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New Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

# --- FEATURES

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Arizona Baptists Locate  
Prospects Via Aerial Maps

By Dan Martin

VERDE VALLEY, Ariz. (BP)--Arizona Southern Baptists used aerial mapping techniques to locate prospects for an evangelism pilot project here.

Most of the residents of the 18-mile long, 16-mile wide Verde Valley don't have street addresses. In fact, most of them don't even live on streets.

"We tried using assessor's maps to locate the residents, but they just didn't work," said Roy Worthley, pastor of Cottonwood Baptist Church in the valley.

"So," he added, "we went to aerial mapping and made our own."

Irving Childress, director of evangelism for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention (ASBC), said the maps available "weren't accurate or complete. The area has grown by about 25 percent since last census."

The Verde Valley is about 90 miles north of Phoenix. It has about 7,000 residences, housing some 21,000 persons.

"The houses are scattered all over," Childress said. "There is no system to it at all."

Arizona Southern Baptists picked the Verde Valley as a target site for its first effort at saturation evangelism. The effort tagged "Good News Verde Valley" is the opening shot in a three-year program, part of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's (HMB) Bold Mission Thrust, which aims at sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with every resident of Arizona and Southern Nevada by 1978.

Saturation evangelism is the brainchild of Roy Sutton, ASBC executive secretary-treasurer. He presented his idea to messengers at the state convention's annual meeting last November.

"We must witness in the cities, street by street, house by house. We must witness in the villages, hamlets, mountain and river resorts and on the ranches till all have heard the gospel of God," Sutton told messengers, who unanimously adopted his challenge to saturate the convention area with the gospel.

Sutton and Childress selected the Verde Valley as the first target for saturation evangelism. They already have scheduled 15 other target areas.

"We wanted an area that was geographically compact and which had people in manageable proportions before tackling one of the metropolitan areas," explained C. L. Pair, editor of the Baptist Beacon, Arizona Baptists' state newspaper.

Detailed planning began about two months before witnessing day. Training sessions were held in Flagstaff, Phoenix and at the four Southern Baptist churches in the Verde Valley.

An estimated 500 persons-- young and old--showed up from every area of Arizona and Southern Nevada to participate. Childress said about a quarter of them had never shared their Christian faith before.

Because the aerial maps depended on "just right" weather, they were not available until about eight days before the campaign.

"It was a little tight, but the maps were excellent, and every church seemed to have someone who knew how to interpret the photos and make assignments for the workers," Childress said.

The aim of the campaign was to call on every residence.

"We project that about 80 percent of 7,000 residences were called on. We found about 20 percent weren't at home, but the workers left literature at those homes," he added.

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There were a few problems--like workers calling on concrete slabs and barns, which look like houses in the photos--but mostly it went off smoothly, Childress added.

The workers had a three-fold aim: to share their faith in Jesus Christ, to enroll everybody in Sunday School and to invite the residents of the valley to a rally that Saturday night.

"We don't have complete figures yet, but it looks like we had about 25 professions of faith in the four areas and found some 600 prospective members.

"The people all told us they were delighted to see someone out knocking on doors," Childress added. He said 650 persons participated in a rally at Mingus Union High School auditorium in Cottonwood. "It was the largest religious gathering every held in the valley," he added. Followup work was underway at the four churches in the valley--Sedona, Cornville, Cottonwood and Camp Verde.

Even as Good News Verde Valley was underway, Childress began making plans on how to improve the upcoming campaigns.

"We will involve our missions division in following campaigns. As we visit, workers can identify places where new work is needed and we can plant home Bible study fellowships there," he said.

He shared his reaction to the first effort at saturation evangelism: "When you get up on one of the hills and look over the valley, and have a deep satisfaction of knowing that most of the homes have had a gospel witness offered to them, it brings you to tears."

Leonard Irwin, chairman of the steering committee for Bold Mission Thrust planning for the HMB, said the Verde Valley campaign "illustrates vividly what we will be trying to do across the nation...presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to very person and presenting them the opportunity to respond."

Richard Jackson, president of ASBC and pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, added, "We made some mistakes in this first effort, but they were mistakes some others won't make because they won't even try what we have attempted here."

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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CBS to Feature Buryl Red  
Musical, Virginia Church

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CUMNOR, Va. (BP)--Virginians and a Virginia Baptist church standing during the American Revolution (as a Church of England house of worship) will be seen coast to coast July 18 on the CBS network. Check local listings for time.

Mattaponi Baptist Church here in King and Queen County, will be the setting for "Revolutionary Ideas," a Bicentennial musical play by Buryl Red and Grace Hawthorne.

The musical play was filmed in May and will be shown on the CBS network's "Lamp Unto My Feet."

Members of the Mattaponi Church choir, joined by choir members from nearby Olivet, Bruington and St. Stephen's Baptist churches will appear as members of the congregation.

Red told The Religious Herald he and a CBS crew examined several old churches before selecting the Mattaponi site. It was suggested by Fred Laughon, special assistant to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth.

Stars of the CBS production will be "The Buryl Red Singers," 10 members of a young singing group seen in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's television series, "Spring Street, USA."

Red directed the show. Alan Harper of CBS produced it for Pamela Ilott, the network's director of cultural and religious broadcasting. Sharon Benge of Fort Worth was in charge of choreography and costuming.

This is the first time a Buryl Red production will have appeared on network television, although he is noted for several musical plays for church groups. He is director of The Centurymen, Radio-TV Commission men's chorus.

"Revolutionary Ideas" is written from the viewpoint of young people changing from British subjects to Americans. As the play progresses and the final battle is won the cast reflects on the cost of freedom deciding that, after all, it was worth the effort.

Mattaponi Church, built around 1690, became a Baptist church in 1785. Early members of the church were the parents of Carter Braxton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

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French Restress Role  
Of Local Churches

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SAINT-QUENTIN, France (BP)--The annual Congress of the French Baptist Federation unanimously adopted a resolution here calling for renewed emphasis "on the notion of the local church and on the privileges and responsibilities of membership."

The new and stronger accent on the local church by the French Baptists came, in the face of "neglect and contestation" on the part of some para-church groups working outside the Federation's framework, according to European Baptist Press Service (EBPS). The accent will be especially pronounced in pastoral and membership training courses, EBPS said.

In another resolution the Federation's executive council was asked to effect studies of declarations from the 13th Baptist World Congress in Stockholm (summer 1975), regarding religious liberty, human rights, world peace and Christian ethics. The council was encouraged to publish the declarations in booklet form for church members to study "in the light of biblical teachings."

Among speakers was Jean Courvoisier, president of the French Protestant Federation, who acknowledged, "French Protestantism today owes much to Baptists. The more I travel the more I'm convinced of the unity of those churches which are of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Courvoisier, a bank president from Paris, was speaking particularly of his contacts with Baptists and other Christian groups in the Soviet Union during a recent visit he made, accompanied by Baptist Federation President André Thobois.

In other action, the Federation welcomed the "Communauté Chrétienne", a Baptist church in Lille, to its ranks and recognized the opening of a new interior mission post at Bordeaux.

Membership in Federation churches and mission posts reached a record 2,786 in 1975, up 350 over 1974, EBPS said. New converts baptized totaled 165, an increase of nine over the previous year, the news service cited.

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Liberian President Speaks  
To West German Baptists

Baptist Press  
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SIEGEN, West Germany (BP)--An address by Liberian President William L. Tolbert, a Baptist, a commissioning service for the European Baptist Federation's new secretary-treasurer--Gerhard Claas of West Germany--and a decision to build a new headquarters building were among highlights of the West German Baptist Union meeting here.

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Tolbert , former president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) told 2,500 delegates and guests that Christ's people . . . must avoid incidents of confrontation and find ways of reconciliation, showing forgiveness instead of retaliation . . . Ours is a world where even Christians care less and less about living together as a haring group."

In the same closing service, Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the West German Baptist Union, was "set apart" with the laying on of hands by Tolbert and Union President Walter Zeschke, as they placed their palms on Claas' head and "prayed for God's wisdom and the Holy Spirit's leadership" for Claas in his new role. Claas will assume his n w duties Oct. 1, 1976, according to European Baptist Press Service (EBPS).

Delegates voted almost unanimously to begin construction "as soon as possible" on a new Union headquarters building, following an announcement that authorities had granted a building permit the previous week. The new building will be located in Bad Homburg on a different site from the present headquarters and should be complete by late 1977, EBPS said.

A second reading of a proposed Confession of Faith for German-language Baptists was heard and discussed, looking toward final approval by next year's assembly. The Confession has been formulated simultaneously by a committee of Baptist theologians from both German republics, Switzerland and Austria. Zeschke, the Union's first lay president, will continue through the coming year. Harold Eisenblätter , a West Berlin pastor, is the Union's new vice president.

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Body of Pastor's Daughter  
Found in Week-Long Search

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ORANGE PARK, Fla. (BP)--The body of Janita Estes, daughter of Paul L. Estes, pastor of Fleming Island Baptist Church here, was found June 4 in a palmetto thicket near Orangedale

Police believe the girl, 16, was abducted from the Orange Park Mall as she left a modeling class on May 29. A preliminary autopsy report indicate that a single bullet wound in the head caused the death, according to a Florida Baptist witness report.

Two Florida National Guard helicopter pilots spotted the body. The discovery ended a week-long search covering two counties by at least 300 volunteers, the newsmagazine said.

"The way people have responded to this thing is the way we ought to respond to our country and our great God," said Estes as he thanked the volunteers and businesses which had assisted during the week.

A memorial service was held June 6. The family requested contributions to the Fleming Island Baptist Church Building Fund in lieu of flowers.

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Court to Rule on Minors'  
Right to Contraceptives

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By Stan L. Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to decide if state laws may prohibit over-the-counter sale of contraceptives to minors under age 16 and whether all contraceptives sales may be made only by physicians and licensed pharmacists.

The high court will also decide whether states may forbid advertising and open display of contraceptive products.

In another action, the justices declined to schedule for argument a case challenging a District of Columbia law forbidding solicitation by prostitutes.

The decision to hear the contraceptives case signals a thorough review by the nation's highest court of New York States' comprehensive law which controls both the sale and advertising of birth control devices.

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A U.S. district court in New York ruled last year that the law is too broad and infringes on the constitutional right of both minors and adults.

New York State attorneys argue that selling contraceptives over the counter to young people under age 16 would "sanction sexual activity."

"Because of its strong and abiding interest in youth," a legal brief filed by the state continues, "the state may regulate minors' access to material which a state clearly could not regulate as to adults."

Three physicians, an Episcopal clergyman, a father of four, and two population agencies originally filed the suit challenging the New York law. Their statement to the high court claims that "the constitutional right of privacy includes the fundamental right of access to contraceptives."

They argue further that distribution of birth control devices should not be limited to pharmacists and that the provision of the law prohibiting advertising violates the free speech guarantee of the First Amendment.

Full oral arguments in the case are likely to be scheduled for next fall.

In the District of Columbia case which the court declined to hear, five prostitutes also cited the First Amendment's free speech provision as they argued for the justices to strike down the nation's capital's prohibition of solicitation by prostitutes.

The women also held that the law is unconstitutional in that D. C. undercover policemen were used as decoys to arrest them because the law has been applied solely against women.

The challenged law provides a fine of up to \$250 and imprisonment of up to 90 days for offenders.

A D. C. superior court earlier dismissed charges against the women, holding that the law violated their privacy and free speech. The lower court also cited the way in which the law was enforced against women only, saying that this amounted to denial of equal protection.

The D. C. court of appeals reversed the lower court, however, holding that there is no constitutional right to privacy where solicitation for prostitution occurs in public places. The court of appeals also said that the free speech clause of the First Amendment does not protect such solicitation.

Because of D. C.'s unique status as the nation's capital, the women's suit was brought against the United States. In its written statement to the high court, the government agreed with the court of appeals' reversal, arguing that "the act of soliciting for prostitution . . . lies outside the normal protection given free speech."

The brief also contended that states and localities should be allowed to continue prohibiting solicitation by prostitutes because "there is a legitimate public interest in maintaining the quality of community life."

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Churches Oppose New  
Proposed IRS Rules

Baptist Press  
6/8/76

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptists joined hands with representatives of major religious bodies to oppose proposed regulations by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which they claim will result in an excessive entanglement of government in the affairs of the churches.

The IRS is seeking to define "integrated auxiliaries of a church" by amending Section 6033 of the Internal Revenue Code. The IRS claims that it is merely carrying out the mandate imposed by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1969.

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The churches, on the other hand, charge that IRS lacks legislative authorization for its proposal which, they say, results in a definition of the nature and mission of the church by government. This is a violation of the First Amendment which provides for separation of church and state, the churches claim.

At the all-day hearing here on June 7, four Baptists were among 14 scheduled witnesses from church and religious groups. James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, represented eight national Baptist bodies in the United States.

Other Baptists opposing the proposed IRS regulation were: Gary S. Nash, attorney for the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Earl Trent, representing James A. Christison of the Board of National Ministries of the American Baptist Churches, U. S.A., and Wayne Dehoney, pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, and former SBC president.

Spokesmen for other religious bodies also opposed the proposed IRS regulations. They were the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the Lutheran Council in the U. S.A., the Roman Catholic Church, the National Association of Evangelicals, the United Church of Christ, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the Western Association of Christian Schools, and the American Association of Christian Schools.

The importance of the hearing was emphasized by the presence of IRS Commissioner Donald C. Alexander and other highly placed IRS officials.

While the church spokesmen attacked the proposals head-on, the IRS representatives were notably defensive in what they were trying to do. It was not clear at the end of the day what IRS intends to do about its proposed regulations. Several courses of action seem to be open to IRS.

IRS can proceed to approve the regulations as they are now proposed. It can drop the proposal altogether. It can modify the proposal in an attempt to satisfy the objections of the churches. It can come up with completely new and different regulations. It could ask Congress to clarify its mandate to IRS in the Tax Reform Act of 1969.

In the event the regulations are approved in their present form, church reaction would range all the way from conformity, to seeking change by Congress, to challenging in the courts, to refusing to comply with IRS regulations.

According to the proposed IRS regulations, "Integrated auxiliary of a church means an organization . . . (a) whose primary purpose is to carry out the tenets, functions, and principles of faith of the church with which it is affiliated, and (b) whose operations in implementing such primary purpose directly promote religious activity among members of the church."

Wood presented four major reasons for Baptist opposition to the proposed IRS regulation. He said:

1. "The informational requirements under the proposed rules would put the Internal Revenue Service in the wholly unacceptable and unconstitutional role of monitoring the internal workings of a church, association or convention of churches, and their integrated auxiliaries.
2. "The churches' acceptance of the proposed rules would be tantamount to their acceptance of the authority of the state to define the role and mission of the churches.
3. "The proposed rules do not properly interpret or carry out the clearly expressed will of Congress in creating section 6033 of the Internal Revenue Code.
4. "The proposed rules could have an extensive and detrimental impact on a number of programs which Baptist churches consider to be an integral part of their religious mission."

Nash charged that the proposed regulations would necessitate excessive governmental entanglement in church affairs, that it would seriously damage many Baptist church programs, especially those like the program of pensions as administered by the Annuity Board, SBC.

Trent charged that the definition as proposed by IRS would disqualify many of the agencies and greatly curtail the mission activity of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. He expressly stated that, if the IRS regulation is approved, the officials of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. would refuse to comply with its requirements.

Dehoney, the only witness representing an individual local congregation, said that the proposed regulations would permit a bureaucratic structure and government employees arbitrarily to make judgments in defining what is a church, in determining what are the legitimate ministries and expressions of a church's ministry to its members, its community and to humanity, and in determining what is the church's role in meeting the social, physical, educational and spiritual needs of people.

The former SBC president warned, "The consequences of these proposals are frightening. In the defining of 'integrated church auxiliaries' we would be turning the clock back to the pre-revolutionary era when local magistrates were permitted to define 'proper church activities.'"