



-- **FEATURES**
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Refugees Reach Out
To Migrant Workers

SUNNYSIDE, Wash. (BP)--It happened "first" in Sunnyside--Indochinese refugees became missionaries to migrant workers in the Yakima Valley.

Twenty mostly-teenagers from First Baptist Church in Lacey helped in Vacation Bible School at Templo Bautista and conducted simultaneous Bible Schools in two migrant camps each morning.

The Lacey contingent was led by Fern Powers, well-known refugee sponsor leader, and Tom Wilson, US-2 missionary in Lacey. Participants slept in the church building or on the lawn, cooked their food in the church kitchen, and shared pot-luck with the Spanish-speaking church.

"The kids raised the money by cleaning yards, digging a ditch and other odd jobs," Powers said. Together the group earned and gave \$422 toward the mission endeavor.

Templo pastor and area missionary to the Spanish-speaking people, Frank Ruiz, was enthusiastic about the Lacey group. He said some of the best benefits were the friendships which developed between the Mexican and Indochinese youth.

The refugee group was composed of Cambodians, Vietnamese, ethnic Chinese, Laotians and Hispanics (who spoke no Spanish). Powers said, among other things, the Indochinese learned that everyone in America does not live in a good house.

"They couldn't believe anyone in the United States lived like the migrants they worked with," she said. Four of the migrant children "fell in love" with the refugee teenagers and were allowed to go home with them for a week, she added.

"This kind of cross-cultural mission outreach is one of our goals in language missions," said Harold Hitt, Northwest Baptist Convention language missions director. "This is an example which proves it can be done. I learned a long time ago that you don't tell Fern Powers, 'It can't be done,' because she and the Lord will always prove you wrong."

Afternoons were free time for the group and relief from the heat was found in swimming and "inner-tubing" down the Yakima River.

"An interesting footnote to the Lacey refugee work," Hitt added, "is the fact that 10 First Baptist Church, Lacey, refugees graduated from high school this year and eight of them were in the top 20 in the class scholastically."

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Israeli Artists Concerned
Over Gallery's New Program

By Elizabeth Smith

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BAPTIST VILLAGE, Israel (BP)--More than 20 Israeli artists, protesting Baptists' decision to close Dugith Art Gallery in Tel Aviv, expressed concern about public reaction to the new program planned for Dugith.

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"We are afraid of trouble for Dugith," one artist told the executive committee of the Israel Baptist Mission in Baptist Village. He predicted that people in Tel Aviv would not come to the center for the envisioned program of lectures, dramatic and musical productions and "religious" art exhibitions.

Baptist representatives explained that, contrary to press reports, rising operating costs were not the main reason the gallery was closed. They explained that the art exhibited did not express "faith in the living God nor did it serve as a channel for the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Chandler Lanier, Southern Baptist representative from Georgia and director of Dugith ministries, asked the artists not to abandon Dugith but to give Baptists a chance to try the new program, which could include a careful selection of their works for exhibit from time to time.

Before Dugith opened as a bookstore which gradually became an art gallery, the property in the heart of Tel Aviv's shopping and entertainment section was damaged in protest demonstrations against the first Christian institution within the city limits. Later as the gallery gained a reputation for helping new artists, these protests ceased.

The artists, many of whom held their first exhibitions at the Baptist gallery during its 22 years of operation, told of gaining "quality points" by being selected to exhibit at the gallery they described as "not afraid of new approaches to artistic expression." Several expressed regret for not having publicized the gallery more.

"We are guilty of not giving Dugith credit for helping us," an older artist admitted.

-30-

SBC Ethnic Growth Lags
Behind U.S. Population

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ATLANTA (BP)--Increased membership of black, Hispanic, Indian and other minority members in Southern Baptist churches is not keeping pace with the growth of these ethnic groups among the U. S. population, according to a recent Home Mission Board report.

Orrin Morris, board research division director and author of the report, found Hispanic Southern Baptists represent one of every 122 persons of Spanish origin in the U.S., while black Southern Baptists account for only one of every 331 American blacks.

Morris labeled the estimated total of 80,000 black Southern Baptists "inconsequential" compared to the jump in black population of nearly four million in the past decade, to a total of 26.5 million.

While white population showed a six percent increase, the number of blacks rose 17.3 percent, and Hispanics rose from nine million to 14.6 million, an increase of 61 percent. A change in recording accounted for much of the statistical increase of Hispanics. Hispanics in the "other" category were not counted as whites as they had been in 1970.

The report shows there are now more Hispanics in New Jersey than in New Mexico, with the largest increase in the Pacific states. While black population declined in West Virginia, Montana and Washington, D.C., it rose significantly in six southern states: Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

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The number of persons identified as Indian rose 71.4 percent from 1970 to 1980--a jump Morris attributed to Indians' increasing awareness of their ethnic heritage. California has now supplanted Oklahoma as the leading Indian state.

The importance of such statistics lies in their effect on overall church expansion of Southern Baptists, he noted, which in the past has been dependent upon trends in white population.

If the declines in white population in the North are indeed an indication of substantial outmigration of whites, "the prospect for church expansion in these areas will be much slower than was possible in earlier decades," Morris predicted.

For Oscar Romo, Home Mission Board language missions division director, the statistics say "If Southern Baptists expect to grow, they will have to grow more ethnic churches." He stressed the need to equip ethnic leaders and provide language materials as crucial if Southern Baptists intend to reach America's burgeoning ethnic population.

"These numbers show us that not only is our greatest opportunity among these groups, but that this generation is now receptive," Romo said. "We must reach them in this generation in case the next one isn't."

-30-

Tuition Tax Credits
Assailed As Divisive

By Larry Chesser

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Tuition tax credit proposals pending before Congress are divisive, unconstitutional and pose serious threats to public education, three Southern Baptists told a House education panel in Washington.

Baptist layman Charles McDaniel, Georgia's state superintendent of schools, underscored the threat to public education he sees in tuition tax credits during an oversight hearing by the House Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Education.

McDaniel said he had been in every Georgia school district in the past three years and said there is an exodus of the affluent and middle class taxpayers from public schools in favor of "segregated private education."

"More and more our school districts have become schools for the poor, the black and the disadvantaged," McDaniel said. He predicted the offer of a \$500 federal tax credit would promote additional white flight.

McDaniel, a member of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, questioned the constitutionality of the controversial proposals and warned that passage of tuition tax credits would lead to court battles and would divide Georgia communities and families.

John W. Baker, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, told the committee that his agency, which represents eight U.S. Baptist denominations, has consistently opposed tuition tax credits on both constitutional and public policy grounds.

Baker cited a Southern Baptist Convention resolution specifically opposing tuition tax credits overwhelmingly adopted at the denomination's 1981 meeting in Los Angeles.

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R.G. Puckett, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and former editor of the Maryland Baptist newspaper, agreed that the proposed tax credits would violate the First Amendment and predicted that their enactment would lead to more government entanglement with religion in church-related private schools.

"If government money goes to a religious institution," Puckett warned, "government intervention will follow."

Other witnesses cited social justice and economic reasons for opposing tuition tax credits.

Grace Balsinger of the National Coalition for Public Education declared the proposals would benefit wealthy families more than families with lower incomes.

Tuition tax credits, she charged, amount to "reverse Robin Hoodism, taking from the needy and giving to the rich."

The education subcommittee held the hearings to focus on the impact of tuition tax credit proposals on public education. The House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over the proposals, currently has no action scheduled but that could change if the Reagan administration decided to push a specific tuition tax credit plan.

John Chapoton, the Treasury Department's witness at the hearings, reiterated the president's support for the concept of tuition tax credits and indicated that the administration is "most eager" to work with Congress "at the appropriate time."

Chapoton hinted that in light of the revenue loss which would result from tuition tax credits--estimated at \$2.7 billion in fiscal 1983 and climbing to nearly \$7 billion in 1986--further cuts in public education expenditures might be recommended along with any administration tax credit proposal.

-30-

Christian Education Praised,
But Faces Legal Problems

By Rex Hammock

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Christian education, praised during a two-day workshop for Baptist state convention and education executives, is being threatened by legal developments, said an attorney during the same workshop.

James H. Landes, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, praised Baptist colleges, calling them "an important steward of our Christian culture" and lauding the "deep spiritual bond" found there.

"A college should be a family," said Landes, former president of Hardin-Simmons University. "Students are more than receptacles of facts and faculty members are more than peddlers of facts."

Describing the goal of a Christian college as becoming "a community of Jesus," Landes said that "if (a student) learns to live in the smaller community of Jesus, he or she will more likely join the larger community of Jesus" by becoming an adult leader in a church and denomination.

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Nashville attorney James Guenther told workshop participants, which included state Baptist convention executive secretaries and chairpersons of state education commissions or committees, that Christian colleges have been on the "front lines of (church-state) legal battles in the past few years."

Guenther explained that events during the past decade have caused an increase in the number of court cases involving Baptist and other church-related colleges.

With the passage of certain federal laws and the adoption of guidelines--specifically the National Labor Relations Act and civil rights legislation--there has been a proliferation of suits by faculty and staff members "when colleges do not hire, fire or grant tenure as they want," said Guenther.

"However, courts are still reluctant to get involved between administrator and faculty member, as they would be between church and pastor," the attorney said.

As the age of majority has been lowered to 18 in most states, the "old role of the college as absentee parent" also has changed, said Guenther. Student consumerism has increased and today "the college catalog serves as a contractual relationship between college and student."

Guenther, legal counsel for both the Education Commission and the SBC Executive Committee, said that many legal questions Baptist colleges have faced now confront other Baptist institutions and will probably affect local churches in the future.

Guenther advised those interested in legal issues facing Baptists to watch developments in certain specific areas:

--Legal decisions concerning the question of ascending liability; specifically cases which address the question, "Is a parent organization of a religious body also liable in suits brought against a subsidiary agency?"

--A case against Bob Jones University, an independent religious school in South Carolina, which will answer the question of the federal government's right to take away the tax exempt status of a religious institution if the institution has a policy contrary to government guidelines--in this case, civil rights guidelines.

--Shock waves of suspicions concerning church wealth if Roman Catholic Cardinal Cody of Chicago is indicted and prosecuted for misuse of church funds.

To avoid legal problems, Guenther advised Baptist executives, college administrators and church leaders to "operate in the sunshine--say what you mean and mean what you say."