



BAPTIST PRESS

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Ruschlikon Seminarians
Increase Emphasis on Church

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--Visitation by student teams to German and Swiss churches will play a major role in equipping the students from 21 countries enrolled in the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, the seminary's new president said.

C. Ronald Goulding, who recently became the seminary's sixth president, said visits by international student teams "have been a new source of life to the churches," as well as a means of helping students gain practical experience in ministry.

"Most of the students already have had some experience in Christian service," said Goulding, former secretary-treasurer for the European Baptist Federation and recently retired associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

"In coming to Ruschlikon for further training they bring both an enthusiasm and maturity, so it's exciting to feel we have the opportunity of equipping and inspiring servants of the Lord to go forth and witness in so many countries."

The seminary's 56-member student body includes representatives from 16 Baptist unions cooperating with the European Baptist Federation, as well as students from Japan, Brazil, the United States, Australia and, for the first time, Indonesia.

The European Baptist Federation sponsors the seminary, which was started by Southern Baptists and still receives substantial financial support through the denomination's Foreign Mission Board. Three Southern Baptist missionaries serve on the seminary's faculty.

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Radio-TV Trustees OK
Cooperative Proposal

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission have voted to cooperate with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to establish a religious telecommunication degree program.

The proposal, which would create a Center for Christian Communications Studies, is contingent on approval by trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who will meet in Fort Worth Oct. 20-22.

If approved by seminary trustees, the program will offer a master of arts degree in communication.

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Radio and Television Commission trustees, in their meeting, also voted to offer facilities and personnel for active involvement in a proposed Southern Baptist videotape network, expressed their priorities for new television programming, and heard two top denominational officers.

Addressing the 26-member trustee body were Bailey Smith of Del City, Okla., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and J. Howard Cobble of Avondale Estates, Ga., chairman of the denomination's Executive Committee.

Citing the heightened interest in communications training in the religious community and the scarcity of programs which focus attention on the local church, commission president Jimmy R. Allen told the trustees such a cooperative endeavor would "combine academic excellence and technical excellence" in training media ministers, writers, producers and other similar personnel.

"The proximity of Southwestern Seminary and the Radio and Television Commission provides an excellent opportunity for us to furnish hands-on training, adjunct instructors with practical experience and technical expertise, while the seminary furnishes the theological and biblical framework for such training," he said.

The commission and the seminary cooperated this past spring at a radio, television and cable consultation for pastors and communications committee members for churches broadcasting on radio and television.

Allen told trustees the consultation is expected to be expanded next year into a media training conference which could last several days and attract nationally known speakers. The 1981 conference also will be conducted in cooperation with the seminary.

Commission trustees also considered the agency's role in a proposed Southern Baptist videotape network which has been under study by a broad spectrum of Southern Baptist leadership. The possibility of such a network will be discussed in a called meeting of denomination executives in Nashville Sept. 22.

The trustees responded enthusiastically to the suggestion from the administration that the commission offer its facilities and personnel for production of such tapes, including absorbing the cost of the first 25 productions if the video network is established.

The possibility of utilizing much of this material in cable systems to which churches have access was cited as a major reason for commission involvement.

In other actions during the three-day meeting, the board amended and approved the 1980-81 fiscal year operating budget of \$4,201,500; approved a 12 percent requested increase for the 1981-82 Cooperative Program budget to be presented to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville Sept. 22, and added \$1,000 a month to the housing allowance of the agency president instead of giving him an already budgeted salary increase for his second year. Trustees also voted to ask the SBC Executive Committee to approve a change in the commission's planned capital needs expenditures. A sum of \$386,000 had already been allocated for remodeling offices in the older portion of the building. The change would allow the agency to apply this to capital needs and functional equipment, reworking of the studios and reshaping another portion of their warehouse space in the current building.

In his remarks to trustees, SBC President Smith challenged them to find "fresh new ways to spread the old message of Christ's resurrection and God's love."

"Modern methods are fine if based on the old gospel," he said. "We mustn't forsake our traditional beliefs for new sophisticated technology, but if we put the two together, we have an unlimited vehicle to study the word of God."

"I think the Radio and Television Commission is headed in the right direction," Smith said. "Jimmy Allen has the right emphasis. He believes in the propagation of the gospel. As I speak in various places I will be reporting that the Radio and Television Commission is in good hands."

Cobble emphasized the importance of moving toward the future.

"Jesus did not stay in Capernaum where his ministry was well received but continued to move forward, even though it eventually meant his death," Cobble said.

"The Radio and Television Commission and other Southern Baptists must be willing to move forward in spreading the gospel. I believe the 1980s are the fullness of time for the Radio and Television Commission, because God has placed in the hands of this agency unlimited opportunities. Jesus used unusual methods. New technology offers the commission unusual methods of proclaiming the gospel."

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Refugee Camp Closings
Emphasize Sponsor Needs

By Marv Knox

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ATLANTA (BP)--A government order condemning two Florida refugee camps for "deplorable" living conditions emphasizes the need for Americans to sponsor refugees, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board language worker says.

Speaking after Florida health authorities shut down two camps housing 25,000 to 30,000 Haitian and Cuban refugees, Hubert Hurt said: "Some people claim we've taken in too many refugees already—that we ought to push these newcomers back into the sea. We have no excuse for this kind of mentality in a so-called Christian nation."

This year, more than 2,500 refugees of various nationalities have been resettled by Southern Baptists from about 400 churches and more than 30 associations, he reports. That figure should reach 3,500 by the end of the year, surpassing last year's total of 3,300.

Hurt notes about 14,000 Cuban refugees remain in the four major government resettlement camps. Thousands more live in Krome North, one of the condemned camps, and Tent City, a makeshift camp underneath Miami's downtown expressways.

Hurt also noted some 20,000 Haitian refugees currently live in south Florida. Most have been herded into Krome South, the other condemned camp.

Legislation is pending in Congress which will classify the Haitians and many Cubans who have arrived this year as legal refugees, making them eligible for sponsorship and resettlement.

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Along with Cubans and Haitians, some 14,000 Indochinese refugees per month arrive in the United States, Hurt said.

"In addition to these large groups, we probably will receive more Afghan refugees in the coming months," he says. "Eastern Europeans and Ethiopians also are coming to this country, and we just received a request for sponsorship from an Indian family."

Hurt urges Americans not to become impatient with refugees who have trouble coping with the pressures that accompany changing countries.

Persons, churches or associations wishing to sponsor refugees may contact state refugee coordinators working with state Baptist conventions, or they may contact the Southern Baptist Refugee Resettlement Office by writing to 2715 Peachtree Road, NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30305 or by calling (404) 873-4041.

Hurt says sponsorship of Cubans, Haitians and Indochinese usually is more successful when refugees are settled in areas where other people of similar backgrounds live. Successful resettlements have been made, however, by partnerships between churches which financially sponsor refugees and churches which actually do the "leg work" in communities with refugee colonies.

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Baptists Consider
Expo Participation

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9/12/80

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists may play host to tourists from around the world when they visit Expo '82 International Energy Fair in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1982.

"The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board currently is reviewing the opportunity to have a pavilion and a witness of some kind at Expo '82," said William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the board.

If the opportunity works out, the board probably will join forces with Knox County Association of Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptist Convention, Tanner said. A steering committee comprised of representatives from those groups already has been formed to study the situation, with a working budget of \$339,700.

Neither the board, the convention nor the association have officially signed contracts which financially obligate those groups to the fair. However, members of the Baptist steering committee have formed World's Fair Ministries Inc., a private corporation which has signed a letter of intent with fair officials so that a pavilion lot on the 70-acre site may be held.

"We formed the corporation and signed the letter of intent because we did not want to miss out on getting the property lease which we must have if we are going to put up a pavilion," said Bill Lee, assistant director of the special mission ministries department and the board's representative on the Baptist steering committee.

Actual allocation of funds for the project will come only after the three Baptist groups have studied the matter and made definite plans for participation, Tanner said.

Tennessee Baptists also have not signed any documents binding them to an exhibit at the fair, scheduled for May 1 to Oct. 31, 1982, on a 70-acre site near downtown Knoxville. However, a spokesman said the convention's executive board has made \$12,259 available for use by the group, at the request of Donald Pharris, pastor of North Etowah Baptist Church in Knoxville, member of the TBC executive board and of the Baptist fair group.

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Farmer Called to Preach
While Feeding Dairy Cows

By Teresa Shields Parker

ELKLAND, Mo. (BP)—David Larimer was called to preach while feeding silage to his dairy cattle about seven years ago. Since then preaching and dairy farming have gone hand-in-hand, with preaching coming out on top every time.

"Preaching has to be number one in my life," the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Elkland, declared. "If it was not number one, I'd soon get frustrated and quit."

Larimer, a native of the area his small country church serves, had to cut down his "milking" duties when he surrendered to preach.

"I was milking 94 cows before I started preaching," Larimer explained. "I had to sell a bunch of them. There wasn't enough time at night to milk and get to church."

The Larimers now milk about 60 cows morning and night. Everyone has to help, especially on Sundays and Wednesdays. Many times, Larimer noted, his wife Joyce has had to stay at home and finish the milking while he goes on to church.

"When we came to Mt. Zion there were eight people at the church," Larimer said. "Our family made 12. Now we average about 70 on Sunday mornings." A usual Wednesday evening crowd runs about 40, he added.

The key to growth, Larimer says, is visitation and caring about people. He began visiting as soon as he arrived on the field. But, he pointed out, it wasn't long before his church members began helping also.

That attitude of caring about people has earned the church a good reputation, Larimer said. People in the area know about the church and about the church members.

Last winter when a heavy snow fell on Saturday, Larimer and two other men from the church cleared the backroads and highways for their neighbors.

"I have a big tractor with a blade on it," he related. "I got two other men from the church and we went down the roads clearing paths for people. We went down to the church and cleared the parking lot. When the other churches in the area, even Springfield churches, did not have service the next day, we did. We even had quite a few visitors from other churches around."

This summer church members are rallying to help a family of eight build two rooms onto their small trailer. "We go out on Saturdays," Larimer said. "The ladies fix lunch and the fellas help build the rooms so this family will have a place to keep warm this winter."

Larimer says it's the little things like that that "really count. If everyone would do little things to help one another, it would really make a difference," he noted.