



--FEATURES

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SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

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Chicago's Uptown Baptist Church
Nourishes Bodies And Souls

By Susan K. Taylor

CHICAGO (BP)--Uptown Baptist Church is a reflection of its gritty, eastern Chicago community: short on resources, long on needs.

The church, pastored by native Chicagoan Jim Queen, includes six ethnic congregations with services in English, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Spanish, Hmong and Laotian. A shoe-string staff and volunteers keep afloat a host of programs for the community's mentally and emotionally disabled, food distribution, children's clubs, tutoring, senior citizens' ministry, counseling, and more.

Uptown's 150 members do more than slap bandaids on the community's ills, however. "What makes our programs evangelism is we proclaim the gospel, we verbalize it," Queen explained. "Any kind of work or ministry we do, if we are not proclaiming the gospel, the work is not 'Christian.' But if we don't do the work, then we are not credible."

Uptown's ethnic congregations work beside the 50 English-speaking members under a unified budget, and observe celebrations and ordinances together, Queen said. Bivocational pastors help with the Cambodian and Hmong congregations, while students of Chicago's Trinity Seminary work with other ethnic congregations and Uptown's music program.

Of the 128,000 persons in the Greater Uptown area, more than 10,000 are mentally or emotionally disabled persons living in halfway houses or on the streets. Associate Pastor Tim Larkin helps integrate such persons into the life of the church.

"Some people think ministry is 'doing,' so they separate these people from other members of the church and do everything for them," Larkin said. "I don't do that." At Uptown, they participate, adding a song or testimony of their own to the worship.

Uptown's pantry provided food for more than 1,000 people in August and could distribute more if more food and volunteers were available, Queen noted. Salary funds for Ken Oliver, who works full-time distributing food, are almost exhausted.

Though the Home Mission Board, which pays Queen's salary, provides some money for buying food, "if you don't have someone to administer the program, you can't use the money," Queen lamented.

The church's food kitchen averages 200 persons at its weekly meal, and the senior adults' club shares two meals a week at the church.

Lidia Mika coordinates the boys' and girls' clubs, and the tutoring and senior citizens' programs. Until eight months ago, she also led an after-school program. But the program closed "simply because it did not have enough money for staff to run it effectively," Queen explained.

Still, "it's beautiful to see the results of that program going on in our church. All but the children of one family who came to our program have been saved and gotten their act back together," Queen said, adding with a laugh edged by irony, "so we closed up the only successful program we may have ever had."

"God still wants us to do it, of course, but the indictment against us is we can't come up with the resources."

Church-sponsored graduate equivalency diploma and English as a second language classes also folded "because there were no Christian people to lead them," Queen said. "To run a program without the witness in it was not what we wanted to do."

Despite disappointments, Queen, 46, is difficult to discourage. Reared in Chicago's inner city himself, he "had a pretty good idea" what he was tackling when he returned in 1976 to plant a church in Uptown.

Just graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Queen began his Uptown ministry with Bible studies and worship services. The small band moved among an ice skating rink, office building, homes and a storefront until 1981 when newly-constituted Uptown Baptist Church bought a building.

Although its ministry has expanded, membership remains small. "Some people are afraid to b come involved because we're such a committed church and some of our requirements are tougher than most," Queen observed. Each new member must attend a membership course for "personal evangelism training as well as to discover their gift," he noted.

At Uptown, Queen's vision of evangelism requires both proclamation and presence. "The purpose for becoming involved is because God has loved us and then we demonstrate the love," he explained. "We're called to disciple, baptize and go tell them, so let's do it. Whatever it takes."

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(Taylor is associate editor of "SBC Today." Adapted from the November issue)

Utah-Idaho Messengers
Pledge 40 New Chapels

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BOISE, Idaho (BP)--Messengers to the annual convention of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention pledged themselves to begin new work in 40 unchurched locations during the coming year.

During the commitment service held at Mountainview Baptist Church in Boise, Idaho, representatives of Utah-Idaho churches were asked to pray and then to make commitment to begin work in the 40 specific unchurched locations.

In other business, messengers adopted a \$1,334,250 budget, of which \$431,392 will come from the 83 churches and 40 chapels of the convention. Of the convention giving goal, 21 percent--\$81,140--will be contributed to the worldwide missions causes through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

The 21 percent is an increase of one percent to the worldwide missions effort.

The messengers also elected William Warren, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Idaho Falls, Idaho, as president.

The 1984 meeting will be held Nov. 13-14 at First Southern Baptist Church in Layton, Utah.

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Hawaii Convention Draws
Record Number Of Messengers

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KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (BP)--The largest assembly of messengers to attend an Hawaii Baptist Convention met Nov. 10-13 in the coastal town of Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii wh re the first Christian missionaries to Hawaii landed in 1820.

Approximately 500 Hawaii Baptists, including 340 messengers from 42 of the 43 churches in the HBC, attended the sessions.

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Dan Kong, HBC executive director-treasurer, urged Hawaii Baptists not to wait for land and church buildings to become available before starting new missions. He said, "Our forebearers began work under trees, along river banks, in court yards, in houses and brush arbors, pavilions, community centers, etc." He introduced the concept of partnership relationship between mainland churches and local associations and churches to develop new work.

Messengers adopted a budget of \$1,347,262, an increase of \$184,959 over 1983. The Cooperative Program contribution to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program remained at 27 percent. A committee to study state Cooperative Program strategy for the next ten years was approved and Joe Sanders, pastor of Nuuanu Baptist Church, was appointed chairman.

A resolution to oppose an unrestricted sexual orientation bill now before the state legislature which would allow self-disclosed homosexuals to teach in public schools was adopted after some discussion.

Other adopted resolutions favored a bill to raise the legal drinking age from 18 to 21, resisted all gambling legislation, and favored the exemption of the four percent general excise tax on basic foods and medicine.

O.W. Efurud, pastor of Mililani, was reelected president for a second term.

Hawaii's pioneer Southern Baptist church, the First Baptist Church of Wahiawa celebrating its golden anniversary next year, will host the 1984 convention, Nov. 8-10.

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BTN Seeks To Enhance
Local Church Programs

By Jim Lowry

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Programs for BTN, the Baptist Sunday School Board's training network, are in planning and production for the initial broadcast in June 1984.

For Sunday school leaders, there will be weekly programs to aid in preparation for each Sunday's lesson. Weekly programs will be broadcast beginning in June 1984 for youth workers and adult workers in the Life and Work Series, with weekly programs for Bible Book Series beginning in October 1984 and Convention Uniform Series in April 1985.

Other weekly programs scheduled to begin with the initial broadcast of BTN are Ministering to Families Today and Video Training Magazine. Monthly MasterLife programs are scheduled along with a program entitled Profile, which is sponsored by national student ministries to show models of student work.

Morton Rose, vice president for church programs and services, stressed in a recent meeting BTN is not another denominational program from the Sunday School Board, but a methodology for communicating directly with local churches.

"BTN is not a substitute for anything the local church is presently doing," Rose said. "The programs are not designed to replace any teachers or other church leaders, but to help them do the work they already are doing.

"Church leaders need to understand BTN is not a church theater, a television network, home entertainment, ACTS or even a replacement for existing media," Rose explained. "BTN will be a tool to help church leaders as they teach, preach, witness and worship."

The ministry of the Sunday School Board in providing literature to churches will be "enhanced" by BTN, according to Rose. The established ministry efforts of the Sunday School Board via the print medium will continue, with additional support provided through BTN to further the understanding of church leaders.

In addition to weekly and monthly programs on BTN, limited duration series and individual message programs are planned to cover topics which can be dealt with on a more limited basis.

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- Some examples of the limited duration series which are approved for production in 1984 and 1985 include Children and Crisis (10 programs); Potential Youth Leader Training (six programs); The Three Faces of Dramatic Arts and the Church (three programs), and Using Equipping Centers to Develop Disciples (three programs).

A total of 56 individual message programs have been approved and scheduled for taping. Some of these titles include Basics for New Youth Sunday School Workers; Church Reaching Out with Cradle Roll; Developing Skills in Biblical Interpretation; Disciple Youth for Your Church; How to Operate a Cassette Tape Ministry; Reaching and Baptizing College Students, and Key Music Leadership Training Events.

Programs also will be carried from other agencies of the convention to provide special emphasis helps on foreign and home missions and other topics.

Participation in churches will be more than just watching a program on a monitor, Rose said. Someone in each church will need to be responsible for managing and administering the network reception and usage in the church. Suggestions on how to organize a workgroup in the church will be provided by the church media library department through special resources and Media magazine.

Utilization guides will be mailed to churches for many of the programs carried on BTN. These guides will offer suggested learning objectives and learning activities to use with the programs. Your Church Using BTN, a new book by Lue Bishop and Rose, will be available Dec. 1 for churches to use as they become involved with BTN.

Mancil Ezell, secretary of the board's church media library department, said participation in BTN is not dependent on having a media library. The church should appoint a BTN coordinator to secure and maintain equipment, process and catalog messages and manage the BTN budget and subscription.

"With BTN we can communicate with Southern Baptists in an hour," explained Rose. "Previously, it was impossible for the Sunday School Board to send a consultant into every church. Now that is possible."

Equipment for churches to receive BTN is available through Broadman.

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Project Colors Agency's
View Of Missions

By Mike Davis

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--If there were an award for missions involvement by employees of a Southern Baptist Convention agency, the Graphics Services Department of the Brotherhood Commission would win hands down.

Hershel Wells, who is an associational Royal Ambassador director and a short-term missions volunteer to Upper Volta, can be credited with sparking the department's missions interest.

Art Director Wells' contact with missions volunteers in Upper Volta led to a request for coloring books to help in the literacy program for Voltic children.

Literacy volunteers had been using secular coloring books to help teach Voltic children to read; but Mickey Mouse, Spiderman and Jumbo Jets aren't part of the Upper Volta culture. It is hard to teach a child to read when he has never seen what you want him to read about.

Getting an artist to draw some pictures a child can color is simple enough, but producing a 26-page coloring book with two color cover isn't that easy. Wells is convinced that God had a hand in it.

He asked members of his department to volunteer time for the illustrations. All six were enthusiastic.

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The next question was, where do you find money to print 1,000 coloring books? Wells had worked with Richard Anderson, a Baptist layman and part-owner of a printing company in Memphis and decided to ask if Richard's company could help with the project. But before Wells could call Anderson, Anderson called Wells. Anderson needed some art done for a book his company was printing. Wells agreed to do the art and Anderson agreed to print the coloring book and provide the paper free.

Wells had volunteered to spend a month in Upper Volta during November and had planned to personally deliver the books. Three days before his departure, Wells' father was taken to the hospital.

First reports suggested Wells should stay in the States but the day before departure doctors decided Wells' father wasn't seriously ill. Wells made the trip, books and all.

Wells summed up the project before he left. "The book became reality on the 20th day of October after its conception in early September. No funds changed hands, but God's spirit did move as it flowed from one Christian to another all the way to West Africa."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Brotherhood Commission

Wiggins President
Of Colleg Group

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BUIES CREEK, N.C. (BP)--Norman Wiggins, president of Campbell University, has been elected president-lect of the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities.

Wiggins has been a member of the NCACU executive committee. In the coming year he will help organize the sixty-fourth annual meeting for the fall of 1984. He will become president in 1985.

The present membership of NCACU consists of 82 colleges and universities, public and private--virtually every institution for higher education in North Carolina.

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