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**Ballenger Optimistic Jordan
May Permit Couple's Return**

AMMAN, Jordan (BP)--Jordan has denied residence permits for three Southern Baptist missionaries, but one couple may be allowed to return, according to a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official.

Isam Ballenger, director of Southern Baptist work in Europe and the Middle East, said it is still impossible to determine why Jordan revoked the residence permits of two missionaries and denied a permit for a third in March.

Jordanian officials revoked the permits of missionary nurse Ruth Ann McConnell of Kentucky and missionary pharmacist Gary Tapp of Georgia. Tapp's wife, Judy, also was denied a permit.

Ballenger said it would be "premature and perhaps misdirected" to assume that the Jordan actions came in response to articles in a Jordan newspaper quoting pro Israel statements made by New Right religious leaders in the United States.

Soon after the articles appeared, Tapp went to government officials to seek a residence permit for his wife, Judy. The officials refused to grant it and revoked permits already granted to Tapp and McConnell.

Since then Jordan has granted entry to a new missionary teacher, Gerry Volkart of Missouri, for the Baptist school in Amman.

The Tapps have been waiting in Cyprus with their two small children while new efforts are being made to obtain the necessary residence permits to re-enter Jordan. McConnell, a registered nurse, is working at the Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen.

Ballenger said he would not be surprised if there were actions against mission work and missionaries in Arab countries because of such pro Israel statements. But he said he did not want to second-guess the governments of these Arab countries or make any such interpretation "without clear and sufficient knowledge."

He said these countries have certain laws and procedures they follow in matters of entry, and added that "we cannot always understand the reason why certain actions are taken."

But he does believe there is a fair chance the Tapps will be allowed to return. Southern Baptists have 36 missionaries assigned to Jordan, where the denomination has had work for more than 30 years.

As in a number of other countries, residence permits are not always granted. A young doctor, Dan Baker, was refused a permit by Jordan last year and now is doing his one-year of special project service in Yemen.

At last year's Southern Baptist Convention, an effort was made to pass a pro Israel resolution, but R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, led a successful fight that resulted in the action being tabled.

When announcement was made in February that the resolution would be introduced again this year, Parks issued a strong statement saying such action would hinder mission work both in the Middle East and other parts of the world where missionaries work in pro Arab countries.

SBC Broadcast Ministries
Conference Explores Future

By Greg Warner

ATLANTA (BP)-- When Southern Baptists enter the big leagues of telecommunications next year, they will be greeted by parallel opportunity for evangelism, missions and education.

That was the consensus of opinion from speakers, including four SBC agencies, at the National Conference Broadcast Ministries. Next spring the American Christian Television System (ACTS) and Baptist TelNet (BTN), Southern Baptist's two satellite networks will be launched.

In an opening night session, participants heard Jimmy R. Allen president of the Radio and Television Commission, Grady C. Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Russell Dilday Jr., president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board, analyze the impact of ACTS and TelNet on their ministries and on the churches they serve.

Allen said ACTS, the over-the-air TV network his agency is designing, will permit local churches to provide the "true localism" intended but never attained by television and cable TV. He said the effort would be "high touch as well as high tech."

Quoting John Nesbitt, author of Megatrends, Allen said Southern Baptists are the only major denomination in a position to take advantage of new television technology.

Cothen said the Sunday School Board is planning Baptist TelNet as an internal communications network in churches, and is not interested in establishing an electronic denomination, but in undergirding churches.

"This is not a new program," he said of the TelNet effort, "but a new methodology to help you. Its purpose is to focus on the needs of churches, not to by-pass churches."

The telecommunications ministries of Southern Baptists will impact their seminaries in at least two ways, Dilday said. Curriculum content will be broadened to include technical and theological training of ministers of media for work in SBC churches, he said. While there are already 50 full-time media ministers in Southern Baptist churches, Dilday predicted there will be 500 in the next five years. He noted Southwestern Seminary has established the Center for Christian Communication Studies to provide this training.

Teaching methodologies also will be affected, Dilday said. He indicated the seminaries already are teaching extension courses through use of video and teleconference.

Tanner said the ACTS network will be particularly helpful to the Home Mission Board in reaching America's large cities, where Southern Baptist are often not well known. ACTS will give Baptists instant access to millions of homes and complete coverage of metropolitan areas.

"The reason we are dying in cities is because we are not getting the priority prospects," he said. "What we need is presence.

"The most evangelistic denomination on the face of the earth is Southern Baptists." And And if we ever get that presence we can reach the megacities."

Tanner predicted the increased exposure of ACTS would produce a larger Annie Armstrong Offering.

Five hundred people participated in the three-day training meeting, sponsored by the RTVC, Sunday School Board and Southwestern Seminary. It is considered the second largest annual gathering of Christians involved in broadcast ministries, surpassed only by the interdenominational National Religious Broadcasters.

The conference, held the past two years in Ft. Worth, was moved to Atlanta to allow more participation from the Southeast, a strategy organizers said proved successful. A large majority of conventioners were attending their first National Conference on Broadcast Ministries, organizers said, and most were from Georgia or neighboring states.

In speeches, discussions, workshops and technical displays, the conference concentrated on equipping churches to plug into ACTS and TelNet. Twenty-three workshops instructed media workers on ways to get ACTS into their communities, uses for T lNet in churches and production techniques for local programs.

One Southern Baptist media effort already in place, the Video Tape Service, also was showcased. Coordinator Doug Day said VTS will fill in the gap when TelNet is feasible for some churches, teaching, training and inspirational video tapes through states conventions.

In one of two keynote speeches delivered at the conference California pastor, Jess Moody, said the launch of the ACTS network was as important to Southern Baptist as the birth of the Cooperative Program. "We must make up our minds to prioritize the ACTS network," said Moody pastor of the 12,000-member First Baptist Church of Van Nuys.

In the second keynote address, Sidney Topol, president of Scientific Atlanta, said one by-product of the emerging information age could be a strengthened family life. Topol said some observers are predicting home computers will permit people to work for an employ r without leaving home." If that helps the family, I am for it," he said.

Topol's company is the world's largest manufacturer of satellite receivers, used primarily in cable television. He said he has reservations about the companies that enrolled in the cable television explosion.

"I got very worried about being involved with this medium that brought these things into the home, some of it good, some of it bad," he said, adding: "There is a global hunger for television. The transportation of video is on the move and nothing is going to stop it."

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Churches Must Face
'Decad Of The Hispanic'

By James Lee Young

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The 1980s are the "decade of the Hispanics," and churches that have not done so must face up to the needs of ethnics through "cultural collision," says ethnic expert and Southern Baptist Joshua Grijalva.

An Hispanic himself, Grijalva challenged the joint annual meeting of the Nashville-based Southern Baptist Convention Historical Commission and Society.

"It is not enough to believe. One must practive love beyond the walls of the church, where for too long it (love) has been programmed."

Grijalva, based in Mill Valley, Calif., is national consultant on ethnic leadership development for the SBC's Home Mission Board language mission division. He spotlighted 100 years of Hispanic Southern Baptists and their future.

The first organized Southern Baptist work among Hispanics, according to Grijalva, began in 1861 when J.W.D. Creath was named missionary worker among the "Mexicans" in San Antonio, Texas, under the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

In 1876, First Baptist Church in San Antonio, organized a Mexican mission which lasted only six months. In 1880, permanent Baptist work was begun in Laredo, Texas, led by English Baptist John Westrup, who lived in Mexico.

When Westrup and a companion were murdered by Indians, his brother, Thomas, continued the Laredo work.

Texas Baptists celebrated 100 years of Hispanic Baptist work in 1981 and have at least 700 Hispanic congregations and some 50,000 members, Grijalva noted.

"By the end of the century it is hoped there will be 700 more new congregations (in Texas) as they continue Bold Mission Thrust (Southern Baptists' effort to evangelize the world by the year 2000 A.D.)," he added.

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As Southern Baptists move on in their second century of work among Hispanics, Grijalva urged:

"The impact of religion on Hispanics can be highly significant. The church of the 20th century is challenged in injecting the teachings of the New Testament to Hispanics as well as other ethnics.

"Anglo churches need to have a sense of appreciation for their ethnic brothers," he said, "God also reveals Himself to them (ethnics)," Grijalva noted. "The church that ministers to all people is fulfilling the New Testament mission."

While admonishing Anglos, Grijalva had advice also for Hispanic Baptists, urging them to "remain in the fresh new spirit of God that is blowing across the country."

He called for a "continuing unity among Hispanics" if 3,000 units are to be achieved by the turn of the century, and a "continuing program of Christian education" as a means of growth.

Grijalva further urged a "continuing examination of value relations, better communications and understanding among all cultures...."

In his address, the ethnic expert included under the Hispanic umbrella--Mexicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Central and South America Latin Americans.

Hispanics number 18 million of some 119 million ethnics in the United States, with some 11 million of these Mexican or Mexican Americans, Grijalva said.

Southern Baptist Hispanic work is in more than 30 states, plus Puerto Rico and including California, the latter with an Hispanic population of 4,543,770, per the last U.S. Census (more than one-third of the U.S. Hispanics).

"The Hispanic response to the gospel as preached by Southern Baptists has resulted in more than 1,500 congregations," Grijalva said. And in the 1980s, Hispanics are becoming the largest minority group, "el nuevo pueblo," (the new people), he added.

Much of the Hispanic story in this country can be identified with post-war periods, social and political changes and migrations that resulted. With each change, Grijalva said, new work was begun and individuals were there to fill the gaps and preach the gospel as opportunities arose.

The number of Southern Baptists has rapidly increased in recent years, officials note. Statistics from the denomination cite that ethnics currently hold membership in 3,600 (about 10 percent) of more than 36,000 Southern Baptist churches.

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Clinic Results Measured
In Numbers, Enthusiasm

By Linda Lawson

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4/28/83

RALEIGH, N.C.(BP)--The 47 churches in the Raleigh-Durham Metro Sunday School Enrollment Training Clinic enrolled 391 persons, discovered 5,449 prospects and added 290 new classes and departments.

But beyond the numbers, church leaders and outside directors also cited a renewed enthusiasm for reaching people through the Sunday school and a willingness to make changes to accomplish that goal.

The eight-day clinic was sponsored jointly by the Raleigh and Yates associations, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Each church was assigned a five-member team of persons to assist the staff in evaluating the Sunday school and suggesting and beginning implementation of recommendations for improving the quality of Bible teaching.

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Also, approximately 55 persons from outside the Raleigh-Durham area participated as clinicians, working in assigned churches and receiving training to lead similar events.

The first Sunday, April 17, members of the participating churches conducted a People Search in their communities, locating more than 5,000 prospects and pre-enrolling interested persons. Members of Glen Royal Baptist Church, Wake Forest, pre-enrolled 50 people in Sunday school in one afternoon.

Each night Sunday school workers met in the churches to identify needs and solutions. Changes included reorganizing classes and departments, starting new units, beginning weekly workers meetings and visitation programs and cleaning and fixing up existing space.

Approximately 290 new units were scheduled to begin April 24.

Emory Bare, pastor of Westwood Baptist Church, Durham, said, "This clinic has shown me the denomination can do great things for my church. I personally had not been convinced of this. I anticipate significant growth in my church because of the attitudes of the people. They are ready to grow and they also see how to do it."

Jerry Hayner, pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church, Raleigh, said as a result of the clinic plans are under way to buy property for parking, start three new departments and seven new classes and enlist 32 new workers as quickly as possible.

"The significance of the clinic for us is not just the recommendations," Hayner said. "The attitude of the people is now one of expectation and excitement."

Charles Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church, Durham, said the response of his church members to the clinic was "very positive. They're saying they don't want to lose what we've gained this week. We have seen we cannot grow a Sunday school inside our walls."

Harris said the church definitely plans to act on the recommendations which included beginning cradle roll and homebound departments.

Clay Warf, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Durham, said, "We're dealing with some hard issues. I really don't know what's going to happen, but it's necessary and I feel really good about it. Maybe we need to suffer more growing pains."

Charles Lowery, guest director at First Baptist Church, Cary, and director of the church development division of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, said during the week space had been found for 16 new units outside the church building. These included four rooms at an elementary school, a restaurant, the state convention building and nearby homes of church members.

Robert Stewart, director of the Sunday school department for North Carolina Baptists, said, "I believe this is just a beginning and the work this week will be multiplied in the weeks ahead."

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(Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Nashville bureau of Baptist Press)

Eura Lannom Retires
From Tennessee Paper

Baptist Press
4/28/83

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)--Eura Rich Lannom, after serving Tennessee Baptists for 42 years, has announced her retirement, effective April 30.

She came to the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1949, and has been an employee of the Baptist and Reflector for 40 years, including a term as acting editor from August 1974 through October 1976.

In addition to acting editor, she has been assistant to the editor, editor's assistant, office secretary, secretary to the circulation manager and is presently advertising and subscriptions manager. She has worked with Baptist and Reflector editors O.W. Taylor, Richard N. Owen, James A. Lester and Alvin C. Shackelford.

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