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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor**BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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80-111

WrapupNew Mexico State Official
Challenges Southern Baptists

By Roy Jennings

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--A New Mexico government official and Baptist deacon has called on Southern Baptists to recognize their bold mission and perform it in the 1980s.

David W. King, secretary of finance and administration for New Mexico, speaking at the seven-day Bold Mission Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, told 1,800 participants, "We are all involved in missions, including me and state government." King, a deacon at First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, and partner in a large New Mexico ranching operation, said, "We don't have to go to Africa or to an Indian reservation, but we all have a bold mission to perform."

Speaking on the challenges of the 1980s, King, nephew of New Mexico Gov. Bruce King, said he believed the greatest thrust of Southern Baptists is still ahead for the 13.4 million-member denomination. "I firmly believe that the greatest things are yet to be done in this country if we renew our commitment to God and our country."

In an earlier session, Dale Cross of Atlanta, director of metropolitan evangelism strategy for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, gave Southern Baptists a look at missionary activity in the cities and challenged them to personal involvement.

William A. Johnson, a bivocational Southern Baptist pastor and fireman in Philadelphia, described how Southern Baptists were ministering in the inner city, while Mr. and Mrs. Robert Saul gave a progress report on two years of witnessing to the affluent in the heart of New York City.

Southern Baptists' greatest impact in 1979 in his area was in the Philadelphia Baptist Evangelistic Support Thrust (Phil BEST), a six-week evangelistic crusade involving 35 churches, Johnson reported. The results included 500 professions of faith and two new church starts.

Baptists conducted vacation Bible schools in the morning and came together for worship each night under a large tent.

Out of this evangelistic effort grew a concern for continuing ministry to the inner city, Johnson said, with Baptists providing muffins to nursing homes and sweet potatoes to penal institutions.

A second version of Phil BEST was scheduled to start July 16 in Philadelphia under a 1,000-capacity tent.

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The Sauls, who live in a 33-story exclusive apartment building on New York City's fashionable East Side, told of sponsoring a series of Bible studies in their apartment and in scattered parts of the city.

Mrs. Saul said she conducted a Bible study each Wednesday in her apartment for "20 to 40 women, mostly bluebloods who live on Fifth Avenue."

During the evenings the Sauls conduct sit-down dinners for the families of the women and bring in Southern Baptist leaders for dialogue on the Christian faith.

Cross called the cities a vast mission field for Southern Baptists, citing the flood of refugees who are moving there.

"I'm convinced that Bold Mission Thrust is trying to awaken Southern Baptists to the fact that God does care for people in trouble," he said. "God wants us to stop our running from our greatest opportunity and to stop being intimidated by the satanic forces in the cities. We must not let Satan rope off the inner city as his territory."

Calling for Southern Baptists to consider personal ministries, Cross suggested that craftsmen consider a short-term building project in 1981 in New York City, that affluent Southern Baptists sponsor a Mission Service Corps medical couple in Chicago, and that others help refugee families settle in this country.

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Cooperative Program
Shows Monthly Gain

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--June receipts of undesignated funds through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program show an increase of eight percent over June 1979.

Undesignated funds from the 35,600 Southern Baptist churches totaled \$5,932,991 in June. Designated contributions totaled \$5,194,803, down 5.4 percent from June 1979.

Total designated and undesignated contributions for June were \$11,127,795, a 1.3 percent increase over June 1979.

Total undesignated contributions for the first three-quarters of the fiscal year are \$53,800,706, 13.22 percent ahead of the same period last year.

Designated contributions of \$59,135,679 are 15 percent ahead of the same period last year.

Year to date designated and undesignated gifts of \$112,936,385 are 14.15 percent of the first nine months of the 1979 fiscal year.

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Clergy Divorce Rise
Likely, Without Help

By Tim Fields

RIDGECREST, N.C.(BP)--Marriage therapist David Mace says pastors and their wives are having a rough time with marriage and unless churches come to their aid there will be a rash of divorces among clergy couples.

Mace, who sounded his warning to Southern Baptists attending a Christian Life conference, said his fears were based on extensive research and counseling sessions with more than 1,000 clergy couples, many of whom were Southern Baptists.

Mace feels the subject of clergy marriages has been totally ignored. "There are hundreds of books on the role of the pastor and a few on pastor's wives, but there are no books on clergy marriages," Mace said.

In researching a book of their own to be released this October, Mace and his wife, Vera, recently conducted seven regional marriage conferences for pastors and their wives which were attended mainly by Southern Baptist couples.

The couples were asked to complete questionnaires on their marriages. A tabulation of the responses revealed four major outside pressures which strained their marriages.

"The couples' number one complaint was that congregations expect them to be perfect models of a Christian family," Mace said. "However, in discussions with lay people we found that congregations were not making these kinds of demands on their pastors and wives. It seems that clergy couples are living under self-imposed demands that they cannot live up to," Mace said.

The second pressure cited by clergy couples was their demanding time schedule.

"The average work week for pastors is 70 hours," Mace said. "Times when other husbands and fathers are spending time with their wives and children, pastors are not. Weekends and week-nights are filled with church meetings and other pastoral duties."

The lack of privacy or the goldfish bowl syndrome was the third ranked pressure. "Pastors and their families are never really alone," Mace said. "No matter where they go they are on display and have to worry constantly about who is watching."

Although finances ranked fourth on the list of outside pressures, Mace said that the majority of clergy couples were not bitter or upset by their financial situation because they feel God called them to the pastorate.

"We researched pastoral salaries and found that out of the 432 occupations recognized by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, pastors ranked 325th on the hourly wage list," Mace said. "This puts them in the same category as farm laborers, cooks, and waiters and waitresses. But on the level of education pastors rank in the top 10."

According to Mace, the most distressing signals about the condition of clergy marriages came when pastors and their wives discussed the intimate details of their marriages.

"The greatest difficulty is with handling anger," Mace revealed. "The very nature of their job dictates that they suppress their anger instead of dealing with it openly."

Other internal problems include the failure for pastors and their wives to communicate effectively with each other, a lack of uninterrupted time for family devotionals and difficulty with resolving conflict in their marriage.

"It is very clear that clergy couples are in trouble. But what can they do about it?" Mace asked the conferees.

"They can't tell the congregation because in their estimation the congregation would be horrified and would probably fire them. They can't tell their fellow pastors because they feel their reputation would be damaged."

In order to counteract this dilemma, Mace said that church lay leaders should point the way.

"Pastors and their wives need marriage enrichment where they learn to deal with all of these problems," Mace said. "Our recommendation is for Southern Baptists and other churches to begin big programs of marriage and family enrichment for clergy couples."

Mace also recommended that pastors and their wives seek marriage and family counseling outside their communities.

"If a pastor and his wife were seen going to a marriage counselor there would be a scandalous story spreading around town. It's time for congregations to do away with this stupid stigma and get to work helping clergy couples with marriage," Mace said.

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Missions At Heart
Of Student Ministry

By Gail Rothwell

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7/8/80

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--While the Bold Mission Thrust goal to present the gospel to the world by the year 2000 has held Southern Baptist attention for three years, missions has been at the heart of ministries with college students for more than 10 years, according to Charles Roselle, secretary of National Student Ministries of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

At the present rate of growth, student participation in short-term mission service will number nearly 25,000 for 1979-82. The denominational goal for the same three-year period is to involve 100,000 people in some type of short-term missions. Student ministries alone could meet one-fourth of that goal, Roselle said.

Roselle believes the modern university campus is the most strategic mission field and it should claim "priority attention" from churches and the denomination.

Figures compiled from Roselle's annual spring visits with state student directors indicate 5,292 students became Christians in 1979 as a result of Baptist campus ministries. He projects 5,800 conversions in 1980.

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The number of professional, full-time directors jumped from 411 to 464 in the past year. "This increase reflects an interest on the part of Southern Baptists to get involved in a ministry with college students. This also reflects good work on the part of state conventions," said Roselle.

While the total number of paid and volunteer student directors increased 51, to 957, the number of volunteer directors dropped from 399 to 375.

Roselle said the number of students involved in campus ministries had also increased by 23,720 to a total of 157,966. He reported that Baptist Student Unions are now ministering to more non-Baptist students than ever before, including in traditional BSU areas.

The number of campuses with Baptist student ministries has nearly doubled during the past 12 years, climbing from 603 to 1,138. However, of the 2,800 campuses in the United States, approximately 1,700 still have no Baptist student work.

Roselle feels that church ministry with college students will be affirmed. He said in newer convention areas churches are initiating a ministry to students.

Some churches are organizing Bible study fellowships for students. A growing number are employing college ministers.

New strategies are being developed to reach students in metropolitan areas. A new kind of college church must emerge because of the increasing number of commuter students. The young adults in these commuter churches have needs that differ from other adult groups in the church, Roselle said.

He said that churches need to act, but in cooperation with campus programs, and that the Baptist Student Union is a link between the campus and the church.

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Gail Rothwell is a reporter in the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Hayes Resigns
R-TV Commission

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7/8/80

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Carlyle Hayes, a 23-year veteran of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, has resigned as senior vice-president to become program director with Cargill Associates, a national fund raising firm based in Fort Worth, effective in August.

Named senior vice president for financial services 10 years ago, Hayes, 55, most recently worked in the development office under newly hired John Scales.

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