

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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79-04

Bold Concepts Raising
More Mission Money

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP)--Another church has successfully utilized the concepts of Together We Build to accumulate resources for Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention plan to evangelize the world by the year 2000.

First Baptist Church of Springfield, Mo., following the lead of Calvary Baptist Church in Pascagoula, Miss., pledged \$455,837 over the next three years to be distributed evenly between missions projects and building maintenance and improvement.

Canvassing for the project, dubbed "M and M," for missions and maintenance, came during the drive to subscribe the regular budget and during the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Yet the 1,100-family congregation established a church record \$758,000 budget and gave \$16,000 to the Lottie Moon offering, \$2,000 over its goal.

In addition, the church received before the first of the year, \$44,000 toward the M and M project--despite the fact that no pledges were due until after January 1.

"The enthusiasm of the membership for this particular emphasis is unprecedented in my experience," said the church's pastor, T. T. Crabtree. "It is my prayer that perhaps other churches will do something similar and thus enable the Bold Mission Thrust to really get off the ground."

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Missionaries, Christians
Band Together in TaiwanBaptist Press
1/9/79

TAIPEI, Taiwan (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Taiwan are experiencing closer ties with Taiwanese Baptists in the wake of President Jimmy Carter's decision to sever political ties with that country.

"We missionaries are beginning to experience a new feeling of love flowing from our Christian brothers and sisters and from this is coming a new relationship between missionaries and Chinese co-workers," reports Martha Cohen, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Taiwan.

At a regularly scheduled co-workers' meeting, held two days after Carter's announcement, a Chinese pastor put his arm around one of the missionaries and said, "Don't worry; we'll protect you," Mrs. Cohen says.

But so far, the missionaries in Taiwan have not needed protection. Mrs. Cohen reports that most of the Chinese people have remained polite to Americans living on the island nation and friends have been especially loving and considerate.

The China Baptist Convention, organization of Baptist churches in Taiwan, bought lapel pins of the Republic of China flag and gave them to the missionaries to wear so they could identify themselves as friends of Taiwan.

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Seven North Central States
Launch Year of Evangelism

By Dan Martin

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Southern Baptists in the North Central states have kicked off what they are calling the "largest evangelistic effort ever north of the Ohio River."

They launched a "Year of Evangelism" during the annual rally of the North Central States Mission Thrust. More than 4,000 persons braved snow and near-zero temperatures to attend workshops and inspirational sessions at Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in Columbus.

"The centerpiece of the Year of Evangelism will be simultaneous revivals held in the churches across the seven states April 1-8," said Ray Roberts, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. Included will be churches in the Baptist state conventions in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and the fellowships in Iowa and Minnesota-Wisconsin.

North Central Mission Thrust is a joint effort of the four conventions and two fellowships to reach 30 million people who live in the area, according to R. V. Haygood, associate executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

"It was born in 1973, when a meeting was held to find out what we might do to reach the people in this region for Jesus Christ," Haygood said. "The goal is to double the number of churches and missions in the seven states by 1990. We feel that if we double the number of churches and missions, we will triple the number of Southern Baptists. We hope to have more than a million Southern Baptists in this region by that year."

James Smith, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Convention, told participants at the rally that for the "past three years, baptisms have gone down in the area." "Our actions have not been quite as long as our talk," he said.

Smith added that the term "born again" has come to the forefront, but that in the public mass media, it has come to mean almost anything, "including a simple change of mind or opinion."

"I believe we have the opportunity in 1979 to set the record straight...to let people know what the Bible has to say about being born again," he said.

Many of the speakers--including Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Director of Evangelism C. B. Hogue and Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner--called on the pastors and church leaders to "become revived" before attempting to lead churches into revival.

Featured speaker at the rally was country comic Jerry Clower, a Southern Baptist from Yazoo City, Miss.

"There's only one place where there ain't no laughter," Clower told the audience. "That's hell. I've made arrangements to miss hell, so Ha! Ha! Ha!"

Clower, clad in a brilliant orange tuxedo and white lizard skin boots, said: "The greatest menace in America is adult people living inconsistent lives before our young people. And among Southern Baptists, the most inconsistent thing is pretending to be racial liberals in front of black friends and all-out bigots among white friends.

"The only way I can tolerate the people with so-called Christian schools--for white Christians only--is that I know that one of these days God is going to bust their hides. I hope I'm there to watch."

Clower said he is a "racial liberal who was born a bigot and who couldn't live with what I believed." He said he watched an integration battle in Mississippi which involved 36,000 troops, \$18 million, and the lives of two people. "I told God I wasn't gonna be a bigot no more."

Clower added: "The Lord isn't gonna let me run it, but if he did, I know some white Southern Baptists I'd turn black."

Clower, however, drew the loudest applause when he told the audience that the greatest thing in his life is not being a member of the Grand Ole Opry or selling millions of books and records. "I am a Christian, and the greatest thing in my life is to witness for Jesus Christ," he concluded.

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Study Says SBC Literature
May Stereotype Women

Baptist Press
1/10/79

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--An independent survey of eight Southern Baptist Sunday School Board publications indicates those works stereotype women as homemakers and mothers and representation of female writers according to topics reinforces that image.

Kay Wilson Shurden, an English teacher from Shelbyville, Ky., reported the results of her study of women and their implied roles in Southern Baptist literature to the "Word and Way," newspaper for Missouri Southern Baptists, in its special women's issue Jan. 4.

In her survey, Shurden found an overwhelming majority of men writers for youth and adult publications, while 89 percent of the writers for children's literature were women.

Also, graphics and subjects of stories majored on boys and their activities, while girls were usually depicted in the pre-homemaker role of helping mother, "usually in the kitchen preparing a meal."

The majority of authors of traditionally women-related, home and family articles were women, though 82 percent of the writers of the adult curriculum studies are male.

Sunday School Board President Grady Cothen said in response to the findings that "It's quite possible that some materials in fact do appear discriminatory."

"We are concerned that we properly represent a Biblical perspective on women," Cothen said. "An in-depth study of all Sunday School Board material is underway to determine whether we in fact misrepresent a Biblical perspective on women. We're concerned we perform properly in our relationship to all persons and will not knowingly discriminate against women, girls or minorities."

Shurden said, "Literature, of whatever kind, is in a real sense in the image making business." She said a noticeable exclusion of women in subject matter influences the reader's thinking. "Images in literature tell us much about a culture, society or denomination," she said.

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Sport Psychologist Says Put
Child First, Winning Second

By Jerilynn Wood

Baptist Press
1/10/79

EUSTIS, Fla. (BP)--"Americans have gotten winning out of perspective in the area of children's sports. The child should always be first and winning second," a sports psychologist told 425 workers at a church recreation laboratory at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly.

Ranier Martens, from the University of Illinois, spoke about the joy and sadness in children's sports and emphasized the positive impact that sports can have in society if handled correctly.

"Sport has the capacity to be a valuable tool in molding a child's moral views and socialization process," Martens said. "Through sports he can have self-discipline, cooperation and numerous other benefits."

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"Few Americans realize that 17 million youth between the ages of six and 16 are participating in non-school athletic programs and are being instructed by 2.5 million volunteer coaches. The problem is that many of these coaches have knowledge about the sport but inadequate skills in communicating with the children on the team."

Martens told the group that good coaches use positive reinforcement and give sincere praise for honest accomplishments.

"If a coach praises a child when he fails, the coach destroys his credibility because the child recognized his own mistakes," he said.

Martens said good coaches characteristically possess the ability to provide information instead of offering criticism. "Too often coaches don the judge's robe and condemn a player instead of instructing him and correcting the problem," he explained. "The condemnation approach often destroys a child's self-confidence and does not help him improve."

"Sports should be fun for children and an activity that every child can participate in," he said.

Martens noted that three studies revealed that children would rather be on a losing team where they could play, than on a winning team where they sat on the bench.

"Sports would benefit more children if adult coaches would be less concerned about what a child does to the ball and more concerned about what the ball does to the child," Martens said.

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Relief Fund Depleted
As Baptist Aid Given

By Ruth Fowler

Baptist Press
1/10/79

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board virtually depleted its disaster relief funds by appropriating more than \$46,000 in January. An additional \$143,000 was allocated from hunger relief funds.

Only \$7,831 is left in the board's general relief funds, which are kept separate from those earmarked for hunger. The \$100,000 set aside last year by the board for use in case of major emergency needs has also been depleted.

"There will be no easy way to meet relief needs unless funds come in," said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's consultant on relief ministries. "We do not have enough for even the most minimum response in case of a major disaster."

The board's policy on hunger fund utilization requires that the money be used in projects that are directly hunger-related. The general relief funds may be used for hunger relief, but are most often used to provide shelter, medicine, blankets and clothing.

As an example of such relief projects, Grubbs pointed to the board's major January relief appropriation. A health care project in Ghana requires \$25,000 to deliver 50,000 inoculations to fight a growing measles epidemic. Three volunteers will participate in the project. In Ghana, measles is often a fatal childhood disease. Currently about 80 percent of the children in the pediatrics ward of the Baptist hospital in Nalerigu, Ghana, are suffering from measles.

In Cali, Colombia, flood victims will receive \$5,000 in relief aid and \$500 in hunger aid. In Malaysia-Singapore, the Vietnamese refugees, often called the boat people, will receive both hunger and general relief aid.

Ugandan refugees living in Kenya will receive \$87,800 for shelter and medicine. A vocational training project to combat urban hunger will teach sewing skills to 450 people over a three-year period. These adults represent 2,700 family members, resulting in a total cost of less than \$33 per person helped.

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Such a project illustrates one of the basics of urban hunger relief--helping people to become productive even though they have no land on which to produce food, Grubbs pointed out.

Other hunger projects which received January appropriations include a dam feasibility study in Upper Volta and an agriculture project in Ivory Coast.

Upper Volta's agriculture-based society is dependent on yearly rains for food crops. When rains don't come, famine does. The dam would provide water even during drought years and thus help to grow food during such a drought. Total cost of the project could run from \$150,000 to \$350,000.

Swine and sheep projects will upgrade the local food levels in Ivory Coast, where Southern Baptists will invest \$16,630 in meeting the physical needs of the people.

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Pennsylvania Abortion Law
Falls in High Court Ruling

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
1/10/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Pennsylvania law requiring physicians to preserve the life of fetuses deemed to be "viable" or which "may be viable" in the performance of abortions.

By a 6-3 margin, the high court ruled that the Pennsylvania law is unconstitutionally vague.

Justice Harry A. Blackmun, who has written most of the court's opinions relating to abortion over the past six years, declared that the law places an impermissible burden on physicians by requiring them to protect both a fetus which is clearly considered able to live outside the mother's womb and one which "may be viable."

In both instances, doctors would be required to exercise the same medical care to preserve the fetus' life and health as would be required in the case of a fetus intended to be born alive. That requirement, Blackmun held, could make the physician have to choose between the life and health of a fetus and the well-being of his patient.

Another provision of the law making doctors criminally liable for terminating a pregnancy in such instances was likewise held invalid.

The Pennsylvania law was written shortly after the high court's historic 1973 decisions in a pair of cases striking down most states' anti-abortion statutes. The rulings six years ago declared that the decision to end a pregnancy is basically one involving the woman and her physician.

The court held then that during the first three months of pregnancy, the decision to abort must rest exclusively between the woman and her doctor. During the second three months, the court held, the state has but a limited interest in regulating abortion. During the final trimester, the state may choose to place severe restrictions on or even forbid outright the performance of abortion.

Although the decision invalidates the Pennsylvania statute, the majority indicated that the states may still take steps to protect fetal life that is considered "viable." Blackmun declared that the justices were simply declining "to stretch the point of viability one way or the other."

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SBC Home Mission Board
Names Staff, Missionaries

Baptist Press
1/10/79

ATLANTA (BP)--Two Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staff members were named during the January executive committee meetings of the board of directors.

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James Hamblen of Columbia, Md., was named associate director of the department of metropolitan missions and Gary Leazer of Fort Worth, Texas, was named assistant director of the department of interfaith witness.

Directors also appointed four missionaries, five missionary associates, one US-2 missionary and approved 33 pastors to receive financial aid for new mission congregations.

In addition, by action of the directors, Warren Rust, who has served on the staff of the board in the metropolitan missions department, was moved to national consultant status. Rust, with the board since 1971, has been plagued by health problems and will continue to work from his home in Arizona.

Since 1976, Hamblen has served as field consultant in metropolitan missions with national responsibilities from his base in Maryland. From 1973 to 1976, he was a resource consultant in new town planning for the board and the Maryland Baptist Convention. He is a Texas native, a graduate of the University of Texas and holds a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Leazer, who will join the staff Feb. 1, will work with interfaith witness specializing in American Christianity with particular reference to sectarian movements. An Iowa native, and graduate of Mississippi College, he holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern.

Named missionaries were Duane Davis of Talladega, Ala., and Eileen and Clyde Leonard of Jefferson City, Mo.

Named missionary associates were Patricia and Larry Erwin of Kansas City, Kan., Joanne LeGette of Louisville, Ky., Ann and Mike Lopez of Wake Forest, N.C.; and named US-2er was Karen Grantham of Tampa, Fla.

Davis will serve as a catalytic missionary to the deaf. He has been developing a deaf church in Talladega, Ala., sponsored by the Coosa Baptist Association. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College and holds a master of religious education degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Leonards will serve in Missouri where he will be director of church extension for the state Baptist convention. He has been a new work specialist for the Missouri Baptist Convention. He is a Bollinger County, Missouri native and holds a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Eileen Parker Leonard, a native of Bunker, Mo., has been a teacher in Missouri schools since 1954.

The Erwins will serve in Topeka, Kan., as directors of the Pine Ridge Center. Erwin, a Texas native, holds a master of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Until 1976, he was a broadcast announcer in Pine Bluff, Ark., and in other radio broadcasting areas.

Patricia Crawford Erwin, also a Texas native, has worked as a teacher in day care, a nurses aide and a bookkeeper.

LeGette, a native of Westminster, S.C., will serve as a church extension intern in Southfield, Mich. She holds a masters degree in social work from the University of Tennessee and a master of religious education and doctor of ministries degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Lopezes will work in Scranton, Penn., where he will be director of Christian social ministries. He is a native of Waycross, Ga., and holds a master of divinity and religious education degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ann Elliott Lopez, a native of Gastonia, N.C., holds a master of divinity and religious education degrees from Southeastern.

Grantham, a Florida native, will serve in Baltimore, Md.

Board Adds Eight to MSC, Plans Big Service as Cauthen Retires

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Continuing the momentum of a record 1978, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in January approved eight more overseas Mission Service Corps volunteers and urged Southern Baptists to increase financial backing for two of its programs.

Contributions are needed to sponsor additional Mission Service Corps volunteers and also to meet general relief needs of people overseas, the board was told. Funds for both these programs are virtually depleted. Mission Service Corps puts volunteers to work in mission fields at home and abroad for one or two year periods.

In other actions, the board made plans to hold its December appointment service in conjunction with a special recognition of Baker J. Cauthen, who will retire at the end of 1979 after 26 years as the board's executive director. The board voted to invite evangelist Billy Graham to participate in the service.

M. Hunter Riggins Jr., of Poquoson, Va., chairman of the search committee named in October to find a successor to Cauthen, said many Southern Baptists have written to suggest both qualifications needed for the job and possible candidates.

The 15-member committee, which has met monthly since its appointment, will convene again in February to "work on the profile of the person" before beginning to consider specific people for the job. He asked Southern Baptists to continue praying for the group.

The board, which appointed a record 350 Southern Baptists as missionaries in 1978, heard a report that interest in overseas service continues to climb. The missionary personnel department said it is in contact with more than 1,800 couples or individuals, about 100 of whom are in the "latter stages" of the appointment process.

Cauthen said preliminary reports from individual churches on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions give "remarkable evidence" of Southern Baptists' continued commitment to missions, though no totals will be available for several months. The 1978 goal was \$40 million.

Yet board members were told that individual contributions are needed "over and beyond" the Lottie Moon offering and regular Cooperative Program receipts if the board is to continue to provide relief aid to people in the 94 countries or territories where Southern Baptists now have missionaries. The board virtually depleted its general relief funds with more than \$46,000 in appropriations in January.

World hunger giving rose sharply in 1978 following World Hunger Day in August, but board guidelines specify that this money must be used in projects that are directly hunger-related. The board allocated \$143,000 for such hunger fund projects at the January meeting.

A warning also was sounded that more financial backers are needed for Mission Service Corps volunteers. Although eight such workers were approved in January, another 27 could be sent out almost immediately if enough money is given to support them.

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Wife of Foundation's First Executive Dies

Baptist Press
1/10/79

THOMASVILLE, Ga. (BP)--The widow of the Southern Baptist Foundation's first executive secretary died Jan. 8 in a daughter's home.

Services for Leena M. Bolton, widow of C. H. Bolton, who was executive secretary of the foundation from its beginning in June 1949 until January 1953, were Jan. 10 in Thomasville, with interment in Jacksonville, Fla.

Mr. Bolton died in 1973. They were married 69 years. She is survived by daughters Mrs. Walter F. Taylor, Newport News, Va., and Mrs. R. Lewis Clark, Thomasville, Ga.; a brother, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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27 MSC Volunteers Ready To Go, But Lack Financing

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Twenty-seven overseas Mission Service Corps volunteers are ready to go, but lack financial backing, says coordinator Lewis I. Myers Jr.

Myers, of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, made the statement as the board approved eight more volunteers at its January meeting. These bring to 39 the total assigned overseas under the new corps, which plans to put 5,000 volunteers to work beside missionaries for one or two year periods at home and abroad by 1982.

The board also gave conditional approval to 12 college-age young people pending further screening by Texas Baptists. Six of these 12 will be chosen to receive financial backing from the Texas Baptist student department. The others may then be considered under other sponsorship arrangements for a special evangelistic campaign in Brazil where Baptists requested 44 such young people to work with students.

At this point, Myers said, the Foreign Mission Board has more than 40 persons being screened. But requests for such personnel continue to come in from the mission fields faster than volunteers become available and sponsors can be found to support them. About 200 persons already have been requested and more requests arrive each month.

"We need a higher volume of both volunteers and sponsors," Myers said.

He said many people do not realize that even small contributions for each support will be welcomed. "We are able to put together smaller amounts--sometimes 20 to 30 contributions--to support one person," he explained. Such contributions should be given through the local church and designated for "Mission Service Corps, Foreign Mission Board," Myers said.

Two of the eight volunteers approved Jan. 9 will serve in East Asia. J. Tommy Miller of Jacksonville, Fla., is already in Korea, to serve as a prison evangelist. Ernestine (Mrs. Ralph) Hayes of Fort Worth, Texas, will serve as a medical secretary in Hong Kong.

In Southeast Asia, Mr. and Mrs. H. Leland Miller of Fresno, Calif., will serve as bookstore manager in Singapore. L. James von Mosch of White Salmon, Wash., and Velma Faye Zimmerman of Wilmington, Calif., plan to be married before they go to Davao City, Philippines, to serve as business manager/assistant to the treasurer of the organization of missionaries there.

Assigned to be an accountant at the Baptist Union of Scotland is June Caplinger of Laurium, Mich. Glynn D. McCormick of Paducah, Ky., is already in Guatemala as a teacher at the inter-American school there.

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Minister Shot When Mistaken for Prowler

Baptist Press
1/10/79

FRANCIS, Okla. (BP)--Roy Akehurst, minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Francis, Okla., was shot and killed Jan. 9, when he was mistaken for an armed prowler while working at his part-time job with an Ada appliance store.

The Ada district attorney said some kind of homicide charges will be filed against the woman who fired the fatal shot.

Akehurst, a 21-year-old student at East Central State University, Ada, and another employee were preparing to complete installation of a washer at the woman's residence. The woman had been notified by the store owner that the men were en route to her house. The washer had been delivered the day before the shooting.

Just before the shooting, the woman called Ada police, reporting that two men were approaching her house with guns, and that if they tried to enter, she would shoot them. She apparently mistook tools the workmen were carrying for guns.

Akehurst was shot in the chest as he started to leave the house after seeing the woman with the gun. The other worker escaped injury. Police found Akehurst still alive, but bleeding profusely as he lay near the front porch. He died at a local hospital.

Police said the woman, in her mid-30s, was "hysterical and screaming." They found a .38 caliber pistol on a table in the house.

Akehurst, a junior ministerial student at ECSU, had worked four or five summers at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly in the Arbuckle Mountains. His parents are Harold and Agnes Akehurst, members of Trinity Baptist Church, Ada.

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