



**-- FEATURES**  
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Water Attracts  
Volunteer Couple

By Michael Tutterow

ISLAMORADA, Fla. (BP)—Missionaries Sam and Betty Anne Schlegel have taken up with a bunch of fishermen.

As "water folk missionaries," the Schlegels work with people "whose primary interest or livelihood centers around the water."

Now Mission Service Corps volunteers through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, their two-year stint is actually a continuation of a ministry they began three years ago while on the staff of First Baptist Church of Islamorada.

Located amid the tiny islands strewn off the southern tip of Florida, Islamorada is a unique blend of seafaring folk: lifetime residents to weekenders and transients; "live-aboards" and commercial fishermen to seasonal sailors.

"It's really one of the invisible subcultures of our society," says Schlegel. "But the needs of people around boats are the same as anyone else."

Yet a common thread binds their diversity. Each, for the most part, intentionally has withdrawn from land-based institutions--including the church.

"There are people who grew up in the church and felt they'd been burned," explains Schlegel. "A common misconception is the church is a place that wants to take your time, take your money and take whatever it is about you they call a soul."

"In many cases, we're trying to renew relationships. We're trying to help them discover that only by getting into a right relationship with God can they fully be who they were created to be."

The Schlegels work to clarify misconceptions about the church and introduce the skeptical community to a "personal relationship with God in Christ" by offering "cold cups of water": services rendered to quench physical and spiritual needs.

Together they have plunged into marine life--helping boaters with repair work, running errands, listening--while earning the right to explain in whose name they offer such assistance.

Their approach is admittedly low key. "But we're persistent," asserts Schlegel. "In fact, we've had our strongest favorable response from our non-church boating friends. They really think there's a need."

"They've responded to our friendship," adds Betty Anne. "And the fact we haven't bowled them over with scripture."

The Schlegels also consult with churches and associations to suggest waterfront mission opportunities. They emphasize involvement with water folk and encourage churches to offer practical ministries: in-town transportation for transients, use of church facilities for day care, information regarding public services.

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"We want to make churches in coastal areas aware there's something they can do for the people here," explains Schlegel. "We can help with little things where they have concrete physical needs. Then maybe they'll let us pick them up and bring them to church."

In addition to sharpening their boating skills, the Schlegels also found the local Coast Guard auxiliary opened portals for personal evangelism. "We're the only pastor some members of our auxiliary have," says Schlegel.

A shared interest in boating, coupled with a concern for water folk, prompted the Schlegels to pursue this non-traditional avenue of missions while students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Following graduation, they both joined the staff of First Baptist Church of Islamorada, where exposure to the sea community prodded them toward volunteer ministry in the Florida Keys.

"As we look at our gifts and our preparation, we feel these are the people we will be ministering to for years to come," says Schlegel. "We want to make sure this area of our society is cared for."

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California Executive  
Has Heart Surgery

Baptist Press  
9/17/81

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)—Robert Hughes, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery Sept. 16.

He is reported in stable condition.

Hughes, 62, is expected to remain in the hospital until Sept. 24.

In his absence, his duties are being carried on by Ralph Longshore, director of missions and assistant director-treasurer.

The four-hour surgical procedure was designed to correct extensive blockage which existed in Hughes' left heart artery. He suffered an angina attack Aug. 4, and was hospitalized for nine days. Until that attack, Hughes had no history of heart problems.

Hughes has been executive director of the California convention 15 years. Previously, he was pastor of Southern Baptist churches in California.

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WMU Makes Plans  
For '82 Meeting

Baptist Press  
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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—"Witnessing Women" will be the theme of the Woman's Missionary Union national annual meeting, June 13-14, 1982, at the New Orleans Hilton Hotel.

Sessions will feature laywomen who actively engage in personal witnessing. Career missionaries will report on Baptist evangelism worldwide.

All WMU sessions and special events will be held at the New Orleans Hilton Hotel, which has been designated as WMU headquarters. The grand ballroom in the hotel seats 4,000; adjacent banquet and meeting rooms accommodate 3,000.

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This is the first time in its 93-year history that a WMU annual meeting has been held in a hotel.

"The hotel setting gives us an opportunity for some new kinds of events," says Dorothy Sample, WMU president.

"It lends itself to more banquet events and more small-group involvement in business," she said.

Annual meeting attenders will meet in groups to discuss recommendations on contemporary missions issues. Findings will be brought to the entire body for business action.

During the two-day event, WMU, SBC will honor four special groups.

At 1 p.m. Sunday, WMU will host a luncheon honoring ministers, their wives, and WMU directors of local churches. At 7 p.m., all women engaged in ministering jobs and denominational work are invited to a "Women in Ministry Dinner."

The following day WMU will celebrate 75 years of theological education for women. Alumnae of the WMU Training School and the Carver School of Missions (now part of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) will be honored with a luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

Monday evening, members of Baptist Young Women organizations will gather for a banquet.

All Acteens will also have a mealtime activity preceding a WMU session honoring them.

High-ranking Acteens will participate in a special event at the Superdome, Tuesday evening, June 15, during the Southern Baptist Convention.

Persons wishing to reserve hotel rooms should write: Housing Information, Southern Baptist Convention, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville TN 37219. WMU members may request the New Orleans Hilton as first choice. The International Hotel is the next nearest.

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(BP) photo sent to state Baptist newspapers by Woman's Missionary Union.

CLC Trustees Elect  
Staffers, Set Budget

By Tim Fields

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Two professional staff members were elected and a \$650,000 budget was adopted by trustees of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission at their annual meeting.

Trustees also approved a plan for the distribution and use of a complete line of new and revised literature and products.

During the meeting, commission members also approved plans for intensified efforts in world hunger promotion and education, in response to 1981 Southern Baptist Convention action in Los Angeles affirming the Christian Life Commission as "having primary responsibility for informing Southern Baptists about the moral issue of hunger."

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Members elected W. David Lockard, 55, as director of organization and ratified the election of Larry Braidfoot, 39, as general counsel and director of research. Braidfoot joined the staff Sept. 1.

Lockard has been director of missionary orientation for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Orientation Center at Callaway Gardens, Ga., since 1967. For 14 years he was a missionary to Rhodesia where he did general evangelistic work in the Bulawayo area and then led in establishing the African Baptist Theological Seminary near Gwelo and served as its president.

Lockard received his B.A. degree from Baylor University and a B.D. degree and a Th.D. degree in ethics from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Foy Valentine, executive director of the commission, said, "Lockard's excellent training in Christian ethics, wide experience in Christian missions and strong commitment to the causes for which the Christian Life Commission stands has prepared him to make significant contributions in our special calling of helping changed people to change the world."

Braidfoot received his B.S. degree from Texas A & M University, an LL.B. degree from the University of Texas School of Law, and a Ph.D. degree in ethics from Baylor University.

Before coming to the commission Braidfoot served in faculty and administrative positions at Dallas Baptist College for nine years.

"As a lawyer and extremely well-trained Christian ethicist, Braidfoot comes to the Christian Life Commission with a rare combination of special strengths," Valentine said.

During its annual business session the commission presented Distinguished Service Awards to Hugh A. Brimm, the first director of the Social Service Commission (now the Christian Life Commission) and presented a posthumous award to Jesse Burton Weatherspoon, a seminary professor and early champion of commission causes. Roy L. Honeycutt Jr., provost of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where Weatherspoon spent much of his teaching career, accepted the award.

Members approved a plan to market and distribute more than a million and a quarter pamphlets, audio cassettes and videotapes on pressing moral concerns during 1981-82.

Among the new and revised products are materials specifically designed to support the 1982-85 convention emphasis on strengthening families, a newly revised Issues and Answers series, and a series of pamphlets on critical issues such as homosexuality, suicide, criminal justice and abstinence from alcohol.

Members approved an 11 percent cost of living increase for the staff and authorized funding for programs dealing with Baptists and the crisis in public education, new initiatives on race relations on race relations and continued efforts in promoting responsible television programming.

The Christian Life Commission's 1982 national seminar--On Strengthening Families--was set for March 22-24, at the Dunfey Hotel in Atlanta.

RTVC Trustees Study  
Baptist Network Strategy

By Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Trustees of the Radio and Television Commission spent much of their fall meeting studying strategy for the American Christian Television System (ACTS), the proposed national Baptist television network.

In its semi-annual meeting, the board also heard of the record success of two RTVC radio programs and approved the 1981-82 budget.

Earlier in the year, the group approved the initial strategy for ACTS, which included applying for 105 low-power television stations and purchasing of satellite time to carry ACTS programming. With those actions completed, the board turned attention to other ACTS details.

Jimmy R. Allen, commission president, outlined two possible schedules for programs on the network. One plan called for eight hours of daily programming, scheduled into four-hour morning and evening blocks of time. The other plan suggested six hours of daily programming scheduled into one evening block.

The trustees also heard reports from five RTVC vice presidents about how ACTS will impact the commission's progressive work in the future. Plans were outlined in general terms for raising money to support the network, producing ACTS programs and providing counseling for people who respond.

Dick Smith, executive vice president of Satellite Syndicated Systems, Tulsa, Okla., gave the group an update on satellite technology and discussed ways the RTVC can use the transponder it recently leased from Southern Pacific Spacenet Satellite. Smith's company has leased three Spacenet transponders for its own use.

A trustee committee has been formed to review and update board policies. It will define the scope of the trustees' involvement in RTVC activities, and also may include policy governing the structure of the ACTS network and ACTS' relationship to churches. A report is expected at the board's next meeting March 8-10.

Trustees also increased their personal liability insurance from \$1 million to \$5 million to cover the increased public exposure that will result when the national television network goes on the air.

The board approved a revised budget for 1981-82 fiscal year totaling \$4,804,700, including an average nine percent pay increase for commission employees. A proposed budget of \$5,420,211 for 1982-83 was presented which includes a request for a 15 percent increase in Cooperative Program income, up to \$4,229,010.

It was announced during the meeting that "Powerline," the RTVC's top-40 radio program, has been scheduled on its 1500th station. "Powerline" already is the nation's most widely syndicated radio show of any kind.

A new commission program of contemporary Christian music, "On Track," was announced to be scheduled for 111 stations even before the program premieres Oct. 1. It is reported to be the fastest start of any new RTVC program.