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Baptist Spanish Publishing  
House Has Global Impact

By David A. Risinger

EL PASO, TEX. (BP)--The Baptist Spanish Publishing House here sits atop a knoll overlooking a deserted portion of Fort Bliss.

The barracks' once well-inspected window panes are now broken by vandals and the once-smooth marching areas now sprout weeds through cement cracks. These are remnants of times when thousands of soldiers were trained to go to all parts of the world.

In striking contrast, the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, an attractive, yellow stucco building of Spanish design, a few feet away, evidences no slack as it spreads the word in printed form around the globe.

In 1972, 2.3 million brochures, 120 books and four million tracts were published and shipped to 43 countries and 46 states in the U.S.

The publishing house is the only Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board mission institution located in the United States.

Thomas Hill, director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House since 1970, admits that certain advantages and disadvantages exist because of the location.

"We're able to serve all the Spanish-speaking countries impartially from here," he says. "Also modern equipment is more readily available and we can better serve the areas covered by both the Foreign Mission Board and the state conventions.

"Being one pulse beat away from Latin America makes us work harder to gain a sensitivity to current needs," Hill explains. "Also much of the material printed by the publishing house is written by missionaries to Latin America or by nationals, all many miles away."

Besides Hill, 27 other Foreign Mission Board personnel are assigned to the publishing house, including 12 couples and four single ladies.

They work as editors, administrators, sales and promotion personnel and business managers. Approximately 65 other non-missionary employees also labor in the firm.

All the assigned missionaries have served sometime on the field in Latin America or Spain.

The publishing house was begun in Tocola, Mexico, in 1906, by J. E. and Mary Gamble Davis, Southern Baptist missionaries. The first printed material produced was a Sunday School quarterly.

The Davises were forced to flee to El Paso with the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution in 1916. After locating in several places, the publishing house moved to its present site in 1948.

The Foreign Mission Board located the publishing house in a sanitorium run by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board until forced to release it during the depression.

The publishing house shared the facilities for a few years with the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary, now quartered in Torreon, Mexico.

Thirteen book deposits throughout Latin America and Spain distribute the materials to their surrounding area. Each deposit is supervised by a missionary, though it is not his or her main assignment.

"We want manuscripts from people on location," explains Judson Blair, director of the editorial division. "We're trying to promote creativity of Latin American Baptists in writing manuscripts."

The main materials the publishing house prints are Sunday School, Church Training and Woman's Missionary Union publications.

La Fe Bautista, an adult quarterly for church training, is written for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board at the publishing house.

Also, Hill points out, they have just begun publishing the Spanish version of the Baptist World for the Baptist World Alliance.

A former missionary to Costa Rica, Hill is the third director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House. Frank W. Patterson served from 1943-70, between J. E. Davis and Hill.

The publishing house is a self-contained company, incorporated under the laws of Texas, with assigned missionary personnel serving on the board of trustees.

Hill says, "We also maintain an advisory committee which meets in El Paso every four years. Three representatives are appointed from the 13 nations that we serve. In our meetings we go over research papers and focus more clearly on the philosophy of the publishing house."

Like every institution of the Foreign Mission Board, the Baptist Spanish Publishing House is very cognizant of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

"We look to the Lottie Moon Offering every year for capital grants for equipment, paper and other purchases," says Hill.

"The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program (unified budget) is also essential as a subsidy for our operating budget. Corny as it may sound, we feel that every piece of material we print carries with it in invisible ink, 'With Love From Southern Baptists,'" Hill concludes.

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Annuity Secretary Named  
For Va., Md. and D. C.

7/16/73

DALLAS (BP)--A new field secretary has been elected to promote Southern Baptist retirement and insurance plans for ministers and other religious workers in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Frank G. Schwall, 36, a pastor in Bluefield, W. Va., will assume his duties Aug. 27, according to the announcement by the Baptist General Association of Virginia and the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He will have offices in the Virginia Baptist Building at Richmond. He succeeds Harold S. Bailey, who moved to Dallas as vice-president in the development division at the Annuity Board here.

By agreement among Baptist conventions in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, Schwall will promote retirement and insurance plans in all three.

Schwall has been pastor of College Avenue Baptist Church, Bluefield, since 1962. He graduated from the University of Richmond (Baptist) in 1958 and from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., in 1961.

From 1965 to 1971, he was a member of the general board of the Baptist state association in Virginia.

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George W. Knight Named  
New Home Life Editor

7/16/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--George W. Knight, editor of Proclaim and The Deacon at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here, has been named editor of the board's monthly Christian family magazine, Home Life.

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Knight, 32, succeeds Joe W. Burton as editor of Home Life, which grew to approximately 800,000 circulation during Burton's 25 years as the publication's first editor. He retired last October.

A native of Alabama, Knight joined the Sunday School Board in August 1968, after two years as assistant editor of the Western Recorder, the Kentucky Baptist newspaper published in Middletown, Ky.

Proclaim, a magazine for pastors, and The Deacon, a magazine for deacons, are both published quarterly.

Knight earned the bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and holds bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where he served as news director.

"Home Life is a constructive thing that we as Southern Baptists are doing to speak to the needs of the family today," Knight said. "I am delighted to be part of Home Life's tremendous ministry in family enrichment.

"As its first editor, Dr. Joe W. Burton made Home Life one of the finest and most popular publications among Southern Baptists. I'm looking forward to building on the tradition which he established."

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Photo of Knight mailed to state Baptist editors.

Brotherhood Commission Sets  
Conference for Older Baptists

7/16/73

MEMPHIS (BP)--In a move to strengthen its efforts to tap the resources of older Baptists, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission here has scheduled a conference Oct. 4-7, at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

The conference will emphasize ways that retired persons or those preparing to retire may find opportunities for volunteer mission service in the United States and abroad.

Major program personnel include Southern Baptist Convention President Owen Cooper, a recently retired layman who has called repeatedly for creative use of retirees; Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board; Arthur Rutledge, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board; and Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission.

"This is another expression of the 'Cooperative Program of human resources' which I advocated in June in an address to the SBC messengers in Portland," McCullough said.

McCullough said some 500 conferees from across the United States will also hear presentations from lay persons who have worked in areas of the country where Baptist work is weak and from retired lay people who have worked creatively in their churches.

Other program features include two workshops daily which conferees will select from a list of 20 mission opportunities.

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