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96-172

WASHINGTON--House joins Senate in condemning Christian persecution.
ATLANTA--Cooperative Baptist Fellowship council elects two Texans; OKs new offering.
NEW ORLEANS--Missionary's stance turned him from communism to Christianity.
NEW ORLEANS--The Moskaus: God calls some to go and others to give.
TENNESSEE--Christian men need fighting spirit, 'Ultimate Warriors' authors say.
TENNESSEE--Authors urge Christian men to affirm disciple's manifesto.
ALABAMA--Volunteer fulfills call to missions in retirement.
MISSOURI--Midwestern offers on-line admissions application.

**House joins Senate in condemning
Christian persecution**

By Dwayne Hastings

**Baptist Press
9/30/96**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. House of Representatives Sept. 24 joined with members of the Senate condemning the worldwide persecution and martyrdom of Christians by unanimously passing a resolution addressing the issue.

Introduced by Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.), the House resolution recommends the president "expand and invigorate international advocacy efforts on behalf of persecuted Christians."

In remarks on the House floor, Wolf said his bill was the first in "recent memory to focus specifically on Christian persecution."

While calling the persecution of Christians no more abominable than any other religious persecution, Wolf said the resolution specifically referred to Christians because of the increasing frequency of attacks on the church worldwide.

"This resolution focuses on persecution of Christians to bring attention to a problem that is increasing in its regularity, its ferocity and its scope," Wolf explained. "Thousands of voiceless, nameless victims suffer alone. Families scarred for their lives cannot share their pain with the world."

The Senate resolution, offered by Don Nickles (R-Okla.) and Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), "unequivocally condemns the egregious human rights abuses and denials of religious liberty to Christians around the world," calling upon "the responsible regimes" to halt their oppression of religious minorities. It was adopted Sept. 17.

"The persecution of Christians around the world is something that cannot be tolerated by the United States or any other nation," said Dan Coats (R-Ind.).

"In many parts of the world, Christians are restricted in or forbidden from practicing their faith, victimized by a 'religious apartheid' that subjects them to inhumane, humiliating treatment, and in certain cases are imprisoned, tortured, enslaved, or killed," said Coats, who co-sponsored the legislation.

The Senate resolution also implores the Clinton administration to intervene on behalf of persecuted Christians.

Numerous evangelical groups have accused the U.S. government of ignoring the persecution, while continuing to pursue business-as-usual relations with the countries where the maltreatment is reported.

"Clearly, the United States government has been woefully negligent in dealing with the issue of the persecution of Christians around the world," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, in testimony before a subcommittee of the House Committee on International Relations in February.

"This issue has not occupied a significant place in American foreign policy, that must change," Land continued, adding, "A foreign policy that denies our basic values and seeks only to meet the requirements of commerce and business is, and will always remain, totally unacceptable."

**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship council
elects two Texans; OKs new offering**

By Herb Hollinger

ATLANTA (BP)--A new chief executive and a new education director, both Texans, were elected by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinating Council during a Sept. 26-28 meeting in Atlanta. The council also approved a new national offering for theological education.

Dan Vestal, one of the founders of the 5-year-old organization, was elected CBF coordinator, its chief executive officer. Vestal, 51, is pastor of Tallowood Baptist Church, Houston. He will be the second CEO for the group following Cecil Sherman's retirement at the end of July.

Vestal's base salary will be \$125,000 plus regular benefits. He begins at the CBF's Atlanta-based office Dec. 1.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship insists it is not yet a separate denomination/convention although it is considered a moderate-led protest movement against Southern Baptist Convention leadership. SBC leadership maintains the group is a denomination/convention and should separate from Southern Baptist work because it competes for mission funds in Southern Baptist churches.

Another Texan, Terry Hamrick, was elected the CBF's first coordinator of church resources, beginning Oct. 15. Hamrick, 46, is minister of Christian education at Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth. He also has been a minister of education at churches in Georgia and Kentucky. In an interesting connection, Hamrick came to Broadway Baptist Church in 1990 while Cecil Sherman was its pastor.

The 80-plus member Coordinating Council also approved the "collection of an annual CBF offering for theological education." Presently, the CBF has one national offering for global missions promoted during the Christmas season.

The new offering will be promoted in May with the funds collected to be "divided among the students and schools that CBF supports." CBF owns no seminaries or divinity schools but supports a number of moderate-based schools, like Baylor University's Truett Seminary; Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond, Va.; and Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Kan. Some schools receive block grant funds for seminary scholarships from the CBF while it also gives individual scholarships to students as well.

Although the offering was approved by the council, to be dispersed by its theological institutions and theological scholarship teams, it was unclear whether the annual June meeting of the CBF general assembly would need to approve the offering or not.

In a second effort following heavy criticism at June's general assembly in Richmond, Va., the council will ask the 1997 general assembly in Louisville, Ky., to approve allowing the council to amend the CBF budget approved by the general assembly each year. In Richmond last June, the council basically asked to be given power to change the budget at will but the new recommendation would allow the council to change the budget only "by three-fourths vote ... (when) it is necessary and prudent to maintain the financial integrity of the Fellowship."

Changing of the budget was necessary for the 1995-96 CBF budget year when revenues totaled \$12.1 million against a budget of \$13.3 million. The more than \$1.1 million shortfall resulted in a budget cutbacks for CBF work, including its affiliated agencies. Although the revenue percentage increases the CBF saw during its formative years will probably not continue, CBF officials said giving for the July and August of the new budget year, July 1 to June 30, was up over the previous year. The CBF's 1996-97 budget is \$14.1 million which includes nearly \$4 million of its global mission offering.

In other action, the council approved: spending up to \$125,000 from accumulated reserves to facilitate the move of the CBF office in Atlanta to new quarters; the 1998 General Assembly in Houston and the 1999 General Assembly in Birmingham, Ala.; a lease contract gift of \$6,000 for the Southern Baptist Theological Institute, a four-year-old school operated by Korean pastors with 61 students in the Dallas area.

Council members also heard 1,497 churches have contributed gifts to the CBF, although CBF officials admit the majority of these are individual church members designating their gifts through their local church to the CBF rather than the church including the CBF in its budget. CBF officials will not release to news media the names of those churches.

**Missionary's stance turned him
from communism to Christianity**

By Steve Achord

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Politically, Vadim Jigoulov had been correct all his life.

His involvement in the Russian Communist Party began in the first grade. He was taught political party traditions, objectives and ideology; by age 14 he was a member of the Young Communist League.

In school, he proudly wore a special lapel pin with a picture of Vladimir Lenin atop his country's flag. By saying and doing all the right things, he was awarded the best education in all the proper schools. Unlike many of his peers who went to trade schools, Jigoulov was able to attend college, where he moved to the top of his class.

The government awarded him a Lenin grant which paid for his education and gave him living expenses that exceeded the wages of many laborers in the country.

Jigoulov was destined for a significant position within the government. Like his father, his fluency in three languages would enable him to travel and lead a secure life within the government structure.

The communist party's motto rang loudly in his ears and his heart: Lenin lived. Lenin lives. Lenin will live.

Then an incredible event occurred. Jigoulov's heart accepted a new leader: Jesus Christ. His life's direction would be changed forever.

Although he was born in Calcutta, India, and lived in Basrah, Iraq, for a short time, Jigoulov knew all about Russia and what was expected of him within the communist society. His father's work for the Russian military and the communist party kept the family from their native Kostroma, but in 1976 the family returned home.

His formal education was sidetracked for a short time by Russian military service where he performed communications intelligence along the Black Sea. During his final year of college, Jigoulov met Howard Beam, an American missionary and a New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary graduate.

Beam went to Russia as a nondenominational missionary to start churches and do crusades. He hired Jigoulov as an interpreter and soon the two became friends.

"After a month, he confronted me about my decision to accept Christ," Jigoulov said. "'Vadim,' he said, 'either you receive Christ or you will be fired.'"

Beam was nice about it, yet stern, Jigoulov said. "He knew I was a straightforward guy and he trusted me to make the right decision."

Beam's witnessing approach with Jigoulov was not something he practiced with others, "but for me," Jigoulov said, "this was probably the most effective approach. He gave me three days to make a decision.

"When I was hired, it was only a job," he said. "I was doing it for the money."

As Jigoulov interpreted for Beam, he understood the message and what it meant to become a Christian, but at that time in his life he was not ready to make such a commitment.

"I knew about the demands and the benefits of becoming a Christian, but I was not convinced the demands were worth the benefits," Jigoulov said.

The decision to leave the security of a possible government job and the risks associated with Christianity and traveling across Russia telling others about Jesus would be very tough.

"I knew I had three days to make my decision and on the first day, I hated him because he was arrogant in his approach," Jigoulov said. "On the second day, I started thinking about the benefits of the Christian faith, salvation, eternal life and all these things."

By day three, Jigoulov decided to give Christianity a try. "The money was good, and I liked what he (Beam) said about (what would happen) if I died today, being clean before God, having peace and eternal life," he said.

"I wanted to see what would happen and on that day I sat down with Howard and prayed in my own words the sinner's prayer," he said. "I believe God's spirit came into my life and took my imperfect considerations and turned them into something good. An act of grace, I guess you'd say."

For two years, the two traveled across Russia doing evangelistic crusades. The traveling and telling others about Jesus was something Jigoulov enjoyed, but he knew it was not his final destination.

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"It took me sometime to realize what I wanted to do with my life," he said. "I always wanted to come to America and in August of 1993 I arrived in New Orleans," enrolling in the master of divinity degree program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Instead of working in the Russian government, Jigoulov's life goal now is to get a theological education and become a teacher or professor in Old Testament and biblical languages. For now, he fondly calls New Orleans his home and "New Orleans Seminary the place where God wants me to be."

His fluency and ease in speaking English partially hides his Russian accent, but for the most part, the six-foot, three-inch, blue-eyed and sandy-brown-haired Jigoulov blends in with the American people and culture well and looks forward to the day he can call the United States his permanent home.

Presently, circumstances exist that prevent him from returning to his native home to visit his family. He communicates with his father, mother and younger brother regularly by phone and prays for them as well. To the best of his knowledge, Jigoulov is the only member of his family to accept Christ.

He saw his mother, Svetlana, this summer when she made her first trip to the United States to visit her son. "I enjoy the freedom," she said of America.

She especially was impressed with the accommodations for the handicapped. "Everything is done for the comfort of the people, something foreign in our country," she said.

"My mother is quite a gardener," Jigoulov said. On her trip she purchased an oscillating sprinkler to water her flowers and her yard back home. Upon returning to Russia and using the sprinkler, the entire neighborhood has visited her to see "this miracle of modern-day technology," he said.

Presently, his family is an American couple who allow Jigoulov to live with them. He attends a local Southern Baptist church and in his free time he teaches English to Russian immigrants.

His friend Howard Beam is still in Russia, although he must leave in December because of tighter immigration laws being implemented by the Russian government.

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**The Moskaus: God calls some
to go and others to give**

By Debbie Moore

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The possibility of the death of her first child -- and possibly her death -- shocked Ginger Moskau and her husband, Mike, into realizing gold had become more important to them than God.

Just five years before, after successfully launching their own construction business, the Moskaus had "amounts of money I'd never seen before," said Ginger, the daughter of a union iron worker who had been a faithful part of Riverside Baptist Church, River Ridge, La., since her days on the cradle roll.

"Before we knew it, there was money all over the place," she said. Although both she and Mike had become Christians as teenagers and had been devoted members at Riverside, "we just started walking away from the Lord and lived a jet-set life, basically. We didn't even make it to church on Christmas or Easter."

To further complicate matters, just as their relationship with God had dried up, so did their business, and at a most inopportune time since a child was on the way.

"We suddenly had nothing but big debt," Ginger said. They didn't even have the \$100 to pay the deductible when the doctor said she must be bedridden at the hospital since her blood pressure was dangerously high.

Although their unborn child was just five and a half months along, the Moskaus listened as a neonatologist told them their child would have to be taken by emergency caesarean section the next day and would probably have just a 20 percent chance of life.

"And if you ever take her home," the doctor said, "you'll have a \$1-million bill. She will never see, never walk, never talk. She will be mentally retarded. If she lives, she will have to be institutionalized."

"We just started praying," Ginger said. "We didn't know what else to do. We told God, 'You have our full, undivided attention now. Do whatever you have to do,'" knowing full well that meant the possibility of losing their child and, for Mike, possibly his wife.

The next morning their daughter Christy was born weighing 1.5 pounds. She was in the hospital 11 weeks.

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Now 11 years old, she has never had surgery, never needed glasses, hardly ever misses the honor roll and never misses a jump on her school's pep squad.

Six months after Christy's birth, the Moskaus' business was doing well. The million-dollar hospital bill ended up being \$100,000, of which insurance paid all but \$3,000.

Along with the resolution of the complications in their lives came a passion in their hearts to make young married couples aware of the dangers of losing God as the priority in their lives. Together they teach a Sunday school class for young couples at Riverside Baptist Church, the same church in which both of them grew in God's saving grace as teenagers and then from which they later strayed.

"God showed us how faithful he can be even when we hadn't been faithful to him," Ginger said. "It didn't have to end up this way. We don't take God's mercy for granted. Now we are really concentrated and determined to stay faithful.

"I know how easy it is to slip away. It's almost like going uphill all the time," Ginger said. "There are so many things that call us, tempt us, especially on Sundays. It's so easy to be in those places and not at church." Therefore she always gives thanks "for those who have gone out of their way" to be at their Sunday school class, to be at the two weekly Precept Bible Study courses she teaches "and for those who just show up at church."

Now that they have their own lives reprioritized, the Moskaus don't want to be just Sunday-morning Christians. "We have a commitment for every part of our lives to be faithful to the Lord," Ginger said. Active on several committees at their church, the Moskaus also are faithful at supporting the ministry of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as it prepares God-called men and women for vocational service in Baptist churches and in other Christian ministries throughout the world.

"God has incredibly blessed us financially," Ginger said. "At one time we were not faithful; now we must be. It is our responsibility. This time, we must use our money in a way that can make a difference in the kingdom of God through evangelism, discipleship, teaching."

Although they don't rule out possible missions service in the future, they each use not only their finances but also their spiritual gifts of evangelism and teaching to the best of their abilities right now.

"We feel you have a responsibility if the Lord blesses you," Ginger said. "You have a responsibility to use that blessing for him. And it's not just a matter of being a good steward; it's a responsibility to choose to do something, a responsibility to use that blessing to make a difference."

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**Christian men need fighting spirit,
'Ultimate Warriors' authors say**

By Keith Hinson

**Baptist Press
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Christian men should be willing to fight with vigor and conviction as part of their calling from God, according to a new book from the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers.

"A warlike disposition causes a man to make commitments and sacrifices as he lives for a cause bigger than himself. A man with a warrior spirit will find the courage to go beyond his limited abilities and strive to do better," writes Tom Sirotnak, author of "Ultimate Warriors: Dare to Shake Your World for Christ."

Until recently, Sirotnak was a member of John Jacobs' Power Team, a group of Christian athletes who present the gospel along with "power feats" such as weight lifting before audiences in churches and on college campuses.

"The whole goal of this book is to train leaders in churches across America so they can go out into every sphere of influence, such as politics, entertainment, the sciences, education, economics and culture," said Sirotnak, who is continuing his ministry as an inspirational speaker and demonstrator of "power feats." He now works under the sponsorship of his local church, MorningStar International Ministry of Torrance, Calif.

In the book, Sirotnak emphasizes the importance of Christian men banding together and working for God through their local churches.

"I question any man who claims he can fulfill his destiny apart from the local church," states Sirotnak, 38, who lives in Anaheim, Calif., with his wife, Dana, and their three children.

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"Through preaching the Word and setting standards, the church gives me boundaries to my destiny -- not to limit me but to keep me on track."

In fact, the book was written with the local church in mind, said Ken Walker, a freelance writer and publicity consultant who worked with Sirotnak on the book.

Walker suggested the format of the book is designed for both individual reading and group study. Each chapter includes Scripture application, "Gut Check" study questions and a section of "Basic Training," which summarizes the book's key concepts, such as:

-- You'll never make an impact without causing a collision. Your witness shines brightest under the sparks of confrontation.

-- Your destiny will not go beyond the confines of prayer. Prayer and intimacy with God remove the limits from a man's destiny.

-- Confrontation can be pleasant. Correcting others in a spirit of gentleness and love is a chance for both sides to grow.

-- Courageous heroes are ordinary men. It's not size, strength or talent that matters, but the heart that lies underneath. A man obedient to God is to be feared.

-- God wants you to speak against evil. It exists in your community, no matter how large or small.

-- Spiritual maturity comes with a price. If you're too lazy to study the Bible, then you will never have giant-sized faith.

Sirotnak and Walker also collaborated on a previous book, "Warriors" (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995). The earlier volume was geared more toward younger men around college age, said Walker, 45, who lives in Louisville, Ky., with his wife Janet. But in "Ultimate Warriors," the authors are aiming for a wider audience of men of all ages.

"We're wanting men to become aware that they're called to serve their wives and families and to take a stand for God," said Walker, a member of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville.

The new book includes numerous testimonies and stories of courageous men who have taken a stand for God, but the book also includes a section on "Strong Women" who have made a positive impact on the lives of men and the surrounding culture.

Sirotnak emphasizes the importance of Christian men acting as responsible spiritual leaders in their homes.

"Do you know a young, married man whose marriage stands on shaky ground because he refuses to grow up, won't assume responsibility and complains their crying baby robs him of sleep?" Sirotnak asks. "Such whiners may be male by birth but they aren't men by God's standards. ... Your wife and children will gladly follow a loving, godly man. But no one wants to submit to someone they don't respect."

Above all, Sirotnak said he respects Christ as the ultimate warrior. "The crucifixion -- Christ dying on the cross -- is the most manly thing that has ever been done. What a display of courage," Sirotnak declared in an interview.

The book urges Christian men to live as Christ lived. "In every dimension of Jesus' ministry and personal life, he showed warrior-like traits -- the ones that can be evident in your life and sphere of influence," Sirotnak writes. "If anyone has answers and can serve as role models in this troubled, sin-polluted world, it is a man of God."

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"Ultimate Warriors" may be purchased through Baptist Book Stores, Christian book stores or by calling 1-800-233-1123.

**Authors urge Christian men
to affirm disciple's manifesto**

By Keith Hinson

**Baptist Press
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Christian men should be aggressive and on the move for God, say the authors of a new book from Broadman & Holman Publishers.

In "Ultimate Warriors: Dare to Shake Your World for Christ," Tom Sirotnak and Ken Walker urge Christian men in small-group settings to read aloud together a "Christian Disciple's Manifesto," which says:

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"We, the disciples of Jesus Christ, avow a day of reckoning in our society and culture at large, a calling to account of the worldly forces of darkness and the spiritual forces of wickedness who would act to violate and deny the law of God.

"With a clear conscience and in conjunction with fighting the good fight of faith, we boldly accept the Lord's challenge to stand up for Him against evildoers and those who do wickedness. We reply in the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'Here I am, Lord. Send me.'

"As an act of militancy, in a declaration of war with our spiritual enemies, we assault the secular values and worldly institutions of this age. By using the weapons of righteousness and aggressive faith, we will prayerfully await for divine opportunities to take action and achieve great exploits.

"In an era of Christian bashing, bigotry and intolerance toward believers in Christ, we countercharge the humanistic, anti-Christian ideologies of our times. In holding to and protecting our most sacred convictions we oppose all who would subvert the Judeo-Christian ethic and values, and all those brainwashing this generation with a tide of secularism and atheism. We stand against those who would undermine normalcy by substituting perversion and rebellion, and by mocking and misrepresenting the godly.

"Finally, to those who gravitate to retreat and compromise in our religious institutions, to the inventors of evil, to the puppets of the devil who call God evil and evil good: We, the blood-bought soldiers in the army of God declare war and do most solemnly promise to 'occupy until he returns!'"

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Volunteer fulfills call to missions in retirement

By Sue Harper Poss

**Baptist Press
9/30/96**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Eunice Perryman ignored her first call to missions and didn't like the results. So when God gave her a second chance at age 60, she didn't say no.

In her new book, *Simply His* (WMU, Birmingham), Perryman works with co-author Pam Waddell to outline her 15 years of traveling the world as a volunteer missionary.

Perryman, a bookkeeper, worked in places as varied as Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic, and North Dakota. She loved them all. "I could have lived forever at any one of the places," she said. "But God's plan was for me to move on."

Perryman had first felt a call to missions as a teenager. "But I opted to get married. I realized I had made a terrible mistake," she said. She remained in her marriage for 39 years before seeking a divorce.

During those years, she was active in Woman's Missionary Union at First Baptist Church in Pell City, Ala. "I was in WMU all my life and God had been impressing foreign missions on me. I didn't know what he wanted me to do.

"My decision to divorce came with the assurance from God that this was the right way to go," she said. At age 60 and 40 years after she first heard the call to missions, she felt God calling her again. "This time I said yes," she said.

Her first assignment with the Foreign Mission Board was as a bookkeeper in Tanzania, where she stayed for 19 months. Then came the call for a secretary in the Dominican Republic. And then auditing help was needed in Barbados.

After that, Perryman was faced with the decision of accepting an assignment in Taiwan, Belgium or Puerto Rico. She decided on Puerto Rico. "As much as I would have loved Belgium or Taiwan, I wanted most to go where I was needed," she said.

At the end of 1986, Perryman went home for seven months, completing a MasterLife course, before heading to Ethiopia to manage the Baptist mission's accounting functions following the death of mission treasurer Troy Waldron in an airplane crash.

"My family and friends were very concerned about my going to Ethiopia because it was a communist country," she said. "But I knew that I must go."

Her job in Ethiopia was much like her others, bookkeeping and budgeting. The largest budgeted account in Ethiopia was for drought and famine relief.

Returning to Alabama late in 1988, Perryman realized her long-term foreign mission service career was over. She had been sick frequently in Ethiopia and arthritis was slowing her down.

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She still felt up to work closer to home and so took a summer 1989 assignment with the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship.

"When God first called me to missions as a teenager, I dreamed of going to the Orient," she wrote. "The longing to go to China never left me. As each assignment came I asked, 'Heavenly Father, are you going to let me go to the Orient this time?' But I was always sent in another direction."

She got her chance to go to the Orient in 1990, when she was asked to lead a WMU team to an evangelistic crusade in Korea. After the crusade, her group went to China. "It was wonderful that God had finally let me get a glimpse of China," she said.

Through all of her missions work, Perryman said she always felt God with her. "If God calls, he provides for you every step of the way," she said. "I never had any fear because I knew that God was sufficient to meet my every need."

Perryman still keeps in touch with all of "her" missionaries. She was hosting three from Ethiopia in her home in late September. "I still love every one of them and keep them on my prayer list," she said.

Perryman, 76, has stopped her long-term missions work. Her last assignment was in 1993 when she spent a summer keeping books at a summer camp in Washington. She now spends most of her time speaking in churches, in morning and evening services, at banquets, luncheons, for missions emphases.

"I wrote my story for two reasons," she said. "So many people think that a person who is already 60 can't do anything. And so many think that a divorced person can't do anything. I wanted to destroy both myths."

"What I wanted to share in my book is that God called me to go. And only God could have put it all together."

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Poss is a freelance writer living in Greenville, S.C.

Midwestern offers on-line admissions application

By James A. Smith Sr.

Baptist Press
9/30/96

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary enters "cyberspace" this week with an unique feature -- an on-line admissions application.

Recognizing the explosive growth of the Internet's World Wide Web and the high acquaintance younger people have with the technology, Midwestern administrators hope its website will enhance efforts to recruit students, as well as introduce the seminary to people "surfin' the net."

"Word is out among Southern Baptists that Midwestern Seminary is a treasure, and the broader, conservative evangelical world is beginning to notice," commented Midwestern President Mark Coppenger. "This website extends the word that Midwestern and the other Southern Baptist seminaries are extraordinary values for those who seek to prepare for effectual gospel ministry."

The Midwestern Seminary website can be located at: <http://www.mbts.edu>.

The on-line application, apparently unique to SBC seminary websites, will permit prospective students to begin the admissions process via the World Wide Web. Although other paperwork will be handled in the traditional manner using regular postal mail, "snail mail" in cyber-lingo, the on-line application will be transmitted as electronic mail to the office of student enlistment services. Once received by enlistment officials, the seminary will contact the prospective student with further information to complete the process.

The establishment of a website fulfills a need voiced by many prospective students who want to research Midwestern via the World Wide Web, according to seminary officials.

"Many would-be students ask us if we have a home page on the Internet and have been disappointed to learn that we did not," reported Registrar Ray Kesner. "I'm delighted that we can now answer those questions in the affirmative."

In addition to the admissions application, the Midwestern Seminary website also includes a link which permits visitors to peruse the library's electronic card catalogue.

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Viewed with Telnet software which can be downloaded without charge from a link to the MBTS website, people can search the holdings of the library without leaving their home. Current students, including those at Midwestern's off-campus extensions, may reserve library materials via an electronic mail form on the website. The reserved materials will be mailed to off-campus students.

Information about Midwestern's various academic degrees also is available on the website, together with other academic information, such as the academic calendar, accreditation information, and off-campus programs.

Also included on the website: news releases; speech manuscripts; articles from the seminary's magazine; a history of Midwestern; the school's statement of faith, "The Baptist Faith and Message;" a link to the Home Mission Board's website tract, "How to become a Christian;" information about the faculty; a questionnaire for prospective faculty; and a guest book with a welcome message from Midwestern President Mark Coppenger. The guest book permits visitors to sign-in, request information and leave comments.

The MBTS website broadens the seminary's on-line presence.

Since February the seminary has maintained a section in SBCNet, the Southern Baptist forum on CompuServe, a computer on-line service. Midwestern's SBCNet holdings (in the General Ministry B section) includes some information which is now also available on the website. The seminary will continue to maintain its SBCNet library, providing information to persons who do not use the World Wide Web.

The seminary's website provides information about the Kansas City, Mo., school to a vast audience. Tens of millions of Americans and millions of others throughout the world use services offered through the World Wide Web.

The Midwestern Seminary website has been registered with various "search engines" which permits people to find information and sites on the Internet.

HOUSE MAIL

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