



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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82-64

### Copper Mine Shutdown Hits Arizona Churches

By Elizabeth Young

PHOENIX, Ariz.(BP)--Copper mine closings in Arizona, producer of 65 percent of America's copper, drastically effects several Arizona churches, but pastors remain optimistic.

Phelps Dodge Corp., faced with dropping copper prices caused by slowdown in the housing and auto industries, announced in April it would shut down Arizona operations until at least June 1, putting about 3,200 miners out of work in Morenci, Ajo and Douglas.

Of the five Southern Baptist churches and missions in the three cities, First Southern Baptist Church, Morenci, probably will feel the shutdown hardest, since Morenci is a company town. Pastor Daniel Lanphar estimated 90 percent of the church members are out of work.

He said those members who tithe will go on and tithe their unemployment insurance checks, but the church's funds will probably drop 70-75 percent. The church has reduced its paid staff down to the pastor, and others are continuing to work as volunteers. "Before it's over, we might even have the pastor working on a voluntary basis," Lanphar said.

While Phelps Dodge hopes to reopen operations in early summer, others, including Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, have cautioned that the shutdown may last until fall.

Lanphar is philosophical about the situation. "When things get tough," he said, "that's when you experience the Lord's help more."

Gilbert Taeger, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ajo, estimated 75 percent of his church members are without work because of the shutdown. Taeger is concerned both about the financial burden on the unemployed families and the church and for the emotional and psychological state of the people. While the miners are accustomed to periodic shutdowns because of strikes, this shutdown came without warning and it is of indefinite duration.

"We're expecting the greatest blessings of the Lord during these days," Taeger said. The church held a revival a month ago, and in the past several weeks, the church and Taeger have experienced a spiritual awakening.

Sunnyside Baptist Church in Douglas will probably suffer the least of the three largest churches in the cities, according to pastor John White. While copper production is a major industry in Douglas, since the town is on the Arizona-Mexico border it also has other economic interests. White estimated the shutdown effects about one-fourth of the church members.

If the shutdown lasts only until June, the effects won't be too serious on the church, White said. If the shutdown is permanent, it "would set the church back but not cripple us."

In San Manuel, Magma Copper Co. has cut workers to a 32-hour work week and laid off 380. However, members of First Southern Baptist Church there are optimistic.

"We're not even talking about slowing down," said pastor William Henry. "We're working as if Jesus will come tomorrow and planning as if he won't come for another 100 or 200 years."

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Since San Manuel is a company town, almost all of the church members are affected by the slowdown, but the church is still in good shape. Attendance is 30 percent to 40 percent ahead of last year, Henry said.

"We're trying to keep from allowing these kind of circumstances from dampening the depth of our spiritual commitment," he said. "This is a time when Baptists have an opportunity, perhaps like never before, to minister in the communities."

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Researcher Urges Care  
To Help Pressured Youth

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press  
4/26/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Researcher Merton Strommen said Southern Baptists need to develop a theology of caring for youth who face powerful peer pressure which almost forces them into drugs, alcohol and crime.

Strommen, head of the Search Institute, Minneapolis, Minn., addressed more than 800 youth ministers attending the Youth Ministry National Conference 2.

"I feel very deeply about the kind of theology that centers on a life of caring," Strommen said. "I covet for you a ministry that is affirming, open, supportive of and centered on people."

He said ominous trends loom today in the areas of drugs, alcohol and the sexual revolution for which there is no precedence.

"Profiteering adults are placing enormous pressures on youth today by promoting drugs, alcohol and illicit sex, irrespective of the age of the youth," he explained. "This is creating emotional trauma for the youth and troubling the parents."

"Youth show the most vulnerability in the early and middle teen years. They are very vulnerable at 11 and 15."

"The average initiation age for youth trying alcohol is 13. Three-fifths of sixth graders and four-fifths of seventh graders sometimes drink and three out of four mothers surveyed are troubled over youth-related problems in their homes."

"The sexual revolution in particular we haven't been able to talk about in the church," added Strommen. He claimed "Three out of four teens have been involved in sexual activity."

Strommen added that juveniles account for 43 percent of serious crime in America.

Strommen called for a spirit of cooperation between denominations, and commended the concern for youth evidenced by Southern Baptist leaders.

On the final day of the conference, youth ministers heard six program leaders and Southern Baptist agency heads encourage them in their efforts to reach youth. The leaders also underscored their commitment to using the resources of their agencies in helping youth ministers.

Also in the closing session, Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Baptist Church, Omaha, Neb., urged the ministers to be students of the Bible as well as leaders of youth and organizers of activities.

A wide variety of new materials were introduced at the conference including an evangelism/discipleship training course for youth and a book on the work of a youth minister.

Youth ministry National Conference 2 was sponsored by all of the youth-related components in Southern Baptist agencies. Bob Taylor, youth ministry coordinator in the church administration department at the Sunday School Board, directed the conference.

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Midwestern Seminary Trustees  
Focus On Faculty, Finances

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Faculty and financial matters dominated discussion during the annual meeting of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees April 19-20.

Trustees elected a new academic dean, promoted four faculty members, approved one visiting professor, acknowledged the 20-plus years of service of three faculty members, and adopted a record 1982-83 budget.

N. Larry Baker, associate professor of Christian ethics since 1978, and acting academic dean, was unanimously elected academic dean, effective Aug. 1, 1982, succeeding John Howell who requested to be relieved of his administrative responsibilities in February 1982, in order to return full-time to the classroom and writing.

The trustees promoted to associate professor and granted tenure to Maynard Campbell in the preaching department; Bob I. Johnson in religious education and church administration, and Thomas Meigs in pastoral care.

In addition, William Ratliff, who was previously granted tenure, was advanced to associate professor of theology and philosophy of religion.

A 1982-83 budget of \$2,478,587, a 13.4 percent increase, was adopted to provide for expanded programs of off-campus centers, staff and faculty salary increases, faculty additions and the establishment of an office of institutional development.

During a special recognition dinner, seminary president Milton Ferguson presented 20 year plaques to three faculty members elected in 1960: Pierce Matheny, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew; William B. Coble, professor of New Testament and Greek, and Howell, professor of Christian ethics who currently is on study leave.

In other areas, trustees:

Acknowledged the projected retirement of George D. Thomason, professor of New Testament and Greek, effective July 31, 1982, and authorized his appointment as senior professor, a special post created by the seminary to provide continuing opportunities for service and teaching by retiring faculty members;

Approved the change in nomenclature of the seminary diploma program to that of associate degrees--associate of divinity and associate of religious education;

Acknowledged the appointment of John Havlik of the Home Mission Board as visiting professor of evangelism for 1982-83;

Approved the appointment of Sam T. Switzer, director of financial services at Midwestern since July, 1981, as seminary business manager.

Baker, 44, is a native of Louisiana, and holds a B.S. degree from East Texas Baptist College, and B.D., Th.M., and Th.D degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has been pastor of churches in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, coming to Midwestern Seminary from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Ark., in 1978.

New trustee officers are David Stone, Kansas City, Mo., president; T. Robert Mullinax, N.C., first vice president; Truett Gannon, Stone Mountain, Ga., second vice president; Jeanette Harlow, Oak Park, Ill., secretary and Edward VanDeusen, Kansas City, Mo., treasurer.

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Baptists Send Food, Blankets  
To Brazilian Mudslide Victims

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4/26/82

MACEIO, Brazil (BP)--Southern Baptists are sending aid to victims of a mudslide which killed 10 people and left another 500 homeless in the Brazilian city of Maceio April 22.

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The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$3,000 in relief funds April 23 to buy staple foods and blankets as requested by Boyd O'Neal, Southern Baptist missionary in Maceio. The government housed residents of the 40 homes destroyed in the slides in local community centers, but appealed for food, said Don Turner, Southern Baptist missionary in Recife.

Pastors of the two Baptist churches in the area were to distribute food and blankets through the community centers, also opening opportunities for evangelism, said Turner. Some of the slide victims, who lived in a poor hillside community overlooking a beach, attended the churches.

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Southwest Baptist Students  
'Corral' Increasing Costs

Baptist Press  
4/26/82

BOLIVER, Mo. (BP)—While college students across the country are protesting against the congressional cutbacks in student aid programs, a group of Southwest Baptist University students have had another idea.

The Students Foundation at SBU held a live cattle roundup Saturday, April 24, auctioning off 46 head of cattle to raise \$14,160 for student scholarships this fall.

"We wanted to do something about the cut in loans and the rising tuitions," said SBU junior Jeff Allee, chairman of the Student Foundation. "This kind of project seemed like a positive approach to the problem."

The group of 25 students worked with Missouri ranchers to collect donated cattle. And in addition to the cows, a bass boat and even a few chickens were donated.

Cattle buyer Don Farhni, also an SBU trustee, helped coordinate the event and was official auctioneer. All of the action was held on the school's campus under a 60 x 90 foot big-top tent.

The roundup was the Student Foundation's second project this year. In March the organization recruited 225 students to begin a phone-a-thon calling 5,000 SBU supporters to raise \$11,910 for students scholarships this fall.

"Our motto is 'Students Supporting Students,'" said Allee. "The way government support is looking, maybe this kind of fund raising could be the trend of the future."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwest Baptist University.

'Light Of The World'  
Illuminated By Candles

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UNIONTOWN, Ala. (BP)—A power failure in Uniontown failed to halt a district youth Bible drill underway at First Baptist Church.

The church's pastor, Sam Davidson, brought out candelabras and the youth, by candlelight, still were able to find Bible passages in less than 10 seconds.

Steve Stephens, consultant for the Alabama Baptist church training department said the number of participants in 12 district drills increased by more than 100 over last year, to 424.

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Writer-Missionary Addresses  
Ministers' Wives Conference

Baptist Press  
4/26/82

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—The Conference of Ministers' Wives will hold their 27th annual luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans at noon June 15.

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Gladys Lewis, former medical missionary to Paraguay and a writer, will be the keynote speaker. Norman Kirkpatrick, conference president, says the program is "excellent" and includes a unique surprise for participants.

Tickets to the luncheon, "A Tribute to the Minister's Wife," are \$11 and should be ordered by May 31 from Geraldine Adams, Route 4, Box 345-J5, Texarkana, Ark., 75502. Luncheon tickets purchased in New Orleans will be \$12.

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Love Lift Carries  
Baby To Germany

Baptist Press  
4/26/82

COLUMBIA, S.C.(BP)--When 17-month-old Sarah Ray left West Columbia for Frankfurt, West Germany, she literally flew away on a wing and a prayer.

The prayers were offered by 60 Baptists and friends at the airport as the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Ray flew for treatments at Vital Klinik.

The child suffers from an incurable disease called "Epidermolysis Bullosa," and a disorder which causes her to break out in blisters and lesions whenever touched.

Vital Klinik, a medical facility 40 miles from Frankfurt, specializes in a new treatment for the girl's rare disease.

Mrs. Ray described the treatment as an elaborate two-month process which involves regular cleansings, baths in special creams and emollients and possible corrective surgery to help alleviate scarring.

Her send-off climaxed a sprawling humanitarian process which began several months ago when Dutch Fork Baptist Church's "Love in Action" group in Ballentine began raising money to finance treatment for little Sarah.

The crowd that gave Sarah a lift-off of love was part of several groups that joined the "Missions Love Effort." Eighteen Baptist churches and other churches and organizations joined Dutch Park to raise more than \$64,000 for the treatment.

Congressman Floyd Spence helped gain Sarah's admittance to the clinic. Pan-American Airlines flew the child and her mother to Frankfurt, where the clinic sent a chauffeur to meet them.

"I've never been involved in anything that has blessed me so," said Gertrude Lowery, Acteans director for Columbia Metro Baptist Association.

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