



-- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

March 21, 1975

75-

Applewood Proves Concept,
'The Church Is Missions'

By Larry Jerden

DENVER, Colo. (BP)--Any visitor to the Rockies gets the same impression. Luthern Mann, the pastor of Applewood Baptist Church here, lives, breathes and educates his congregation in missions.

"He took a group for 14 days to the jungles of Ecuador, and from that group two have already surrendered for missions," declared assistant pastor Steward McCesney.

"And we probably have a dozen others waiting for word from the Lord."

McCesney's evaluation is no overstatement. Everything about Mann's ministry and the response of his people reflect missions.

Applewood Church is running between 650 and 700 in Sunday School, an increase of more than 100 in a year. That makes it the third largest church in the Colorado Baptist General Convention.

And, Mann predicts, "For 1975 we'll lead the state in Cooperative Program giving." The church has designated 12 per cent of its almost \$270,000 budget for the Cooperative Program (unified budget) of Southern Baptists.

Southern Baptists are observing the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program in 1975.

The Applewood congregation has found the keystone to a program of missions giving is mission involvement. At present, the showcase of Applewood's mission efforts is Ward Road Baptist Mission in Arvada, about 4 1/2 miles from the "mother church." McCesney is the mission's pastor.

"Luther did not want to start a mission as a struggling situation that might never develop," McCesney said, "so he told the church he wanted the best 25 families to go 4 1/2 miles to start the mission.

"The response was tremendous, and we had a commissioning service for more than 100 to go. We will start in a \$500,000 building, but after our pledge campaign, should have not more than a \$150,000 debt."

When Colorado Baptists look at Applewood, they see more than a suburban church with a near-by mission. Applewood's congregation and staff believe the church is missions.

"I have a philosophy of missions," Mann explained. "Missions should be first. We try to program it so that nobody knows it's a program. They just know it happens.

"There is no question in the members' minds that missions is part of being a Christian," Mann continued. "And in giving, our Lottie Moon Offering (for foreign missions) topped \$30,000 last year."

Mann admits the Applewood church is something of a "renegade" in that it supports a variety of mission efforts, not all of them Southern Baptist.

Beyond the \$32,000 total amount budgeted for missions, the church supports the All-India Prayer Fellowship missionaries (\$11,900 per year), went on a Central American mission trip (\$7,300) and supports mission scholarships, the World Evangelism Foundation (for which Mann is a director), a church in Korea, another in North Dakota, and the Wycliffe Bible Translators, among others.

Mann said the non-Southern Baptist projects are not actively promoted, but they are there if people choose to give--and they apparently do.

Sparking the mission interest is direct involvement. Mann led the church's interest in the All-India group after he visited the country and met the movement's leadership.

-more-

DARGAS-CLEVELAND LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Recent trips by church members have included work groups to Honduras (with a return trip to that country planned), and groups to Korea, Ecuador and Germany. The church is planning to take 20 persons back to Korea this year.

With that commitment, Mann said, "promoting the Cooperative Program is automatic.

"We don't push the Cooperative Program, but... we've increased one per cent a year the past two years.

"We were third in the state last year...and in all missions giving we were by far the leader last year (for Colorado Baptists).

"But I never got up and said, "Mann continued, " 'Let's give more for the Cooperative Program.' We did have missionary speakers, however, who said, 'Thank God for the Cooperative Program.'

"So it's not the pastor raising it (missions money), it's the people, and that's good..."

Special mission offerings are given strong promotion, but at Applewood, not surprisingly, there is more than a dollar goal.

"We set two goals," Mann said, " one for money and one for missionaries. We set our goal for four missionaries last year, and we met it.

"We had two couples appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in one service.

"Our goal for this next year is 10, and we already have six.

"We are always praying that God will call out missionaries from among us."

Mann said one reason he believes more people are being appointed from the Applewood congregation is his follow-up with those who volunteer.

"Used to be, when someone would come down surrendering for missions, I would just say, 'God bless you,' and that would be it.

"Now I call the Foreign Mission Board the next morning ...we constantly encourage them... When your whole church is praying that God will call out missionaries, God will answer it.

Applewood has an elected missions education coordinator to keep missions before the church in a promotional way, and the church's missions promotion includes mission education organizations for all ages.

But Mann feels the best method of education is to get the laymen on the field. Out of 10 who went to the Andes on a tour with the Wycliffe Translators, two are being appointed by the Foreign Mission Board, he noted.

As a result of the impact of trips to Korea and Germany, Mann said 12-14 in the church made applications with the Foreign Mission Board.



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

March 21, 1975

75-46

Missionaries Evacuate Hue
Dalat; Request \$600,000

SAIGON, Vietnam (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries have been evacuated from Hue and Dalat to the more secure cities of Danang and Saigon, according to the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board.

Board officials described the action as "a precautionary measure in light of recent South Vietnamese troop withdrawals" in the war-torn country.

The evacuated missionaries, along with the other Southern Baptist missionaries in the country, have requested \$600,000 from the Foreign Mission Board for use in refugee relief and resettlement projects.

R. Keith Parks, the board's secretary for Southeast Asia, said the missionaries were not in danger at the time they moved and that all Southern Baptist missionaries in Vietnam are safe and are not encountering serious difficulty.

Parks has been in contact with the Vietnam missionaries by telephone. He indicated they have a "wonderful spirit" and have assured him that Danang and Saigon, and other cities where Baptist missionaries are stationed, are secure at present.

W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's disaster response coordinator, and Bob Harper, photographer and art editor of The Commission, the board's monthly magazine, will travel to the country immediately to evaluate needs and gather information and photographic coverage for the board.

Evacuated from Hue were career missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Davis Jr, and John L. Parsons, who serves in the board's two-year missionary journeyman program. Mr. and Mrs. James J. Bobo and Mr. and Mrs. James H. Lassiter, two missionary couples in language study in Dalat, left that city for Saigon. Mr. and Mrs. H. Earl Bengs Jr., missionaries, and journeyman Rosalee Beck, also stationed in Dalat, were out of the city already and will not return.

Southern Baptist mission work in South Vietnam has been concentrated in an area from Danang to Nhatrang and in Saigon. These areas are not being abandoned.

Southern Baptists currently have 36 missionaries assigned to South Vietnam.

-30-

Vorster Confers With
Tolbert On Race Relations

Baptist Press
3/21/75

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--South African Prime Minister B. John Vorster, reportedly seeking assistance in bringing about conciliation in his country's relationship with blacks, flew to Monrovia to hold closed-door talks with Liberian President William R. Tolbert.

Vorster, accompanied by top South African officials, returned to South Africa after his conference with Tolbert, who has a reputation as a peacemaker in Africa, according to European Baptist Press Service. Tolbert is also a Baptist minister and former president of the Baptist World Alliance.

-more-

London and Cape Town papers reported Tolbert as saying it is "rally time" in the world-- a time for all nations and people to come together in peace, rather than in confrontation, and to work together for the good of all.

Identifying himself with the desires and aspirations of African people to enjoy human dignity, justice and respect, Tolbert said Africans wish to seek solutions through mutual talks only on a basis of equality.

The situation in South Africa (which practices racial apartheid), Tolbert said he believed, was abhorrent to others, EBPS reported.

Specific questions discussed by the state leaders included those of Namibia (Southwest Africa), Rhodesia (where Tolbert reportedly urged the removal of South African troops) and other countries, EBPS said.

-30-

SBC Resolutions Asked
30 Days in Advance

Baptist Press
3/21/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Elected messengers wishing to present resolutions on the floor of the Southern Baptist Convention at the denomination's annual meeting here are requested to send copies to Herschel Hobbs of Oklahoma City at least 30 days before the convention.

Hobbs, retired pastor and a former SBC president, will serve as chairman of the resolutions committee, according to SBC President Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex.

Weber made the request in compliance with the SBC's Bylaw 11 which asks for the 30-day advance notice of resolution content "to make possible more thorough consideration and to expedite the committee's work."

Messengers to the convention may present resolutions from the floor, even if they have not been received in advance. But, even then, they are requested to give the resolution to the SBC recording secretary in writing.

Hobbs address is 2509 N. W. 120th Street, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120.

-30-

Witnessing for Christ Brings
Unusual Result for Texan

Baptist Press
3/21/75

DALLAS (BP)--Witnessing for Christ can result in benefits from a totally unexpected direction says Taylor Pendley, coordinator of the Texas Baptist church extension section.

On a plane recently, Pendley was telling a woman about Christ when a man leaned across the aisle and tapped him on the shoulder:

"What are you selling," the man asked.

"Jesus Christ," replied Pendley.

"That's great. I'm a Christian, and I've just told God I would give a substantial sum for a worthy cause. Do you know of one?"

"I certainly do," said Pendley. "I've been in El Paso helping the new Thomas Manor Baptist Mission. They have some unmet needs."

"Good enough," said the man and wrote out a \$350 check for the new mission.

-30-

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS

**460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219**

MAR 24 1975

LYNN MAY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE, NO.
NASHVILLE TN 37203