

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 6, 1996

96-98

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SBC presidents urge Clinton:
'repent' of abortion ban veto By Art ToalstonBaptist Press
6/6/96

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)--An appeal to President Bill Clinton "to repent of your veto" of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act has been sent to the White House by Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry and 10 previous SBC presidents.

In a two-page letter to Clinton June 5, the SBC presidents wrote: "It is with heavy hearts and profound disappointment that we express our united and unambiguous opposition to your veto of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act. This grisly procedure cannot be morally justified.

"We appeal to you not only as religious leaders, but as many of the former presidents of the Christian denomination you claim as your own, the Southern Baptist Convention. You should know that our concern is felt very deeply, as evidenced by the fact that this is the only time in the 150-year history of our denomination that such a letter has been sent to a United States President.

"Partial-birth abortion is, by any civilized moral measurement, inhumane and unconscionable."

In another paragraph, the presidents stated: "The Apostle Paul enjoined Christians to restore with gentleness those who are caught in 'any trespass' (Galatians 6:1). We appeal to you in that spirit to repent of your veto of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act and to express publicly your personal regret at having made such a decision in the first place."

A White House spokeswoman said June 6 the SBC presidents' letter had been received and that Clinton would be responding to the letter by reaffirming the stance he already has taken in vetoing the measure.

The SBC presidents, in their challenge to Clinton over his veto of the ban on the late-term abortion procedure, joined their voices with:

-- evangelist Billy Graham, a Southern Baptist, who said on syndicated columnist Cal Thomas' weekly CNBC television show May 5, "I think the president was wrong in vetoing it" and "I had the opportunity of telling him that in person." Graham, who prayed at Clinton's inauguration, declined to state when he talked with Clinton and how the president responded. Graham and his wife, Ruth, were honored with a White House tea in connection with the Congressional Gold Medal they received May 1 in Washington.

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-- eight Roman Catholic cardinals and Anthony Pilla, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, who said in an April 16 letter to Clinton his veto was "beyond comprehension for those who hold human life sacred." Describing the late-term procedure "more akin to infanticide than abortion," they said their response in unison was "virtually unprecedented" and they will do all they can to educate people about the procedure and inform them the president is the reason it continues to be legal. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls also issued a statement April 19 affirming the cardinals' and bishops' letter, saying the abortion procedure "amounts to an incredibly brutal act of aggression against innocent human life." Raymond Flynn, a Roman Catholic appointed by Clinton as ambassador to the Vatican, also publicly sided with his church.

Joining Henry in the SBC presidents' letter, and the years listed for their presidencies, were Franklin Paschall, 1967, 1968; W.A. Criswell, 1969, 1970; James Sullivan, 1977; Adrian Rogers, 1980, 1987, 1988; Bailey Smith, 1981, 1982; James T. Draper Jr., 1983, 1984; Charles F. Stanley, 1985, 1986; Jerry Vines, 1989, 1990; Morris H. Chapman, 1991, 1992; H. Edwin Young, 1993, 1994. Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., will conclude his second one-year term as SBC president during the convention's annual meeting June 11-13 in New Orleans.

The SBC presidents described the abortion procedure thusly:

"With ultrasound for guidance, a doctor uses forceps and hands to deliver an intact baby feet first until only the head remains in the birth canal. The doctor pierces the base of the baby's skull with surgical scissors. He or she then inserts a canula into the incision and suctions out the brain of the baby so the head can be collapsed."

"You stated that you had prayed about this issue before deciding to veto the Partial-birth Abortion Ban," the SBC presidents wrote to Clinton. "It is difficult for us to understand that God somehow would condone this procedure in the light of what the Bible says about unborn human life, or perhaps, you were gravely misinformed about the barbaric nature of the procedure."

Citing Scripture, the presidents recounted: "The Old Testament scriptures demonstrate that every human being is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Furthermore, God told the prophet Jeremiah that he was known intimately from even before he was formed in the womb (Jeremiah 1:4-5). Every human life is sacred and possesses unique dignity. Jesus our Lord showed special love and regard for children during His earthly ministry and cursed those who would despise His little ones (Mark 10:14-16). Partial-birth abortion is not defensible in light of God's revelation."

And, the presidents contended to Clinton, "Your often-repeated rationale for an exception 'for the mother's health' is a discredited, catch-all loophole which has been demonstrated to include any reason the mother so desires." The bill itself had made an exception for the procedure, also known as dilation and extraction, only when the life of the mother is endangered.

The SBC presidents assured Clinton: "Mr. President, should you, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, reverse your thinking on this matter and sign the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act into law, we will defend you and your decision in the face of the enemies of the sanctity of every human life.

"We further pledge that we, and the overwhelming majority of Southern Baptists, will do everything we are able to encourage Congress to override this shameful veto. As you know, Southern Baptists are on record for their decade-and-a-half-long, adamant opposition to abortion. We can assure you that Southern Baptists are even more vigorously opposed to the partial-birth abortion procedure."

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A congressional staffer said June 6 she does not expect Congress to attempt an override of the veto until at least July. The bill received overwhelming approval in the House of Representatives, in a 286-129 vote in March, including the support of 72 members of Clinton's party. While the House may be able to achieve a two-thirds majority in an override attempt, such an effort appears doomed in the Senate, where the bill passed by only a 54-44 tally last December. The bill marked the first time Congress has outlawed a specific procedure since the Roe v. Wade opinion was issued.

The SBC presidents concluded their letter: "We pray for you and for the awesome responsibilities of the high office which God has allowed you to hold. We know these duties can only be fulfilled responsibly by God's grace and wisdom. God bless you, Mr. President, and God bless America."

Clinton, in vetoing the bill in April, criticized members of Congress for not including an exception he proposed which would allow the procedure to "avert serious adverse health consequences" to the mother.

"I understand the desire to eliminate the use of a procedure that appears inhumane," Clinton said at the time. "But to eliminate it without taking into consideration the rare and tragic circumstances in which its use may be necessary would be even more inhumane." In announcing his veto, Clinton had five women -- who said they had undergone such procedures because of serious fetal and maternal health problems -- share their experiences. All supported his veto.

The White House spokeswoman reiterated June 6 Clinton would sign the bill if the mother's-health exception is included.

Citing Supreme Court decisions, supporters of the bill said an exception for the health of the mother would render the legislation meaningless, because the definition of "health" would be used to cover a wide range of reasons. Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Committee, also reminded that Pamela Smith, director of medical education in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Chicago's Mt. Sinai Hospital, had testified before a Senate committee, in her words, "There are absolutely no obstetrical situations encountered in this country which require a partially delivered fetus to be destroyed to preserve the health of the mother."

While abortion advocates have said the procedure is used mostly in the cases of a severely deformed baby or a threat to the mother, the statements of a leading practitioner of the procedure contradicted such claims. Martin Haskell, an Ohio abortion doctor, has said about 80 percent of his partial-birth abortions are "purely elective," according to a 1993 interview with American Medical News, a journal of the American Medical Association. In a 1992 speech, Haskell said he had performed about 700 such abortions. It is uncertain how many doctors use the procedure and how many times the procedure is done each year.

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Tom Strode contributed to this article. The text of the SBC presidents' letter is posted in SBCNet News Room.

EDITORS' NOTE: The following article replaces one with the same headline in (BP) 6/4/96.

**Intercom prayer banned
in Mississippi school**

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
6/6/96

OXFORD, Miss. (BP)--Permitting student-led prayer and Bible reading over a public school intercom system violates the separation of church and state, a federal judge has ruled in a case which focused nationwide attention on a northeast Mississippi county.

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Judge Neal Biggers issued a permanent injunction June 3 ordering the Pontotoc County School District not only to halt devotionals over the intercom at North Pontotoc Attendance Center but also to stop authorizing vocal prayers by elementary classes before going to the cafeteria for lunch and the current method of teaching a Bible history course. Biggers also banned the use in American history classes of three videos, including "America's Godly Heritage" by conservative Christian speaker/writer David Barton.

The judge for the northern district of Mississippi allowed, however, the school district to continue to permit student-led devotionals in the gymnasium before the class day begins. He also said kindergarten and elementary students could participate in the pre-school gatherings if they had written permission from a parent.

The school and its lawyers said a decision had not been made on whether to appeal the ruling.

The case began in December 1994 when Lisa Herdahl filed suit against the school district for allowing such practices. Herdahl and her five children had moved from Wisconsin to Ecu, Miss. They have been threatened and harassed as a result of the suit, she said. As a result, she and others involved in the case appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" earlier this year and have been featured in national publications.

The trial in federal court was held in early March.

While People for the American Way and the American Civil Liberties Union assisted Herdahl in the case, many Southern Baptists at the local and national level supported the school's position. Michael Whitehead began assisting the school district while he was general counsel of the Christian Life Commission and continued to help after becoming a vice president at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., served as the school district's expert witness at the three-day trial.

People for the American Way general counsel Elliot Minberg called the opinion a "significant affirmation of religious liberty and constitutional principles that have been under attack. The religious right, claiming religious persecution, has made frequent attempts to rewrite our Bill of Rights and dismantle the protections built into the First Amendment. . . . This decision, however, reinforces the principle of separation between church and state."

Whitehead said, "Judge Biggers jokes that as long as there are tests there will be silent prayers in public school. But a silent prayer over a test paper is not much religious freedom. Surely the First Amendment guarantees more religious freedom than that."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said, "For those who continue to argue that we do not need a religious equality amendment to the Constitution because the First Amendment is sufficient, my response is: 'What about Pontotoc?'"

Whitehead described the opinion as less than a total victory for the ACLU and PAW, saying the school district made some major gains. Land and he called the inclusion of younger children in the religious exercise before school as the most significant development in the opinion, with implications for the scope of the Equal Access Act.

The morning, pre-class meeting began in the school gym after the judge issued an April 1995 preliminary injunction against the intercom devotionals. No teachers participate, and students in the Aletheia Club, formerly the Christ in Us Club, conduct the devotional each day. (Aletheia is a Greek word for "truth.") Seventh-through 12th-graders are free to participate, while students in kindergarten through the sixth grade may attend if they have a consent slip from a parent.

"Through parental consent, the elementary children are on equal footing with secondary school students, who the Supreme Court has held are mature enough to differentiate between sponsorship and mere custodial oversight," Biggers wrote.

"Furthermore, the court finds that no imprimatur of state involvement is exhibited in this practice as it relates to the non-participating students. The risk of the appearance of improper state involvement is significantly diminished in an opt-in type of situation as exists here, as opposed to an opt-out type of situation in the classroom prayer practices."

The importance of that ruling, Land said, is with the allowance of "written parental consent, this would potentially expand equal access from secondary schools all the way down to kindergarten in those large numbers of school districts where the elementary school children and secondary school children are in close physical proximity to each other."

The Equal Access Act allows secondary school students to hold Bible club meetings on school property outside class hours when their school permits other clubs to meet.

Biggers said the Bill of Rights "was created to protect the minority from tyranny by the majority" and ruled the other practices in question unconstitutional.

While the school said it allowed brief access to the intercom each morning for any student club, Biggers said only the Aletheia Club "has been provided the opportunity to actually espouse its belief." The school said it had established a limited open forum under the Equal Access Act, but Biggers disagreed, saying that law did not apply. Instead, there was a "captive audience situation," not a voluntary one.

Teachers who bow their heads during intercom prayers or ask students to be quiet before the intercom devotionals are practicing coercion, the judge said. "That is pathetic," Land said of Biggers' reasoning.

The school's classroom blessings before lunch formed an establishment of religion, the judge ruled. In the elementary grades, prayers before lunch were allowed in the classroom before students went to the cafeteria. Students who did not desire to participate would leave the classroom and wait in the hallway with the teacher.

The Bible course violated all three prongs of the Lemon test, Biggers said. The manner of teaching the course: 1) Did not have a secular purpose; 2) had the primary effect of advancing religion and (3) excessively entangled government with religion.

The course name was changed to "A Biblical History of the Middle East" in 1993 when the Mississippi State Department of Education rejected the course under the title "Bible." Though the name had changed, there was no indication the content had been altered, Biggers said. The course favored "fundamentalist Christianity" over all others, he wrote.

Biggers did not, however, ban church-paid teachers from leading the course but said he assumed the Mississippi State Department of Education and school district would monitor the class more closely. A committee, popularly known as the Bible Committee, has sponsored a Bible class in the schools for 50 years. Elementary students may opt out of it. It is offered as an elective to junior- and senior-high students.

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Record year for student missions
promises life-changing experiences

Baptist Press
6/6/96

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--After studying geography four years in college, working a year as a map maker and then hitting the books two more years for a master's degree, Carolyn Herndon decided this summer it was time to go abroad.

Only not for a vacation.

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Herndon's travel will take her to central Asia, where she will teach English at a medical school and help provide a spiritual breath of life to those who seek it. She will work in a Buddhist area shrouded for centuries by a hazy wall of anti-Western isolationism. It is part of the world known as "The Last Frontier," where people have had little or no access to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Herndon, 24, is among a record 374 students who will participate in Student Summer Missions, supervised through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

She left June 2 for her eight-week assignment.

Summer missionaries choose from assignments ranging in length from four to 10 weeks and scattered from the bush of Botswana to the high-rise jungles of Japan. Participation this summer far surpassed last year's record of 275.

Students must be at least 18 years old and have 60 or more hours of college credit.

"Hopefully God has prepared me well," said Herndon, just two days before her flight out of Washington, D.C. "It's almost unreal at times that I'm getting ready to go to this country."

She applied for an assignment there after watching a video at a friend's birthday party. "It said less than 2 percent of the people living in the country have ever heard of Jesus," she said. The video also said more people know about Coca-Cola and Mickey Mouse. It depicted missionaries working and living among the people. "It really touched me."

Herndon will apply her experience toward a master of divinity degree she is pursuing at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. To earn her degree, she must participate in two "supervised ministry experiences." Her first was with the singles ministry at her church in Louisville, Highview Baptist.

Herndon raised her own support for the trip. Others apply for some help through their college Baptist Student Unions. But most participants contribute significantly to the cost of their ministry, which ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,800, said Mike Lopez, who directs the student section of the International Service Department at the Foreign Mission Board.

More than 200 of this year's summer missionaries attended a three-day orientation at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., in late spring. Many also will attend a debriefing exercise at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., after they return from overseas and before they start classes in the fall.

The student missions program has grown sharply in recent years. As recently as 1990, missionaries on the field requested only 144 students. Assigned that year were 104. This year they requested 444. Of the 374 assigned in 1996, the most (33) came from schools in Missouri. Texas and Oklahoma schools contributed 30 from each state.

Like other short-term overseas stints, student missions has played a role in producing many career missionaries since its beginning in 1947. This month, in fact, a couple who both served as summer missionaries -- he in Hungary, she in the Philippines -- are to be appointed as career missionaries.

Assignments are tailored for students, Lopez said. One letter from a missionary in an area hostile to the gospel is addressed to members of "the minority exposure team." The missionary details a carefully planned "prayerwalking" experience, backpacking through areas where the gospel is unknown and praying for the people there. At one point, the missionary notes, "you might have to go a couple of days without a bath"

Other requests are more traditional, such as those for a nurse, lifeguard and cabin counselors at a Baptist encampment in Israel.

No matter what the assignment, students can expect their summer experience to change them.

Preparing to leave, Herndon knew she had no idea what it would be like. "I don't want to have expectations that aren't real," she said. "As far as living conditions, I'm expecting the worst and hopefully it'll be better than the worst. But I know I'm not going to have fully anticipated what is there when I step off the plane."

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Texas board endorses response
to motion targeting homosexuality By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
6/6/96

DALLAS (BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board unanimously adopted a committee report June 4 stating the convention already has the process in place to deny seating to messengers from churches with homosexual deacons or pastors.

Following a motion by Bruce Prescott of Houston, the executive board adopted without debate the report from the BGCT messenger seating study committee.

Chairman Hollie Atkinson of Marshall said he hoped the report would "be a guide to credential committees dealing with the homosexual issue into the next century."

The report still must be approved by messengers to the 1996 state convention in Fort Worth, Nov. 11-12. The 14-member committee was appointed after the BGCT received a motion from Don Workman of Lubbock at last November's annual meeting that the convention amend its governing documents "to not allow churches that have practicing homosexuals as deacons or pastors to be seated as messengers."

The study committee recommended no change in the convention's constitution, saying the BGCT already has the foundation, rationale and means to exclude messengers.

"The Bible is the foundation, the constitution is the rationale, and the credentials committee and the will of the body are the means," the committee's report stated.

The report pointed to the marital union between husband and wife as the biblical ideal for sexual behavior, and it said all other sexual relations -- premarital, extramarital or homosexual -- are sinful. "Homosexual practice is therefore in conflict with the Bible," the report stated. "Because of our commitment to biblical authority, the convention's seating of messengers from churches which knowingly endorse sexual practices outside of the biblical vision of marriage would be divisive and disruptive to its fellowship and purpose.

"If faced with the question of seating messengers from churches holding contrary beliefs, the convention has the power to exclude such messengers," the report stated.

The committee concluded that the convention's purpose of promoting "harmony of feeling and concert of action" in advancing God's kingdom would best be served by not amending the constitution "to name one or more sinful practices."

"The convention can and will deal with messenger seating issues as they arise with constitutional provisions already in place," the report stated. "Were the convention to deny the seating of messengers, its language and actions should be redemptive and consistent with its purpose. In like manner, we encourage all Texas Baptists to follow Jesus' model of loving and redemptive ministry to all persons."

Other administrative committee recommendations approved during the board's meeting in Dallas included:

-- designating 1998 as the "Year of the Family." Phil Strickland, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, reported the adoption of a family life plan focused on training and equipping local churches in family ministry. Highlights of the plan include equipping 100 certified family minister trainers who will work with 1,000 Family Ministry Corps volunteers around the state.

-- approval of a statement of relationship between the BGCT and the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention, extending the relationship of encouragement and financial assistance through 2010.

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-- designating the 1996-97 academic year as a celebration of 75 years of Baptist student ministry in Texas.

-- approval of a recommendation from the Human Welfare Coordinating Board allowing Buckner Baptist Benevolences and its subsidiary, Buckner Retirement Services, to issue \$30 million in tax-exempt bonds or to secure other conventional financing. The financing will provide \$20.5 million for relocation and construction of a retirement center in Houston, \$6.5 million to build Buckner Westminster Place in Longview and \$3 million for related costs.

The board also heard a report that 104 payments from the Annuity Emergency Fund have been made in 1996 to retired ministers facing financial hardships. Of the 4,359 annuitants in Texas, 634 are receiving pensions of \$100 or less per month.

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Southwestern names Craig Bird
as public relations director By Brian Smith

Baptist Press
6/6/96

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Craig Bird, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Africa, has been named director of public relations/news and information at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, effective June 10.

Bird, 46, has served in Nairobi, Kenya, as overseas correspondent for Africa and communications consultant with the Foreign Mission Board since 1986. He and his wife, Melissa, were the first missionaries assigned to the overseas correspondent network, which placed communication professionals in various areas of the world to tell the story of what God is doing through Southern Baptists on the mission field. They have been on leave of absence in recent months for health reasons.

"Melissa and I regret very much that medical problems kept us from returning to Kenya as missionaries," Bird said. "I suspect the deepest parts of our heart and souls will always belong to Africa.

"But out of that negative we strongly feel God has offered a positive in Fort Worth and that he has something to teach us and ways to use us at Southwestern. The fact that Southwestern has trained more Southern Baptist missionaries than any other school should allow us to remain in contact with the missionary spirit that is at the heart of the gospel," Bird said.

"Craig has been a wonderful asset to our writing team," said Louis Moore, FMB associate vice president for communications. "At the same time, we want Craig to follow God's will for his and Melissa's life. We are pleased that God has opened this new door of service for them in Fort Worth, where Melissa can be close to the medical care she needs and where Craig can continue to serve God in a strategic role in our denomination."

Prior to his appointment with the FMB, Bird served as feature edit or for Baptist Press, the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention; news director for Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas; communications director\houseparent for South Texas Children's Home, an agency of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He also has worked as editor of the Beeville (Texas) Bee-Picayune; as sports writer and copy editor for the Corpus Christi (Texas) Caller-Times; and as a reporter for the Lawton (Okla.) Constitution-Press.

Bird received an associate of arts degree from San Jacinto (Texas) College; a bachelor of journalism degree from the University of Texas-Austin; and a master of arts in English from Hardin-Simmons. He also has attended Southwestern Seminary and the University of Houston, where he has completed course work for the master of communications degree in public relations.

He has won more than 50 awards from both secular and religious public relations and press associations for news and feature writing; photography; graphic design; editorial and column writing; headline writing; and investigative reporting. He also is active in community service and was listed in Outstanding Young Men in America in 1984.

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"I'm thankful that Craig is going to join our team," said Jack D. Terry Jr, Southwestern's vice president for institutional advancement. "His extensive background in all forms of public relations and news/information is a plus for the PR services of Southwestern."

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14-year-old awaiting transplant Baptist Press
trusting God, mother & father By Orville Scott

6/6/96

RANGER, Texas (BP)--Lora "Pebbles" Massegee, daughter of Texas Baptist evangelists Charles and Beverly Massegee of Ranger, has one of the rarest diseases ever diagnosed, primary hyperoxaluria (oxalosis). There are only 125 diagnosed cases of the liver deficiency in the world.

For seven months at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis, the sunshiny, enthusiastic 14-year-old has been waiting patiently for a liver and kidney transplant that could give her new life and health. She undergoes dialysis six hours a day, six days a week.

Lora's unflagging spirit and faith never cease to overwhelm her parents, who have seen her overcome amazing odds. Lora had her first kidney transplant when she was six months of age. At 30 months, her body rejected the transplant, and she received a kidney from an adult cousin. That lasted more than 11 years until she outgrew the immuno-suppression therapy.

Last December at the hospital in Minneapolis, Lora's heart stopped 12 times in two hours, and doctors said she wouldn't make it through the night. Three weeks later when she was able to be off the respirator and go back to a room upstairs, a doctor said, "There goes a miracle."

In February, she received another kidney transplant, but the kidney developed a clot and had to be removed. Doctors determined then that Lora must receive both kidney and liver transplants. Beverly, in anguish over seeing her daughter suffer so many setbacks, said, "Lora, this isn't fair."

"God never promised us fair," Lora responded.

Lora's dad said, "It's amazing how God has seen us through this emotionally and financially."

The Massegees hope Lora eventually will receive help through Medicare's in-stage renal disease program, but meanwhile, medical bills have risen to about \$700,000 since Lora was hospitalized last August. Dialysis alone is \$33,000 a month.

"It is still being determined what percentage insurance will pay," Massegee said, "but we could not make it without the help and encouragement of folks at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

"Although doctors say most oxalosis patients do not make it through the double transplant operation, Lora is at her peak physically. Basically, it would cure her. We hope our fellow Baptists will join us in praying that a correct match will be found soon." The Massegees may be reached at 900 Washington Ave. S.E., Apt. 118, Minneapolis, MN 55414; phone, (612) 379-7868.

Lora's mother said, "I know I could not go through what she's gone through and not even question God. Her strength is what keeps us going."

Once, concerned that Lora must surely have fears, Beverly asked if she needed to talk with one of the psychologists at the hospital.

"Mother, I'm not afraid," said Lora. "I have no hidden concerns or worries. You and Daddy and God have taken care of me, and I don't expect that to change."

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**HMB shipping delays
expected from Olympics**

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)--Customers needing Home Mission Board materials in July and August are asked to place their orders by June 28 to avoid shipping delays caused by the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

The Olympics are scheduled for July 19 to Aug. 4. Area postal carriers have told the HMB marketing department to expect disrupted service during that time. To order HMB products, call 1-800 634-2462 or fax 1-800-253-2823.

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CORRECTION: In the (BP) story, "Personal stories shared at Baptist racism summit," dated 6/4/96, please change the reference in the second paragraph from Oklahoma to Alabama.

Thanks,
Baptist Press
