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Baptists ready for Bertha;  
12 feeding units available

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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CHARLESTON, S.C. (BP)--Twelve Southern Baptist disaster relief units were available July 12 to respond to Hurricane Bertha's expected mid-afternoon landfall at the North Carolina-South Carolina state line.

A Charleston, S.C.,-based Baptist feeding unit had set up operations in Charleston July 12 and was scheduled to begin feeding that evening, likely serving National Guard troops and rescue workers, according to a report from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, which coordinates disaster response in cooperation with the American Red Cross.

Feeding units of six Baptist conventions were on standby July 12: South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Florida and Northeast (encompassing New York, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, Maryland/Delaware and New England).

Feeding units of five other Baptist conventions were on alert: Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Alabama.

Full precautions were being taken in the coastal areas the morning of July 12, although Bertha's top winds offshore had fallen from 115 m.p.h. two days earlier to 90 m.p.h. National Hurricane Center Director Bob Burpee was quoted as citing "some strengthening" of Bertha's winds the morning of July 12. In Myrtle Beach, S.C., gusts of up to 60 m.p.h. were being recorded.

In Charleston, a group of Brotherhood junior high World Changers doing inner-city home construction and renovation was sent home because of the storm's uncertain path.

In another Baptist disaster response, Alaska Baptists are seeking volunteers to help rebuild two homes destroyed by forest fires in the Hatcher Pass Baptist Association area.

The contact person, Kenneth Chadwick, Alaska Brotherhood director, can be reached at (907) 344-9627; fax, (907) 344-7044.

Mike Huckabee taps Proverbs daily  
as he becomes Arkansas governor By Roy Maynard

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--The legislature's not in session this Wednesday morning, and the capitol building here is quiet.

A peek inside the Arkansas governor's office reveals a couple of female staffers, one sitting behind a desk and the other sitting in a chair beside it. They're drinking coffee, talking softly, and seemingly ignoring the phones. Through the cold marble hallways of the capitol there's a hush.

Something bad has happened, one feels, though it's not clear on the surface exactly what it was.

One office is busy, an office that usually isn't: the lieutenant governor's. Mike Huckabee was elected to that office which is to politics what Double-A is to major league baseball, just a stepping stone. Still, a Republican winning a statewide office in Arkansas? This is taken seriously by the Democrat establishment: When he arrived at the capitol in 1993, Huckabee found the door to his office had been nailed shut by the secretary of state.

Nowadays, the only hammering is that of a Little Rock judge's gavel, and who knows what doors will be shut behind the current governor, Jim Guy Tucker, convicted in late May of two felony counts of conspiracy, mail fraud and misapplication of funds in connection with the Whitewater real estate development.

With doors closing for Tucker, who resigns July 15 to pursue his appeals, they're swinging open for Huckabee as Arkansas' third governor in four years, and only the second Republican chief executive in the state's history.

It's a more serious Mike Huckabee that greets reporters now. When interviewed him two years ago, he was free with his laughter and his famous -- and quite good -- imitation of Arkansas native daughter (and former surgeon general) Joycelyn Elders. Huckabee is also noticeably thinner. He smiles and says it's not the stresses of office; it was his wife's insistence he lose some weight, dropping 60 pounds since February. He's also dropped something else: his candidacy for a U.S. Senate seat he was expected to win handily.

Politically, perhaps it would have been smart to stay in that race; what better podium from which to run for Senate than the governor's office? "Even though people would have understood going ahead with my run for the Senate, my conscience would never have understood it," he said. "You have to put duty above desire."

Still, the state's top job isn't an entirely unattractive position. "Governor is a wonderful job," he agreed. "I wake up with the thought that good grief, this isn't a sad thing. I'll get to do service for my state. I get to live here. That's the single most wonderful aspect. I don't have to move to Washington. I'll get to go fishing, I'll get to see my kids. I'll get to see people I like, I'll see the scenery I love."

He patiently dismisses the slightly cynical suggestion he'll have another shot at a Senate seat in 1998. "Another run for Senate? Not in the near future. The decision to abandon this race was a decision to focus on this job, to master and learn this job. I believe a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."

It's not self-consciously that he's inserted Scripture into political philosophy. Huckabee, 40, was chosen president of the Arkansas Baptist Convention in 1989 and served as a pastor before he entered politics. And it's without apology he declares the Bible to be his mooring.

"I have long depended on Scripture not only as a refuge but also for direction," he said. "Since I was 18 I've read a chapter in Proverbs every morning, getting through the whole book each month. For me, that's a source of daily inspiration and guidance. I really believe most good, sound management decisions can be gleaned from the principles you'll find in the book of Proverbs and in other passages, such as the Sermon on the Mount."

With the number of purely political appointments made by the governor -- 6,000 or so -- is the temptation there to make the cuts with a buzz saw instead of a scalpel?

"To go in and wipe everybody out? Not for me. That's not my style." Change, he said, "should be done as we grow into the capacity to fill those responsibilities and take charge of areas with conservative, strong fiscal practices and leadership."

Huckabee said his faith was tested when he learned on May 28 he would soon be governor. "I don't think there's ever been a time in my life when I've felt so pressed to my knees as when I heard the announcement," he said.

Few thought Tucker would be convicted. Huckabee calls the jury's verdict a brave decision.

"I think the jury hasn't been given the credit it deserves for blowing past all of the politics of this, moving past their own feelings, and even their own inclinations. Based on the evidence, they made perhaps the most difficult decision a jury has ever made in this state's history."

Huckabee said he'll first use his new power to heal a sorely wounded state.

"We've all realized this is no time for us to henpeck and be cynical," he said. "It's time for us to shake ourselves awake, survey the storm damage and say, 'Let's get the chainsaws out, folks, and let's get things cleaned up and rebuild.' Right now the state isn't pointing fingers and questioning motives. What I sense and hear from people all over is, 'Bring us together, let's move beyond the nightmare.'"

"It's not a partisan pain. I don't know any Republicans who have enjoyed this. How could they? This is my state; I love it more than any political party. Parties change and, ultimately, the party isn't what you want to serve. We're Arkansans first."

The press seems to agree. Huckabee has enjoyed precious little positive coverage in his three years in office, but the newspapers are now rallying behind him. He won them over with his sincerity and skill in working with his opponents. And his decision to drop out of the Senate race was lauded by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

"When he first appeared in the public lists, they dismissed Mike Huckabee as somebody clearly out of his league," the newspaper opined. "Not only did he talk in that small-town, churchly, low-watt radio way, but he hadn't gone to Yale or Harvard or even Georgetown. And -- here's another humorous aside -- he was a Republican to boot. Who did this yokel think he was and where did he think he was going?"

"... This strange decision to take the governor's job seriously is only Mike Huckabee's latest blow to the conventional wisdom, or rather the conventional cynicism. Obviously the man has no idea of what politics is about; he seems to associate it with quaint ideas like keeping his promises and doing his duty."

Huckabee shifts easily to talk about his personal life. His son, John Mark, 18, is a freshman at Ouachita Baptist University -- that's where Mike graduated magna cum laude, earning his four-year degree in just two years. His son, David, 14, is working at a Boy Scout camp this summer, and daughter Sarah, 11, will be a freshman in high school next fall. Huckabee and his wife of 22 years, Janet, are both natives of Hope, Arkansas -- Bill Clinton's birthplace.

Huckabee has spent much of his adult life in the broadcast industry. He established community television stations in Pine Bluff and Texarkana and produced documentaries in Central America and the Middle East. He's also served as pastor of several churches, including Beech Street First Baptist Church in Texarkana. He won a special election for the lieutenant governor's seat in 1993, then won re-election in 1994 in a 60-percent landslide.

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His ascension to governor comes at a volatile time, he acknowledged. Many of the big issues looming on the horizon will be battles fought at the state level. One of those is the issue of same-sex marriage. An impending Hawaii court decision might lead to pressure on other states to recognize homosexual "marriage." The U.S. Congress and the Supreme Court may become involved, but Huckabee said Arkansas won't let itself be caught off guard.

"We think that in Arkansas we're already covered because we have a sodomy law on the books," he said. "However, we will be looking at that, because we certainly want to protect our state and its people from being forced to accept that sort of behavior as legitimate."

He thinks for a moment when asked if such protective measures might prove unpopular or be seen -- in the press at least -- as "bigoted."

"Frankly, it's one of those issues, whether there is popular support for it or not, it's the right thing to do and I'll do it," he said. "I think there would be popular support for it, but this is one of those that you do because of your conscience."

A similar battle may be fought over physician-assisted suicide, but Huckabee has already mapped out a strategy.

"We have in our constitution Amendment 68, which is called the Unborn Child Amendment," he explained. "It essentially deals with abortion, but it says the responsibility of the state is to protect human life from the time of conception until the time of natural death. Now part of that has been stricken by the federal courts and is currently on appeal. But I think that maybe it can be used to challenge physician-assisted suicide."

And he pledged to carry on the court fight to eliminate abortion from the state's Medicaid spending.

"I think Congress should fix this immediately," he said. "It's totally irresponsible for Congress to try to dictate through a Medicaid program what states can and can't do in relationship to the issue of abortion. The policy of our state is we cannot use Medicaid to fund abortions without violating our state constitution. Our people still value life. There's a respect for God, that he's the keeper of those keys."

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Maxwell: Non-growing churches  
result from poor leadership

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press  
7/12/96

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Plateaued and declining churches are the result of poor leadership, not convention controversy or a history of congregational conflicts, said the founder of a national leadership institute.

"A non-growing church is a reflection of a non-growing leader. If your church is not growing, it's not because you're in the Southern Baptist Convention, it's because you're a lousy leader," John Maxwell said during an annual home missions conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. "Church problems are not because of a bad church but a bad leader. If you've been at a church three years, every problem at the church is yours."

Maxwell, founder of California-based INJOY Inc., said pastors are mistaken if they think their church will grow because they are good preachers. Instead, pastors must train leaders, equip people for service, relate well to people and have the tenacity to handle setbacks.

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Too many pastors develop followers rather than leaders, Maxwell said, illustrating his point by saying his first church grew from three to 300 people. A year after he left, however, attendance dropped to 120. He said he realized he had gathered followers but had not trained leaders for that church.

Maxwell listed 10 differences between leaders who gather followers and leaders who develop leaders.

1) Leaders who gather followers need to be needed. "Most pastors have a major co-dependency problem," Maxwell said. "If you need your people, you won't lead your people. You are so dependent on their affirmation you won't make decisions that might displease them."

Leaders who develop leaders, on the other hand, want to work themselves out of a job. They teach members to feed themselves spiritually rather than depending on the pastor.

2) Leaders who gather followers focus on people's weaknesses and imprison them. Leaders who train leaders focus on people's strengths and empower them.

3) Leaders with followers devote their attention to needy, demanding people in their congregation. Such people need ministry but other church members should minister to them, Maxwell said. To develop leaders, pastors should invest their time in people who will help the church accomplish its purpose.

4) Being a great leader means making tough decisions, such as firing staff people who are not doing their jobs. Pastors who are not willing to make such decisions "don't want a church. They want a fan club," he said.

5) Leaders who gather followers hold on to people, while equipping leaders give new leaders away. "The way to get a new leader is to give the last leader you trained away," Maxwell said. "It's in hoarding that we lose them."

Good leaders also lead by example. "Never do anything your people can't do too. That's why we have so many spectators in our churches. They quit marching and start applauding."

6) Leaders with followers spend time with people, but leaders training others invest time in people. To train people, leaders must strategically invest their time in key people.

7) Leaders with followers attract a crowd and grow from the outside instead of training people to be leaders and growing from the inside. It is possible for healthy growing churches to use both styles of growth, Maxwell added.

8) Leaders with followers ask for little commitment from their members because they're afraid of being rejected, Maxwell said. "The average Sunday morning prayer of pastors is that people will show up. Is your goal for them to show up or grow up? You can never satisfy the appetite of a crowd."

Leaders who develop leaders believe in people and have high expectations of them. The expectations are usually met, Maxwell said, because "when you believe in people, they will go to great measures never to disappoint you."

9) Leaders with followers lead everyone equally because they think they have to spend an equal amount of time with everybody to be fair. Leaders who develop leaders find key people, learn about their temperament, spiritual gifts, joys, dreams and sorrows and lead them accordingly, Maxwell said. "Never try to treat people the same. It's impossible and it's stupid. Wimpy people in church who put personal needs above the team's don't need to be babied."

10) Leaders with followers impact only the people they touch, Maxwell said, while leaders who train leaders impact people beyond their reach.

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Baptist work in Guadeloupe  
emerges from the cocoon

By Wally & Betty Poor

Baptist Press  
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POINTE A PITRE, Guadeloupe (BP)--The butterfly is emerging from the cocoon. After 20 years of unresponsiveness and indifference, Baptist work in Guadeloupe is emerging as dramatically as a brilliant tropical butterfly.

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At one time, Southern Baptist missionaries arriving here faced an entrenched Roman Catholic tradition and anti-American Marxism spilling over from neighboring Cuba.

The first three couples assigned to Guadeloupe when Baptist work began in 1964 were so discouraged they resigned after one term of service.

Robert Shehane almost went somewhere else when he read the job description: "Anybody who comes to Guadeloupe needs to be able to work a long time with no visible results." Only an urgent appeal by Charles Bryant, who directed Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board work in the Caribbean, persuaded Shehane to come.

"I visited door to door five days a week for a year and baptized one person as a result," recalls Shehane.

Al and Judy Gary, who stuck out lean times for 20 years, also were about ready to call it quits. The Lord used their study of the discipleship course "Experiencing God" as well as specific Bible verses to show them he wanted them to return to Guadeloupe.

Now, through the dynamic of concerted prayer, the long night is over. The butterfly is emerging.

All five Guadeloupean Baptist churches are filled to capacity each Sunday. There are also a Dominican (English-speaking) and a Haitian church on the island.

"Every church on the island has doubled. One has tripled -- one has almost quadrupled," says Judy Gary.

All this resulted from prayer.

The Garys sent a prayer list of 60 people and a map of the area around their church to "prayer warrior" friends at First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, and other West Texas churches that had prayer ministries.

The prayers resulted in the first successful Vacation Bible School the church had ever had. Next came a series of tent revivals led by noted French evangelist Alain Choquier and Raymond Johnson, a Dominican evangelist who preaches in Creole, an island dialect.

"I want you to know the area around the church shook. People were saved. Those who didn't come were sitting on their verandas listening," recalls Judy Gary.

Shehane is training leadership teams from each church with the goal of doubling the number of churches in the next five years. Missionaries David and Sanan Brazzeal have come to the island from Brazil with visions of how to use music to evangelize.

People in the churches sense the excitement.

"I am persuaded that God is doing great things in the middle of Baptist churches at this time," says Eddy Nisus, pastor of Grand Camp Baptist Church and president of the Guadeloupe Baptist Federation.

"Just recently we named two new Guadeloupean pastors. All of our churches are extending in membership," Nisus asserts.

Pastor Nisus hopes to go back to his hometown of Guay to start a church. The Garys plan to move to Guadeloupe's capital, Basse-Terre, to start work there. And those working with Robert Shehane will go out to begin new works.

The butterfly is emerging, to soon be in full flight.

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Media create family hurdles  
in violence, sex, expert says

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press  
7/12/96

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Public media provide education and entertainment opportunities, but they also create hurdles for families, a specialist in family issues told participants in Discipleship and Family Development Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"At the heart of the debate over media's role in society is the question of how much the media shape our culture and how much they reflect our culture," said Brad Goad, a specialist in the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

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Television, for example, influences teenagers in a variety of ways; through repetition, it convinces them "everybody's doing it," Goad said. Sound bites, short attention-getters, educate them. Sex, violence, emphasis on certain values and issues, relativistic thinking and programming targeted to specific age groups -- all combine to counter values Christian parents try to convey to their children, Goad said.

Violence is so frequent on television, Goad said, that some experts say the average child in America will have seen 8,000 screen murders and more than 100,000 acts of violence by the end of fifth grade. In the past decade, he continued, the nationwide crime rate has seen a 55 percent increase in the number of people under age 18 arrested for murder.

A related fact is that approximately 55 percent of music videos contain violence, Goad said, noting, "Heavy metal and rap music lead the way."

The technique of "priming," preparing the brain for an expected message, is used in advertising, Goad said. Products are associated with attractive models, sending the message that "this should be desirable to you." And while showing people drinking beer in advertisements is illegal, clever orchestration of commercials leaves the impression the models have "drunk it, loved it and are experiencing the best part of life for having done so," Goad observed.

Television can teach children to be violent when violence is rewarded, leaving the impression that violence is acceptable, Goad said. The more realistic a violent act appears, he said, the more likely it is to be imitated by children. Those who strongly identify with a violent character are more likely to be aggressive or violent themselves. The more justified violence appears to be in the story, the more likely it is to be copied.

Results of a questionnaire compiled and published in 1995 by the board's youth section in the discipleship and family development division indicates more than 90 percent of youth noticed violence in movies, television shows and music videos. Approximately 75 percent agree that violence in the media affects one's behavior, and 16 percent reported that media violence had affected their own behavior. To varying degrees, 58 percent of the youth felt media violence to be acceptable.

Sex is included in programs aimed at teenagers, network executives admit, because, they maintain, statistics indicate teenagers engage in sex, Goad said. Some attempt to legitimize the inclusion of sexual themes by maintaining the underlying message is about safe sex, he recounted.

Pornography is available by telephone and computer, as well as video rental, Goad continued.

Christians need to be aware of the messages coming into their homes, take responsibility for the perception children may have of parental attitudes toward such material and support programming that is wholesome and compatible with biblical teaching, Goad said.

Awareness of advocacy groups and how to contact television networks to express approval or displeasure with programming can help families influence how the media help shape culture, he said.

Discipleship and Family Development Week was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

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A list of advocacy groups, along with addressees of major television networks, is posted in the SBCNet News Room under the filename Media.txt.

**Men helped to reflect on life  
via BSSB Patrick Morley study      By Charles Willis**

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Examining one's life, being reconciled to God and making changes based on a commitment to God's larger purpose provide an alternative to secular thinking about success in life, Joseph Northcut told participants in Discipleship and Family Development Week, July 6-12 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Northcut, a specialist in the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division, said the process in "The Seven Seasons of a Man's Life" enables men "to sort out their lives, giving them categories, or seasons, to think about themselves, where they are and where they are going."

Author Patrick Morley addresses the seasons of reflection, building, crisis, renewal, rebuilding, suffering and success in a four-volume collection to challenge men on a variety of life issues.

Among those are to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ -- and to submit all other relationships to Jesus, to face the causes and symptoms of burnout and to understand how God restores and renews their identities, to examine their spiritual lives and exercise spiritual discipline in personal relationships, and to understand suffering and to claim God's success for their lives.

Northcut said Morley points to the length of the dash between the dates on a tombstone to remind readers life is short. "Life is an inch," Morley writes of that dash on a grave marker.

"The dates remind us that we live at a particular moment in history ... (with) challenges of our time different from those men have had to face before."

The introspective study begins with the encouragement to decide what should be done with the dash that represents life. Participants are encouraged to list what they have invested in the dash, thus far, including writing an epitaph based on that investment. Morley pairs the seasons of reflection and building, crisis and renewal, suffering and success in books, giving the season of rebuilding a separate volume on "putting life back together."

Morley, who built a thriving real estate business in Orlando, Fla., and came close to losing the success he had attained, tells participants in a video presentation that "men experience problems that success can't solve."

Like many other Christians, Morley said he used to underline Scripture verses he liked, but ignored those that did not appeal to him.

"I was following the God I was underlining in my Bible," he admitted. "We decide what we want, and then go looking for evidence to support the decision we've made."

"There is a god we want; there is a God who is. They are not the same," he tells participants in the six-week study. "The turning point is when we stop seeking the god we want and start seeking the God who is."

While the study can be done individually, Northcut said a classroom setting provides discussion and accountability.

"It leads men to be honest with themselves, God and with other men."

"The Seven Seasons of a Man's Life" book set, individual book, audiotapes and a leader kit including two videotapes may be obtained from the Baptist Sunday School Board's customer service center at 1-800-458-2772.

Discipleship and Family Development Week was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

Anger's 'rightness or wrongness'  
depends on 'how we manage it' By Charles Willis

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Frustrating traffic, long lines in stores, unwanted telephone solicitations and people whose behavior infringes on one's enjoyment of life can prompt emotional reactions ranging from mild displeasure to wrath.

Anger, whether viewed as a motivating or a negative emotion, must be controlled in a healthy way to avert destructive results, a family enrichment expert said during Discipleship and Family Development Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, July 6-12.

"Anger is inevitable," said John Sisson of the Missouri Baptist Convention's missions education and ministry development team. "The key to the rightness or wrongness of anger depends on how we manage it."

Some people argue that anger, a God-given emotion, does have merit. In a religious sense, it may be described as righteous. Others contend it motivates people to constructive action, such as the formation of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, he said. In contrast, anger is viewed as the root of many concerns of modern homes and society.

"The paradox of anger surfaces in our theology as well," Sisson observed. "God demonstrates anger, as in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The term 'anger' is used 455 times in the Old Testament alone, 375 of those references are to the anger or wrath of God."

In the New Testament, Jesus continued to demonstrate God's anger in acts such as the cleansing of the temple and in confrontations with the Pharisees.

But in his reaction to sin, God is depicted as patient, slow to wrath. Galatians lists self-control as one of the fruits of the Spirit.

Sisson said while some people deal with anger through tantrums, icy silence, violence, denial or misplacing blame, healthy anger management can prevent destructive results of anger resulting from hurt, frustration or fear.

Physically, anger can be channeled into walking, jogging, bicycle riding, rowing or a punching bag. And from a preventive approach, self-care can help one deal more positively with emotions. Taking vacations, regulating diet and sleep, exercising, spending time with family and keeping communication lines open can equip people to avoid out-of-control anger.

Emotionally, writing one's feeling in a private diary or a letter can allow anger to be released without an actual verbal assault. In some cases, Sisson said, the writing should be destroyed after it has served its private purpose. Meditation, a form of adult "time out," works well, he observed, to allow for examination of thoughts, energies, emotions and motivations.

Intellectually, people can choose to ignore matters that are not worth the investment of anger. Identifying how and when one's anger surfaces may be helpful in taking concrete steps to eliminate or minimize anxiety-producing stimuli.

Talking with a pastor, counselor, support group or a close friend can provide objective feedback, Sisson said.

"Do not neglect to include God as a source of counsel. He really can handle our anger and will listen longer than we can possibly vent," he said.

Family meetings allow for productive conflict management and should be scheduled after all people have had sufficient time to cool off. He cautioned conference participants to avoid reference to past hurts and negative experiences.

"Deal with the current problem and avoid the temptation to solve every conceivable issue at one sitting," he urged.

Anger management techniques, such as taking time to process feelings before further discussion or the "time-tested, mother-recommended stop-and-count-to-10" can stop the release of anger.

Spiritually, meditation on Scripture can provide counsel, insight and peace. Dealing with anger which already exists in one's life can lead to understanding, confession, healing and reconciliation.

Discipleship and Family Development Week was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

**6 associational missionaries  
honored at Home Missions Week**

RIDGECREST, N.C.(BP)--Six associational missionaries were honored for outstanding service during the annual Home Missions Week, July 6-12 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

E.J. Hines, associational missionary for North River Baptist Association, Jacksonville, N.C., was recognized for his contributions to town and country missions. "He has led out in the methodology of reaching out to military personnel, as well as strengthening existing churches and starting new ones," said Gary Farley of the Home Mission Board associational missions division.

The outstanding metropolitan association award went to Truman B. Smith, associational missionary for Northeast Baptist Association in Fort Wayne, Ind. "With a great heart for evangelism, T.B. has a wonderful ability to start churches," commented Bob Moore, HMB leader of metropolitan missions.

The mega city association award went to Robert L. Perry, associational missionary for Mt. Vernon Baptist Association in Annandale, Va. Hugh Townsend, HMB director of the mega focus cities process, said Perry is a "creative and effective leader of a healthy association."

Recognized as outstanding Project Assistance for Churches in Transition (PACT) consultant in the east was Ray Gilder of the Tennessee Baptist Convention missions department. Hillcrest Baptist Church of Clarksville, Tenn., was the east's outstanding PACT congregation.

Richard Tapscott of the Caldwell/Lyon Baptist Association in Princeton, Ky., was presented the Seminary Extension Center Director Award. Now a retired pastor, Tapscott served as the center's director 16 years.

In addition to the awards, Bob Wiley, HMB associational missions division director, told participants the title "associational missionary" has been adopted as new terminology for directors of missions and their associates.

HOUSE MAIL

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