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**-- BAPTIST PRESS**  
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June 26, 1996

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**SBC official challenges Eisner  
over response to Disney boycott** By Art Toalston

**Baptist Press  
6/26/96**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Michael Eisner, chairman and CEO of the Walt Disney Company, in his first quoted reaction to Southern Baptists' threatened boycott, said:

"We think they're a very small group of the Southern Baptists that took a very extreme position, which we think is foolish. They seem to have been off on a tangent this year."

Eisner was quoted June 24 in a Los Angeles Daily News article. The Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution targeting Disney during its June 11-13 annual meeting in New Orleans because the company's "moral leadership has been eroded," according to the SBC resolution.

Eisner's comments were challenged by Bill Merrell, vice president for convention relations for the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

"Traditional family values are neither, as Mr. Eisner suggests, a 'tangent' or an 'extreme,'" Merrell said in a five-paragraph statement June 25. "Disney Company has been the trusted friend of families for decades. But that well-earned trust and the carefully nurtured image as a trustworthy provider of family entertainment is at risk."

Merrell continued: "It boggles the mind as to the depth of change in Disney. From phallic jacket art on one of its children's videos to the inclusion of an 800 number for a telephone sex service in one of its 'family' movies, it is plain that someone at Disney clearly has an agenda -- and it is not the agenda of the traditional family.

"Its newest G-rated offering, 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame,' supposedly aimed at the childhood market, corrupts the original story line to include what TIME magazine has called 'lechery and lust.' Alan Menken, composer of the Hunchback musical score, told USA Today, 'In one song we have (a character) sing the church liturgy but also sing of twisted sexual fantasies.'

"This is to say nothing of (Disney's) anti-Christian film, 'Priest,' or its guide for adolescent homosexuals, 'Growing Up Gay,' or its choice of a convicted child molester to direct the movie, 'Powder,' or its altered company policy to recognize homosexual partnerships for employee benefits," Merrell said.

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"Disney has plainly taken the low road in its new corporate direction -- a road that some close observers have said company founder Walt Disney would heartily disapprove," Merrell's statement concluded. "It has lost the confidence of many families and is squandering its hard-earned heritage as foremost entertainer to the American family. If family concerns are to be dismissed and those who raise them are to be marginalized by Disney, I predict that the erosion of trust will only increase."

The 1-800 number cited by Merrell, according to recent news reports, was in the Disney movie, "The Santa Clause," in a line spoken by its lead actor, Tim Allen. The 1-800 number is a telephone sex number that remained in operation June 26.

The SBC resolution encourages Southern Baptists "to give serious and prayerful reconsideration" to whether to attend Disney theme parks and purchase Disney products -- and to boycott Disney if it continues "this anti-Christian and antifamily trend."

The resolution cited five examples of Disney "corporate decisions, which have included but are not limited to:" 1) granting insurance benefits to partners of homosexual employees; 2) hosting homosexual "theme nights" at its parks; 3) a subsidiary's hiring of a convicted child molester to direct the movie, "Powder;" 4) a subsidiary's publication of a book aimed at homosexual teenagers; and 5) a subsidiary's production of the movie "Priest," which "disparages Christian values and depicts Christian leaders as morally defective."

Criticism of Disney practices also was voiced last fall by messengers to the Florida Baptist Convention.

The SBC resolution asked the Christian Life Commission "to monitor Disney's progress in returning to its previous philosophy of producing enriching family entertainment."

A statement by Disney officials in California immediately after the SBC's resolution, the only other quoted statement to date, noted: "We find it curious that a group that claims to espouse family values would vote to boycott the world's largest producer of wholesome family entertainment. We question any group that demands that we deprive people of health benefits and we know of no tourist destination in the world that denies admission to people as the Baptists are insisting we do."

A Los Angeles-area pastor, Wiley Drake, who gained messengers' approval of an amendment adding the boycott threat to the resolution from the SBC Resolutions Committee, charged Disney officials with misinterpreting the protest. "We're not insisting they deny admission to homosexuals" or deny health insurance to employees, he said, "just asking Disney not to promote beliefs that are against the Judeo-Christian lifestyle."

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Graham's Jewish evangelism  
quote taken out of context

Baptist Press  
6/26/96

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A quote from evangelist Billy Graham in reference to the Southern Baptist Convention's resolution on Jewish evangelism has been taken out of context in news media reports, according to Herb Hollinger, press representative for the SBC.

Hollinger said the evangelist's June 18 quote has been interpreted by a number of media outlets as distancing himself from the resolution on Jewish evangelism approved at the annual meeting of the SBC in New Orleans June 11-13.

However, at the time Graham was asked about the SBC resolution, he was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for a physical checkup, a Billy Graham Evangelistic Association spokesperson said. The question asked Graham by the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer was in relation to Jewish evangelism but Graham did not know at the time that the SBC had passed a resolution on the subject nor did he see the resolution himself, Hollinger said the spokesperson told him.

Graham was traveling June 26 and unavailable for comment, the spokesperson said.

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The eight-paragraph resolution quotes Jesus command, Luke 24:27, to preach "repentance and remission of sins ... in his name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem." It also cites an indebtedness to the Jewish people, points to an organized effort "on the part of some either to deny that Jewish people need to come to their Messiah, Jesus, to be saved," and resolves to commit "ourselves to prayer, especially for the salvation of the Jewish people as well as for the salvation of 'every kindred and tongue and people and nation' (Revelation 5:9)."

Graham's quote said, "When I first took a preaching tour of Israel, I stayed with Mrs. Golda Meier who was then foreign secretary, and promised her that I was not there to proselytize. Rather, I was there to thank the Jewish people for proselytizing me, having put my faith in a Jew who was born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth.

"I have never taken part in organizations or projects that especially targeted Jews. I preach the Gospel to any all who come to our meetings -- whether Muslim, Buddhist, Jew, Christian or people of no faith -- they are all welcome.

"I hold a number of awards that Jewish organizations have been gracious enough to give me. I have a great love and burden for the Jewish people, among whom I have many dear friends."

Hollinger said he had read several newspaper accounts of the Graham quote in which writers said Graham was distancing himself from the SBC resolution on Jewish evangelism.

"News media who take Graham's statement to be opposed to the SBC resolution are guilty of taking his statement out of context," Hollinger said. "Graham loves the Jewish people and, like his Southern Baptist brethren, wants all people to hear the gospel and respond in faith to Jesus Christ."

Hollinger is also the vice president for convention news for the SBC Executive Committee and director of Baptist Press, the national news service for the SBC.

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HMB Olympic witness tools  
already getting response

By David Winfrey

Baptist Press  
6/26/96

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)--The Olympic flame has yet to reach Atlanta, but Southern Baptist ministry organizers already are fired up about the results they're seeing.

Producers of witnessing materials for the games predict thousands of Olympic fans in Atlanta and elsewhere could become Christians as a result of sports guides and witnessing pins.

Already 145 response cards from the Olympic pocket guide have been mailed to the Home Mission Board, said Jack Smith of the board's personal evangelism department. The guides list Olympic winners and records plus a six-page explanation of Christianity.

Of those responses, 65 are from people who became Christians after reading the guide. "It's about the easiest witnessing tool I have found to share," Smith said. "Nobody turns them down. It's going to be a keepsake."

About 3.5 million pocket guides have been ordered by churches and Christian groups for witnessing during the games, July 19-Aug. 4.

"We thought we were going to produce a little piece to use in Atlanta," said Toby Frost of the board's mass evangelism department. "The pocket guide has been sent to over 200 denominations in over 40 countries."

The guides and witnessing pins were produced for Atlanta International Ministries '96, Southern Baptists' ministry effort during the Olympics and Paralympics. In addition to being used near game venues, AIM '96 staff promote the guide and pin as a bridge for churches everywhere to reach their communities this summer.

"The sky's the limit," Frost said. "The Assembly of God churches in Atlanta are even putting them in all the sports bars ... They have never been refused as they have asked for permission to fill a little box and a little display up with those."

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Smith said his office is prepared for 10,000 mailed-in responses to the guides, "and it could exceed that. I fully expect 30 percent of those to be professions of faith."

HMB marketing director Rick Head said he is excited about the sales. "It means more people are going to have the opportunity to be exposed to the gospel." In addition to English, the guides are available in Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, French and Arabic.

Frost said he initially hoped 100,000 witnessing pins might be given out during the games. Instead, about 300,000 pins already have been ordered, Head said. The lapel pins include the "More Than Gold" phrase and five colored stars that pin traders can use to explain the plan of salvation.

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Missionaries at '96 Olympics  
to help meet language needs

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press  
6/26/96

ATLANTA (BP)--Foreign athletes and other world travelers in Atlanta during this summer's Olympics will be delighted to meet at least some Americans who know their customs and speak their language.

Up to 80 Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries will participate in evangelistic efforts at the games. The missionaries speak not only common languages such as Spanish and French, but also obscure, tongue-twisting languages such as Shona, Ndebele, Tagalog and Isithosa. Those languages represent some of the 336 ethnic people groups to whom the mission agency relates around the world. All of the board's 3,500 full-time missionaries must pass language classes overseas before they work with the people to whom they are assigned.

Their ability to speak fluently such a broad array of foreign languages promises to add a dimension to Southern Baptists' presence July 19 through Aug. 25 at the Olympics and Paralympics, said Linda Johnson, who heads up Atlanta International Ministries (AIM).

They'll be assigned to such places as the Stone Mountain area, where tennis and cycling competition is scheduled; the Roswell-Cobb County area, where a major festival will bring in big-name entertainers every night; and the Olympic Green near the downtown Atlanta stadium, where AIM will maintain its own indoor ministry center and five hospitality sites.

They also could be assigned to participate in ministries at various hotels around the city as AIM organizers determine what cultural needs they have. Everywhere they serve, they will be looking for ways to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"We'll be looking to them for a big plus -- their understanding of the culture, and knowing the people and their language," Johnson said. AIM represents the combined efforts of Southern Baptists' home and foreign mission boards and the Atlanta-based Georgia Baptist Convention.

Before forming AIM, a team from the three agencies spent several days in Barcelona, Spain, for the 1992 Olympics. "We went to observe what could potentially become ministry and witness opportunities for the '96 Olympics," said Don Sewell, director of special projects for the Foreign Mission Board's denominational relations office.

Georgia Baptist families will host the missionaries at night and fix them a hot breakfast before they begin their day's work. Families also will host relatives of competing athletes in town for the Olympics. AIM has recruited about 1,000 host families.

Missionaries will be among about 8,000 total volunteers whom AIM will use for outreach. Volunteers will hand out copies of an "Interactive Pocket Guide '96" booklet. It lists world and Olympic records in each event, leaving space to keep records for the 1996 games. Six of its 32 pages are devoted to an evangelistic message titled, "More Than Gold."

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During the past several months, missionaries and Baptists with whom they work overseas have helped translate the booklet into Arabic, Japanese, Russian, French and Spanish, said Mark Snowden, the foreign board's media services consultant. They also helped translate inserts that can go into the guide into Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Korean and Japanese.

AIM organizers expect millions of the interactive booklets will circulate during the Olympics. They also expect to plant seeds that could result in new Christians and churches overseas.

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Ya'll come! Church takes part  
in Olympic hospitality effort

By Yvonne Parker

Baptist Press  
6/26/96

DULUTH, Ga. (BP)--With all the talk of the Olympics coming to Atlanta, you might be prompted to wonder what Southern hospitality should be like.

You might picture a movie-star-type southern belle sweetly crooning, "Ya'll come!" But in the back rooms of First Baptist Church, Duluth, Ga., May 19, it was more likely to include comments such as, "No! No more peanuts! We need more mints!" or "My right arm is killing me! Slow it down a bit, won't you?"

These, however, weren't southern actors, but teenagers in shorts and T-shirts working in assembly-line fashion to fill 10,000 Olympic hospitality bags to be distributed during the 1996 Summer Games. It was just one small part of a statewide effort sponsored by Atlanta International Ministries and Georgia Woman's Missionary Union to prepare 1 million of the colorful plastic bags, each filled with snacks and personal care items such as sunscreen or lip balm.

Twelve rectangular tables were positioned in two long rows, with cardboard boxes filled with items for the bags under each table. Organizers had already collected and sorted 10,000 each of the items, readying them for bag stuffers to place in plastic hospitality bags as an "Olympic welcome."

The sounds of "true" southern hospitality began as 40 teenagers eagerly started filling the bags -- sometimes calling out for more items for bags, sometimes bragging, "You'd better get a move on! Our table has finished five boxes of 50 bags each! No dragging your feet, you hear?" An hour passed and, amazingly, 5,200 bags had been stuffed.

Reinforcement came as adults -- recently challenged in a morning worship service to "go forth" -- came in to continue the process until the goal was completed. The bustle then included families -- children working beside the youthful and the elderly -- busily completing the task.

Later came a gracious barbecue dinner for workers and friends, on-the-grounds games and a prayer wall celebrating in the Olympic spirit the opportunity to welcome visitors from every corner of the world to Atlanta. Olympic music filled the air as the group moved in and out, bringing taped boxes to a central area, preparing for a "Closing Celebration."

Eventually the center of the area was filled with a mountain of boxes, each containing 50 stuffed hospitality bags. Festive bouquets of brightly colored balloons were placed on top of the giant "centerpiece." Ten thousand bags not only had been filled with welcome items, but also a well-prepared Olympic tract sharing the good news of Jesus. The group gathered in a circle around the boxes and joyously shared in a responsive reading, praising the "Lord who rules over all nations."

In the simplest form, these joyous activities were the open-handed expression of southern hospitality -- a way of saying to the world, "Ya'll come."

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Parker is the wife of David Parker, pastor of First Baptist Church, Duluth, Ga.

Reformed out-of-control shopper  
fills void with faith in God

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--After running up more than \$100,000 in unsecured debt in the first 12 years of her marriage, Mary Hunt knew drastic action was needed to get her life back in order.

She and her husband, Harold, were on the brink of losing their home. Creditors demanded payment. In desperation, they had started a business, a "get-rich-quick-scheme," with borrowed money, and lost that and more.

Mary's credit card spending was out of control. Buying filled a void that went back to her childhood.

"It was at that point (1982) that the Lord got my attention," said Hunt, editor of "Cheapskate Monthly," a newsletter distributed nationwide to about 20,000 subscribers. Hunt also has written "The Financially Confident Woman," a book in print and audio versions to be published Aug. 1 by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers.

How did Hunt get in the mess it would take her more than a decade to repay herself out of?

"I grew up in a wonderful Christian home," she recalled. But she also remembers feeling poor, as though she never quite belonged.

"I thought I'd get rich and I'd be happy," Hunt said.

When she entered college, she got her first checkbook and "learned to do some terrible things with it." She became a master at writing checks without funds in the bank to cover them.

When she married in 1970, Hunt got her first credit card -- for gasoline.

"I really felt entitled to gas," she laughed. She loved driving into a station, choosing the full-service bay, sitting in the car while the gas was pumped and then whipping out her trusty credit card.

"I really believe I became in love with the idea of purchasing now and paying later," Hunt said.

A bank employee, Harold Hunt then acquired a bank-issued MasterCard, and the world of shopping opened.

"Now I was entitled to everything," she said.

When their world came crashing down around them, the Hunts did not seek financial counseling. They believed they were the only people to experience such problems. They also were scared and repentant.

"I saw what I had done and begged God to forgive me, Hunt said. "I promised him I'd do anything to pay the debt back."

While she had worked only sporadically and part-time, Hunt got a job in commercial real estate. After 10 years of grueling work, the Hunts had paid back all but \$12,000 of their debt. They also had started their own commercial real estate firm which Harold Hunt now heads.

Feeling exhausted by the years of work and longing to get completely out of debt, Hunt decided to start a subscription newsletter.

"I wanted to raise money and also see if what we had been through could help anyone else," she said.

"Cheapskate Monthly" was born and she "sent it to everyone I knew."

An article about the newsletter in The Los Angeles Times "was what got the ball rolling," Hunt said.

She chose "cheapskate" for the title to grab people's attention to subscribe to her newsletter, but she is seeking to redefine the word from its miserly, skinflint reputation.

Equating cheapskate with confident money manager, Hunt said a cheapskate is one who "gives generously, saves consistently and never spends more money than she or he has."

She said she uses Christian principles in her writing, but the newsletter is not overtly Christian in its content.

However, Hunt is finding many opportunities to bear witness of her faith.

She now regularly receives letters from people asking how she filled the void that used to be satisfied by credit card shopping.

"I'm able to share the Lord with them," Hunt enthused.

The crisis of unsecured debt threatens the security of men and women alike, Christians and non-Christians, Hunt said. And pre-approved credit cards are being issued to younger and younger people, Hunt warned. High school students now regularly receive both applications and cards.

"Kids are going into marriage with each having \$3,000-4,000 in unsecured debts plus their college loans to repay," she said.

"I'm worried about the families of this country. It's no longer the norm to pay off your credit card debt every month," Hunt said.

To women, Hunt urges learning and practicing the principles of financial money management.

"The greatest number of women will at some point be responsible for managing their finances," she said.

No one is immune from the plague of unsecured debt, Hunt warned.

"It crosses all lines. It's socially acceptable."

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(BP) photo (horizontal) black & white, posted in the SBCNet News Room under the filename Cheap.txt

Take this test to determine  
financial responsibility

Baptist Press  
6/26/96

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Ever wondered if you have tendencies toward financial irresponsibility?

Here's a simple test created by Mary Hunt, editor of "Cheapskate Newsletter" and author of "The Financially Confident Woman" to be released Aug. 1 by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Simply answer yes or no to these 14 statements:

-- I have nothing close to a reasonable knowledge of my income, fixed expenses, irregular expenses and net worth.

-- I don't have the discipline to be good with money.

-- I am near, at or over the limit on my credit cards.

-- I've bounced more than three checks in the past year.

-- I often use this month's income to cover last month's bills.

-- I can't imagine living without credit.

-- I've never been concerned about money because I have a spouse who takes care of it.

-- I worry about money quite a bit.

-- I hide the mail.

-- I don't have a formal savings program.

-- If I just had more money, I'd be just fine.

-- I have lied to my spouse or creditors about making payments.

-- I know I should give money to God, but there's just not enough right now.

-- I've taken a cash advance on one credit card to make the payment on another card.

Scoring: Answering "no" to every question indicates financial responsibility, according to Hunt. One or two "yes" answers indicates a tendency to be responsible, but the yes answers should be a red flag. Three to five yes answers indicate a path to financial trouble. Six or more yes answers, Hunt writes, indicates "we need each other. I recommend you not leave home until you finish this book."

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**'Grandma Ann' is legendary  
in hospital's pediatric ward**

By Mareva Brown

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP)--Nancy Mobley's baby was dying. Dylan was only nine days old when he was admitted to the pediatric ward at Sutter Memorial Hospital, Sacramento, Calif., last fall with a congenital heart defect.

Each morning, Mobley drove 100 miles to the hospital, then back home to Colusa each night to care for her three other children, including Dylan's twin sister. She was exhausted, torn between her children and filled with anguish and guilt. Then she met "Grandma Ann."

At 83, Ann Jacobs is the "patron saint" of dozens of parents whose children frequent the pediatric ward at Sutter.

"I knew in my heart that it was OK (to go home)," Mobley said. "That somebody was going to be there, not to do his vitals, but somebody who had nothing on their agenda but to love him.

"Every day, whether or not I was coming, Grandma Ann made a special point to come in and bathe him and rock him for hours."

For four hours each weekday morning, Grandma Ann, a member of El Camino Baptist Church in Sacramento, goes to the pediatric ward to sing lullabies to babies, calm toddlers and entertain older children. She is as reliable as the sunrise.

"She's the most flexible person we've ever had," said Sharon Walsh, a child life specialist charged with helping children and their parents cope with hospitalization. "Ann's been comfortable with special-needs kids, which can be a little scary for people. ... I wish we could clone her."

On one morning, Grandma Ann rocked a seven-week-old girl whose parents, too, are torn between a family at home and a baby in the hospital. She stroked Carmen Villeda's sweet, soft cheek as the baby gazed into her eyes. The tracheotomy tube gurgled as the baby fidgeted, but Grandma Ann was unfazed by the tubes and the monitor.

"I hope she gets better," she said softly, "so she can go home."

Grandma Ann began coming to Sutter after her husband died a decade ago. She was searching for something to fill her lonely day. It didn't take her long to find the children's ward.

"I wake up at 3 a.m. and I can hardly wait until I leave the house at 6:30," she said, gazing at the now-sleeping infant in her arms. "The house is lonely and I'm so glad to come here."

In her day, she said, she didn't have the option to work. Now, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren live elsewhere and she looks forward to going to "work" at the hospital.

"To sit at home like my friends and watch TV all day would drive me crazy," she said.

A few months ago, Karla Jones walked through the door of her infant son's hospital room and saw Nicholas nestled in the arms of a white-haired woman. The woman was talking softly and Nicholas was nearly asleep. Grandma Ann apologized, moving to give the sleepy baby to his mother, but Jones told her to stay put.

"She was apologizing for loving my baby," said Jones, who already had heard of the legendary Grandma Ann. "I thought, 'You just sit there all you want. Hug and kiss on my baby and love him.'"

Jones' son is home now, five-and-a-half months old and growing heartily.

Mobley was not as fortunate. Dylan died recently at seven months old; his little heart was too weak to sustain him. But through the grief, Mobley said, Grandma Ann was a ray of sunshine.

"I am so thankful, especially now that Dylan is gone, that she immeasurably increased the quality of his life," said Mobley, whose marriage was ending as Dylan lay dying. "Toward the end when he was getting more alert, she would come in and his whole face would light up. He would start cackling and laughing. He'd hear her voice and start kicking his feet.

"There was a special bond there."

Seminary's oldest M.Div. grad  
ready to tackle next challenge

By William Neal

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--When New Orleans Baptist Seminary held its commencement services this spring, Margaret Burks received her M.Div. and recognition as the outstanding student in that degree program. No one is too surprised at this latest accomplishment -- being the oldest person to earn an M.Div. from the seminary -- by the 82-year-old great grandmother, especially nearly 20 family members who were on hand for graduation. Margaret Burks has never been afraid of a challenge.

Burks was sitting in her church -- First Baptist, Flowery Branch, Ga. -- one Sunday night when the Lord laid it on her heart that he wanted her to go back to school -- to seminary. "The impression was so strong that I walked down the aisle and asked my pastor if he would recommend me to seminary," she recalled.

The University of Georgia graduate started seminary in the fall of 1990 at the Atlanta extension center, but she also spent the equivalent of two years on the New Orleans campus.

"I've got mixed emotions (about graduating)," Burks remarked. "I'm glad to get it behind me but I am going to miss campus." She said she especially loved her Old Testament courses, crediting her professors with helping make the Bible come alive. What she won't miss is writing term papers, she said.

Burks' missions experiences are legendary. She has been to Liberia 10 times, where she worked in Woman's Missionary Union camps for children and adults and helped to build (literally) eight churches. "My specialty is concrete block construction," she said. But she was spotted a few years ago helping replace the roofing on top of the old Camp Pinnacle dining hall.

So, what is her next challenge, now that she has her seminary degree in hand? She departed May 31 for Panama to help build a church there. "This will be my eighth trip to Panama," she noted, "but my first time to build a church in that country."

After Panama, Margaret returned to New Orleans to attend the June 11-13 Southern Baptist Convention, and then it was off to Israel for a three-week tour and at least one week on an archaeological dig. After that, the Foreign Mission Board needs her in Ghana as a business manager (she is a CPA by profession) and the Baptist seminary in Tanzania would like for her to come and lend them some assistance.

Margaret is not sure when she will get back home to Flowery Branch and back into some kind of routine. But at home she is just as busy, teaching a Sunday school class and actively participating in WMU and most every other aspect of church life.

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