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Hot Lunch Program Cuts
Senior Adults' Loneliness

By Mike Creswell

MONCKS CORNER, S.C. (BP)--Mark Burnham wears the gray mantle of advanced years with stately grace. Semi-retired, his wife died four years ago, and he now lives with his daughter.

His days would be spent in loneliness, if it wasn't for a five-days-a-week lunch program for older adults at nearby First Baptist Church.

There he enjoys a wholesome, hot meal with 40-70 friends--all 55 or older. Like many of them, he gets there a little early and stays a little late for "fellowshipin'."

"This is the high point of my day," Burnham said during a recent noon meal at the church: "I meet a lot of my friends here, and I love them everyone."

That the church would remember senior adults impressed Burnham.

"People tend to push us away and say we don't amount to anything, we're finished. Well, we're not finished. We're still here," he said emphatically.

Burnham's own life justifies his remarks. Still an active gunsmith, he turns out highly-prized flintlock rifles in his own shop.

Pastor Norman Gillespie saw many Mark Burnhams in Moncks Corner two years ago and decided his church should do something to help.

Moncks Corner is a small town of about 3,000 residents outside Charleston, one of the state's three largest cities. Many senior adults have settled in the suburban town because of its convenience to downtown, its fishing and hunting facilities and its proximity to military installations. Many of them are retired military personnel.

The "something" turned out to be the hot lunch program. "I figured that senior adults could benefit from such a program. Many of them sit around home all day with nowhere to go and nothing to do after they retire from their life's work. They don't get out and see anyone, and many times they don't even bother to change out of their night clothes all day for this very reason," he said.

The lunch program Gillespie said, gives many senior adults a good reason to get dressed and get out for fresh air and--more importantly--a fresh outlook on life.

Nutritional meals also meet another need for older citizens, Gillespie said: "When they sit around all day, it often carries over into their meals. Instead of fixing a hot, well-balanced meal at least once a day, they get by with just a sandwich or something easy to fix, and probably something easy on the budget. It's no wonder many of them are in poor health."

Gillespie administers the program with Frank Ling, associate pastor, and David Brien, minister of education, and volunteer church members who help.

The meals are not free, but Brien said the modest \$1-a-plate price is easily afforded by the moderate-income participants. By planning menus carefully in advance and buying foods wholesale, the program costs the church nothing.

Church members provide the staff needed beyond a paid cook. Meals are served buffet-style with beverage, homemade biscuits and dessert, and includes free seconds. Reservations are made each morning, so little food is wasted, Gillespie noted.

Only half the older adults are First Church members. The rest live or work in the neighborhood. Though two couples have joined the church through the program, evangelism is not stressed.

"It is a service ministry," Brien explained. "What we're interested in is providing a chance for fellowship among the senior citizens."

Brien feels the program's fellowship role is succeeding. For example, one elderly woman would come just long enough for the meals then leave immediately without saying a word.

"Now she comes early and stays late like most of the others, so she can talk," Brien said. "She has found that the people here are interested in her, and now she's interested in them too."

A meals-on-wheels extension of the program serves five to a dozen persons each day, as church members take food out to older persons whose mobility is restricted.

A general interest film or some other program is offered weekly, and outings on the church bus are held periodically. Staff member Frank Ling has taken the senior adults to Richmond, Nashville and Florida.

Two other results of the program were unforeseen. First Baptist Church members now have a keener awareness of senior adults needs, Brien said, and plans are under way to expand the ministry.

Also, many senior adults have shown an interest in the persons at the other end of the age spectrum--the children in First Church's day care center and kindergarten.

"It's really something to see the older ones and the young ones together," Ling said.

"You see, these older folks really have something to contribute--and they can still enjoy life."

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Mike Creswell is a newswriter for the General Board of South Carolina Baptist Convention Public Relations Office.

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Harris Jogs His Way
Into The 'Maniacs'

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RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP)--James G. Harris, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has joined a group of "maniacs."

The group, "Cooper Maniacs," is a jogging club of 49 missionaries and Brazilians. The administrative council of the group voted to make Harris, a regular jogger, an honorary member.

After speaking to missionaries gathered for a potluck dinner at the all Brazil mission office, Southern Baptist Missionary Edgar Hallock told Harris of the honor and presented him with a "Cooper Maniac" shirt, key chain and patch.

Kenneth Cooper, after whom the organization is named, is a physician in Dallas, Tex. He has a clinic there, called the Aerobics Center, where he gives physical examinations and then prescribes needed exercises.

Cooper and E. Eugene Greer of the State Missions Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas are also honorary members of the Brazilian jogging group.

Harris is pastor of University Baptist Church, Fort Worth, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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**Congress to Consider
Pregnancy Legislation**

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--Eighty-Nine U. S. senators and representatives joined her in announcing new legislation designed to protect pregnant women workers against employer discrimination.

At a press conference attended by three senators, four members of the House, and leaders of union, civil rights, and women's groups, plans were disclosed to push through the 95th Congress a bill which would (1) Amend the Civil Rights Act to include a ban on discrimination against pregnant women, and (2) Provide temporary disability benefits to women who have to drop out of the work force due to pregnancy.

The action came in response to a decision by the U. S. Supreme Court last December which held that employers are not obligated to provide disability payments to women who become pregnant despite the fact that many elective medical procedures and male sex-related procedures are covered.

The case, Gilbert v. General Electric Co., was brought to the high court last year by a group of women employees at the company's Salem, Va., plant. But the court, in a 6-3 ruling, held that the company was under no obligation to provide disability benefits to pregnant women, in spite of such a requirement made by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Justice William H. Rehnquist, who wrote the majority opinion for the court, said that "gender-based discrimination does not result simply because an employer's disability benefits plan is less than all inclusive." He also upheld GE's plan by saying that "there is no risk from which men are protected and women are not. Likewise, there is no risk from which women are protected and men are not."

While acknowledging that "pregnancy is of course confined to women," Rehnquist went on to say that "it is in other ways significantly different from the typical covered disease or disability."

The bipartisan group of senators and representatives introducing the new bill indicated their sharp disagreement with the court's reasoning. U. S. Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr. (D.-N.J.), one of the major Senate sponsors, said that the Gilbert decision "constituted a serious setback to women's rights" and "came as a deep disappointment to working women."

U. S. Sen. Birch Bayh (D.-Ind.), another co-sponsor, said the decision points to the urgent need to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The amendment, passed by Congress in 1972, has been ratified by 35 state legislatures, three less than required for final enactment.

U. S. Sen. Jacob Javits (R.-N.Y.) said the new bill "is but a civilized recognition of the civil rights of women" and argued that companies which argue against covering pregnancy in their disability plans because of cost are in fact "perpetuating discrimination."

Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins (D.-Cal.), the chief sponsor in the House of Representatives, promised that the House will act quickly on the measure. Hawkins, who chairs the Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities where the bill will be considered, predicted that the full Committee on Education and Labor will report out the measure sometime in April and that the House itself should vote on it in May.

Three congresswomen, Margaret Heckler (R.-Mass.), Elizabeth Holtzman (D.-N.Y.), and Patricia Schroeder (D.-Col.), also denounced the Supreme Court's action.

Heckler said that while the argument is made by some that women "have come a long way," after the Gilbert decision, "we've been reminded that we have a long way to go." She predicted passage of the bill by the present Congress.

Holtzman said she was "surprised and disturbed" by the court's action and said that it points out the need for women justices on the high court. She said that the court "has opened the door" to other forms of discrimination against pregnant women, with the result that they are "in an extremely disadvantaged position."

Schroeder, whose colorful language drew applause from an audience of some 100 attending the press conference, said she is "just waiting for the first Supreme Court justice to get pregnant" to see if that unlikely event changes the justices' thinking. She said she was "horrified" at their ruling in the GE case.

The legislation to reverse the effect of the court's decision is being pushed by a broadly based coalition of labor, civil rights, and women's groups. Called the "Campaign to End Discrimination Against Pregnant Workers," it includes the AFL-CIO, American Civil Liberties Union, American Nurses Association, Americans for Democratic Action, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, League of Women Voters, NAACP, National Education Association, National Organization for Women, United Auto Workers, and 34 others.

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Three Return to Uganda
To Process Work Permits

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NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--Three Southern Baptist missionaries returned to Uganda March 13 to spend a week processing official permits to work in the country and to assess the general situation there.

Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, said G. Webster Carroll of West Virginia, Harry B. Garvin of Texas, and James L. Rice of Virginia, drove back into Uganda and have been in daily contact with their families who are remaining in Kenya.

In a telephone report March 15 to the board's home office in Richmond, Saunders said the men found no difficulties being experienced in Soroti and Jinja, the two major areas of Southern Baptist work in Uganda.

The missionaries were scheduled to return to Kenya on March 20 and expected to meet with Saunders as they make decisions about their future plans.

Saunders, now on a tour of the countries in his area, said he would not be able to visit in Uganda personally because no tourists are being allowed in at this time.

The three Southern Baptist couples have been in Kenya since late February. Two of them came here to be with their children on a school holiday, and the third couple joined them for an area meeting here. All decided to remain temporarily in Kenya as Ugandan President Idi Amin called a meeting of all Americans in his country. The meeting was later postponed, and no new date for it has been set.

Amin has been the center of worldwide attention following the death of Anglican Archbishop Janani Luwum, officially reported to have died in an automobile accident. Amin has denied reports that he was responsible for Luwum's death.

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Wake Forest Trustees
Comment on Flynt Furor

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)--The board of trustees of Wake Forest University, in a regular meeting here, has commented on the furor surrounding a recent appearance by convicted pornographer Larry Flynt on the Baptist school's campus.

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On Feb. 28, Flynt, publisher of "Hustler" magazine, appeared on campus, at the invitation of the Men's Residence Council, to speak and receive the small student group's "Man of the Year Award."

The award was later described as "tongue in cheek" and "half-humorous" in intent by council President Angelo Monaco, who apologized to the administration for embarrassment caused by the invitation. The invitation was made by the group last October, before Flynt's conviction on obscenity charges, and without the knowledge of the administration, which learned of it about three days before Flynt was to appear.

The next evening, after Flynt had addressed 350 students, Coy Privette, president of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, appeared in the second phase of the two-part debate to speak and be honored by the student group as "Alumnus of the Year." Addressing about 50 persons, he rebutted Flynt's point of view.

The trustees commended Wake Forest President James Ralph Scales for "his forthright public interpretation of this whole issue . . . Privette . . . for his clear presentation of the Christian ethic on pornography, and the Biblical Recorder, our Baptist state journal, for reporting this event in fair perspective."

The statement expressed concern for the "growing scourge of hard core pornography" and said it degrades and brutalizes human personality and values.

Referring to the school's "open platform" heritage, Scales said it "has been responsibly exercised by dozens of organizations in hundreds of events across the past decade and had never been abused" (in the past).

Scales commended Privette's "cogent and effective presentation" on the Christian view of morality and quoted Monaco as saying that "students who attended were both moved and impressed" by what Privette had to say.

"I wish that those who were fearful of heart could have heard the second half of the debate," Scales said. "Sometimes 'unauthorized' events have unexpectedly good consequences."

Both Flynt and Privette addressed themselves to how pornography and censorship relate to the First Amendment of the Constitution. Flynt said his magazine, if it is pornographic, should be protected by the Constitution as are his critics' comments about it. Privette declared that the Constitution was never meant to shield "a merchant of filth."

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Great Need For Evangelists
In South America: Harris

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FORT WORTH (BP)--James G. Harris, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president, recently made a "listening" tour of South America and what he heard most was a cry for more preachers and additional funds to help buy land for church sites.

"The greatest needs I saw were for preachers who are evangelists and church builders, and for money to buy lots to build churches, especially in the growing urban centers," Harris, pastor of Fort Worth's University Baptist Church and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said in an interview.

Harris and his wife visited all the countries in South America where Southern Baptist missionaries are serving, except Venezuela. He spoke in churches, seminaries, hospitals and even on a riverboat in the Amazon River during the month-long tour.

"In each country I came together to have dialogue with the missionaries. They all expressed their gratitude for the support Southern Baptists and the Foreign Mission Board give them," he explained. "But they also shared their great burdens for their various countries."

And the greatest of these burdens is the need for preachers. He said the need is everywhere. This is not to say that other missionaries on the field are not doing their share, but the greatest need is for missionaries who are exclusively preachers, Harris said.

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In Colombia, Harris said, many are coming to accept Christ because of Robert L. Edwards, Southern Baptist missionary who is spending a year ministering to the medical needs of people in a barrio in Barranquilla. "But we do not have a missionary to go and start a church there when he leaves. He's opened the door, but there's no one to go and start a church."

South America has immediate need for more church leaders and for land for more church sites, Harris said. In Sao Paulo, described as the fastest growing city in the world, one church could have bought a lot for \$10,000 a few years ago. The money was not available. Since that time, he said, the price of the lot has gone to \$200,000 and "They'll never be able to buy it."

He mentioned that one church is paying \$3,000 a month for three years to buy a lot. Since no Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds were available at that time, the nationals went ahead with the purchase and have been sacrificing to meet the payments. Many of the church's 200 members have given up life savings to help in the purchase. He said the Lottie Moon Offering is more than matched by the money and sacrifice of the nationals.

"Our people in the States need to know that when they give to the Lottie Moon Offering they are not just giving a handout. These people match the money with their lives," Harris added.

"South America is wide open to the gospel. I don't know of any place where the opportunities are greater," Harris said. Almost one-third of the current requests for new missionaries come from South America, according to figures released by the board's department of missionary personnel.

Of 211 personnel requests for South America, 183 are for missionaries in evangelism and church development. The 28 other requests include student workers, secretaries, teachers and a hospital dietitian, all of whom also will be active in spreading the gospel, a board spokesman said.

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New Orleans Seminary Sets
Budget, Building Program

Baptist Press
3/16/77

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees adopted a record \$3,800,000 budget, approved a building program and promoted faculty members, meeting in annual session here.

A portion of the largest budget in the seminary's history will be used in the remodeling of the women's residence halls before the opening of the 1977-78 school year this fall, a seminary spokesman said.

Approval was given to begin work on a nearly \$150,000 recreation center to include a remodeled gym containing saunas, lockers, table game room, supplies for roller skating and a universal weight lifting room. Plans also include four, fully lighted tennis courts.

The cost of the facilities and equipment will be underwritten by gifts from individuals. Construction on the project is slated to begin immediately, with a majority of the improvements to be completed by the fall term of 1977.

Several faculty members were given promotions and a new faculty member was added to the School of Christian Training. Charles Graham, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Greenville, Ala. was elected to the faculty of the school of Christian training. Graham will teach Old Testament, effective May 1, 1977.

Genter Stephens, who came to the New Orleans Seminary in 1955, and will be retiring in July of this year, was elected by the board of trustees to the position of professor emeritus. Stephens is professor of music education and voice, and will be moving to El Paso, Tex., to begin work with the Spanish Baptist Publishing House.

In final action, the trustees re-elected officers for 1977-78, recognized six faculty members with 25 or more years service and heard President Landrum Leavell report that the seminary enrollment was up by a record 20.6 percent over the same period in 1976. Current enrollment was set at 1,198 students.

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