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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Allen Urges Mexican Baptists
To Support Short-term Missions

By Orville Scott

GALVESTON, Tex. (BP)--The new president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) challenged the Mexican Baptist Convention here to help meet an ambitious goal of 5,000 new short-term missionaries set by the SBC in Kansas City a week earlier.

Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, gave his first public address since being elected president of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

He accented a challenge by President Jimmy Carter, also a Southern Baptist, to have 5,000 new one and two-year missionaries by 1982 and 25,000 by the year 2,000.

"If we're going to reach the goal, we're going to have to get a host of Spanish-speaking people ready to go anywhere in the world," Allen said.

"They don't have to learn Spanish, and we should be sending them by the hundreds to minister in Central and South America."

Allen also challenged Mexican Baptists to help lead in meeting basic human needs such as world hunger.

"This demonstrates our Christian love and authenticates the claims of our Christian witness," he told more than 1,000 church leaders from across Texas.

Allen announced he is leading his church to demonstrate Christian love by sending doctors, dentists, construction people and others to Honduras with 3,000-4,000 pounds of powdered whole milk for undernourished babies.

The Southern Baptist president also called for new approaches by churches in missions work.

"Separate but equal didn't work in public schools, and it won't ultimately work in churches," he said.

The Spanish language department in churches will be replaced by a multi-culture, multi-language "family of faith" such as that at First Baptist Church, San Antonio, he said.

"This style is especially helpful in ministering to professional level people of Mexican-American heritage," he said.

Allen also said "the dole system" of mission support has seen its day and will be replaced by the self-supporting, self-determining Christ-centered congregation.

He said "the dole system" of supporting missions through supplements rather than direct grants cripples initiative.

Allen also pointed to a need for "ministry-centered" missions in which a church ministers to human need, holds Bible studies, but never expects them to lead to self-supporting congregations.

Oscar I. Romo of Atlanta, Ga., the director of the department of language missions of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told convention participants, "Metropolitan areas aren't black and white, they're ethnic, multi-lingual.

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"Some churches need to house in the same building several congregations where one can find a message in his own language," Romo said.

Some 18 to 20 million Spanish speaking people live in the United States now, he said, predicting that by the year 2000 they will be the largest ethnic group in the nation. He said each church should begin a new ethnic congregation in the area not currently being served to meet ethnic needs.

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Tote Bags Help Spread
The Gospel in Surinam

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By Mike McCrocklin

GRAND FORKS, N. D. (BP)--Twelve thousand "testimonies" resulted from a simple question asked of Leo Waldrop, Southern Baptist missionary to Surinam, during a recent world missions conference in North Dakota.

While Waldrop was eating dinner in the Bob Horski home here, Horski asked the missionary, "What can I do that would really help you in your work in Surinam?" The two discussed the missionary's work in depth.

When Waldrop discovered that both Mr. and Mrs. Horski worked at a company which produces plastic bags the missionary asked if they could manufacture tote bags with a Christian message imprinted on them. The answer was a quick "Yes," and the bags were shipped to Waldrop within a few weeks.

The bags are imprinted with "Ervaar de Levande Persoonlijke God," Portuguese for "Discover the Living God," followed by the Southern Baptist mission--Surinam (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) headquarters address.

Waldrop plans to take the tote bags to Surinam's coming national fair where the 12,000 "testimonies" provided by the Horskis will be given away to fairgoers in this South American country.

"Surinamese love tote bags. Plastic tote bags are not available in Surinam," said Waldrop. "I'm sure the people of Surinam will be grateful for a free tote bag and will keep these novel message-bearers which remind them to seek God."

Dwain Steinkuehler, pastor of Faith Baptist Church where the Horskis attend, was involved in the introduction of missionary Waldrop to the couple.

"It really makes our people feel close to missions when one of the world missions conferences results in personal contact and help to the mission field," said Steinkuehler.

The project also points up the purpose of world missions conferences, which seek to inform church members about missions at home and overseas and to inspire a greater commitment to the cause of missions.

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Mike McCrocklin is associate editor for the Northern Plains News, Baptist paper of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention.

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Court Upholds Most Parts
Of Ohio Parochial Aid Plan

By Stan Hasteley

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WASHINGTON (BP)--In its most complicated analysis to date of the constitutionality of state funding of parochial schools, the U. S. Supreme Court upheld most parts of a controversial Ohio plan designed to provide a wide range of services to children in such schools.

The high court ruled that Ohio did not violate the "no establishment" clause of the First Amendment by enacting a law which provides public funding for textbooks, standardized testing and scoring services, diagnostic services, and therapeutic services.

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At the same time, the court struck down two sections of the Ohio law calling for provision of instructional materials and equipment and field trip transportation.

This, the most complicated decision ever rendered in the area of public funding of nonpublic schools, provided the following margins:

- Textbooks: upheld, 6-3
- Standardized testing and scoring services: upheld, 6-3
- Diagnostic services: upheld, 8-1
- Therapeutic services: upheld, 7-2
- Instructional materials and equipment: struck down, 5-4
- Field trip transportation: struck down, 5-4

Perhaps the most obvious conclusion to be drawn from the decision is that the viewpoint advocating strict separation of church and state on this issue has seriously eroded, so much so that the change of only one vote would have upheld the entire Ohio plan.

Ironically, the only justice among the nine who voted to strike down every section of the Ohio law was the high court's only Roman Catholic, senior Justice William J. Brennan Jr.

A 1974-75 school year survey of nonpublic school enrollment in Ohio showed that of 720 chartered nonpublic schools, all but 29 were sectarian. And 92 percent of all children attending nonpublic schools attended Roman Catholic parochial schools.

The new Supreme Court decision contained nine separate parts, including an item-by-item analysis of each category of aid challenged by a number of individual Ohio taxpayers and the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

At one point, Justice Harry A. Blackmun, who wrote the majority opinion for the court, repeated an often-invoked set of standards issued by the court six years ago. It stipulates that state laws such as Ohio's, in order to pass constitutional muster, must have a "secular legislative purpose," must have the "primary effect" of neither advancing nor inhibiting religion and "must not foster an excessive government entanglement with religion."

Blackmun then analyzed each section of the Ohio law in light of those criteria, reaching the conclusion that while some forms of aid meet them, others do not.

The decision culminates nine years of efforts by the state of Ohio to circumvent previous high court rulings declaring most forms of aid to parochial schools unconstitutional. State officials argued before the court that their newest law, enacted two years ago, conformed with guidelines set down by the justices in recent years.

Most of the justices agreed that in some categories of aid, Ohio had succeeded.

Four of them, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Justices William H. Rehnquist, Byron R. White, and Lewis F. Powell, voted to uphold the entire Ohio package. Three of the four were appointed to the high court by former President Richard M. Nixon.

Besides Justice Brennan's opposition to all forms of aid specified in the Ohio law, Justice John Paul Stevens also gave encouragement to advocates of strict separation of church and state.

In a separate opinion, Stevens quoted the late Justice Hugo Black, a Southern Baptist, who wrote in the famous *Everson v. Board of Education* case in 1947 that "no tax in any amount, large or small, can be levied to support any religious activities or institutions, whatever they may be called, or whatever form they adopt to teach or practice religion."

Stevens went on to say that efforts by the court to "improve on the *Everson* test" in the intervening years "have not proved successful."

He denounced what he called "corrosive precedents" which have chipped away at the "high and impregnable wall" between church and state, reducing it instead to a "blurred, indistinct, and variable barrier." In his dissenting view, Brennan observed that Ohio's "ingenuity in draftsmanship cannot obscure the fact that this subsidy to sectarian schools amounts to \$88,800,000" for the first two years of the program's existence, less the sums appropriated for instructional materials and field trip transportation invalidated. Such expenditure of public money for sectarian purposes, Brennan said, raises the specter of a "divisive political potential of unusual magnitude."

Mother Watches Son
Through Silent Tears

By David Wilkinson

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--More than 16,000 watched attentively and one wept silently during a special missions satellite transmission at the annual Southern Baptist Convention here.

The tears were "tears of thanksgiving" for Mrs. Lenna May Gray of Muskogee, Okla., as she watched and listened to her son, Jerry Juergens, via satellite from Hong Kong. Juergens and Dr. Daniel Cheung, both serving in missions positions in Hong Kong, spoke about their work and the importance of Bold Mission, the special Southern Baptist Convention effort to evangelize the world by the year 2000.

Most of the persons in the huge H. Roe Bartle Convention Center audience had made their plans to attend the convention weeks and months ago.

Mrs. Gray, however, didn't learn about her son's scheduled appearance on the program until about 24 hours before the session was to begin.

She received a letter from Mrs. Juergens Monday afternoon before the Tuesday night presentation. Mrs. Juergens wrote in detail of the scheduled satellite presentation, assuming along with her husband that it would be impossible for Mrs. Gray to travel to Kansas City. Mrs. Gray, whose husband died a year ago, had very seldom even driven the car in recent years.

The Juergens were almost right, but for the wrong reasons. Mrs. Gray, "a grandmother 10 times," almost didn't make the trip.

"I called my church and asked, 'Who's going to the convention?'" she explained. "When I found out, I called all their homes, but they'd all gone."

Undaunted, Mrs. Gray made an airlines reservation for the following morning and before the night was over she found someone who had had to cancel a hotel reservation in Kansas City. Unfortunately, when she called the hotel the room had already been taken.

With hotels filled to capacity throughout the city, the situation looked hopeless--to anyone but a proud mother, that is.

"If the Lord wants me to go, I'll get a reservation," she told herself as she went to bed--suitcase already packed--Monday night.

Mrs. Gray called at 7:00 the next morning, but still could not get a room. She had to leave Muskogee soon after 8:00 in order to drive to the airport in Tulsa. She called again just before 8:00, and this time the hotel had a room.

"I left the house at 8:15, so you don't think I hurried?" she said with a laugh.

Even then, she almost didn't make it.

She arrived at the gate just as the airlines attendant was fastening the chain across the entrance ramp to the plane and then took the only seat left on the jet.

So no one could blame Mrs. Gray for shedding a few tears as she saw her son's image projected on the two giant screens a few hours later. But only a mother--perhaps only a missionary's mother--could have understood her feelings.

She thought about the 17 years she spent alone after her first husband's death, raising three children on a very meager salary--years of private sacrifices that only mothers make.

She thought about her son's school years when he ironed clothes and cooked for his roommates to support his college and seminary education.

"Even the money I sent him for food he'd buy books with," she recalled.

And, of course, she remembered the wedding.

"They knelt at the altar and someone sang, 'I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go,'" she recalled. "Now I cry every time I hear it."

"It was indescribable," she commented after the satellite presentation. "When I looked at him, I went back through 42 years of his life, knowing that God had his hand on him all those years."

And then the tears--"tears of thanksgiving"--formed again.