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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Quakers, Baptists
Hold First Meeting**

By Marv Knox

BEREA, Ky. (BP) — Quakers and Southern Baptists, meeting in their first formal conference, examined common concerns for obedience, prayer and peace and laid a foundation for continued discussions.

Sponsored by the Quaker Theological Discussion Group and the interfaith witness department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the meeting was part of a series of ongoing discussions between Southern Baptists and persons of other faiths and denominations to help Southern Baptists understand other groups and to interpret Baptist beliefs, concerns and practices to them.

Glenn Igleheart, interfaith witness director, called the conference "a good first meeting" between the Quakers and Baptists: "We dealt with concerns in Baptist life—such as prayer, peacemaking and volunteerism—which are steadily gaining interest among us. We benefitted by listening to the Quakers, who have been interested in these concerns for many years."

During the discussion, church historian E. Glenn Hinson said both groups "emerged from the same womb," as forbears shared common commitments to holy obedience—"following Christ all the way and not halfway"—and voluntarism—the philosophy of making human will dominant over reason.

Both groups have slipped from strict adherence to those principles, said Hinson, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He said Quakers and Baptists would do well to reemphasize both traits.

Participants later reflected on how to develop that relationship with Christ by discussing views on prayer—"communion with the father so that we are transformed into the image of his son."

Richard Foster, assistant professor at Friends University, said prayer has the power to "move us into the holy of holies in a spiritual sense," adding that in a practical sense it "brings our wanters more in line with our needers."

"If we'll come to walk with God, he can lead us into things that will make a difference in the world," Foster asserted.

One of those things that will make a difference is peacemaking, said Glen H. Stassen, associate professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary.

Stassen noted the Apostle Paul began all his letters with prayers for grace and peace, adding that Paul "makes it clear that a gospel of grace which does not convert us into peacemakers is not the gospel of Jesus Christ."

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And seeking solutions for actively pursuing peace is the element "at the very core of the center of the entire Christian gospel," added Colin Bell, former general secretary of the American Friends Service Committee.

"For Quakers, peacemaking is not merely one of a series of decent options," he said. "Peacemaking must underlie all our actions."

That means Christians must participate in a "long obedience in the same direction," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. "It is not difficult to get anyone interested in Christ for a moment, but it is extremely difficult to get Christians interested in a long obedience to his commands."

Weatherford claimed that if Christians are "really going to help people" and achieve worldwide peace, they must be committed to missions and to eliminating root causes of strife, such as hunger, ignorance, neglect and spiritual deprivation.

"It is not enough just to give one meeting" to think about peace, she said. "We've got to be willing to give a lifetime...."

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Missions Leader
J. T. Burdine Dies

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ATLANTA (BP) — J. T. Burdine Jr., 59, a home missions worker and leader for 20 years, died July 7, of a heart attack.

At the time of his death, Burdine was national rural field consultant for bivocational ministries at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Burdine was associate director of the HMB rural-urban missions department from 1976 to 1978, director of missions in the Northern Plains Baptist Convention from 1968 to 1976 and pastor in Alaska from 1961 to 1968. He accepted his first pastorate in Florida in 1942 and later served churches in Indiana, Alabama and Kentucky.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, he was a graduate of Stetson University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The family has requested that memorials be made to a Home Mission Board scholarship fund for bivocational pastors. Checks can be made payable to the board and designated "in memory of J. T. Burdine Jr."

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Minister Stops
Rape Attempt

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CRESCENTA VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — A California Baptist minister, unable to sleep, was out "walking and praying" early one morning when he thwarted a rape attempt and apprehended the suspect.

Gary Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Crescenta Valley, and a reserve officer with the Glendale Police Department, saw a man dragging a screaming woman into some bushes in a vacant lot at 4:30 a.m.

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"I thought at first these kids were just messing around," he said. "You usually don't see crimes going down in front of you."

When the attacker saw Smith running toward him, he fled. Smith gave chase, leaped on the man and wrestled him to the ground. The man, unarmed, refused to cooperate so Smith dragged him to a telephone booth and stood on him while calling the police.

"Whether you are a police officer, a minister or a private person, you have to respond in these situations," Smith said.

"Most police officers would want it to happen this way," Smith said of his rescue. "They'd give their eyetooth to prevent a rape, and not just write a report on it."

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Royce Rose Named to Lead
Correspondence Program

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Royce Rose, 32, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, has been elected director of Seminary Extension Independent Study Education, a part of the Seminary External Education Division of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, effective Aug. 1.

Currently director of missions for the Rehoboth Baptist Association, Rose will be responsible for working with the approximately 2,000 persons enrolled in pre-college or college-level studies through the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute.

Enrollment in the Seminary Extension correspondence program is 35 percent ahead of the same period last year. Inquiries about the program have more than doubled.

"We feel that Mr. Rose is coming to our division at an exciting time," said Raymond M. Rigdon, executive director. "Persons in ministry across the Southern Baptist Convention are discovering that independent studies can be undertaken regardless of one's location or time schedule. Those launching out on Bold Mission endeavors can strengthen their theological foundation as they are going."

Rose graduated from Howard Payne University and is completing his dissertation for a doctor of education degree from Southwestern Seminary. He succeeds James E. Reed, who will join the faculty of Mississippi (Baptist) College Aug. 20.

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Kerr Receives Honor For
Senior Adult Resource Book

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7/9/81

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--A Southern Baptist expert on aging recently was honored by the National Association of Mature People for his contributions to senior adults.

Horace Kerr, supervisor of the senior adult section of the Sunday School Board's family ministry department, was awarded the second annual Evergreen award in the category of writing for his book, "How to Minister to Senior Adults in Your Church." Kerr's book, published by Broadman Press, is designed to help organize senior adult ministries in Southern Baptist churches.

The awards were established in 1980 by the National Association of Mature People, a nonprofit, educational organization, dedicated to serving middle-age and older Americans.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Southern Church Music
Dean's Wife, 61, Dies

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Phyllis Marjorie Heeren, wife of Forrest Heeren, dean of the school of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died July 8 in a Louisville hospital after a long illness.

Mrs. Heeren, 61, died only three weeks before Heeren's official retirement after a 29-year tenure as dean. The Heerens had been married 39 years.

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Pressure Brings Growth
In Ethiopia, Says Bedsole

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7/9/81

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--The Christian church in Ethiopia is struggling but growing stronger, Southern Baptist missionary Jerry Bedsole told an audience of 2,000 at the annual foreign missions conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"I can say without reservation," said Bedsole, "that the church of the living Christ in Ethiopia is stronger on this day than it's ever been before in its history."

But this has happened, he said, during a period when the church has been under "intense pressure" and thousands of churches have been unable to remain open.

In a time of difficulty he has seen a growing unity among believers of all denominations in Ethiopia, he said. "God has burnt away the differences," he said. "He has literally burned the stubble and hay away, and the purity of faith and love that exists between believers has really surfaced over there. It is a privilege to be there to see it."

He explained that he is working with a wide range of Christian groups, including Pentecostals, Lutherans, Catholics and members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the country's historic church which still claims 15 million members.

Prayer has become such a power among Ethiopian Christians, he said, that he almost needs basketball kneepads for marathon prayer sessions that last up to three hours on concrete and tile floors.

But perhaps the greatest evidence of what God is doing, Bedsole said, is a real hunger for learning more about Jesus that exists among Ethiopian Christians. "They're willing to pay any price simply to know more of Jesus Christ," he said. So many people want discipleship training that he has had to establish waiting lists.

With the country's move to a Soviet-oriented socialist government, other changes have come, said Bedsole. "There are lots of controls upon everything, on travel, food—even to buy nails or anything else, you have to have permission."

Bedsole, a veterinarian, and his wife, Rosie, and two other Southern Baptist couples have been allowed to remain in the country's capital because they practice community development ministries. They have not yet gained permission to return to work with the people of the remote mountainous region where they and other missionaries once developed an extensive community development ministry.

"I am convinced that it is the perfect will of God that we are where we are today in the city," said Bedsole. "Addis Ababa is not just another city, but is the hub about which everything focuses and functions in the nation."

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Bedsole is from Alabama; his wife is from Missouri. The other couples serving in Ethiopia are Lynn and Suzanne Groce, from Missouri and Florida, and Raymond and Lauralee Lindholm, from California.

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500-Mile Walk Yields
Bibles For His People

By Suzanne Groce

Baptist Press
7/9/81

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP)--He was on his way to Addis Ababa—500 miles on foot.

Abba Yosef wore the long flowing black robes of an Ethiopian Orthodox monk. The road often dwindled to a dry, dusty path as he walked to get badly needed supplies for his church in an isolated community of northern Ethiopia.

It took one month to reach Addis Ababa, where he was taken in by a young man living in one of the Orthodox Church compounds which customarily helps rural churches get supplies.

The young man told Abba Yosef about free Bibles distributed by the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia. In fact, the young man was one of the distributors.

Abba Yosef felt he should change the purpose of his mission—he would take Bibles back to distribute himself. He thought big for a man on foot; he decided to take back 140 Bibles.

After taking a bus as far as he could, Abba Yosef and his donkey made three trips into his area distributing Bibles, one or two to a church.

Last year, the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia distributed 6,054 Bibles, 1,670 New Testaments, 28,780 scripture portions and 253,700 tracts. Some went to churches which have only one or two Bibles for a whole congregation. And some were hand carried to those churches by men like Abba Yosef.

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(Suzanne Groce is Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Ethiopia.)