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**Vatican Official Meets
With Mission Personnel**

ATLANTA (BP)--Ecumenical dialogue can foster Christian unity between Christians of different denominations, a Catholic priest told a group of Home Mission Board staffers recently. Father Jerome Hamer, General Secretary for the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity met with the group at a luncheon recently.

Father Hamer, traveling in this country for meetings with major denominations, stressed the need for friendships between persons and personal contacts as a means of aiding ecumenical work. Catholic-Baptist dialogues should include honest discussions of group differences and group problems, the Belgian priest explained. "A sincere dialogue of our difficulties is also an expression of our hope," said Hamer.

The Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity is concerned with relating to other Christian groups, world religions and non-believers. The Secretariat was founded ten years ago during the administration of Pope John XXIII to prepare for Vatican II. That preparation included establishing a theology for ecumenism.

"Training Catholics in the real work of relating to other churches meant showing them that in our own doctrine there was a theological basis for ecumenical work." Greater emphasis is also being placed on ecumenism in Catholic seminaries, Father Hamer said.

Much of the external work of his department has taken the form of bilateral dialogues with Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and reformed churches. He emphasized the importance of Southern Baptists' role in world missions. "My desire to get into contact with you was because I know how important your church is not only in the United States but in the world through your mission activity. I am here to learn and to listen."

Hamer said the Catholic church is recognizing the importance of the local church and the Bible for its members. "The fact that our liturgy is in the vernacular means that three scripture passages are being read to the faithful every Sunday so that finally they become well aware of the contents of the scripture even if they had no Bible at all."

He said that parishoners are being encouraged to have Bibles in their homes.

His great concern, common with Baptists, is "to give easy access to the Bible to all our Christian brethren."

Hamer would also like to see a common text of the biblical languages shared by all major denominations. "The only way we can come to a common Bible is to have the best translation of the original text."

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"Don't Lose Your Love For The
Message," Missionaries Told

9/9/70

CALLAWAY GARDENS, Ga. (BP)--"The greatest thing God did in Christ carries with it the secret of putting things right in the lives of men," Baker J. Cauthen, Foreign Mission Board executive secretary, told 64 new missionaries. "Therefore, don't lose your love for the message."

Cauthen spoke at the opening convocation of the Third Missionary Orientation Conference to be held here. Fourteen weeks in duration, the conference will provide a sustained study period for 30 couples and four single women, soon to leave the United States for missionary service overseas.

Emphasizing love, Cauthen identified it as the indispensable element in missionary service.

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"Keep your love for God," he said. "Keep your confidence in him. Keep your love for the gospel.

"Christian love," he continued, "involves a benevolent good will, a settled purpose in which for Jesus' sake and in Jesus' name you reach toward people to say 'because God loves you, I love you too.'

"The long-range cure for people's problems," declared Cauthen, "is going to be found only in the message of reconciliation."

Cauthen spoke after W. David Lockard, orientation director, welcomed the new missionaries to the orientation experience.

Bo Callaway, well-known Georgia businessman, spoke for the local community. And Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the Mission Support Division of the Foreign Mission Board, charged the missionaries to "buy up the orientation time to further your preparation for the work you are going to do."

Convocation guests included several Baptist pastors from nearby cities, Miss Dorothy Pryor, executive secretary of the Georgia Woman's Missionary Union, and Miss Kate Ellen Gruver, book editor of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Also present was missionary Hubert L. Hardy Jr., of Chile, who will be missionary in residence while on furlough. He and Mrs. Hardy will be missionaries in residence during the orientation sessions.

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Baptist VIEWpoll
Martin B. Bradley, Director

Baptist Leaders Favor Revision
Of Abortion Laws

by Kenneth Hayes

NASHVILLE (BP)--The majority of Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers favor humane abortion laws, according to the latest VIEWpoll survey.

Panel members were asked this question: "Would you favor or oppose a law that would revise legalized abortion to permit such operations in the following cases: (a) where mental or physical health of the woman is threatened; (b) where deformity of the unborn is clearly indicated; or (c) in pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

When the mental or physical health of the woman is threatened by pregnancy, 69.8 per cent of the pastors and 77.9 per cent of the teachers would favor a law which would permit an abortion. However, 20.4 per cent of the pastors and 15.4 per cent of the teachers would oppose such a law. The remaining 9.8 per cent of the pastors and 6.7 per cent of the teachers had "no opinion" on the controversial issue.

Concern over the birth of a deformed fetus was also registered by the 63.8 per cent of the pastors and 75.6 per cent of the teachers who would favor a law allowing abortion where deformity of the unborn is clearly indicated. A law of this nature was opposed to by 25.0 per cent of the pastors and 15.9 per cent of the teachers. Over one-tenth (11.2%) of the pastors and 8.5 per cent of the teachers had "no opinion" on a law of this nature.

Pregnancies resulting from rape or incest should be covered by legalized abortion laws according to 70.6 per cent of the pastors and 77.0 per cent of the teachers in the poll. Fewer pastors (19.4%) would oppose this law than the previous two considered but more teachers (17.0%) would oppose this law than the previous two discussed. "No opinion" was registered by 10.0 per cent of the pastors and 6.0 per cent of the teachers.

In a previous poll, this same panel of representative pastors and Sunday School teachers overwhelmingly opposed (79.8% of the pastors and 75.9% of the teachers) a law which would permit a woman to go to a doctor to end pregnancy at any time during the first three months. Thus, while rejecting a blanket-type abortion law, the Baptist leaders have revealed a willingness to approve legalized abortions under the humane conditions discussed in this article.

Current VIEWpoll findings are based on 92 per cent response of the panel members.

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