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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Missionaries In Argentina
Report Rise In Tension**

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Argentina are feeling increased tension as the result of the British landing in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), a Foreign Mission Board official just back from Buenos Aires reports.

Thurmon Bryant, the board's area director for eastern South America, said the missionaries began to experience greater anxiety after major British landing operations began May 21. "But insofar as missionary activities are concerned," Bryant said, "things are continuing as normal."

A three-man steering committee has been elected to act for the missionaries in case immediate decisions need to be made. These include Leon White of Alabama, named president of the missionary organization after the former president, J. Robert Burtis, died of a heart attack May 15; Mell R. Plunk of Texas, vice president, and Barney Hutson of Texas, treasurer.

Bryant said a citywide crusade planned in Cordoba this fall has been canceled. He said he expects to advise Mississippi Baptist leaders not to send volunteers to Argentina at this time. Mississippi Baptists have been working with Baptists in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay in partnership convention efforts.

Bryant accompanied Mrs. Burtis and her son May 21 as they brought Burtis' body back to Madisonville, Texas, for services and burial May 23. The Burtises' daughter was already in Texas.

Bryant said many of the 52 missionaries remaining in Argentina had gone to Rosario, about a four-hour drive from Buenos Aires, for the annual meeting of the Argentine Evangelical Baptist Convention.

Missionaries are not curtailing their normal church-related activities, Bryant reported, but are trying to avoid "bunching up" as they travel in order to make their American presence less conspicuous in this time of tension and increasing anti-American feelings among the general Argentine public.

Meanwhile, a U.S. Embassy spokesman in Buenos Aires said May 22 that the evacuation of non-essential embassy personnel to Montevideo, Uruguay, had been stepped up "until all this blows over."

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**Smith Views Not Unanimous
Among BWA Russia Trippers**

By Norman Jameson

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--There are more Bibles and a more vibrant spirit in the Soviet Union than some members of a recent Baptist trip there may have seen.

Three vocal members of the group, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, want to counter publicity given the most prominent member of the group, SBC President Bailey Smith.

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Denton Lotz, BWA associat general secretary and trip organizer; Cecil Chambers, pastor of Branch's Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.; and Phil Lineberger, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan., all protested the generalizations Smith drew from the group's narrow exposure to Russian life.

Smith returned dismayed at the repression and lack of Bibles in the four provinces he visited. Russian language Bibles he was carrying in his luggage were confiscated at the Moscow airport where a guard told him Bibles are prohibited in Russia.

Smith said the Russian language Bibles of everyone in the group were confiscated, as were many English Bibles and commentaries, and he knew of only one group member whose books were later returned.

He also said he saw only three Bibles among 4,000 worshippers and that pastors wrapped their Bibles in newspapers to avoid being seen carrying them.

Lineberger, who was the first through the customs inspection line, said his Russian Bibles were not confiscated and he knew of at least four others who kept their Russian Bibles. And, he said, those who signed a confiscation sheet, got their material back when they left the country.

At a meeting Lineberger's group conducted for laymen, Bibles were "very evident and prominent," he said. All the pastors he saw that attended another conference also had Bibles.

The 34 participants split into three groups to better cover the country. Lineberger, who was not in Smith's group, was surprised at the large number of worshippers evident wherever he went. The Baptist church in Leningrad is in the midst of a \$500,000 expansion.

Lotz, who for 15 years was an American Baptist missionary in Eastern Europe, said first impressions are not always right impressions. Often western tourists see the Russian situation through attitudes that are "arrogantly American," he said.

Europeans wrap their books in newspapers to protect them in inclement weather, according to Lotz. It was raining the day Smith preached, at Lotz' request, to 2,000 who packed Moscow Baptist Church, which could explain the wrapped Bibles, he said.

"I am not in any way trying to say they have the same freedoms we do," said Lotz. "They do not. But with their lack of freedom, they put us to shame."

"Christians from another country who visit a restricted country have a responsibility to be biblical. (The Apostle) Paul says in Philippians Four, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things."

Lotz said from his perspective, the trip showed him an iron curtain cannot bar the Holy Spirit, that Russian Baptist churches are growing, they are full, growing numbers of young people participate.

Smith, meanwhile, wrote an article for the June issue of the ADL Bulletin, the publication of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish layman's organization, about his experiences.

ADL leaders met with Smith late last year after his highly publicized comments on the prayers of Jews, and later sponsored a tour of Israel for Smith and a group of his friends.

In the publication, Smith said the Soviet Union "is without question the most religiously paranoid nation ever to be on the face of the earth."

In his article Smith wrote: "All of us, I suppose, were somewhat naive about the depth of resistance there is in Russia and the other Soviet Republics to anything that relates to God. "We had no idea that within the first 15 minutes of our arrival at the airport, that all of this sad truth would be dramatically revealed to us."

Among Smith's effects taken were samples of Jewish literature given to him by an American Jewish acquaintance. However, a Russian language book on Jewish religious history and four tape cassettes of Hebrew songs escaped confiscation because he was carrying them in his camera case.

He wrote that he visited a synagogue one day, the books and tapes still in his bag. Upon learning that the rabbi was not there he left the material on the pulpit, "hoping that the rabbi would find it and it would be an encouragement to his life and ministry and those with whom he would share it."

Smith wrote that he had tried to telephone several Soviet Jews but none answered. He discussed the question of Soviet anti-Semitism with numerous government officials, all of whom denied its existence. But he said that an American official, whom he does not name, confirmed it.

"In fact," writes Smith, "he told a few of us that he predicts a new day of oppression for both Christians and Jews behind the Iron Curtain. The reason is obvious. Faith in God is growing and they must eliminate that."

According to the article, the Baptist World Alliance delegation split up into four groups to visit various parts of the Soviet Union. Smith's groups visited the Republics of Armenia, Georgia and the Ukraine.

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Chutes, Kesner Named
To Midwestern Spots

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Michael D. Chute, managing editor of Word and Way, newspaper of the Missouri Baptist Convention, and his wife, Katherine, have joined Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as consultants of public relations.

The seminary also named Ray H. Kesner to the new position of director of the office of denominational services and alumni affairs, effective July 12.

The Chutes have been approved for missionary appointment to Brazil and are scheduled to be appointed in September. They are enrolled at Midwestern preparing for mission service.

Chute, 31, became managing editor of the Word and Way in 1978. Before that, he was director of college relations at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., and was an information specialist in the Baptist Sunday School Board's public relations office.

Mrs. Chute was director of communications for the Missouri Division of Community and Economic Development. Earlier she was an advertising copy writer for Broadman Press and was senior copy writer for the United Methodist Publishing House, both in Nashville, Tenn. She also was an editorial assistant for Baptist Press.

Mrs. Chute is a graduate of William Carey College and Southwest Missouri State University where she earned a master's degree in communications. Chute is a graduate of Missouri Baptist College and Oklahoma Baptist University and has completed course work for a master's degree at Southwest Missouri State University.

Kesner has been pastor of Tower View Baptist Church in Kansas City since 1976 and is director of Midwestern's supervision program for the doctor of ministry degree. In his 26 years in pastoral ministry, he also was pastor of churches in Arkansas and Missouri.

Kesner, 45, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Midwestern Seminary and is a clinical member of the International Transactional Analysis Association.

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Argentina's Import Limits
Halt Bible, Book Shipments

EL PASO, Texas (BP)--The Baptist Spanish Publishing House has suspended all shipments of Bibles, books and literature to Argentina because of import restrictions on materials classified as nonessential goods.

Sales of publishing house materials in Argentina, the number two market for Spanish materials, were already way behind usual sales for the first four months of the year, due in part to triple-digit inflation.

Book sales plummeted from \$42,633 from January through April 1981, to \$2,198 in 1982 even though literature sales rose to \$35,309 in 1982 from \$24,465 in 1981.

Sales also were lagging in Mexico, which accounted for more than 18 percent of the publishing house's total sales in 1981. Book sales there, in the publishing house's number one market, totaled almost \$150,000 through April a year ago, but were up to only \$76,299 by April 30 this year. Periodical literature sales dropped from \$15,883 to \$14,846.

The drop in worldwide oil prices has resulted in massive devaluation of Mexico's peso, further reducing that country's ability to pay for import shipments in U.S. dollars.

Despite disappointing sales in Mexico and Argentina, the publishing house is 10 percent ahead of 1981 in overall sales. Still, publishing house administrators are concerned that collections are 23 percent behind budget for the first third of 1982.

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Moore Backs Public Health;
Must Leave Task To Others

By Mary Jane Welch

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NALERIGU, Ghana (BP)--Walter Moore's dreams for his career never quite jelled.

As a young missionary physician in Nigeria, he saw the need for community health care and determined to do that kind of work. Today, with his return to the United States for retirement only weeks away, he looks back on a few brief periods actually spent in full-time community health work.

But he has no regrets.

What the Oklahoma native has done during most of the past 30 years is help fill the urgent need for Southern Baptist missionary physicians in West Africa. In Nigeria, in Ghana, in Niger Republic, he has helped relieve the suffering of thousands. And he's seen that both new Christians and new churches can result from the ministry of Baptist hospitals.

He is convinced that Baptist hospitals are important. He knows they need more doctors and wants young people considering medical missions to look at preventive medicine.

Because American medical schools emphasize curative medicine, it has been natural, he says, for medical missionaries to practice curative medicine in hospitals. But Moore learned early that curing disease is not adequate. Over and over mothers brought the same children to the hospital suffering with diarrhea that could have been prevented.

Children came to the hospital with protein deficiency although peanuts and beans were available to prevent it. Mothers and newborn babies died of tetanus because of unsanitary deliveries at home.

Some doctors started mobile clinics which reached people who might have never seen a doctor, but they still did not practice preventive medicine.

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"I began to realize that if we were going to be effective in bringing the health status of the people to a reasonable level, something different must be done than sitting in the hospital waiting for the sick to come to me," says Moore. "Somewhere out in the villages things were happening which continued the cycle of sickness and the people were ignorant of the cause."

The public health physician, he says, is a detective looking for keys to break that cycle.

In his work around Nalerigu, Ghana, little investigation was required to uncover measles as a major childhood killer. The hospital was swamped with children, some dying.

Moore started a measles vaccination program which initially reached 50,000 children. Now an on-going program calls for a public health physician or nurse to vaccinate each year's crop of newborns to prevent recurrence of the disease. When Moore retires, Judy Honbarrier, appointed last year to Nalerigu as a public health nurse, will continue the vaccinations.

During the first six months after his last furlough, Moore worked full-time in public health, investigating hookworm in nearby villages. He found that 90 percent of the people in 39 villages had hookworm. The solution, he says, is to build latrines and give the people a curative dose of hookworm medicine. That job will probably be left to someone who comes after him.

Moore has only a few weeks left on the mission field himself, but he hopes other public health physicians and nurses will go out in the future.

Moore still remembers the day in 1963 when the Nigerian minister of health visited the hospital where he worked in Kontagora. The minister said, "You missionaries need to do public health. We have plenty of doctors who can work in the hospitals, but they do not like to work in the villages. But you can do this and be a big help to us."

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.
