



## **-- BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 3, 1981

81-171

Former Seminary Dropout  
Sets Pace In Guatemala

By Bob Stanley

**GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (BP)**--A one-time seminary dropout is setting the pace for urban evangelism in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Using his own adaption of the "house church" approach, Eduardo Marroquin not only has organized a thriving church in his own home, but also has three other congregations meeting in the homes of members.

One group has grown so fast it has had to move from the house into the street to accommodate 150 who attend.

Less than 10 years ago, nobody would have forecast such a future for Marroquin. He was doing so poorly at the Guatemalan Baptist Theological Seminary that he finally dropped out.

But two years ago, after a revival experience that changed his life, he re-entered seminary with a new thirst to learn more about innovative ways of starting churches.

He was fascinated by the concept of a church meeting in a home, an idea being used with considerable success in many countries but mostly untried in Guatemala.

Early in 1979, while still in the seminary, he and his family began doing visitation on Sunday afternoons, then holding a Sunday School at 4 o'clock in their home. Four months later they had their first baptism, and in November 1980 El Camino (The Way) Baptist Church was organized with 28 charter members.

Marroquin says the Lord has given him a vision that within 10 years he can start 10 churches among the 200,000 people who live in Zone 6, one of 21 zones in this capital city of 1.2 million.

One missionary said there could be 90 such congregations if the present rate continues.

The slightly built Marroquin, 37, receives only \$50 a month salary from his church. He makes most of his living as a salesman, but he hopes that will change as the work grows. Many of his ideas, though based on reading he's done about work in other countries, are still regarded as unconventional in his own area. El Camino Church, for example, has no sign outside because Marroquin feared it might scare away some who fear association with an evangelical church in a country predominantly Catholic.

The church has only 36 chairs. Neighbors bring their own when they come.

Using only the Bible as his text, he gives members paper and pencils so they can make outlines and take notes.

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Most witnessing is done in a natural way--family member to family member, friend to friend, or through work relationships.

In many instances, whole families accept Christ at one time, and Bible study begins immediately in homes where such a conversion takes place. Women teach the women, men the men, and young people instruct other young people.

Marroquin sees the house churches providing for the needs of the whole person.

Their boys' program, "Ambassadors of the King," includes such extras as instruction in self-defense, first aid and scouting. "Jot" clubs, based on the popular Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission animated cartoon series that teaches moral lessons, are being formed in the neighborhoods. The city also has granted permission to use its property for youth sports activities.

And when someone gets sick, women members go and clean house for them.

"See that lady in the pink dress?" says Southern Baptist missionary Don Doyle, pointing to a church member. "She's the result of this kind of witness."

Not all the work is in the poorer parts of the area. One mission point is in a solidly middle-income sector, with a doctor in the congregation.

Concerned about the future of groups started in the homes, Marroquin refuses to start a house church in a home that is not owned by the member.

Doyle, who directs evangelistic work in Guatemala City, says that without a doubt Marroquin's work is the "fastest growing in the city."

Harry Byrd, coordinator for Southern Baptist missionaries in Guatemala, can't forget the contrast between the innovative young pastor of today with the seminary dropout of less than a decade ago.

"What we need," says Byrd, grinning, "is more 'failures' like Eduardo."

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Adapted from World Mission Journal. (BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

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Agencies To Pool Resources  
For Mission Video Projects

Baptist Press  
11/3/81

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Radio and Television Commission leaders have made a commitment to teamwork as the denomination gears up for a new era in video broadcasting through the American Christian Television System (ACTS).

Meeting for dialogue in Richmond, Va., Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks and RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen--with nine members of their staffs--agreed that communicating the overseas mission story can best be done through joint efforts in videotape production.

Given the cost of producing videotape materials, particularly when overseas travel is a factor, and the necessity of maintaining a large bank of programs to meet the needs of a daily broadcast schedule, pooling personnel and other resources seems essential, they agreed.

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"The shared expertise of our staffs and the trust level that we have will mean we can produce more material and produce it more effectively without increasing our staff or running into costly duplication of either personnel or equipment," said William R. O'Brien, Foreign Mission Board executive vice president and coordinator of the dialogue.

The board also plans to be a partner with the RTVC in media training for missionaries, to be provided through the newly established Center for Christian Communication Studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

There, media missionaries will receive hands-on experience using Radio and Television Commission facilities. The Southwestern program also will help newly appointed and furloughing missionaries in other assignments to be more sensitive to the media and its value in communicating missions, O'Brien said.

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October CP  
Sees Increase

Baptist Press  
11/3/81

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Undesignated giving to national Southern Baptist causes jumped 16.9 percent in October, the first month of the 1981-82 fiscal year.

October's receipts were \$6,837,811, up almost a million dollars over October 1980.

Designated receipts, which fluctuate widely during the year, were down 46.5 percent to \$966,854 for October.

Combined, designated and undesignated receipts were \$7,804,665, up \$146,472 or 1.9 percent over October 1980.

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Convention Hotels  
85 Percent Filled

Baptist Press  
11/3/81

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Southern Baptists' annual race for rooms is in the flag lap.

Eighty-five percent of the rooms available through the convention housing bureau already are filled, according to Tim Hedquist, manager for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

That means as of Oct. 30 there are just 900 rooms left of the original 6,000 available through cooperating hotels which offer convention rates. Hedquist says there are still "numerous" other hotels available within a five-mile radius of the Superdome where convention sessions are to be held June 15-17, 1981.

Of the 13 hotels with rooms still available, Hedquist suggested the New Orleans Hilton, the International Hotel and the Monteleone as best bets because of location and space available. Price for the three ranges from the International's \$48 single to the Hilton's \$60 single.

The Hilton is WMU headquarters hotel. Convention headquarters hotel, the Hyatt Regency, is filled.

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Other hotels with space available Oct. 30 included Bienville House, Dauphine Orleans, de la Poste Motor, Fairmont, Fountain Bay Club, Holiday Inn-Chateau LeMoyne, LeRichelieu Motor, Place D'Armes Hotel, Provincial Motor and Vieux Carre Motor Lodge.

Housing requests must be submitted on the standard form available at all state convention offices and should be sent directly to the SBC Housing Bureau, 334 Royal St., New Orleans, La. 70310. The bureau deals directly with the individual and will handle all questions from those who have submitted forms.

Hedquist said he will help persons with special requests or housing problems. His address: 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219.

Two-thirds of those who had their requests in on the first day registration opened did not receive their first choice of rooms, Hedquist said, primarily because they requested rooms in small hotels. Nine hotels filled completely the first day.

Convention goers will be notified of their hotel assignment by the housing bureau. Confirmation will come from the hotel separately and any deposits required will be paid to the hotel. Hedquist reminds messengers to save their confirmation notice.

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Church Schools Challenge  
Unemployment Compensation

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press  
11/3/81

WASHINGTON (BP)--Church-state questions continued to command the attention of the U.S. Supreme Court in its new term as the justices announced they will hear arguments on whether church-related elementary and secondary schools must pay unemployment compensation to their employees.

In a case complicated by suits and counter-suits involving several Christian schools in California and the state and federal governments, the high court agreed to decide if a lower federal tribunal erred when it held earlier this year that such schools are exempt from federal and state laws governing unemployment compensation.

Three California churches which run Christian schools, including Scott Memorial Baptist Church in San Diego, took both the state and federal governments to court after unemployment compensation laws were applied to the church-related institutions. The Long Beach congregation's pastor is the well-known author and conservative activist Tim LaHaye. The churches were joined in their suit by two associations of Christian schools, based in San Diego and Castro Valley, Calif.

Last April a U.S. District Court in California ruled for the schools, holding that the laws as applied excessively entangled state officials in church affairs.

Federal and state laws in California exempt churches, conventions and associations of churches, and separately formed corporations set up by churches from paying unemployment compensation taxes. Such exemptions do not apply, however, to religious schools not affiliated with a church or a convention or association of churches.

In a related case, the high court heard oral arguments that Old Order Amish employers should not be forced to pay Social Security taxes for their employees. Such action, argued the small sect's attorney, amounts to sin in the view of the Amish. Attorney Francis X. Caiazza argued further that because the Amish take care of their own aged members, they have no need for Social Security benefits.

The federal government argued on the other side that it has a "legitimate state interest" in requiring the uniform application of the Social Security law.

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In other religion-related actions, the high court:

--Let stand the decisions of three New Jersey courts that city council meetings may begin with an invocation or period of silent meditation. Paul Marsa, an atheist, brought suit against the Town Council of Metuchen, N.J., for its practice of having a member of the council open each session with a prayer or call on colleagues to observe a time of silence.

--Rejected the appeal of members of the controversial Universal Life Church challenging a New York law that in 1979 restored them to the property tax rolls of the town of Hardenburgh, N.Y. Hardenburgh made national news several years ago when most of the town's residents purchased mail order ordination certificates from Robert Hensley's Universal Life Church, a move which drastically reduced the community's real property tax based.

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Millions of Argentines See  
'Dimension Humana' Series

Baptist Press  
11/3/81

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--A series of television "spots" produced by Argentine Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries is reaching a majority of Argentina's 28 million people, an Argentine Baptist media specialist reports.

Entitled "Dimension Humana" (Human Dimensions), the series of 12 two-minute broadcasts has been seen by an average of eight to 10 million people daily since Aug. 1, according to Francisco Pons, media director in the Argentine Baptist Convention's department of evangelism and missions.

Broadcast during "prime time," 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., each segment opens with a "gaze toward our human dimension"--focusing on a subject important to everyone, such as love, family, suffering or work--and closes with a message about the hope and meaning Jesus Christ brings to life.

By special arrangement with the federal government, the spots are broadcast at no charge as public service announcements on 46 major channels nationwide and re-broadcast on 80 smaller channels. Except for production costs and the expense of an initial network broadcast allowing local stations to duplicate the series for later showing, the whole project has cost Argentine Baptists nothing.

At the current rate of \$45 per second of network air time, broadcasting the series would have cost \$15 million.

Withdrawn in mid-October after 75 days of transmission, the series will be re-broadcast in January. Pons estimates that by the time the final spot is broadcast, at least 20 million Argentines will have seen one or more installments of the series.

Because the installments are broadcast as public service announcements, Baptists cannot be identified on the air as sponsors of the series. Pons reports, however, that stations running the series have received numerous calls from viewers inquiring about its origin. The series' nationwide exposure has given Baptists around the country a new way to introduce and explain their faith.

A Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission team filmed "Dimension Humana" in Buenos Aires and Mendoza. The SBC Foreign Mission Board provided funds for production.

Missionary media consultant Alan Compton handled post-production at RTVC headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas. The commission has requested permission from Argentine Baptists to broadcast "Dimension Humana" on Spanish-language television stations in the United States.

The Argentine convention plans to promote a correspondence course related to the series with local churches inviting course participants to worship services.

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