

(BP)**BAPTIST PRES**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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'Good News Texas' Blossoms
Into National Phenomenon

By Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP)--What began as the "Good News Texas" evangelistic thrust has blossomed unexpectedly into a nationwide phenomenon, leaders of the effort said here.

Mail poured into the Baptist General Convention of Texas' office in Dallas from the Chicago-Cincinnati area a few days after Lloyd Elder, Good News Texas media chairman, and associate to the Texas Baptist executive director, appeared on the "Phil Donahue Show" on WGN-TV, Chicago.

Most of the writers asked for the 'Living Proof' brochure which Donahue displayed and which includes the Biblical plan for becoming a Christian. Many commented on the five 30-second testimonies of well-known people shown during the hour-long talk show.

"Response has been overwhelming," noted Texas Baptist executive director James H. Landes. He said 148 letters have come from the midwest region where the Donahue program was seen in five of the 93 market areas in which it will ultimately be televised nationwide within the next two months.

Landes said the names of the people asking for help and information on becoming Christians will be relayed as rapidly as possible to the appropriate state-level Southern Baptist convention offices.

An Illinois woman wrote, "I really want to receive Jesus completely . . . I feel that your book (the brochure) may help me." Another woman wrote from Indiana: ". . . If your commercials can show one soul the way to being won by Christ, it is worth every dollar spent."

During his show, Donahue aired brief TV spots of Christian testimonies given by Actor Dean Jones, former Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver, country singer Jeannie C. Riley, businessman Alan Mayer, and Honduras consul general, Rosargentina Pinel.

The campaign is also drawing attention of other denominations. Clyde Chesnutt, associate editor of The United Methodist Reporter, commenting on the "Living Proof" campaign, wrote: "United Methodists in Texas, who are engaged in the missional priority of evangelism, may have had gained an unexpected boost from the Southern Baptists."

He noted that the \$1.5 million-campaign "has attracted the attention of 'Newsweek' magazine, the national newspaper wire services and NBC-TV's program 'Who's Who,' as well as the 'National Courier' and 'Texas monthly' magazine."

The "Living Proof" spots, the heart of the "Good News Texas" media campaign, show that the speakers are living proof of how Christ can transform fouled up lives, said Elder. They were developed with the assistance of Bloom Advertising Agency, Dallas, to help create a receptive climate for the 4,000 Texas Baptist Churches to share Christ in their communities.

So that people may respond immediately, the TV and radio spots, along with newspaper ads and billboards, carry the address, Box 1000, Dallas, Texas. People who write are sent a copy of the brochure, with a letter of encouragement, and their names are sent to the church nearest to them.

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"About 200 Texans wrote to Box 1000 during the first month of the three-month campaign," said Elder. "But the most dramatic results have come as anticipated through church ministries and the witness of individual Christians."

Some people have also seen the spots and called to the Baptist building in Dallas seeking spiritual guidance.

Bill Blackburn, family life consultant in the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, discussed on the telephone with one couple the meaning of salvation and the ability of God to forgive their sins. He prayed with them and they accepted Christ. Blackburn contacted a nearby pastor who took the couple to a "Good News Revival."

Another woman called from a hospital near Fort Worth to say she had seen the testimonies on TV. "They really have peace, and I don't have it, and I need it," she said.

Her request was relayed to First Baptist Church, Eules, Tex., which sent a staff member to the hospital to see her.

The presentation of the spots drew mixed reaction from the live audience during the Phil Donahue Show. Some expressed concern about spending money in the media rather than giving it "to feed the poor."

When some in the audience expressed reservations about using the media to share something as personal as religion, Donahue said, "Well, Jesus went out where the people are."

And when someone said, "I don't think we should evangelize," Donahue responded, "We Christians are taught that we are to be missionaries."

Spots on Hare Krishna, atheism and the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon had been developed especially for the program to contrast with the "Living Proof" spots. "I've never been so proud of the gospel in my life as when I saw it compared with these other religions," said Elder.

He cited one of the letters following the show as something that "makes it worth any effort:" A man wrote: ". . . something moved me when watching the Donahue Show. These gentlemen got me to thinking, and now I want to find out why."

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List of TV showings of "Good News Texas" mailed to Baptist state papers.

Religious Tensions Constant
In USSR, Lecturer Declares

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WACO, Tex. (BP)--Religious tension will always exist in the Soviet Union, a noted author and lecturer told Baylor University students and faculty here.

William C. Fletcher, former director of the Centre de Recherches et d'Etude des Institutions Religieuses in Geneva, Switzerland, and author of numerous books on religion in the Soviet Union, presented the 15th annual J. M. Dawson Lectures on Church and State at the Baptist school.

The tension in the Soviet states results from a conflict between the religious nature of the Russian people and their communist government's ideological commitment to the phasing-out of all religion, said Fletcher, director of Slavic and Soviet area studies at the University of Kansas.

"We have difficulty understanding the situation in Russia because we cannot picture having beliefs that would make religion just superstition and thus a crime," he said. "In the eyes of a Soviet judge, to let someone who is a Christian out of jail would be like us (Americans) letting Charles Manson (convicted for murder) out of jail. It's a matter of legality for them."

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Fletcher said the Soviet government's policies toward religion can be divided into several time periods.

For the first 10 years after the 1917 revolution, the Soviet regime focused on solidifying its power base, he said. The regime paid little attention to religion.

Religious life was allowed to go its own way, with the exception of the Russian Orthodox church, which had an organizational structure large enough to threaten the new regime. For evangelical groups like the Russian Baptists and Pentecostals, this would be their only period of freedom, he said.

In 1928, pragmatism was replaced with an all-out campaign to eliminate religion from society, Fletcher continued. Concentrating on the local church, the Soviet government passed a law on April 8, 1929, radically curtailing local activities.

"Interrogation, arrest, imprisonment, exile, and death became commonplace," Fletcher said.

This campaign peaked, along with the other great Stalin purges, in the middle and late 1930s. Fletcher said that at least 52 bishops, archbishops, and metropolitans are known to have died in 1937-38 as a result of the campaign.

After World War II and the death of Stalin, several factors helped the USSR enter a period of "religious revival," Fletcher observed.

A lessening of government opposition, disillusionment that swept the Soviet Union after Khrushchev's speech denouncing Stalin, and the return of millions of Christians from labor camps ("tough believers") resulted in massive growth in Soviet churches, Fletcher continued.

By the late 1950s, the state returned to a policy of limited pressure on the church. Anti-religious propaganda was increased. Pressure was applied to both the legal and illegal branches of the church. The Soviet Union maintains essentially the same policy today, he said.

Soviet policy against religious dissenters developed slowly because the government had never faced dissent before, he said.

"They really didn't know how to handle it," he said. "Here they were with people in the streets, and sit-ins, and sing-ins on subway trains, and they just didn't know what to do. It took them awhile, but they worked out a plan which they still use today, and it's been effective."

The plan, Fletcher explained, consisted of limited concessions to the legal established church and pressure on the dissenting congregations. Through this program, Fletcher said the Soviet government has stripped the dissent movement of its articulate leaders. However, he noted that concessions granted to the established churches have been honored.

The Russian people have both fear and curiosity about Western culture, he said. This is evident in the spread of the Pentecostal-charismatic approach to religion in the Soviet Union before and after the 1917 revolution.

The first Pentecostal congregation was founded in St. Petersburg in 1914, only seven years after the charismatic movement began in the United States, he said. During the 10-year period after the revolution, when the government was focusing its attention on the Russian Orthodox church, Pentecostal congregations were founded throughout the new Soviet Union. When the Stalin purges began, Pentecostals suffered as much as anyone.

In the 1950s and to the present, Soviet courts have made it clear that Pentecostalism will not be tolerated by the government, Fletcher said. Pentecostals have been accused of causing the suicide of their children and practicing human sacrifice.

Business Officers Oppose
IRS Church Definition

DALLAS (BP)--About 160 Southern Baptist business officers resolved here to reaffirm opposition to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for defining a church's nature and mission in an income tax amendment.

In a session of the 15th Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference, the group voted unanimously to run the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that we, the members of the Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference meeting . . . reaffirm our opposition to the commissioner of Internal Revenue arrogating the authority to define the nature of the church and the mission of the church through the amendment of income tax regulation section 1.6033-2."

The amendment, defining an "integrated auxiliary of a church," was published in the "Federal Register" on Jan. 4 this year.

The business officers took the action after the organization's resolutions committee said it considers the amendment a violation of the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

According to the resolution, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The resolution also noted, "If Congress by statute or administration, through quasi-legislative process, seeks to define what institutions and activities are indispensable for an organization to be classified as a church in any context, the state is then defining for the churches the nature and scope of their religious mission."

The conference, hosted by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annuity Board, followed a meeting of the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association, which registered about 60 persons.

Earlier in the business officers conference, Albert McClellan, director of program planning and associate executive secretary for the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, emphasized the importance of "inter-agency mutual helpfulness."

McClellan explained that SBC agencies can work together more effectively by knowing where to draw lines of responsibility and by suggesting specific ways to lend assistance.

In the computer users meeting, representatives decided to send a questionnaire to members of the association and to SBC agencies which will plumb interest in the association's pooling its buying power when printing data processing forms and cards.

The association believes this would result in a substantial savings in printing costs for all agencies using the forms and cards, particularly in the smaller ones.

Business conference delegates elected the following officers:

James G. Edwards of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, was named general chairman for SBC agencies, boards, commissions, state newspapers and foundations; Jim M. Robertson Jr. of Grand Valley Hospital, Pryor, Okla., chairman for benevolent institutions; Charles R. Vermillion of First Baptist Church, Longview, Tex., chairman for churches; Floyd Patterson Jr. of San Marcos (Tex.) Baptist Academy, chairman for colleges, universities, seminaries and academies; Barry G. Allen of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, Ky., state convention chairman; Steven R. Lawrence of the Sunday School Board, 1978 chairman for SBC agencies, boards, commissions, state newspapers and foundations.

The computer users also elected officers:

O. Max Burns Jr., director of records process at the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, was named president; Ted Williams, director of data processing for the North Carolina Baptist Convention, Raleigh, N. C., program vice president; Mrs. Martha Grove of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood, Tenn., membership vice president; Van Simpson of the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, secretary-treasurer; and Don Hull of the SBC Radio & TV Commission, Fort Worth, editor of the newsletter, "Input/Output."

For Mr. Dillon, the
Dollars Just Grew

WEST FRANKFURT, Ill. (BP)--Oscar Dillon, who dies here on May 30, 1976, had nurtured a dream that he would die a millionaire.

The 83-year-old bachelor lived frugally, never owning a car or a home. But careful investments and inexpensive living resulted in an estate of \$1,004,000, better than 90 percent of which will go to fulfill another dream--benefit to Baptist causes.

The single largest gift, according to James H. Smith of Springfield, executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association, amounts to about \$600,000 and will go to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., which has some 2,700 missionaries in 84 countries.

Smith, who was named executor of the estate, said about \$250,000 will go to the Illinois Baptist State Association.

First Baptist Church, West Frankfort, Ill., where Dillon had a perfect 43-year attendance record and taught Sunday School, will get \$50,000. Parrish Missionary Baptist Church, located two miles west of Thompsonville, Ill., in the rural community where he grew up, will receive \$5,000.

Dillon, who placed no restrictions on the gifts, left \$51,000 to spouses of nieces and nephews. He had no other living relatives.

He was baptized at the Ewing (Ill.) Baptist Church on February, 23, 1913, while a student at Ewing College, a school formerly operated by Illinois Baptists. For many years, he was a bookkeeper and auditor for the Old Ben Coal Corporation.

Dillon once told a friend that he "never made any money until he stopped following the advice of financial 'experts' and studied investments for myself."

Smith said Dillon apparently started investing in blue chip stocks and bonds about 1928, in such companies as Kodak, Exxon, Texaco, Gulf, RCA, and General Foods, as well as tax-free municipal bonds.

One member of the First Baptist Church said, "I had no idea Mr. Dillon was worth that kind of money. I did know you could count on him being in church every Sunday. He just never missed."

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Southern Seminary Gets
\$75,000 Scholarship

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--William G. Hoover of Carbondale, Ill., has established a \$25,000 scholarship fund at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The "William G. Hoover and Bonita R. Hoover and James S. and Lucinda A. Russell Scholarship," will provide financial assistance to Southern Seminary students preparing for positions of ministry.

Hoover, 55, is a teacher at Carbondale Community High School, where he has been on the faculty for 32 years. He and his wife, Bonita, taught at the school together for 24 years before her death in 1974. The fund was established to carry out her wish as stated in her will.

Hoover is a member of University Baptist Church in Carbondale, where Southern Seminary alumnus Myron Dillow is pastor.

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SBC Activities Feature
Annual Joggers Jubilee

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Plans have been announced for the Fourth Southern Baptist Convention Joggers Jubilee here June 14, to promote jogging as a means toward physical fitness.

According to E. Eugene Greer of Dallas, general coordinator, the annual event will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at a track adjacent to Arrowhead Stadium, where the Kansas City Chiefs, hosts of this year's Joggers Jubilee, play professional football.

Joggers Jubilee, planned to coincide with the opening day of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department which awards a certificate of participation to each jogger.

Local organizers are Murray Buschert, associate minister of New Haven Baptist Church, Raytown, Mo., and Stephen Garnett, president of Pepster Hall, Inc., and a member of Raytown First Baptist Church.

When first scheduled in 1974, the Jubilee attracted 67 joggers from 11 states and Brazil. Last year's participants included persons from Kenya, Hawaii, Nigeria and Indonesia, Greer said.

No charge is made to participate, but a fee of \$1 will be charged for persons who ride buses to and from the stadium. Bus routes will be announced to all pre-registrants. Persons wishing to register should contact Buschert, New Haven Baptist Church, 5501 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Raytown, Mo. 64133 by May 18, including name, hotel location and whether bus transportation to the stadium will be needed.

Joggers not attending the 1977 Joggers Jubilee may receive a certificate by notifying the Sunday School Board's church recreation department of time and distance jogged on June 14, 1977. This information should be received no later than June 30, and may be sent to the church recreation department, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

Amy's Nanny Asks President's
Congregation For Baptism

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Mary Fitzpatrick, Amy Carter's Nanny rose from her seat next to President Carter and walked down the isle of First Baptist Church here Sunday, March 20, to ask for baptism.

The congregation voted to recommend the 31-year-old black woman, who was convicted in 1970 for the slaying of a Georgia man, to the church membership committee on the basis of her statement of Christian faith. That action tantamount to her acceptance. She will be baptized by immersion at a later date. Mrs. Fitzpatrick, while Amy looked on, beaming and bouncing with excitement, made her way to the front of the sanctuary, even before the hymn of invitation began. She was greeted warmly by the pastor, Charles A. Trentham, who told her: "Amy told me two Sundays ago, with great excitement, that you would be coming into our church."

She had attended Amy's baptism at First Baptist Church earlier this year and the President told Trentham at that time that Amy would talk to Mrs. Fitzpatrick about her relationship to the church.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick was sent as a trustee to work at the Governor's Mansion in Atlanta in 1971. Carter was governor at the time, and she became Amy's Governess. She was released early from the Atlanta Women's Work Release Center, at the request of the Carters, so she could continue caring for Amy at the White House.



FEATURES
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Baptists' Medical Clinic
Aids Migrants in Florida

By Sue Hong

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)--His eyes opened wide and looking frightened, five-year-old John Moore slowly seated himself on a reclining dental chair. The shiny dental facility, in a sleek mobile van, conjured suggestions of a Star Trek set.

Following Dr. Roger Stewart's instructions, John hesitantly followed the inevitable ritual of "open wide" and "say ahh."

Brilliant light revealed a half dozen decayed front teeth eaten away to the edge of the gum, and painful abscesses in the baby molars.

Instantly anticipating the next step, Ms. Honey Jean Wassum, Dr. Stewart's assistant, began to line up the necessary instruments for the extractions.

John is the fifth of 10 children belonging to Mrs. Jeanie May Moore, a "home-base migrant worker" who lives in Sanford, Fla., migrates to other parts of the country during harvest seasons but returns annually to pick citrus.

Thanks to the Mobile Medical-Dental Clinic, which travels with the philosophy, "if you can't come to us we will come to you," Mrs. Moore's children had the benefit of dental care for the first time.

The three-year-old mobile clinic is the brainchild of the Florida Baptist Convention which had tried for years to find effective ways to reach migrant people whose medical needs had gone unheeded.

Jointly sponsored by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the Florida Baptist Convention, the mobile clinic works closely with Baptist associations throughout Florida.

Self-propelled and equipped with its own generator, the \$20,000 air-conditioned clinic van has traveled about 30,000 miles and ministered to well over 10,000 patients since its inception.

The clinic is manned by volunteer physicians, dentists, nurses and technicians from local churches of all denominations who work closely with local county health departments.

"The program has been beyond our logistic expectations," said Russell Kaufman, director of migrant missions for the Florida Baptist Convention.

The mobile clinic annually visits 14 major areas with high concentrations of migrant camps, plus a half dozen minor locations, for one to a few weeks, depending on the need.

Visiting Seminole County migrant farm workers for the second time, the clinic "set up shop" recently in front of the Seminole County Health Clinic in Midway, Fla., and drew more than 200 migrant children in five days.

"They become so used to pain. After a while, the pain becomes natural," said Dr. Stewart who volunteered his services for the second year in a row.

"Our primary role is to motivate them to care for their teeth," Dr. Stewart said. "The screening type of examination exposes parents to their children's needs for proper dental hygiene. We show them the resultant problems in their own teeth.

"Last year alone, 6,000 patients were treated and that's a conservative estimate," said Kaufman, who travels extensively to set up mobile clinic schedules throughout the state. "When an emergency rises, the mobile clinic can respond to out-of-state calls," he said.

The mobile clinic has been especially helpful to those who are isolated from the mainstream of society--without transportation or telephone.

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Mrs. E.H. Jackson, a Seminole County public health nurse, noted that the mobile clinic drew more patients this past year and said that one of every four patients visiting the Seminole County Health Department required dental care. Most migrants lack the financial means for medical treatment, she said.

In that sense, the mobile clinic is meeting the needs of the people.

"We check all of their backgrounds and do not treat persons capable of financing medical aid," she said.

For more serious treatment requiring complete anesthesia, the patients are referred to local health clinics, Dr. Stewart said.

Kaufman said that dental work is the major activity in the Oviedo and Sanford areas while, in Miami Beach, an anticipated 1,000 patients will primarily need medical exams or treatment.

"We treated about 1,600 people in Miami Beach last year. In Palm Beach, Fla., 29 dentists pulled out over 500 teeth, and made as many fillings, to help save their teeth," he said.

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1200 Make Decisions
In Colombia Crusades

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RICHMOND (BP)--Some 1,200 decisions to accept Christ or rededications were made in evangelistic crusades in five major cities in Colombia.

Rudy Hernandez, an evangelist from Grand Prairie, Tex., led the crusades. He formerly was with the evangelism department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The Rudy Hernandez leadership campaigns were held in Barranquilla, Cartagena, Medellin, Cali and Bogota.

The week-long revivals were held in local Baptist churches. The planning was done through James E. Giles, Southern Baptist missionary who serves as evangelism coordinator of the Colombia Baptist Convention. Southern Baptist missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Orr and Bobby S. Magre led in the music for the revivals. The Orrs were the first Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to a full-time music ministry.

"Students, pastors and missionaries have experienced revival as a result of this one-month crusade in five of the major cities of Colombia," Giles reported.

J. Bryan Brasington, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for western South America, said the reports from the crusades have been good. He said most of those who made professions of faith in Jesus Christ have enrolled in Bible correspondence courses.

Many of these professions of faith were made because of personal witnessing done by evangelistic teams before and during the revival weeks. Hernandez, along with Carlos Hurtado, local pastor and member of the Colombia Baptist Convention's evangelism committee, were inviting people in the central part of town to come to the campaign. They noticed a sculptor's studio and walked in. While admiring the man's work, they shared Christ with him. He later attended the services and accepted Christ.

A young professor of religion and music in a large Catholic school had been attending services at the Baptist mission in La Milagrosa. He was confused with philosophical ideas and hostility against the Bible. This professor also attended the campaign and accepted Christ.

He explained, "I will have difficulty with people against me, but I have never felt so happy in my life. I just cannot explain what I feel, but I have had a genuine experience with Christ."

In Bogota, an evangelistic team went to see the Salt Cathedral (a salt mine). One member of the team stopped and talked to six men who were working on lanterns in the mine. He read some scripture to them and then walked on. On his way back out, they stopped him and asked him to read from the Bible again. All six accepted Christ.

Major evangelistic thrusts also are being held in other parts of western South America. They were scheduled for Venezuela throughout March and will be held in the greater Lima, Peru, areas in June.