care unit, a psychiatric ward, an intake unit, a pastoral counseling center, a patrol car, a local church or a denominational agency. Regardless of where we face our moment(s) of truth, my prayer is that we will be able to say with Christ, "Nevertheless not my will, but Thine will be done" (Luke 22:42).

Huey D. Perry, Director, Chaplaincy Division

New Day in Chaplaincy

Opportunities for expanding Chaplaincy Ministries have never been greater, in spite of budgetary dangers for some programs. One factor contributing to this new interest is the realization that the work place cannot be isolated from home life. Personal concerns follow us from home to work and back again.

Many informed and committed Christians who supervise employees are aware of the help that can be given to their workers by well-trained chaplains who are present in the workplace when and where the pressure is. Some employers have concluded that the Employee Assistance Program

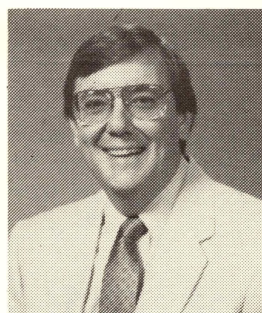
(EAP) is lacking a vital element and employers have elected to meet spiritual needs not addressed by EAP. Several churches and associations have involved themselves in ministry during the workday, not content to limit their witness to the normal fare offered at the church building during people's free time.

The Chaplaincy Division of the Home Mission Board has been at the forefront of the efforts to increase awareness of Chaplaincy Ministry opportunities. The Chaplaincy Division is working with churches, associations and state conventions regarding the multitude of ways and places that people can be reached with the good news of reconciliation.

Difficult times are not new. This is not a time for hand wringing, but a time for bold action. Never have ministry opportunities outside the four walls of a church been greater. Developing those opportunities requires inspired imagination and action. We, in the Chaplaincy Division, can share some ideas and a roadmap for the trip. Whether you decide to start the journey is up to you. We hope there are some who see the vision.

Billy D. Donovan, Director, Institutional and Business/Industrial Chaplaincy

New Staff Member



Paul G. Stephenson assumed directorship of Hospital Chaplaincy, September 1, 1987. He was elected to this position by the Board of Directors, Home Mission Board, on July 29. Prior to his coming to the Chaplaincy Division, Stephenson was Director of Chaplaincy Services Department, Scottsdale Memorial Hospital, Scottsdale, Arizona. He comes

with a rich and varied ministry experience as a pastor and hospital chaplain.

Stephenson received a B.S. degree from East Texas State University; MRE and M.Div. degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and a D.Min. degree from Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University.

Dr. Stephenson is married to the former Charlotte Ann Manning, and they have two daughters. Mrs. Stephenson is an instructor in the nursing school of Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta. The Stephensons are welcome additions to the Chaplaincy Division staff and to the Home Mission Board family.

Promotional Article: Hospital Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor

"Where do people go to cry when the hurt in their heart reaches the corners of their eyes?" We are surrounded by people who hurt emotionally and physically. Our Lord gave a major portion of His time to reaching out to hurting people. He modeled for us compassion in action. It is because of Him that men and women have been gifted of God and called by Him to minister to hurting, troubled people.

Today's hospitals and counseling centers represent humankind's response to pain and distress. Christianity emphasizes wholeness. The chaplain is a visible sign of Christ's presence. A pastoral counselor is willing to risk himself in trying to help to heal broken relationships with a basic motive of Christian ministry.

Chaplains and pastoral counselors represent the outreach of the church in response to our Lord's command. They have availed themselves of special training for competency as professional servants. No place on earth sees more of pain, grief, doubt, fear, anger and anxiety than a hospital. The chaplain moves into this environment to listen to the voices of suffering and to confront people with the good news of the immediate availability of a loving God.

In our high tension society, human relationships get short circuited. Communication breaks down, leading to hostile action and emotional distress, with depression a significant symptom. The pastoral counselor addresses these issues when counselees open the doors of their souls to and, keeping the pastoral role central in the counseling approach, they stand alongside of those hurting, bewildered and questioning.

Lowell F. Sodeman

Becoming Less Anonymous

As a police chaplain, I often find myself in some very special ministry situations. Homicides, armed robberies, traffic accidents, sexual assaults and shootings afford me opportunity to minister to people in many different situation events. Frequently some will say, "I'm glad you're here. I didn't even know the police department had chaplains."

My situation isn't unique. Most chaplains serve rather anonymously. The general population is familiar with military chaplains serving with troops in wartime. Most people have an awareness of a chaplain who has visited either them or loved ones during a hospital stay. Beyond these, however, there is a significant lack of understanding or awareness of the many settings where chaplains are found and the number of chaplains who serve.

Why the anonymity? There are many reasons. Let's consider three:

1. The support role of the chaplain. The focus is on those who are in leadership roles, not the chaplain.
2. The nature of the chaplain's ministry. Ministry is a "behind the scenes" process.
3. The servant role of the chaplain. Chaplaincy is not a self-glorifying vocation.

Chaplaincy development is greatly dependent upon how effectively chaplains tell their story. Chaplaincy Ministries increase as people learn what chaplains do.

Chaplains have a story to tell. Let's tell it!

Lowell Lawson, National Missionary for Chaplaincy Ministries Development

Chaplaincy Emphasis Month

May 1988 is designated "Chaplaincy Emphasis Month" on the SBC calendar. This provides a great opportunity to tell the story of chaplaincy to Southern Baptists—a story that needs to be told and one worth telling.

In 1987, several state Baptist conventions observed Chaplaincy Emphasis Month by featuring specific areas of Chaplaincy Ministries in their state papers. An increased number of state conventions will be giving emphasis to chaplaincy in various ways during May of 1988.

The purpose of telling the story of Chaplaincy Ministries is to inform Southern Baptists of the viable and effective ministry Southern Baptist chaplains are providing in areas that local churches are unable to penetrate, and to affirm chaplaincy as a means for Southern Baptists to reach out to people serving, working and living in difficult, lonely and sometimes dangerous places.

In addition to ministry performed within their designated workplaces, chaplains also contribute immeasurably to ministries of their local churches, associations and state conventions. A typical illustration of this appeared in *The New England Baptist* state paper, May 1987. "To us in New England, it is a pleasure to recognize and emphasize the ministry performed by chaplains. Our first Southern Baptist church in New England, Screven Memorial, owes her beginning to chaplains and other military personnel from Pease Air Force Base. Since that beginning in 1958, numerous chaplains have supplied pulpits, served as pastors, interim pastors and faithful church members."

Many other examples could be cited. Southern Baptists need to know about chaplaincy. Help tell their story. Resources are available at the Home Mission Board to assist you.

Pat H. Davis, Director, Military Chaplaincy

The Second Time Around Is Better

It has been a special privilege for me to return to my old job in the Chaplaincy Division, even on a part-time, interim basis. Now that Dr. Paul Stephenson has been elected to fill the position, I have moved on. I am sure Paul will prove to be an excellent person to relate to our hundreds of hospital chaplains and pastoral counselors. He has the personality and experience to invoke good relationships.

It was an honor to be invited back. To work with the kind of staff we have has been delightful, and it was especially pleasant to be a friend to our secretaries! I'll miss them most of all. The guys on the staff are usually gone somewhere. Yep, the second time around is better!

Know this for sure: this staff cares about you! There is an exciting future ahead.

Who knows? They may discover they can't make it without me and I'll pull my "corpsuckles" together and come running to lend a hand. Meanwhile, "I'll be somewhere workin' for my Lord."

Lowell F. Sodeman, Interim Hospital Chaplaincy

Promotion of Chaplaincy Ministries in State Convention

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention has an illustrious history in Chaplaincy Ministries dating back to the 1940s. Consequently, in 1968, when the Home Mission Board challenged state conventions to develop Chaplaincy Ministries through their Missions Departments, Arkansas was the first to respond by employing a full-time Chaplaincy Director.

It was my good fortune, in 1979, to fill the position and to build on the strong foundation that others had laid.

How best can chaplaincy be promoted at the state level? I find it to be a multifaceted effort. It includes speaking (in as many churches as possible), the written word and personal contacts.

One fruitful way to promote chaplaincy, from my experience, is to work with the Associational Director of Missions and with pastors. The Director of Missions knows where the needs are and usually is eager to respond to opportunities. Consequently, the director shares in the accomplishments and experiences the fulfillment in ministry.

Over the past year we have developed five new and significant ministries in three Baptist Associations. Included are three Federal Job Corps in Arkansas with a total of 622 young men and women, ages 16-21; the Little Rock Fire Department with 338 firemen; and a rehabilitation center with 45 young people with head injuries.

In each case, the Director of Missions participated enthusiastically. Three churches have agreed to sponsor the three Job Corps. Two churches have had formal commissioning services for the chaplains involved, and we anticipate the third one will be commissioned soon.

Probably the most effective way to promote Chaplaincy at the state level is to have a Chaplaincy Director in the state convention. If no one is there to take the initiative and to respond to inquiries, who will do it?

Leroy Sisk, State Director of Chaplaincy Ministries, Arkansas

1987-88 Chaplains Commission Members

William J. Viel, Jr., chairperson, a Pennsylvania native, is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He received a D.Min. degree from Luther Rice Seminary. Dr. Viel is pastor of First Baptist Church, Essex, Md. He is chairman of evangelism for the Baltimore Baptist Association. He is chaplain for Maryland state police, aviation division, and Maryland state penitentiary, Baltimore. He and his wife, Linda, have one son. Gardening and writing are his hobbies.

D.F. Norman, secretary, an Indiana native, is a graduate of the University of Evansville, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is director of the Pastoral Ministries Department, Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia. Norman is listed in *Outstanding Young Men in America*. He and his wife, Joyce, have three daughters. His hobbies are golf and traveling.

Paulina Brown, a Missouri native, is a graduate of Hannibal-LaGrange College and Atchison Business College. A member of First Baptist Church, Shelbina, Mo., Mrs. Brown teaches an Adult Sunday School class and is president of

Baptist Women. She is a member of the Women's Club of Shelbina and director of the Shelbina Senior Housing Board. She and her husband, Marion, have one daughter. Gardening, traveling and needle work are her hobbies.

Carolyn Byrd, a North Carolina native, attended Meredith College and Queens College. She is a member of Carmel Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, teaches a Youth Sunday School class and is active in Baptist Women. Mrs. Byrd is a state-approved Youth Sunday School conference leader. She and her husband, Henry, have two children. Tennis, reading, sewing and traveling are her hobbies.

Hershel Chevallier, a Louisiana native, is a graduate of Louisiana College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is pastor of Cumberland Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN. He is on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Capital Funds and Finance Committees of Knox County Baptist Association. He and his wife, Jerry, have two children. Photography, sports and reading are his hobbies.

John C. Click, a Texas native, is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, with a D.Min. degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Click is pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan. He is president of Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists. He and his wife, Rubye, have two children. His hobbies are hunting and fishing.

Gaylon B. Wiley, a Texas native, is a graduate of Wayland University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is pastor of First Baptist Church, Angleton, Texas, and a former director of missions in Kansas. Wiley serves on the Missions Committee, Gulf Coast Baptist Association. He is a member of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Betty Jane, have three children. His hobbies are fishing, golf and dominoes.

Larry L. Lewis, President, Home Mission Board, Ex officio member.

Gerald B. Palmer, Vice President, Home Mission Board, Missions, Ex officio member.

Ridgecrest/Glorieta Conferences

1988 Home Missions Conferences will be conducted at Ridgecrest, July 9-15, and Glorieta, July 30-August 5. The resource person for both conferences will be Walter C. Jackson, Director of Supervised Ministry Experience and Professor of Ministry, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The theme will be "Spirituality." Conferences will explore personal and family spiritual roots, with a goal to enrich the lives of individuals and family members. Reservations for housing should be sent to Ridgecrest or Glorieta, but (NOTE: DO NOT POSTMARK BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1988.) It is not necessary to register early if accommodations are not desired at the conference centers.

Glorieta Baptist Conference Center
P.O. Box 8
Glorieta, NM 87535
505/757-6161

Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center
P.O. Box 128
Ridgecrest, NC 28770
704/669-8022

Financial Assistance for Conferences

The Home Mission Board, through the Chaplaincy Division, will provide some financial assistance, in 1988, for those endorsed in category A or B, full-time and part-time positions (including Reserve, National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, and retired chaplains), and those who will attend the entire seminary or Ridgecrest/Glorieta conference.

Seminary Conferences:

Chaplains driving personal vehicle: 20 cents per mile to nearest seminary, with \$100 maximum.

Chaplains driving personal vehicle with additional chaplain passenger(s): 25 cents per mile to nearest seminary with \$125 maximum.

Chaplains attending entire seminary conference: \$50 for each conference to assist with lodging expenses and \$20 for food. No provision is made for spouses' expenses, but they are encouraged to attend. If a chaplain wants to attend a conference, other than the nearest one, the chaplain will bear the additional travel expense.

Ridgecrest/Glorieta Conferences:

An allowance of \$50 per chaplain, \$50 per spouse and \$20 per dependent child, with a maximum of two children, plus registration cost for chaplain and spouse only, will be paid by the Chaplaincy Division.

Chaplaincy Division Staff

Director—Huey D. Perry
Administrative Assistant—Royce C. Williams
Director, Military—Pat H. Davis
Associate Director, Military—Lewis G. Burnett
Director, Institutional/Business Industrial—Billy D. Donovan
Director, Hospital—Paul G. Stephenson
Executive Secretary—Beth Baker
Secretary, Hospital—Nan Robbins
Secretary, Institutional/Business Industrial—Tonya Askew
Secretary, Military—Yvonne Rice
Secretary/Data Entry Clerk—Dorothy South

Additional Events for 1988

- Jan. 4-8 Second Army Chaplains Conference, Peachtree City, Ga.
- Jan. 11-15 Sixth Army Chaplains Conference, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Jan. 11-12 Race Track Chaplains of America, Fort Worth, Texas
- Jan. 31-Feb. 4 Fourth Army Chaplains Conference, Fort Mead, Md.
- Feb. 9-11 Fourth Army Chaplains Conference, Indianapolis, Ind.
- Feb. 26-Mar. 2 APHA College of Chaplains, San Francisco, Calif.
- Apr. 21-24 Chaplains Orientation, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga. (by invitation)
- Apr. 27-May 1 American Association of Pastoral Counselors, Portland, Ore.
- May 1-31 Southern Baptist Chaplaincy Ministries Month (Southern Baptist Convention)
- June 14-16 Southern Baptist Convention, San Antonio, Texas
- June 15 Chaplains Breakfast, San Antonio, Texas
- July 4-8 International Conference of Police Chaplains, Baltimore, Md.
- July 9-15 Chaplains Conference, Ridgecrest, N.C.
- July 30-Aug. 5 Chaplains Conference, Glorieta, N.M.
- Aug. 13-18 American Correctional Chaplains Conference, Denver, Colo.
- Sept. 8-11 Chaplains Orientation, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga. (by invitation)
- Oct. 29-Nov. 4 Dialogue '88, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Oct. 30-Nov. 4 Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, Minneapolis, Minn.

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