



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 5, 1978

78-49

Personal Witnessing 'Must' For MSC Success

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP)--To succeed, Mission Service Corps must have a strong personal evangelism base, prayer support and financing, lay leaders in evangelism said in an informal retreat at Kinhega Lodge in Tallahassee.

The laymen shared concerns about Mission Service Corps, the Southern Baptist Convention plan to place 5,000 volunteers alongside missionaries at home and abroad by 1980, in a "listening session" with William G. Tanner, executive director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"Personal evangelism must be made a part of the Mission Service Corps volunteer's experiences on the field," the laymen said. They also expressed doubts about recruiting volunteers if personal witnessing is not part of the mission field work.

The laymen insisted prayer would be the key to MSC success, and Tanner agreed. "Prayer support is a key concept," he said. "Every successful spiritual revolution we've had or any organization that is effective today has built their success around prayer support."

The laymen maintained the greatest contribution they could make to MSC would be in finding funds.

The meeting with lay persons is significant in light of the recent Congress of the Laity in California in which laymen from para-church groups complained that most denominational agencies did not respond to the suggestions and priorities of lay persons.

Tanner plans to continue "listening meetings" to keep the Home Mission Board in touch with the laity and is considering an advisory group of lay persons to assist him in this capacity.

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Seminary Begins
Prayer Ministry

Baptist Press
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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Students and faculty members at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary have begun an intercessory prayer ministry, staffed 12 hours a day in a recently completed prayer room.

"Prayer line" initially was aimed at serving the prayer needs of the seminary community but has expanded to surrounding Marin County and is open to prayer requests from all over the world. Seminary President William M. Pinson, Jr., one of the prime movers behind the prayer ministry, says, "Golden Gate Seminary believes in spiritual formation and development as well as academic training. The seminary exists to serve and not just be served."

Persons wishing to relay a request for prayer, should write the Office of the President, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. 94941 or call (415) 388-8080 Ext. 12. Prayer Line person I will keep all r quests in the strictest confidenc .

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DARGAN-CARVER LINER
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Students Work To Beat Hunger in Bangladesh

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist college students have raised more than \$100,000 for a world hunger project in the 2½ years since the project was initiated by the Sunday School Board's National Student Ministries.

The total goal of \$150,000 will be channeled through the Foreign Mission Board to Bangladesh where money already has gone for vegetable seeds, a soybean project, rice meal and fish production. Southern Baptist missionaries distribute the funds which means nothing is lost in administrative costs.

Charles Roselle, National Student Ministries secretary, initiated the project after attending the student weeks at the Glorieta, N. M., and Ridgecrest, N. C., conference centers where world hunger was a major concern.

Students have collected money by giving up one meal a week, through campus fund-raising projects and special collections. Students on Texas campuses have given almost half of the money collected.

For more information about the Student Bangladesh Hunger Project, contact Rollin Delap, National Student Ministries, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN, 37234.

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SBC Educators Earn Offices

Baptist Press
4/5/78

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--Two Southern Baptist educators have been named to top positions in the Southeast Region Society of Biblical Literature.

Joseph A. Callaway, professor of Old Testament archaeology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was elected vice president and Edgar V. McKnight, professor of religion at Furman University, Greenville, S. C., was named secretary-treasurer.

The organization consists of college, university and seminary professors involved with biblical religion. John McRay, professor of religion at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tenn., is president.

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New Orleans Seminary To Add Eight Faculty

Baptist Press
4/5/78

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Trustees at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary approved the addition of eight new faculty members for the fall semester and gave tentative approval to a record \$3.2 million budget for 1978-79 during their annual meeting.

The budget, a \$204,000 increase over the current budget, is subject to the final approval of Richard C. McLemore, vice president for business affairs, who is just returning to full-time duties following a stroke.

Seminary enrollment reached an all time high with 1,355 students enrolled through the spring semester, prompting the need for additional faculty, particularly in the division of religious education.

J. Hardee Kennedy, vice president for academic affairs, announced the July 31 retirement of three faculty members. They are Harold Rutledge, professor of psychology and counseling; James Taylor, professor of preaching and chairman of the division of pastoral ministries; and Thomas Delaughter, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

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Taylor will continue on a contract basis with the doctor of ministry program, assisting in field education. Stanley Watson, professor of youth education, will be transferred to the position vacated by Rutledge.

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Injured Missionary
Returns to States

Baptist Press
4/5/78

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--Ruth (Mrs. Jack G.) Partain, Southern Baptist missionary in serious condition since a car accident March 23, has been flown to Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

Doctors in Nairobi recommended she come to the United States for further treatment. Showing no progress, she remains semiconscious as a result of a brain contusion. Mrs. Partain, who arrived in Dallas April 6, was to be accompanied by her husband and Southern Baptist missionary nurse C. Evelyn Davis.

Partain, who was driving when the car-truck collision occurred, suffered only minor injuries and was not hospitalized. Another missionary, Marilyn (Mrs. Tom W.) McMillan, was hospitalized after the accident but has been released and is recovering at home in Arusha, Tanzania.

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Vandals: Growing
Social Problem

By Liz Skillen

THOMASVILLE, N. C. (BP)--Vandalism--willful, malicious destruction or defacement of property--costs Americans more than a billion dollars each year. Last year it took millions just to clean up national parks and monuments. Public school repairs reached \$500 million.

The majority of vandals are young people. Since 1960 the number of juvenile crimes has risen twice as fast as the adult crime rate.

"And more than half of all serious crimes like murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary and car theft are committed by youths between the ages of 10 and 17," says Robert Stump, coordinator of social work for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. "Evidence supports the notion that vandalism is a growing social disease."

Recently, \$15,000 damage was done to Union Hills Elementary School in High Point, N. C. Three boys, ages 12, 13 and 15, wrecked every room but two in the three-building complex. Pencils, papers and books were strewn across floors, windows were smashed, eggs and fruit cocktail were thrown everywhere. The youngsters even poured mustard in the cafeteria dishwashers. Police said they had never seen anything like it. Tuesday classes were cancelled so teachers could mop up water and clean up broken glass.

A reporter who walked through the school with the vandals and their parents asked one young man why. "We wanted to have some fun," he said. "We were bored."

"A lot of vandalism stems from the need for change and excitement," notes William Springs Jr., psychologist for the Children's Homes. "I hear young people everywhere saying, 'There ain't nothin' to do.' The day of the pioneer battling the Indians is over. Some children are simply looking for a thrill to alleviate boredom."

Statistics also show that more girls are committing criminal offenses. From 1970 to 1975 the arrest rate of girls under 18 for serious crimes climbed 40 percent, compared to a 24 percent increase among boys.

"What these numbers reflect is basically true," Springs says. "Our agency's emergency centers are full of teenage girls." The counselor partially attributes this to what he terms "electronic peer pressure." Because of television, girls across the country are suddenly aware of what their sister peers are doing. New ways of expressing behavior are introduced. Springs says the media reflect the changing attitudes of women and encourage aggressive behavior in all fields, including crime.

The clinical psychologist also thinks mobility has added to the wide-spread rise of vandalism. "In generations past you couldn't very well destroy something, then hop in your horse-drawn buggy and get away quickly," he points out. "Today a fast car can speed the vandal away from the crime scene."

Why are public properties such a vandal target?

According to Springs, not many people can see a torn-up room in the youngster's house, but a school or monument can be viewed by anyone, and that enhances the vandal in the eyes of his peers. "It could also be a kick against the system," Springs adds, "suppressed negative feelings finally being released."

The psychologist lists other reasons for increasing malicious destruction in the U. S. Vandalism, Springs suggests, is an immediately reinforcing action to the adolescent's masculinity. The teenage vandal can brag about his feats and assert his manhood in this way. "Our society is one of few that does not have manhood rites," he says. "In Africa, for example, the boy must kill a tiger or reach a certain age before his puberty is recognized."

Vandalism can also be the result of pathological or sick behavior. A self-destructive and defeated child may destroy something as a cry for help, forcing his parents to notice and take care of him. "Then there is the disturbed child," Springs said, "the openly hostile young person who really hates."

A more common reason is displacement of aggression. When an angry person is unable to express negative feelings about the cause of his anger, he might take out frustrations on an inanimate object.

"Not enough parents, teachers, counselors allow young people to express hostile feelings," Springs says. "Our job is not to control behavior by setting limits on expression: 'You shouldn't say that!' Our job is to create an atmosphere that can accept negative feelings and help the young person cope with them."

Springs knows it's not always pleasant listening to and dealing with a hurt and angry child. "But I know that being a parent is more than my daughter's hugs and kisses," he says. "I must deal with the negative, too."

"If indeed the majority of vandalism is caused by the inability of parents, teachers and counselors to help children deal with their negative feelings, then we must change our ways," Springs feels.

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Miss Skillen is a newswriter for Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc.

"Good Buddy" Gets
A Pulpit Hearing

Baptist Press
4/4/78

KANSAS CITY (BP)--On a recent Sunday morning at the First Baptist Church Bethel, when pastor James Appleby was in the midst of a pause for dramatic effect, the drama came not from the pause but from a mobil CB unit passing the church "modulating at full power."

The CBer was "coming in wall-to-wall" so the church's sensitive public address system was picking it up "loud and clear." Appleby's response is a good lesson for keeping cool.

At first he reached for the switch on the pulpit microphone, but realized that would not keep the address system from picking up and rebroadcasting the CBer. Then a smile began to creep across the pastor's face as he waited for a space of silence.

At the appropriate break, Appleby simply said, "10-4" and went on with his sermon--after the laughter died down that is.

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