

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Baptists Should Act Now
To Relieve Coming Drought

By Roy Jennings

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--A drought the size of the Bangladesh tragedy is expected to hit north Brazil in about five years, and Southern Baptists need to be doing something about it now, a veteran missionary told 2,000 participants in the Bold Mission Leadership Conference.

Jerry Smyth, a west Texas preacher and rancher who has spent 24 years in north Brazil, has devoted most of his energies to hunger relief. For the last three years Smyth has been treasurer of Taylor-Equidlo Academy, a 14-year 650-student Baptist school at Jaquaquara, Brazil.

People in the drought area--twice the size of the Texas panhandle, with a population of 4 million, have been dying at a rate of 40 percent above normal, reported Smyth, who said: "While the area is coming out of drought, history shows you can expect another in five to seven years."

Sent to Brazil to look after finances, Smyth said it soon became evident that he had to get involved in agriculture to keep food on the table for the students. He cleared brush and planted grass for the cows to eat and brought in new strains of livestock and swine.

But, giving a man a fish isn't the only answer, Smyth said. "You've got to give him a pole and hook and teach him how to use it."

That's what Smyth proposes to do in a project he has presented to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. With \$18,000, he said, he can train 300 men from Baptist churches in the area in tomato, citrus, swine and beef culture and help them organize cooperatives big enough to qualify them for continuing governmental assistance, including money management and marketing.

Once the farmers get into production through cooperatives, Smyth feels Baptist churches will become self supporting. Almost half of the missions money coming into the area now goes toward church support.

Financing the recommendation may be another matter, Smyth admits, with Brazil bracing for a strong evangelism emphasis during the next four years. "I don't know where the money will come from, but God will provide it if the project is within His will," he said.

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FCC Chairman Rejects
Television CensorshipBaptist Press
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WASHINGTON (BP)--The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission said the government has no business dictating to the television networks or the public the specific content of programs.

In a published interview in the July 15 issue of "TV Guide," Charles D. Ferris declared, "I don't think that in the specifics of programming, the government and the Federal Communications Commission have anything to say."

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Asked by an interviewer if his statement included the so-called area of "public interest," Ferris replied: "I don't think any government should be dictating what the content of a specific program is...However strong my personal feelings are, I don't think it's my job to impose my tastes on an industry and on 200 million people."

Ferris, 45, appointed to the chairmanship last October by President Carter, broke a self-imposed silence in granting the interview to "TV Guide." He had said when he was appointed that he wanted time to study the powerful regulatory agency and learn its inner workings and the problems facing it before making public statements.

In the interview, Ferris expressed his view that sex and violence on television are not always bad, depending on the context of the program. He cited a Masterpiece Theatre series, "I Claudius," which portrayed both sex and violence, as an example of responsible use of the two.

At the same time, he condemned the use of sex and violence in an exploitative manner. But even in such misuse of television, Ferris said, government should not "prescribe" specific program content.

On another subject, Ferris described as "a lot of bunk" the view of some network officials that "everything conceivable to satisfy the dramatic and literary and entertainment tastes of America is being done now." On the contrary, he went on, "there's a great deal of creativity in our society that I don't think television is bringing to us."

Asked if he approves the concept of Family Viewing Time which sets aside the prime evening viewing hours for programming suitable to entire families, Ferris declared, "I think all television should be family viewing." He declined to endorse the concept, instituted under the leadership of his predecessor, Richard E. Wiley.

Ferris suggested that future FCC actions may include limiting commercials during broadcasts of children's programs. He intimated that the FCC might require that commercial time during such programs be reduced from the present average of more than nine minutes per hour to about four. The FCC could even require elimination of all commercials on children's programs, he said.

He also suggested the possibility of "bunching" commercials at the beginning and end of such programs "so that there would be less risk of the children not discriminating between what was taking place and what was the commercial pitch."

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President's Mother Hits
At Organized Charities

By Carol Franklin

Baptist Press
7/14/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Lillian Carter, mother of President Carter, said that she is "thoroughly disillusioned with organized charities." Instead, she gives her money to individuals whom she knows are helping people.

Miss Lillian's comments were made at the monthly "food and population" breakfast sponsored by members of Congress for Peace Through Law.

Miss Lillian said she did not want to discourage anyone else from giving through a charity but she has become disillusioned because of her experiences in India as a Peace Corps volunteer. She noted that CARE, an international charitable organization, was "doing nothing" while she was in India. "There are too many highly paid people, not volunteers, who get paid before any money gets to the poor people," she said.

Too much of this country's foreign aid goes to people who already have food, she said, or it rots before it is distributed. "Hundreds of tons of wheat sit in warehouses in India and are weevil-eaten before the poor get it," Mrs. Carter charged. She emphasized, however, that the need for foreign aid around the world is desperate.

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Conflict erupted at the breakfast when a congressional staffer from a state office related stories of hungry people in this country who scavenge in garbage cans for food. Rep. Millicent Kenwick, R-N.J., demanded substantiation of such accounts.

"We must stop this," she asserted. "If such stories are true, then these people must be helped. If they are not true, then they must not be published."

Rep. Fenwick said she had made attempts to substantiate such stories before and had been unable to do so. Another guest at the breakfast said that any morning at 7 A.M. such scavengers could be seen at DuPont Circle, an inner city neighborhood of the nation's capital. Fenwick promised that she would personally check the truth of such allegations.

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Thai Baptists Use TV, Paper
To Contact 100,000 Freshmen

Baptist Press

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)--When nearly 100,000 freshmen arrived on the campus of Asia's largest university, Baptist students and their leaders were ready for them.

Orientation for the freshmen took place over television since Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok, Thailand, couldn't accommodate all 100,000 students on campus at once. Another 150,000 students already were enrolled at the university before the new semester started in June.

Southern Baptist missionaries William W. Smith Jr., who works with campus ministries, and Donald V. Phlegar, with Baptist mass communications, took advantage of the situation and purchased the first minute of television time following the orientation to contact the students as soon as possible.

A 20-slide series dealt with the city's hugeness, masses of students on campus, crowded classrooms, fear of adjustment, study frustrations, loneliness, depression and where to go for help. A book on "How To Study" was offered free and those who applied for it also received Christian literature and information about Christian groups on campus.

But the Christian witness did not stop at orientation. The Christian student group at the university collects funds from churches and Christian businessmen to help finance and publish 50,000 copies of a Christian student newspaper. The first issue this year carried testimonies and pictures of three Christian students and a feature on a former Christian student who is now a teacher.

There was also information on receiving Christian literature, enrolling in a Bible correspondence course, participating in Christian groups and subscribing to the paper. Last year two Bible study groups were formed from students who received the newspaper and three of them became Christians, says Smith.

Contacts will continue during the year with upperclass Christian students tutoring freshmen, and newly enrolled Christian students meeting fellow Christians during a retreat planned for later in the year.

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(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist newspapers by Baptist Press Richmond Bureau.

Home Bible Study Program
Will Have Large Audience

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"At Home with the Bible," a weekly television and radio show that will highlight the new home Bible study program of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, will premiere in October on at least 15 television stations, five 50,000-watt radio stations, and more than 600 cable stations.

While the TV and radio programs are coordinated with the content of the "Home Bible Study Guide," people may participate in the Bible correspondence even if they do not see or hear the program, according to Don Fearhelly, supervisor of the Bible correspondence section at the board.

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Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., is the host for "At Home with the Bible." The first segments will be taped in August at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas. Each program will include Bible study on a topic of general interest, interviews and special music.

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Baptist School Houses
Deaf Leader Training

By Eloise Wright

Baptist Press
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SEYMOUR, Tenn. (BP)--A change in attitude is the catalyst five innovative minister/educators believe will break the perpetual paternal relationship between the deaf and hearing worlds as a result of such training programs as the unique Deaf Leadership School.

Permanently housed on Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy's campus in Seymour, Tenn., the school is an intensive training program to help the deaf nationwide develop their leadership potentials.

"There has to be a change in the attitudes of the deaf themselves--and as educators and ministers we must communicate to the non-hearing what is expected of them and help them to discover what they are capable of accomplishing," says Rick Yount, minister of education at Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Va., and Deaf Leadership School founder.

"What we're talking about is a concept that's exploded in just the past 10 years--the idea to truly minister to the deaf," Yount said. "But DLS is just one of the positive steps toward Southern Baptist Convention agencies and schools providing more educational opportunities for the non-hearing."

Harrison-Chilhowee took a positive step seven years ago when it began mainstream education to help the deaf adjust to the hearing world.

As proof of the strong need and intense interest in this educational approach, the academy, supported by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, tripled its deaf enrollment from five to 15, increased its interpretative staff from one to five, and reported that all its 16 deaf graduates have been accepted into American colleges.

"We've coupled our concern for academic help for the deaf with the concept that a student is a student first and may just happen not to be able to hear," Harrison-Chilhowee President Hubert B. Smothers states.

Jerry Seale, associate pastor to the deaf at First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., with over 200 deaf in attendance each Sunday, emphasizes what he and the other DLS personnel want to see accomplished in the institute and across the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We're trying to provide deaf people with leadership training so that they will lead out, take more responsible roles in the community, make their own decisions, and create," he says.

"There are approximately 20 million hearing-impaired persons in the United States alone, and 400,000 pre-vocationally deaf who are at least 19-years-old. I would estimate that Southern Baptists touch only five to 10 thousand of these people," Seale calculates.

He says that although 625 churches have claimed deaf ministries over the past 60 years, there are probably "only 40 to 50 highly skilled deaf ministry leaders within the entire SBC--and the majority of them are hearing leaders."

George Joslin, former language missions director for the Virginia Baptist Association, emphasizes what he and the other DLS program personnel believe will provide the broadest appeal for the deaf world.

"The strongest impact will involve deaf ministers leading deaf congregations and training other non-hearing people to lead others to Christ...and the strongest witness must come from a non-hearing person who is living his faith and relating to his own kind," he says.

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