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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC 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) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2000

RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, 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

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**'Displaced Homemakers'
May Get Federal Help**

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--"Displaced homemakers" will have opportunities for help in finding jobs if legislation now before the U. S. Congress providing for job training, employment counseling and supportive services is enacted.

The Displaced Homemakers Act (S.418), introduced by U. S. Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), would establish 50 multipurpose service centers. Identical legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives by U. S. Rep. Yvonne B. Burke (D.-Cal.) (H.R.28). Among the services provided would be job counseling designed for the needs of women who have spent most of their lives caring for husband and children in the home but no longer have the support of a husband's income because of divorce or the death or illness of the husband.

The centers would also provide job training and placement services as well as health education, financial management, legal counseling and information about federal employment and assistance programs.

The legislation is being considered by the Senate Human Resources Subcommittee on Employment, Poverty and Migratory Labor, chaired by U. S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D.-Wis.).

Women who have not worked for many years not only have difficulty in finding a job when they need one, Nelson noted, but also are not covered by unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, pension or benefits such as health and accident insurance. Social Security benefits may be denied if the marriage ended before 20 years or if a woman is too young. Nelson also pointed out that federal welfare assistance is available only to the blind, disabled, or the parent of a minor child.

Marian Thompson, associate professor and specialist in Women's education at the University of Wisconsin, testified before the subcommittee that there are few programs which help this group. She also pointed out that the number of women in such circumstances is unknown.

Bayh cited statistics which indicate several million women are potentially in need of financial assistance. "In 1973 there were 9,851,000 widows and 3,275,000 divorced women, a 41 percent increase in widows since 1950 and 166 percent increase in divorces since 1950," he said.

Nelson pointed out that there are also about 3 million women who will lose federal assistance within a few years when their children reach 18 and they are no longer eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

According to Nelson, one of the goals of the centers will be to identify community needs and develop new job opportunities in the community which match the skills of the displaced homemaker.

"About the only jobs they can possibly get are those paying the minimum wage--in nursing homes, catering services, hospitals. These part-time jobs carry no fringe benefits, no opportunity for advancement," Thompson said.

"The emphasis of the program should not be to create a new system of services," Richard A. Batterton, secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Resources, told the subcommittee. "I visualize the center as acting, in a sense, as broker for the displaced homemaker in regard to the provision of specific health, education and legal services."

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Maryland already operates a center which provides the type of services which the bill would require in many locations across the nation. If the federal legislation is passed, 90 percent of the operating funds for local centers would come from the federal government, while 10 percent would be provided by the states. A public or nonprofit private organization would be selected to administer each center.

Bayh noted that his legislation, which was originally introduced in the House by Burke in 1972, is supported by several national organizations, including the American Association of Retired Persons, B'nai B'rith Women, Church Women United, Gray Panthers and the National Council of Negro Women among others.

Irrigation Project Poses
Challenge on Antigua

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By Jennifer Hall

Baptist Press
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RICHMOND (BP)--Trickle irrigation. To the the average American it means little, if anything.

To Gary and Evelyn Harthcock in St. John's Antigua, it means the reality of a life-long dream and "tough ground" to conquer in an area where food is in short supply.

As 10-year veterans of the greenhouse business, the Harthcocks felt in the 1950s that God was guiding them into lay-witness ministries which later led Harthcock to work as a staff member of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and soon focused on foreign missions.

"But being an agriculture major, instead of theology major, I experienced some difficulty in finding the right place of service," said Harthcock, who said he "spent years seeking God's will."

In 1974 the Harthcocks left North Carolina and moved to Puerto Rico to search for foreign mission projects and "began praying like we never had before." Soon, they say, "God used people to open up the possibility" of working on the small Caribbean island of Antigua-- population 72,000. They even made a trip to the island to see if someone with their agricultural background could be of assistance. "I was deeply impressed with the needs I saw there," Harthcock said.

After months of prayer and discussion, the Harthcocks were employed as Southern Baptist representatives by the Foreign Mission Board.

Arriving on the field they "had visions of seeing the island burst forth with green, leafy vegetables and other crops in about six to eight months; a year at the most," Harthcock said.

"As time passed, it became clearer to us that we were not in the United States. We were in a small country not yet completely independent, emerging from the colonial era, struggling to keep its head above water and sorely needing many of the tools, supplies and resources that we had taken for granted so many years."

Harthcock had hopes that trickle irrigation would be the answer to crop production in Antigua. "Trickle irrigation is a technique," as he describes it, "that's extremely conservative in the use of water, offering many savings in production costs." It supplies water directly to the roots. In overhead irrigation, water evaporates as it is sprayed through the air.

With plastic conducting equipment, the system has become successful in the hot, dry regions of the world, he said. Simply using a pump, filter and plastic tubing, water is conducted to the needed area. Advantages to the plastic tubing include its flexibility in either being laid on the earth's surface or buried two inches below. It also may be laid so that closely planted row crops or rows of trees can get sufficient water because specially constructed openings or emitters allow slow application of the water to specific spots.

So it was with the knowledge at hand that Gary Harthcock eagerly launched forward in January 1976 to start the project. But, as he said, "Things did not get off to a roaring start." It wasn't until late Spring of that year that the nod of approval was given by the Antiguan government.

One encouraging note was sounded, however, when not one, but two sites were offered for the project. Just as the project again appeared ready to get under way, another obstacle occurred--lack of supplies. Because equipment is ordered by mail, Harthcock, at times, doesn't know when it will arrive or whether it will be by cargo ship or air.

Other disappointments clouded the picture. Two electric pumps burned out. Then came the drought.

"In his wisdom, God had given us a second project site where work could continue," reported Harthcock. A fruit and nut demonstration grove "has proceeded slowly, but surely, as acres of thorny acacia bushes and tons of rock are being removed. God has a tremendous plan, and we feel that we're becoming aware of it small bit by small bit," said Harthcock.

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Strong National Leadership
Seen as Vital to Missions

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By Ruth Fowler

RICHMOND (BP)--The strength of mission work, either in Nigeria or anywhere else, lies in the strength of its national leadership, Emmanuel Dahunsi, general secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, said here.

The Nigerian Baptist leader visited the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board home office during a recent trip to the United States, his first visit to the States in 22 years.

Dahunsi, who received his advance education in the States, pointed out that Southern Baptist missionaries have always worked to train Nigerians to do the work. Decisions relating to the Nigerian Baptist Convention, an outgrowth of Southern Baptists' 127 years of missionary efforts in the West African nation, are made by the convention. Offices in the convention which missionaries held for years are now all held by Nigerians.

With this foundation from which to work, missionaries serving in Nigeria continue to encourage strong national leadership, the Nigerian Baptist leader said.

The major opportunities open for missionaries in his country now, he said, are for people who want to serve in medicine and education.

"It is not easy at all to obtain visas for missionaries," Dahunsi said. "For example, if we say now we want a missionary advisor (field evangelist) and we apply, we can't get the visa. But in medicine and education as the needs arise, the government itself will be very happy to apply for visas...."

The mission work done in Nigeria has changed on the institutional level. Some of the schools and medical services are still completely in the control of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. But most Baptist schools are now at least partially government controlled. The government also has control of the Baptist medical institutions, with the exception of the hospital at Eku.

Dahunsi indicated that government control extends to salary and personnel matters, but that Baptist identity and the Christian witness are being maintained.

Before the institutions came under government supervision, Nigerian workers at the Baptist institutions had been quitting to take government jobs because government salaries and benefits were better, he said. With the government in control of salary and personnel matters, the Nigerian workers are willing to remain at Baptist institutions. Salaries of missionaries serving in institutions controlled by the government continue to be paid by the Foreign Mission Board.

Other changes are taking place in the area of politics and religion in Nigeria. Dahunsi said a much greater Muslim influence exists in the Nigerian government. This influence may change the court system. Christians of all denominations throughout the country are cooperating in an effort to assure religious freedom for both Muslim and Christian citizens, he said.

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Communists are trying to infiltrate into different aspects of the life of the nation, according to Dahunsi.

"But to be frank we have not sensed any Communist disturbance or any overt action on the part of Communists," he said. "Now that is not to say that some of the young people in universities do not cherish Communist thought and ideas."

Dahunsi said that in his opinion the turn to Communism by portions of the student population is due in part to the economic inequities of the nation. He stated that some are upset because a few people live beyond the level of ordinary people, spending as much as \$10,000 in one day without concern.

Discussing inter-Christian cooperation, Dahunsi noted that Christian groups in Nigeria are cooperating in a new translation of the Bible for Nigerians. Dahunsi was selected from among all the Christian leaders of the nation to do the translation.

Dahunsi was educated at Southern Baptist mission schools, Virginia Union University in Richmond and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was ordained at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Richmond in 1951. He has served Nigeria as an educator and pastor as well as an officer in the Nigerian Baptist Convention.