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81-06

Detergent, Make-up Don't Fill Unification Church's Coffers

ATLANTA (BP)--Rumors that Avon Products and Procter & Gamble are controlled by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church are not true, according to representatives of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and spokesmen for both companies.

Glenn Igleheart, director of the interfaith witness department at the Home Mission Board, called the rumors "unfortunate" and said: "We have an obligation to tell the truth and to set the record straight on these rumors. We've attempted to tell people when Moon has connections with certain businesses, but we must be careful not to cast falsehoods about innocent, legitimate businesses."

The Avon/"Moonie" tale surfaced most recently in Alabama and Georgia. It appears to be passed "word of mouth," said Betty Abrams, manager of Avon's consumer information center.

"The rumors circulating about Rev. Moon's ownership of Avon are completely untrue," Abrams said. "Rev. Moon is in no way involved with Avon. We do not have any listing of Rev. Moon or his church as shareholders of our corporation."

Abrams said the cosmetics company is "at a loss" to explain how the rumor got started. That's not the case for Procter & Gamble, whose gossip derives from a company logo which is dominated by a man-in-the-moon figure.

The P & G stories claim the logo is symbolic of Rev. Moon and that the Unification Church is skimming 75 percent of the company's profits for its own use.

"Obviously, this rumor has no basis in fact," said Robert M. Norrish, director of P & G's public relations department. "Rev. Moon's Unification Church owns no shares in Procter & Gamble. As a matter of fact, not one of 98,000 Procter & Gamble shareholders owns more than one-half of one percent of our stock."

Norris said P & G's moon and stars logo dates to 1850 and has been registered with the U.S. Patent Office since 1882, "long before Rev. Moon was born."

Nevertheless, the false information has caused at least one church in Missouri and other individuals in the South to boycott Procter & Gamble goods.

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Ethics of Power
Focus of Seminar

Baptist Press
1/13/81

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young and sociologist-author Robert Bellah will examine the ethics of power during a Southern Baptist seminar March 23-25 in Dallas, Texas.

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The national seminar, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, also will explore the effects of the use and abuse of power in church and society.

Young, a former congressman and aid to Martin Luther King Jr., will deal with power and race relations and Bellah, chairman of the department of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley, will discuss power and civil religion.

A special feature of the seminar will be a confrontation between former Alabama congressman and Southern Baptist minister John Buchanan and a representative of the new religious right, which was instrumental in defeating the eight-term congressman last fall.

Other speakers slated for the seminar are Bible translator Robert Bratcher; author-preacher Ernest Campbell; church-state separation proponent James Dunn, and pastors Daniel Vestal Jr., of First Baptist Church, Midland, Texas, and Roger Lovette of First Baptist Church, Clemson, S.C.

Furman University chaplain L.D. Johnson will bring the theme message at each session. Additional speakers have been invited.

More than 500 Southern Baptist pastors, church members and students are expected to attend the seminar at the Dallas Hilton (downtown). Registration is open to any interested Southern Baptist.

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Louisiana Southern Baptist
Principal 'Caught in Middle'

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

Baptist Press
1/13/81

BUCKEYE, La. (BP)--Southern Baptist Charles Waites is "between a rock and a hard place" in the controversy over court orders seeking to racially balance Rapides Parish (county) schools.

Waites, principal of Buckeye High School, was caught between conflicting orders issued by a state judge and a federal judge about three girls attending the school.

Last summer, U.S. District Judge Nauman S. Scott issued an order to racially balance the schools in the parish east of Pineville. It involved closing some schools and busing students to another school 20 miles away.

Some 107 students who previously attended Buckeye were scheduled to be bussed. Of them, 22 rode buses and the balance enrolled in a private school organized by Philadelphia Baptist Church. Included in the number who enrolled in the private school were three white girls who now want to return to Buckeye. One was head cheerleader there, Waites said.

The parents, seeking a way to allow their children to attend Buckeye, were advised they could move to the Buckeye community or transfer custody of their children to someone living in the Buckeye community. They chose the latter.

When the girls started attending Buckeye, the federal judge determined they were attempting to bypass his order and issued a directive they were not to attend the school.

State Judge Richard Lee then ruled they could attend Buckeye, and issued orders for state police to escort the girls to school.

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Here Waites found himself "between the rock and a hard place. No matter what I did I would be violating someone's order."

Waites, a member of Philadelphia Baptist Church where he teaches an adult Sunday School class, said the conflicts have created tensions and mental anguish of not knowing what will happen next. "But," he says, "I have learned that with the Lord's help, I can face daily challenges."

Waites, along with the state judge, and others, currently is under an order from the federal judge to appear in court to show cause why they are not in contempt of court. Scott also imposed a \$500 per day fine for those in contempt of the court.

Waites acknowledged his strong feeling of support for the community school concept under direction of the citizens of that community.

Waites, 41, who became principal at Buckeye when he was 30 years old, and his wife are graduates of Louisiana College (Baptist) in Pineville and their children have attended Buckeye schools until the change this fall.

"Because I feel so strongly about children attending school in their communities rather than busing long distances, we enrolled our son, 12, in the Philadelphia Baptist Academy this fall. Our daughter attends Buckeye Elementary," Waites said.

He said busing, rather than integration, is the main issue.

And what about \$500-a-day fines? "I hope the school board will provide for these if they are levied by Judge Scott," he said. "Until the recent experience I was not aware of the power of federal judges. I believe they have assumed more power than the Constitution has granted."

"Regardless of the outcome of the event I still have faith in our system and that we need to use the moral law to deal with civil law. We can't leave God out of our work," he said.

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Mission Leader Reaffirms Need
To Serve God In Danger Areas

Baptist Press
1/13/81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries face possible danger in strife-torn El Salvador, a Foreign Mission Board administrator acknowledges, but have chosen to remain for the immediate future because opportunities outweigh risks.

Don Kammerdiener, area director for middle America and the Caribbean, said the question arose in the wake of renewed violence in the Central American republic where at least six Americans have been murdered in the past few weeks, four of whom were Roman Catholic nuns.

Kammerdiener said he had been asked by "friends, relatives and fellow church members" if the three Southern Baptist couples assigned to El Salvador are safe.

No, he replies. "It is not safe to be in El Salvador today."

He adds: "It was not safe for the 9,000 citizens of the nation and others who lost their lives in politically inspired violence during 1980. It was not safe for the Catholic nuns who were murdered recently to the horror of an unbelieving world. It is not safe for the small band of Baptist missionaries who have chosen to remain in the country."

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"Of course, vast areas of the world are not safe places, either for foreign missionaries or for anyone else. Burning buildings are not safe for firemen. Riot-torn areas of American cities are not safe for police. In these and countless other similar situations, responsible human beings weigh the danger that is involved against the possible good that may be achieved and finally make decisions to engage in activities where the risk to life is very real and ever present.

"They are saying, quite simply, that some things are worth dying for."

Foreign Mission Board officials, however, said the missionaries will make the decision to leave or stay, depending on the risk, although the situation is closely monitored by administrators.

"Generally, the missionaries believe the opportunities are greater than the risks at the present time, and have chosen to stay," said one administrator.

Kammerdiener, who served in both Colombia and Argentina, has himself served in countries during times of turmoil. "At that time, I was responsible only for my family, and no one else was endangered by my decision to be there."

"Now, he explained, "the situation is quite different. As area director, I am in a very real sense responsible for the well-being of the missionaries sent by Southern Baptists to that area."

Kammerdiener added that if Southern Baptists are to remain true to God's word, they must be concerned about every area of the world.

"Southern Baptists have affirmed boldly that we will preach the gospel to every person on earth before the end of this century," he said. "Since most of the people on earth have no choice about living under unpleasant, deprived or dangerous conditions, we have not left ourselves much choice as to the arena of our Bold Mission Thrust."

The missions administrator dipped down into biblical history to remark that the choice to remain in a dangerous place—such as El Salvador—is reminiscent of the "three young Jewish men" who were put in the fiery furnace.

The men told the tyrant, Kammerdiener said: "Our God can save us if he chooses, but whether he spares our lives or allows us to die, we still will not bow down to a pagan idol."

He adds: "Paganism calls us to lives of luxury, easy living, materialism and safety from the turmoil of a violent world. Some among us are responding that they march to the beat of a different drummer. God may use them in life, or he may use them in death, but their first priority will be to follow his call."

Six Southern Baptist missionaries are assigned to El Salvador. Bill and Libby Stennett, from Virginia and the District of Columbia, returned to the nation Jan. 12, following a furlough. Hoyt and Marie Eudaly, of Texas and Missouri, are scheduled to leave on furlough in February, and Ernest and Lee Ann McAninch, both from Alabama, just entered the country after completing language school in Costa Rica.

The administrator added: "They all feel that they are where they should be and are happy to have the opportunity to minister in El Salvador."

Georgia Pastor Heads
Rose Board Ministry

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (BP)--Georgia Baptist pastor Truman Skaggs has taken the illustration about the farmer who gets the attention of his mule with a two-by-four a step further with what he calls "my two-by-four ministry."

Skaggs, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Gainesville, was a pastor in Pasadena, Calif., when the Rose Bowl, one of football's most famous stadiums, ripped out its wooden seats to replace them with aluminum. Each front board of the 100,000 three-board seats was numbered.

A sports enthusiast and former sports announcer, Skaggs thought a numbered two-by-four from the Rose Bowl might be a treasured souvenir for sports fans, so he bought a number of them, launching a unique ministry.

"I cut them into 18-inch lengths, about the width of each seat in the Rose Bowl," he recalls. "I began to give them to friends, to sell a few and to generally have fun with them."

He found they were great conversation openers and put them in his briefcase, car, office, suitcase and other places to help introduce himself to strangers who might be evangelism prospects. He says he has had many dramatic soul winning experiences started with chats about the boards.

Skaggs said a hearing with President Richard Nixon on a church-state issue was made possible through a Rose Bowl two-by-four.

Skaggs, who has told of his ministry on several radio and television shows, says, "I've heard of two-by-four preachers all my life. I hope when they say that about Truman Skaggs, they mean it as a compliment."

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CORRECTION: In BP story mailed Jan. 9, 1981, "Radio-Television Commission Moves To Establish New Network," in 11th paragraph, John F.X. Brown is identified as being from Louisville, Ky. He is from Detroit, Mich.

CORRECTION: In BP mailed Jan. 9, 1981, "For TV Network: Tremendous Potential Has Whopping Price," paragraph 5, Allen asked the Lord for \$20 million instead of \$28 million.

Thanks,

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