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National WMU President Makes
Volunteering A Full-time Job

By Elaine Hobson Miller

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Is Dorothy Elliott Sample out of step with the times?

While many women are giving up voluntary work for salaried positions, Sample has resigned not one, but two professions to be a full-time volunteer.

A psychologist and educator, Sample earned five degrees (two of them doctorates) before her election to the national presidency of Woman's Missionary Union in June 1981.

Reflecting over the last two years, Sample admits she could have strictly limited the number of speaking invitations which deluge a national WMU president and held onto her work. Instead, she chose to give herself without restraint to WMU.

"I feel the president of WMU belongs to the people. I think I should get out there and share with them," says this energetic wife and mother of three.

Sample is a people person. The warmth and caring she once gave to people needing her professional help, she now directs to those she encounters as she travels all over the world speaking and representing WMU.

In 1977, Sample piloted a program for gifted junior-high school students in the Flint, Mich., public school system while working as a counselor in a psychological clinic and traveling extensively as a speaker and Bible teacher in WMU meetings.

"I had just reached the point where I wanted to be professionally, and I still had two children at home. When I was nominated for the national presidency of WMU, I didn't give a 'yes' for six weeks, even though I knew in my heart I would accept.

"I felt being WMU president was God's will for me at this time, but I needed to work through the decision."

Sample knew she could count on her family's support because each member knows the meaning of Christian commitment. Her husband, Richard Sample, pastor of Ainsworth Baptist Church and a professional educator himself, is a member of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"I grew up in Brilliant, Ala., but Michigan is his home," Sample explains. "We've been asked to come back South several times, but he has felt a strong commitment to stay in this pioneer Southern Baptist area."

Her older son, 21-year-old Richard, a student at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., has committed his life to Christian missions and is a summer missionary in New York City.

When Sample told him she might be the next national president of WMU, he was all for her taking the position. He told her, "Mama, you can't say 'no' to God's will."

Despite family support, Sample knew she couldn't do justice to two professions throughout her term. National WMU presidents are permitted by WMU by-laws to serve up to five years.

She resigned from professional counseling and continued to relate to the school system for the first year of her presidency.

Sample juggled her teaching, videotaping and special projects around a hectic travel schedule. Her teaching team gave her full backing although it was hard on everyone concerned, she admits. During the first year of her presidency, she estimates she traveled between 150,000 and 200,000 miles.

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"I spoke about 300 times in colleges, universities, seminaries, churches and state WMU meetings and retreats. It wasn't unusual for me to be gone three weeks at a time."

By the end of the year, she realized she had another career decision to make. Her work with the school system had to go, too.

Yet she considers these few years as WMU president an hiatus rather than career abandonment. She doesn't know what she'll be doing when she returns to the working world, and isn't especially worried about it.

Instead she "lives today," because, "I relish the opportunities and responsibilities each day brings. I don't dwell on what has been or worry about the future."

The serenity also enables her to cope with the demands holding a national office brings.

She doesn't believe her children or their relationship with her have suffered because of her busy schedule. She knows firsthand the struggle many women have as they juggle career and family responsibilities. She can identify with the mother who wants to be active in WMU and in missions, but feels guilty about leaving her children.

"There is something to the notion of 'quality, not quantity' time with your children. I think it does a mother and her babies good for her to get out and do something for others," Sample says.

She admits she has an advantage most women don't have. For 13 years her mother-in-law, who lives close by, has done the cooking and laundry for the family. "She really feels this is her mission," Sample says.

Convinced most people waste a lot of valuable time, she believes they could do much more in terms of missions involvement than they say they can.

"You really can do an awful lot of things if you plan your time well."

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(Elaine Hobson Miller is a free-lance writer in Birmingham, Ala.)

(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by WMU

'B st' July Not Enough
For Cooperative Program

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptists gave to the national programs of the Cooperative Program at a record pace in July but the yearly contributions are still short of challenge budget needs.

The mission and education programs of the Southern Baptist Convention's unified giving program received \$8,759,367 from the 34 state Baptist conventions in July, an increase of 8.58 percent over July 1982.

The yearly total of \$84,936,366 is 9.16 percent above the same period during the 1981-82 fiscal year. Should that percentage hold the final two months of the fiscal year, the national programs would receive \$101,923,639.

That would easily oversubscribe the \$100 million basic operating and capital needs budget but would be approximately \$4 million short of the "Challenge Budget" of \$106 million.

"We are grateful Southern Baptists will soon, for the first time go over the \$100 million mark in yearly contributions to the national Cooperative Program," Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee said. "Continued support for our mission boards, our seminaries and our agencies is vital as we seek to carry out Bold Mission Thrust (the SBC effort to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone in the world by the year 2000).

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"Hopefully we will receive as much toward the challenge budget as possible in order to fund special projects that are important to our national programs as well."

Florida, Georgia and Mississippi Baptists have been pacesetters in Cooperative Program giving this fiscal year. Those three state conventions appear in the "top ten" in both total dollar giving and percentage increase over last year.

Florida is third in both listings (\$6,764,774 and 25.72 percent), Georgia is second in total gifts (\$7,038,694) and eighth in increase (13.78) while Mississippi is ninth in both categories (\$4,234,827 and 12.9 percent).

Texas is the largest dollar contributor (\$15,334,553). Other leaders are: 4--North Carolina (\$5,860,169), 5--Alabama (\$5,716,432), 6--Oklahoma (\$5,585,189), 7--Tennessee (\$5,071,831), 8--South Carolina (\$4,716,299) and 10--Louisiana (\$3,953,914).

New York, which has doubled its gifts to the national program since last year, is the percentage increase leader (103.02 percent, \$77,943). Other increase leaders are: 2--Northern Plains (52.74), 4--Hawaii (23.16), 5--Nevada (18.73), 6--Maryland (14.04), 7--Arizona (14.02) and 10--District of Columbia (12.24).

The SBC fiscal year ends September 30.

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Baptist Book Stores Show
Trend To Spanish Ministry

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--With an ever-increasing Spanish-speaking population in the United States, Baptist Book Stores are increasing their ministry to Hispanic Americans.

Until 1982, most Spanish materials sold by the 62-store chain had to be purchased from the El Paso, Texas, stores. But because of local demand in selected areas of the country, the number of stores carrying Spanish materials has increased to 26 today.

Currently, the United States has the fourth largest Hispanic population in the world with at least 20 million Spanish-speaking residents, according to Josie Smith, director of advertising for the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso.

"For 100 years, Southern Baptists have sent missionaries to Latin America to preach the gospel," she said. "Now Cuba and Nicaragua are closed; but how many Cubans and Nicaraguans are in the U.S. for us to minister to?" According to Smith, as many as 5 million of the current Hispanic population are evangelicals.

More than 2,000 products are available through the Baptist Sunday School Board's materials services department, Broadman Press and Holman Bible Publishers, all three exclusive U.S. distributors for materials produced by the Baptist Spanish Publishing House. Baptist Book Stores serve as the Sunday School Board's retail distributors for non-church literature materials (such as records, books, etc.).

More than 40 million Hispanics are expected to be living in the U.S. by the year 2000, said Bill Graham, director of the board's book store division. "As the Spanish-speaking population increases, additional Baptist Book Stores will stock materials to meet expressed needs. We continually monitor such customer requests in an effort to serve an ever-growing constituency."

Stores offering both mail order and in-person sales of Spanish materials are in Phoenix, Ariz.; Fresno, Calif.; Denver; Jacksonville, Miami and Tampa, Fla.; Atlanta; Albuquerque, N.M., and El Paso, Texas.

Stores offering only local sales of Spanish materials are in Forest Park, Ga.; New Orleans; Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo.; Glorieta, N.M.; Tulsa, Okla.; and Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock and San Antonio, Texas.

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Mindanao Church Planters
Mean Business in Crusade

MINDANAO, Philippines (BP)--Judging from the efforts of one church-planting team on Mindanao, Baptists on this Philippine island mean business.

Miles off the main highway, traveling through mud and water by jeep, horse, water buffalo and feet, a four-man team of Filipinos baptized 75 adults, gave out 300 Bibles and set up four new congregations.

The congregations, however, face uncertain futures. Lay preachers are young in their knowledge of Christ. And the cost of nails to build a meeting place appears prohibitive to an agricultural people just beginning to recover from severe drought. But the evangelism team, which included a pastor and a mayor, consider the crusade a success, if only a beginning.

"We left the hinterland with gladness and sadness," reflected evangelist Angelito Alfaras. "Gladness because hundreds of souls were saved and our goals were reached. Sadness because we cannot answer the cry of the other villages beyond." Alfaras is chairman of the strategy committee for the convention's campaign to establish 1,085 churches by 1985.

Much of the area targeted for the crusade was settled in recent years. One village, Gambudes, was founded in 1979 by rebels who since have stopped fighting the government. Before he surrendered, the village leader had been charged with close to 500 crimes, mostly murders.

Villagers at Gambudes packed into a communal hall for a two-hour service Saturday night, and for a worship service the next morning. On Monday 37 were baptized.

In another village, after a service under a roof but not out of the rain, almost all of the adults came forward at the invitation. "If there will be another privilege like it," said Alfaras, "I will gladly preach again under the rain for one hour." Before the team left, 31 men and women had braved a driving downpour and a muddy, rushing river for baptism.

At a third village, the chieftain led his wife and four other adults to baptism. More than 50 people decided for Christ during two night meetings. Eight adults and 12 children gathered for Sunday School and worship with a lay preacher that Sunday.

Along the main highway, in a village the team marked as a central ministry point, the village's elected leader put pressure on Alfaras to stay another night.

"The (village) captain complained they were given only one night, whereas the other villages had two nights each," Alfaras said. Alfaras elected not to go home for his birthday and the team stayed another day.

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U.S. Hunger Persists,
More Relief Money Needed

By Everett Hullum

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ATLANTA (BP)--Until a few years ago, Southern Baptists thought of hunger as a problem confined to unpronounceable places on the other side of the globe.

But in 1982, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention decided to split incoming hunger funds 80/20 between the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board.

Director of Christian Social Ministries Paul Adkins has the unenviable job of allocating the Home Mission Board's designated funds for hunger relief in the United States.

The money goes very quickly and making decisions about who will receive it is extremely hard. Requests for funds come daily from home missionaries, directors of missions, pastors and others who know of hunger needs.

"Let one point be clear," said Adkins. "The money is sent to the field as rapidly as possible. Not one red cent leaves the fund either for interest or administrative costs--here or in the field. The money is given for the hungry and that's where it all goes."

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Since the beginning of 1983, more than \$129,000 has gone to help with migrants devastated by California rains, to refugees stranded in Florida and to hundreds of unemployed families in the industrial North. "More donations are needed to keep pace with the needs," Adkins said.

"Most of the requests are for families in trouble," Adkins explained, "casualties of the economy." Families have tried to move from high unemployment areas to find jobs--economic refugees have fled Cleveland for Texas.

"But Texas doesn't really have jobs, either," Adkins lamented, "so you find families--and I mean whole families--sleeping in cars, under bridges. They have no money for gas or food and they do what you and I would do--they go to a church and ask for help. Thank God they do."

Unfortunately, the plight of economic refugees shows few signs of recovery.

"In many major cities our welfare agencies are running out of money, too," Adkins explained. "Public agencies are referring people to churches and Baptist Centers. In some cases, we are a last hope."

Adkins has no illusions of ending hunger in the United States with his hunger fund allocations. "All we can do right now is respond to requests for urgent help. We can at least do that much."

But Southern Baptists and individual churches can do more. "I dream that each state convention would have a staff person assigned to coordinate hunger relief," Adkins said.

"Each association needs a contact person," he continued. "And every Baptist church in the nation needs a person responsible for coordinating hunger response. The problem of hunger is not going away."

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Adapted from the May-June 1983 issue of Missions USA magazine.

New SBC Archivist
Overcomes Stereotype

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Bill Summers thinks archivists have an image problem.

The new archivist for the Dargan-Carver Library, which is jointly owned by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and Baptist Sunday School Board, says archivists have an unfortunate reputation as caretakers who take care of old junk and don't want to be bothered.

But Summers, Dargan-Carver's first professionally trained archivist, talks about "outreach" and public relations programs for the library's archives.

"There's no use taking care of archives if no one's going to use them," he said. "Archivists have become active in promoting the uses of documents which tell who we are and why we are the way we are.

"One thing we have that is used a good bit, due to "Roots" (the television mini-series), are church records, church histories and associational minutes. Church minutes are a gold mine!

"It's not just Baptist history. You see more of the human side of the giants of history. These individuals, like the first Sunday School Board president, J.M. Frost, who wrote about the death of his daughter, go through all the things the rest of us do. They didn't think they were so great!"

Summers previously was the assistant archivist at Auburn University. He plans to expand the two-agency collection by adding the records and personal papers of individuals and organizations who have had an impact on Baptist life.

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