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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 1, 1978

78-13

**Southern Baptist Energy
Awareness Increasing**

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE (BP)--Nationwide energy problems have prompted Southern Baptists to advise energy conservation methods local churches may adopt to combat rising costs and curtail wast .

Church building conferences, held annually in state Baptist conventions, will feature discussions of the energy situation this year to help make churches aware of possible conservation actions, according to Lee Anderton, supervisor of the field services and promotion section in the church architecture department at the denomination's Sunday School Board.

New sources and types of energy are not expected soon enough to allow the nation to continue on its present course of energy consumption, making conservation a necessity, Anderton said.

Sources of energy currently under study for development include atomic, solar and ocean energy, wind, steam power from the earth, hydrogen from water and synthetic fuels.

Numerous suggestions have been offered for consideration by churches, including multiple worship services and Sunday Schools to reduce the amount of space to be heated or cooled, and designs for facilities allowing multiple uses to reduce the amount of required space.

Anderton cited many ways to reduce energy use in existing buildings, including additional insulation, storm windows, double entrance doors, shade trees for summer sun protection and operable shutters on southern exposure.

He also suggested that churches check mechanical systems and make necessary alterations to maintain heating and cooling only in areas in use, and stop heating or cooling in halls, storage areas and mechanical rooms.

Other energy saving steps include lower ceilings, newer and more efficient heating and cooling systems, better scheduling to avoid heating or cooling an unoccupied building or area, lower light levels, and lighter colors on walls and ceilings to reduce the amount of necessary light.

Also, weather stripping and caulking around doors, windows, vents and other possible air leakage areas and use of thermopane storm windows will conserve energy through minimum heat loss or gain.

Churches with building plans should add insulation in ceilings, floors and walls for minimum heat loss, consider placement of new buildings on the property to take advantage of solar heating through windows, design overhang or other building features to shade windows in summer and expose them in winter, and use minimum glass on northern exposure.

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Church architecture department personnel, who consult regularly with churches and state conventions on these and other energy saving methods, hope to reach the maximum number of churches so Southern Baptists can play a role in dealing with a national crisis.

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Sunday School Board Changes
Conference Center Setup

By Bracey Campbell

Baptist Press
2/1/78

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board approved a number of recommendations to improve the use of Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers and elected Robert M. Turner as director of the conference center division in their semiannual meeting here.

The recommendations concerning the Baptist centers in New Mexico and North Carolina--dealing with a number of topics including rate structure and reservation procedures--came from a task force appointed last May.

DeVaughn Woods, the board's vice president for finance who led the task force, said the changes approved by the trustees were designed to improve the use of conference center facilities, enhance the centers' public image and to improve the financial results.

Turner, 46, moves to the conference post from the position of manager of the accounting and control department in the board's management and services division. A native of Tennessee and a certified public accountant, Turner came to the board in 1958 and has served in a number of positions.

Sunday School Board President Grady Cothen said, "Bob Turner brings a rich background of technical experience and management skill to this position. His knowledge of the board and its financial policies and of the conference centers and their needs uniquely fits him to serve in this capacity."

Steps taken by the trustees concerning the centers include:

--Approving a public relations campaign to reduce the number of cancellations and to help make the public aware of the problems caused by cancellations.

--Changing the date of reservation acceptance from January 1 to February 1, effective next year.

--Changing the policy to return none of the deposit to those who cancel during the last 30 days prior to a conference; to return only half of the deposit to those who cancel 30 to 59 days prior to conferences; and to return 100 percent of the deposits for those who cancel two months before a scheduled session.

--Approving a detailed study of procedures for processing reservations and registrations.

--Basing room rates on a single occupancy and elimination of family discounts effective 1979.

--Offering special rates for youth who stay in bath-on-hall facilities and the development of a separate program for youth for as many weeks as feasible during the summer months.

The trustees also approved the establishment of a unit to support ethnic and black churches in the office of planning. Cothen said the unit was established because of the increasing number of ethnic churches cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention.

He said the unit will be organized with several persons of ethnic backgrounds who will be generalists representing all board interests to the general public.

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Bob M. Boyd will move from the position of conference center director to temporary supervisor of the ethnic-support unit. Boyd, 50, a native of Hopkinsville, Ky., will also work with Baptist colleges, Bible schools and denominational groups to make them aware of the board's resources.

Additional actions taken by the trustees include:

--Approval of a monthly magazine for single adults, "Christian Single," to be produced by the family ministry department. It will be available April 1979.

--Approval of the publication of a weekly take-home piece for preschool choir members. The first issue is scheduled to be ready by October.

--Approval, retroactively, of production of the "Cassette Musician," a cassette designed to aid music directors and leaders through inspirational and informative materials.

--Approval of a preschool music resource kit for choir leaders, to be available October, 1979.

--Approval of a resource kit for grades 1-3 choir leaders, to be available October, 1979.

--Approval of the selection of a new press name for Broadman products that will be distributed directly to the consumer.

--Authorization of the administration to study the advertising and marketing needs of board materials.

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Bracey Campbell is supervisor of the news and information section, Office of Communications, Sunday School Board.

'Christian Single' Magazine
Approved by Board

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NASHVILLE (BP)--A monthly magazine for single adults, "Christian Single," will begin publication by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in April 1979.

The magazine, in the design process for three years, was approved by the trustees at their January 31 meeting in Nashville and will be produced by the family ministry department.

"There's no magazine for single adults in our denomination," said Joe Hinkle, secretary of the board's family ministry department. Through "Christian Single" we hope to provide help in developing lifestyles, personal and spiritual growth, guidance for programming in church groups, and news about what's happening with singles in churches."

Similar in style to "Home Life," "Christian Single" will include articles for never marrieds, divorced and widowed persons, and single parents. It will include personality features on single adults.

"We're concerned that single adults be viewed as whole persons with the same rights and privileges as others in the church," Hinkle said. "We hope this magazine will help singles to feel good about who they are and provide help as they move into the futures they want to build for themselves."

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Baptists Rebuild in Guatemala,
Leave Lasting Impressions

By John J. Hurt

GUATEMALA CITY (BP)--Guatemala Baptists, both local leaders and missionaries, agree that Southern Baptists gave a major boost to Christianity by relief work following the disastrous earthquake of February 1976 and by work teams which came to rebuild churches and houses.

"I think this is the best response Baptists have ever done," says A. Clark Scanlon, Middle America field representative for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who has had the major role in Baptist response since the quake that killed 23,000 persons and left millions homeless. He has told in detail of the Baptist response in his book, "Hope in the Ruins," just released by Broadman Press.

"They learned the value of ministering," Scanlon says of the Baptist churches through which emergency supplies were channeled, "and church members were used to bless others."

"Their coming has been a great blessing," says Demetrio Camey, pastor of Damasco Baptist Church in Guatemala City. Volunteer crews from the states rebuilt his church auditorium, lost in the quake.

Isidro Hernandez, president of the Guatemala Baptist Convention, is appreciative of the more than \$724,000 sent through the Foreign Mission Board and the work crews, but adds that possibly the greatest benefit was "teaching participation" by the men who came for reconstruction and "the fellowship we enjoyed."

Southern Baptist relief work gave prestige to the Baptist name and made friends. It also gave a boost to the openness of the people. Five new churches were organized last year, increasing the number to 62, and there were more than 700 baptisms. Scanlon says the ratio of baptisms to members has been running at six or seven to one since the earthquake.

Guatemala Baptist Seminary President Jorge Enrique Diaz says Southern Baptist response through the local churches "highlighted the name of Baptists." The seminary closed for four months following the earthquake, first housing some of the homeless and then housing work crews which came from the states to rebuild.

"The greater effect," he continues, "is that it gave prestige to the whole Christian group. It opened avenues for communication of the gospel."

Diaz expressed a deep appreciation for Southern Baptist missionaries because "they know how to maintain balance between material help and spiritual ministry." Some other groups who came in the name of Christ confined themselves to the spiritual while others were interested primarily in work projects, he explains. Southern Baptists, he says, had a broader vision.

Baptist churches now have been rebuilt along with hundreds of homes and Scanlon expects reconstruction projects to be finished by year's end. Meanwhile, Baptists are concentrating their efforts in Santo Domingo, 25 miles from Guatemala City in the mountains.

The plan is to build 200 concrete block houses and a health center which will be the springboard for a Baptist witness. Men from North Carolina were there in January. Work crews already are scheduled to follow from Texas, Alabama, Florida, Illinois, California and Georgia.

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Hurt, retired editor of Texas' Baptist Standard, is touring Southern Baptist mission work in Middle America and the Caribbean.

(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist papers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

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MSC Volunteers Excited About
Northern Wisconsin Challenge

By Norman Jameson

MENOMONIE, Wis. (BP)--Their phone rings often with requests for help from people they don't know; church members constantly stop by their apartment in the fellowship hall; their church debt totals about \$3,000 per member and a Methodist church is scheduled to build right next door.

So why are Elgin and Jean Lee so happy?

The first Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteers assigned, the Lees bubble with enthusiasm in this chilly Wisconsin town. Elgin, who worked for 18 years on the Missouri Baptist Convention staff, seems continually amazed at what is going on at River Heights Baptist Church in Menomonie, the church he and his wife were sent here to save.

Alice Carter, church clerk and faculty member at Stout State University, explains that the few remaining members had about resigned themselves to closing the doors of the church by Christmas if they didn't get a pastor.

Then the wheels of Mission Service Corps, proposed only in June at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, ground into action. The Lees volunteered for two years service, bringing the name of a donor who volunteered to support them on the field. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta learned of the needs of River Heights and asked the Lees to serve there.

"How about that?" Lee says with a comical, questioning smile that reflects amazement at the circumstances. But his eyes reveal a happy man with depth and understanding.

Lee's years as student director for Missouri Baptists serve him well in Menomonie, a town with 11,500 resident population where the main influence is the 6,500-student Stout State University, named after early lumber barons. River Heights' youth and assistant youth directors and pianist are Stout students and many other members are connected with the university.

River Heights began in 1969 when Menomonie native Walter Stewart returned from retirement in Texas and found no Southern Baptist church in his home town. That condition lasted all of a week before he started services in his home. The church eventually called pastor Marvin Kemp, a Texan teaching at Stout, and moved to the current building located on five acres on the southern edge of the city. Stewart, 75, directed the church construction, done primarily by members.

A building loan was granted only because River Heights had a bi-vocational pastor and wasn't committed to a sizeable salary payment. But Kemp had to return to Texas about a year ago because of his wife's health. River Heights called a seminary student as pastor, but they couldn't afford a liveable salary on top of building payments. The student returned to school in July.

From July until October, the church was pastorless and the members began to despair. Carter tells Lee that the congregation, which had dwindled to about a dozen, was praying for a miracle and says unabashedly, "You are the miracle."

"What would they have done without the Mission Service Corps?" Lee asks. "This is the tremendous thing about Mission Service Corps. How would we have ever gotten up here? MSC takes the donor and finances, locates the need and the missionary, and unites them."

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Lee says if you're not Catholic or Lutheran, which two-thirds of the people are in the area, "you're not on the map." The community and even some discouraged church members questioned the need of a Southern Baptist church in Menomonie, the only Southern Baptist witness in a 120 mile area.

Associates in the ministerial alliance told Lee, "You mean you consider us a mission field?" But Lee says the telephone calls every week attest to the need of River Heights' witness in "Wild Rice," the Ojibwa Indian meaning of Menomonie.

"The challenge is just overwhelming," Lee says. "Of course the response has been overwhelming in every way. People are joining, attending, going. The response has been overwhelming and the potential is even greater than that. Weekly, we get calls for help."

Although only on the field a short time, the word is already out that Elgin Lee is a pastor who will help, even if you're not a member of his church. "We don't proselyte, but we go to meet needs," he says. As a result, River Heights has visitors in nearly every service.

Lee is endowed with a self-deprecating humor and free flowing speech that puts a visitor immediately at ease. The former pastor of First Baptist Church, Doniphan, Mo., laughs when he tries to convince someone he became a preacher because he wasn't talented enough to do anything else as a teen witnessing in unchurched areas. His congregation says he is a strong preacher who never uses a note.

Many beautiful antiques grace the Lees apartment, mostly family heirlooms. Lee, 57, says his wife Jean was never interested in antiques, "until she met me." In the same breath he points to an ancient rocker and says that because his wife was rocked in it as a child it has to be at least 100 years old. "How about that?"

Jean, Lee's tall, eloquent wife of 11 years, is in charge of the church's music and gives piano lessons. She says at River Heights, where attendance has reached 60 in the few short weeks after their arrival, "anyone who thinks they can sing, gets to."

As the homemaker, Jean has overcome numerous problems that living in a church's fellowship hall can cause. Their apartment is basically one big room, partitioned by the strategic placement of furniture. Visitors ring the doorbell outside the church and one of the Lees must go down the hallway to let them in. They make the same trip to use the restroom.

Lee plans to see River Heights through until it is self-supporting. "Then we might consider becoming pastor here or taking another Mission Service Corps assignment, perhaps overseas this time," he says.

Words of the future are heady talk for a man who leads a church that only weeks ago was planning its final service. But the Lees have the tools and enthusiasm to make it work.

How about that?