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**Tax Plan Saves \$100,000
A Year for Foreign Missions**

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--President Reagan's \$749 billion five-year tax cut includes provisions which will save the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board about \$100,000 a year on the taxable income of its missionaries.

Last year Congress passed a bill exempting from taxes \$20,000 income of each charitable worker in the world's underdeveloped nations. That saved the board nearly \$1 million a year retroactive to 1979, but did not include developed nations.

The Reagan plan excludes \$75,000 per year in income for all Americans abroad, not just charitable workers, and includes all nations, not just underdeveloped ones. The salary exclusion will increase by \$5,000 a year to a maximum of \$95,000 over the next four years.

"The combination of the increase in the income exclusion and the addition of the developed nations will put about \$100,000 a year back into our budget," said Carl Johnson, Foreign Mission Board treasurer.

Under the plan effective January 1982, the board no longer will have to pay taxes on the salaries of missionaries working in 11 developed nations, nor on that portion of taxable income above \$20,000. Some missionary families, because of cost of living factors in high inflation areas, exceed \$20,000 in income to equalize their buying power with missionaries in other parts of the world.

Although no longer liable for U.S. taxes on missionaries living abroad, the board pays about \$200,000 a year in income tax for furloughing missionaries living in the United States and about \$1 million a year in income taxes to foreign governments.

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MSC Volunteer Views
Handicap as God's Gift

By Gail Rothwell

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8/14/81

TUCSON, Ariz. (BP)--Neil Gibb's cerebral palsy is no handicap. In fact, he views it as a gift from God.

Gibb, who has had cerebral palsy since birth, was recently appointed as a Mission Service Corps volunteer student worker to the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Handicapped as a result of human error when the doctor who delivered him misused forceps, Gibb, 33, explains, "I see what happened to me as a gift from God. I have no resentment or bitterness toward the doctor."

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Gibb's MSC appointment, shared jointly by National Student Ministries of the Sunday School Board and the special mission ministries department of the Home Mission Board, marks the beginning of two historical events.

Gibb is the first person with a physical handicap to be appointed to serve as an MSC volunteer. His position, assistant campus director with responsibilities to develop and maintain a ministry to the handicapped within the Baptist Student Union and local churches, is the first of its type in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Gibb will work to provide biblical and rehabilitation counseling to handicapped students and persons in the community. He will work with local pastors to develop programs for the handicapped and develop literature for local churches.

Gibb sees himself primarily as "an equipper to help others know how to minister to handicapped individuals."

Often people refuse to recognize the contribution Gibb has to make. "When people see me the first thing they see is my weakness," he says. Cerebral palsy results in muscular incoordination and speech disturbances.

"People automatically feel they need to minister to me," he says. "They don't realize that I have something to give them."

What Gibb can offer, according to associates, is a new understanding of God's gifts, love, patience, a sense of humor and a concern for others.

Gibb is concerned that Southern Baptists are not reaching handicapped persons. "Approximately 12 percent of the population is handicapped," he claims. "But, in comparison, 12 percent of our church congregations do not reflect this."

One reason churches do not reach toward the handicapped is because members feel uncomfortable around someone with a physical disability. Gibb says, "They are not seeing them through the eyes of God. The world trains people to look on the outside, and then to judge by what they see."

Gibb holds a degree in clinical psychology from the University of Arizona and a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His MSC position is a model for future duplicate or related positions.

Mission Service Corps is a program to enlist Southern Baptists in volunteer mission work for one to years. Volunteers support themselves or raise their own support.

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

New Sunday Schools Goal
Reached Two Months Early

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A five-year goal to start 5,000 new Southern Baptist Sunday Schools was reached two months early when the July 1981 reports were received in the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department.

As of July 31, 5,027 new Sunday Schools had been reported since the new starts emphasis was launched Oct. 1, 1976.

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The first year, 566 new Sunday Schools were begun nationwide. The totals for the next three years were 1,174, 1,273 and 1,034, respectively.

For this year a total of 960 new Sunday Schools had been reported as of Aug. 13.

Texas (226), Florida (81), Alabama (53) and California (50) have reported the most new starts this year.

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Missionaries Witness
In Turbulent World

By Bill Webb

Baptist Press
8/14/81

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Missionaries serving in countries troubled by unrest, violence and revolution drew warm applause as they told of openness and dramatic response to the gospel in a session of Foreign Missions Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Some 1,600 Southern Baptists listened quietly as missionaries to El Salvador, Nicaragua, South Africa, Chile and Tanzania offered example after example of God's presence in a turbulent world.

Hoyt Eudaly, missionary to El Salvador, reported that perhaps 150,000 had made professions of faith in that strife-torn nation in the past two years, doubling the "gospel population."

"Your Baptist building was three blocks away from any of the major violent points of the whole nation," he added. "We could go any way for three blocks and get a nice battle anytime...You say, 'Wait a minute, God. How are you going to bring glory to yourself out of this mess?' And he does."

Stanley Stamps, religious literature coordinator in Nicaragua, said, "I feel like Saturday, Aug. 1, (the day the Stamps left for furlough) my wife and I came in out of a big thunderstorm of three years' duration."

He shared briefly how crusade groups from the States came to minister even during the tense prerevolutionary period and how his family managed to leave the country just before the brief revolution in 1979.

"We wanted to go back to Nicaragua as soon as we could," he said. Return they did, a month after the revolution, to find the bookstore and book deposit untouched.

The desire for religious books was so great following the revolution, Stamps reported, that bookstore sales increased 99 percent in 1980 over 1979.

Lewis Myers, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director of program development and a former missionary to Vietnam, told the audience, "Sometimes folks say, 'Why don't you wait until these political kinds of tensions settle down? After the war is over this will be a great mission field.'

"But suppose there was no Stanley or Glenna Stamps to be in the midst of turbulence when people were reaching out—to hand them this book, to give them that word. Suppose that in turbulence there is a vacuum in witness.

"Is not the turbulence outside matched by a more severe turbulence inside? We commit ourselves to ministry in our world. And a great part of that world is in turbulence."

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June Pike, missionary to Cape Town, South Africa, shared how multiracial teams of students faithfully witnessed in 400 homes last year despite threats and confrontations. "God has been good and turbulence is really his arena because he is the God of history," she said.

Lynn Burrow, missionary to Tanzania, shared how God had "provided a path" for her husband Olan's escape when a group of men armed with clubs stopped his vehicle and heavily damaged it.

"I hope you don't feel sorry for missionaries," she said. "If you feel sorry for me, you've wasted your time because I wouldn't trade places with anybody in this whole wide world."

Mark Driggers, missionary to Chile, told of unrestricted freedom to preach and witness in that country. "We understand and believe what our missionary colleagues have told us of what happened in Chile," he said, "but for us to actually believe it, living there, is almost impossible." Before the successful 1973 military coup, missionaries in Chile faced repression and many limitations and restrictions on witnessing and evangelism.

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Southern Seminary
Awarded Kresge Grant

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8/14/81

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has been awarded a \$150,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich.

The grant is toward a new 14,000-square-foot central services building to house the school's facilities planning and management department. Facilities will include an indoor shop and storage for grounds maintenance equipment, central office for housekeeping and maintenance personnel, and a central storage area. Total construction cost is \$475,000.

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Ministers' Wives Must Deal
With Marital Difficulties

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
8/14/81

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Wives of church staff members need sincere communication of affection from minister/husbands whose time demands frequently leave the wife feeling isolated, lonely and abandoned.

Louis McBurney, psychiatrist from Marble, Colo., and his wife, Melissa, led a conference for ministers' wives during the Bible Preaching Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

The McBurneys said problems common to ministers' wives are loss of privacy, lack of close friends and a feeling of abandonment when on many occasions, the wife is left out of her husband's life.

The feeling of abandonment, which the McBurneys say is the most common problem, is exaggerated because it is difficult for the wife to complain about the time spent by her husband when the third party is the church.

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Most ministers' wives tolerate a lot of problems because they share the husband's calling and commitment, the McBurneys say. The wife feels comfortable with the minister's heavy time commitment even though she may have interpersonal conflicts about their relationship.

Loneliness may compound problems because the wife often does not have a close circle of friends to whom she can turn in times of crisis.

Many wives have told the McBurneys they feel they shouldn't have close friends because it could be construed as playing favorites among the congregation. However, they emphasize, if the wife feels she is left out of her husband's life, there must be somewhere to turn for support.

Very often, McBurney says, anger resulting from continuing problems results in blame toward the church.

To begin resolving the conflict, both partners must sit down and uncover the problems in their lives. They must communicate, so both can understand the problem and work toward forgiving the other, say the McBurneys.

Schedule changes alone probably are not enough to get them together and achieve marital maturity which can be a model for church members and give them the happiness they want. More time together is not necessarily better time together.

The minister and his wife should look at their relationship measured by the ideal of oneness in the Bible, the McBurneys suggest. The husband can recognize the wife's importance by not taking her for granted and by telling her how much she means to him.

The wife can encourage and prompt her husband's new relationship-building efforts by being more responsive.

The McBurneys conclude: If the minister and his wife can succeed in solving their problems, two immediate results will be obvious. One is a happier home situation, which in turn makes the minister a better servant to the church. The second is the positive model provided for church members who are experiencing the same problems in their marriages.