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Lindaman Urges Christians
To Think in the Future

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP)--Effective ministers in today's world think in the future, Edward Lindaman told Sunday School staffers from state conventions at the Baptist Sunday School Board's annual Sunday School department meeting.

Lindaman, president of Whitworth College, former program planning director of the Apollo Space Project and author of "Thinking in the Future Tense," said, "You have to be a future thinker to be fully used by God."

He said he is optimistic that more people and institutions are becoming future oriented. He noted a shift from an emphasis on industry and materialism to a society with more social awareness and a deeper concern for the welfare of mankind.

"It is becoming really okay to be spiritual and to be active," Lindaman said.

Citing numerous futuristic studies, he predicted that four major concerns in the 1980's will be energy, food, water and health. "Our task is to think about the implications of changes in technology," said Lindaman.

To think in the future, he said people must identify their assumptions about the future and decide what they want their futures to be. "We have the awesome responsibility of being able to construct our own futures," he said. "The question is not whether we can change the world but what kind of world do we want?"

He said people must commit themselves to contributing to the future they want. "Commitment is the boldness to face the problem of where to put our human energies," he said. "Once we decide what we want to do with the future, the present becomes very meaningful."

Scientific discoveries that provide more information about the universe should be reassuring to the Christian rather than frightening, Lindaman said. "We can hope only if we can see the world is opening up to us. God is giving us the privilege of learning about it."

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Commissioner Urges Baptist
Help For Illegal Aliens

By Judy Touchton

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ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists need not fear government harrassment or reprisal when ministering to illegal aliens in the United States, the commissioner of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) told Southern Baptist mission leaders.

In fact, Leonel Castillo, commissioner since 1977, encouraged Southern Baptists to join other already involved religious groups in ministry to the "invisible population"--"several million persons here now without benefit of 'cover of law.'"

Castillo's only caution was that church groups not become involved in the enforcement side of the issue. "I don't want pastors to break their confidentiality with their members, but neither do I want the church to become involved in an underground railroad.

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"Since 1955 church groups have been working in local, state and federal prisons," he added. "It's just as logical and legitimate for these groups to work in INS detention centers."

Castillo said the INS confines more people, though for a shorter time, than the U. S. Bureau of Prisons and arrests more people than all the law enforcement offices in the country combined.

Oscar Romo, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of language missions, asked Castillo to meet with Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission representatives during a scheduled airlines stop-over in Atlanta.

He outlined for Castillo several ways Southern Baptists might help in the detention centers: equipment, library books, literacy training, counseling, health and nutrition information and family followup.

Castillo urged such involvement, but not just in detention centers, which he noted usually do not even have Bibles available.

"I'm delighted you're talking about people in the detention centers, but I would like to see the process dealt with as a whole. I don't want 300,000 people processed (deported) each year. I want something better," he insisted.

With many illegals and immigrants settling in the sunbelt, "Baptists tend to live where the illegals come," the commissioner said, so it's natural for Baptists to become involved in ministry.

Castillo called the problem of illegal aliens both "a political and moral issue."

"The problem has been allowed to fester and grow so long that massive enforcement will not solve it...especially with cutbacks in resources," he said. "Yet, it's not fair to let them (the illegals) all stay as citizens," he maintained, citing some aliens who wait 10 years or more to enter the United States legally.

"People are so angry--for or against--they ask what do we do?" the commissioner explained. "Even though we call ourselves a 'nation of immigrants,' we're reluctant when it comes to opening and closing the door."

Castillo suggested a moderate position on the issue. "Let the longer-time illegals, who have demonstrated they're taxpayers and hardworking persons, be legalized in their status. Those who have arrived more recently, let them stay with work permits or with job protection...but with legal status.

"If we don't bring them in (make them legal) we will have hostility that will break later or remain underground," he insisted.

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Texas Blue Law Survives
Supreme Court Challenge

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A controversial Texas "blue law" failed to gain review by the U. S. Supreme Court, in spite of claims by opponents that it was written to create an unfair advantage for department stores over discount houses.

The Gibson Distributing Co., which owns and operates discount stores in West Texas, had asked the high court to review a unanimous ruling by the Texas Supreme Court upholding the Sunday-closing law. Instead, the high court indicated that it had no jurisdiction in the case.

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Gibson attorneys argued that the law had the effect of nullifying the federal anti-trust law which encourages competition. They also maintained that the law violates federal constitutional protection of due process in that it fails to accomplish its stated purpose of promoting the health, recreation, and welfare of the people by enforcing a common day of rest.

The real purpose of the law, Gibson argued, was "to appease the downtown merchants of Texas who demanded and received competitive advantage over their suburban discount brothers." The health, recreation, and welfare argument, Gibson attorneys stated, was made as an effort to "camouflage" the statute's true purpose.

Responding to Gibson's claims, the El Paso Downtown Development Association argued that the high court should dismiss the suit because the appeal does not present a "substantial federal question."

Claiming that its membership consists of both large and small business interests, the association denied Gibson's charge of attempting to use the law to drive out discount competition.

The state of Texas filed a friend-of-the-court statement in the case supporting the Sunday-closing law. The brief pointed to repeated decisions both in the Texas and U. S. Supreme Courts upholding the right of the states to enact such laws.

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Maude Hathaway, 94,
Dies in Illinois

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MURPHYSBORO, Ill. (BP)--Maude Hathaway, former Illinois Baptist Woman's Missionary Union director, died at the age of 94.

In 1943-44, Miss Hathaway, who served for 18 years, asked to be relieved of her office responsibilities and spent two years going from church to church doing personal evangelism.

Out of this experience she wrote the book, "Soul Winning in Your Community," later adapted by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., as a study course book. It set the pattern for what was then known as community missions among WMU groups in all the states.

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Legal Hassles Continue
For N. C. Christian Schools

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RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--An attorney for the North Carolina Employment Security Commission said the state will delay plans to prosecute leaders of 83 Christian schools while the issue of whether they should pay unemployment taxes is resolved in the courts.

Howard G. Doyle, chief legal counsel for the commission, made that statement despite the fact that Superior Court Judge A. Pilston Godwin Jr. rejected an appeal by the schools for an injunction to bar assessing of the taxes to cover teachers and other employees.

"What we are trying to do is to be fair to everybody," Doyle said following the ruling by Judge Godwin, who refused the injunction because he said the schools had failed to exhaust other available remedies before seeking the injunction.

The school leaders contend that their school employees, ranging from teachers to janitors, work for their churches and should receive the same exemption from unemployment insurance taxes other church employees have.

But the state holds there is a "difference between teaching and preaching" and contends that the state tax should be paid for school employees.

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State and federal regulations say church employees are exempt from the unemployment tax but non-profit private school employees are not.

Under protest, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte has paid the unemployment tax, which the state began to assess recently. However, the diocese recently filed suit in Mecklenburg County Superior Court at Charlotte seeking recovery of the amount paid.

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Maharishi Serves
Calm and Cole Slaw

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--For one week's salary, Maharishi Cosgrove will serve up a sheet of the world's most beloved chants and a choice of inner calm or cole slaw.

The Maharishi, with his booth next to a delicatessen, is really just one of three cult characters satirist Stan Freberg has set up for a critical and humorous examination through public service radio announcements from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

"Actually, I didn't do these audio essays for any religious organization," Freberg said. "I did them for the Lord. It was one of the greatest challenges of my life, not just as a writer or producer, but as a Christian."

Freberg takes off in two other essays on "California Tracts and Transcontinental Meditation," and "Werner Von Ersatz," all aimed at young adults who are trying to escape life. All three will be mailed to 7,500 radio stations in the U.S. in January by the Radio-TV Commission.

"Baptists are greatly concerned about the so-called self-improvement movement and we felt the need to challenge it," said Paul M. Stevens, president of the Radio and Television Commission. "Some of these are racketeering the human race."

"If we satirize the 'new' religions which urge people to think always and first of their own fulfillment, welfare and comfort, we will be able to talk about the self-forgetfulness that goes along with loving Christ more than self. This is the single most needed message of 1979."

The self-help movements are easy to satirize because they have so little sense of humor. "They are so serious...sitting ducks for a satirist," said Freberg.

As for the Maharishi, his inner calm is great. But his cole slaw is more fulfilling.

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