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One Congregation Praying
For 36,000 SBC Churches

By Craig Bird

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (BP)-- First Baptist Church has launched an effort to pray specifically for each of the more than 36,000 churches which cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention and for each of the convention's seminaries, mission boards and agencies during the next five and a half months.

The prayer program was launched March 5 and will continue five days a week, 12 hours a day. Each half hour a prayer partner will be praying for 15 Southern Baptist churches by name. The church has installed two toll-free telephone lines so churches can phone in specific prayer requests and report "spiritual victories."

Morris Chapman, pastor of the 7,600-member church, conceived the idea last December while praying for spiritual revival in the Texas city which sits just across the Oklahoma border. "God reminded me how the few national awakenings in our land had begun with intercessory prayer," he explained.

As he considered how the Southern Baptist's convention structure is built around the autonomy of the local church, he was impressed to link those churches in a prayer chain.

The congregation responded enthusiastically, committing both the manpower and the finances necessary to make the idea functional. The 120 volunteers who are maintaining the prayer chain are backed up by scores of other church members who are handling the secretarial duties and filling in when one of the 120 is unable to be there.

The church, which gives 15 percent of its receipts to the SBC unified giving program, the Cooperative Program (this year that will be \$441,000), also authorized \$10,000 for the two toll-free telephone lines (1-800-PRAY SBC in Texas and 1-800-PRAY USA for other states) and advertising. Another \$2,000 was spent remodeling a small kitchen area into the prayer room.

Churches will receive postcards some days prior to the time they will be prayed for, so they can phone in requests. First Baptist Church also asked each of the 36,000 churches to pray for their ministry in Wichita Falls.

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Senate Confirms Wilson
As Vatican Ambassador

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press
3/8/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Senate voted March 7 to confirm William A. Wilson as United States ambassador to the Vatican.

Temporarily laying aside debate on the pending constitutional amendment on school prayer the Senate voted 81-13 in favor of confirming the California land developer and long-time personal friend of President Reagan to the Vatican post.

That left only informal funding approval by House and Senate appropriations panels standing in the way of completing congressional action on the administration's decision to establish full diplomatic ties with the Holy See.

Several of the 13 senators who voted against confirmation cited views voiced by Baptists and numerous U.S. religious groups that official U.S. recognition of the Holy See would violate the First Amendment's mandate for church-state separation.

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Announcing his opposition to the move, Sen. Wendell H. Ford, D-Ky., said, "serious attention must be paid to the long-valued policy of separation of church and state."

"Furthermore," Ford continued, "this impending action could be seen as advancing one religious denomination over another."

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., told colleagues he opposed the action on church-state separation grounds and "because we should not be sending a political representative to politicize that church."

Hatfield said he had no objection to having "observers" at the Vatican, but added, "I resent the implication that we are politicizing the Roman Catholic Church and making it a political institution by this very action."

A similar note was sounded by Sen. John P. East, R-N.C., who said he feared "that in making this fundamentally a political relationship we demean, we lessen, the potential moral persuasion of the papacy and all of the other great Catholic leadership we find in the world today."

Sen. Dale L. Bumpers, D-Ark., said he did not "think the world is going to come to an end because we have decided to do this," but charged the action "erodes a constitutional prohibition against the establishment of religion."

Bumpers linked the Vatican ambassador and school prayer issues, saying, "I cannot see how I can be consistent in my grave concerns about mandating prayer in schools and public institutions and at the same time remain silent as we spend public funds to recognize a religion."

Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., who led Senate proponents of the confirmation, said that while he did not share the concerns of colleagues and religious groups who saw the move as a violation of church-state separation, "I do believe that it is a significant concern and one to which eloquent and forceful testimony has been given."

The Senate vote drew strong criticism from Baptist leaders engaged in the effort to persuade Congress to reject establishment of full diplomatic ties with the Vatican.

"This is a truly tragic day in the history of American church-state relations," declared Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director-Treasurer James M. Dunn. "I lament this evidence of the massive misunderstanding of the United States Senate and the Administration regarding the basic American tradition of church/state separation."

Dunn also said, "I shudder for the future of religious freedom when the Deputy Secretary of State can say publicly, as he has, that this appointment will 'allow us to influence the political positions of the Holy See.'"

James T. Draper Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who testified in opposition to the establishment of full diplomatic relations, said he was "disappointed in the way it was handled. There are real questions about the constitutionality of this, and they were not dealt with."

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, said the "real issues were not seriously considered by the Senate. It seems to me this was a very inappropriate way for the Senate to handle such a critical issue."

Joint Committee Wrapup

Moon, PAW Concerns
Discussed, Postponed

By Dan Martin

WASHINGTON (BP)--A decision on whether to enter the Sun Myung Moon tax evasion case as a "friend of the court" was postponed for further study by members of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs during their annual meeting March 5-6.

The committee--and its Southern Baptist component, the Public Affairs Committee--also spent more than two hours discussing the involvement of BJCPA Executive Director-Treasurer James M. Dunn with People for the American Way, a First Amendment rights coalition.

In other business, the committee elected Donald Brewer, a Southern Baptist attorney from Chicago as chairman and adopted a \$505,919 preliminary budget for 1984-85.

Committee members, by a 15-6 vote, requested the staff to study BJCPA involvement in the Moon tax evasion case, and to consult with committee officers before making a final decision on whether to file a motion with the Supreme Court on behalf of the controversial Korean head of the Unification Church (Moonies).

John W. Baker, general counsel of the joint committee, reviewed the case for the committee, specifying joining in would in no way indicate any agreement with the church but would only be because of the "significant religious liberty issues involved."

Baker told Baptist Press the issue which concerns the BJCPA "is not Moon's guilt or innocence in the tax evasion case. The real issue to us is whether the church or the government determines what is religious and non-religious in the expenditure of church funds. What that means to Baptist churches is that the trial court held the government does have role in saying how a church spends its money."

Baker told committee members "it is too late" to join an effort asking the Supreme Court to review the case, but said if the high tribunal does elect to hear it, the BJCPA may wish to file a brief specifying religious liberty concerns.

Baker said the parties joining in to ask the court to review the case "are a remarkable collection of people who normally wouldn't talk to each other," ranging from the National Association of Evangelicals to the National Council of Churches.

Sam Currin, a Southern Baptist attending his first meeting of the committee, opposed joining the case, saying he would rather see the staff involved in the "Nebraska case."

Currin, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and a former aide to U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms R-N.C., referred to controversy in Nebraska concerning the church school of an independent Baptist church, its pastor and seven deacons.

The case, already refused by the Supreme Court, relates to certification of teachers by the state of Nebraska. Baker said the case and its appeals were poorly handled legally, and another case with more expert legal guidance currently is working its way through the courts.

Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, also opposed joining the action, saying: "I am not sure we need to be explaining anything else to our constituency right now. No doubt the action poses a real threat to us, but unless we are absolutely essential, I am going to vote against it."

When another committee member remarked it would be an opportunity to educate the nine constituencies on issues of religious liberty, Allen countered: "We are just about up to our ears in educational opportunities right now."

Allen referred to two issues on which the BJCPA currently is under fire, at least among Southern Baptists. One is Dunn's former participation in People for the American Way, and the other for the committee's opposition to President Reagan's proposed constitutional amendment on school prayer. (See (BP) mailed 3/7/84, "Baptist Joint Committee Reaffirms Prayer Stance".)

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The issue of Dunn's recently expired term on the advisory board of PAW was raised by Albert Lee Smith, from Birmingham, Ala., a frequent critic of Dunn's relationship with PAW and of one of PAW's founders, television producer Norman Lear.

Smith, a former one-term congressman from Alabama currently seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate, surfaced his complaint in a September meeting of the Public Affairs Committee and spoke during a debate at the Alabama Baptist State Convention in November, when he appeared to be requesting the BJCPA be defunded by the SBC.

The deacons at Smith's church, Southside Baptist Church of Birmingham, also passed a resolution requesting a study to see if Cooperative Program funds were being misused by funding BJCPA when Dunn was involved with PAW. Subsequently the SBC Executive Committee discussed the Alabama Convention resolution and declined to recommend defunding the BJCPA.

The most recent objection occurred during a breakfast meeting of the SBC component, and again during a miscellaneous business session of the joint committee. Generally, Smith's complaints concerned the involvement of Lear, a \$40,000 grant from the Playboy Foundation to help PAW get started in 1980, and an advertisement which appeared in Playboy, listing the advisory board and Dunn.

"My real concern, and one felt by many people in the convention, is that we need to disassociate ourselves in every way from the People for the American Way," Smith said. "I don't believe Southern Baptists will want to continue funding anything that is in any way in sympathy with anything Norman Lear says or does."

Dunn reiterated he has declined a second term on the PAW advisory board and that his only involvement with the PAW is as "one of 105,000 people who receive its newsletter."

During the March PAC meeting, Dunn countered Smith's allegations that PAW is supportive of homosexual rights, pornography and abortion by noting the organization is "educational and promotional," that Norman Lear is only one of the board members and founders, that no positions have been adopted on social issues and that "not one penny of Cooperative Program money ever went to People for the American Way."

Dunn, who was executive director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission prior to coming to BJCPA in 1981, told Smith: "I will not take a back seat to anyone in my commitment to moral causes. I have fought liquor, gambling and pornography. I have been very visible in these efforts, even to the point of having death threats made against me and my family.

"You are trying to smear me with guilt by association and that needs to be made abundantly clear. I will not take second seat to anyone for my commitment to moral causes."

Allen asked Smith if what he wants is for Dunn "not to take the newsletter," and whether the attack is "against the man (Dunn) and are you seeking his blood." Allen added: "I think enough has been said about this."

Smith, however, surfaced the issue again before the entire committee meeting, finally moving that "no staff member shall be involved in or participate in any activity with or have any identification with Norman Lear and the People for the American Way."

After a discussion which lasted more than an hour and a half and featured a parliamentary tangle of substitute motions and a suspension of the rules, the committee finally voted 18-2 to "table indefinitely" the matter.

Smith told Baptist Press he thought the "committee dodged the issue," by tabling the motion, and predicted there will be "serious questions coming up on the floor of the Southern Baptist Convention as to whether or not the majority of Southern Baptists have been heard by the Baptist Joint Committee."

Smith also was critical of a BJCPA vote to reaffirm its opposition to the Reagan prayer amendment. He favors the amendment, and skipped one of the sessions of the BJCPA to lead a prayer at a rally for the amendment on the west steps of the U.S. Capitol. "I went over and asked if I could participate," he said.

RTVC Radio Programs
Receives Six Awards

By Bonita Sparrow

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--For the fourth year in a row Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission radio programs have taken top honors in the Religion in Media (RIM) awards program.

Six Silver Angels, eight inches tall from toe to crown, are each standing on the desks of producers in the radio department of the RTVC. "That's one Silver Angel Award for each of the six half-hour radio programs honored for excellence this year by Religion in Media," said Edwin Malone, director of the commission's radio department.

Religion in Media, which has sponsored the awards since 1977, is a worldwide inter-religious, non-profit organization designed to recognize excellence in religious radio, television, films, records and books.

RTVC programs winning top honors for excellence of programming on a national level were "Country Crossroads," "MasterControl," "Powerline," "Streams in the Desert," and "On Track." "Horizontes," won a Silver Angel for excellence in international programming.

A seventh radio program, "Sounds of the Centurymen," won a certificate of excellence.

"Country Crossroads," produced by Stan Knowles, and "MasterControl," produced by Jimmy Akin and Charles Ries, each now have won three Silver Angels.

This is the second Silver Angel for "Powerline" produced by Kirk Teegarden and for "On Track," produced by Jack Norris and assistant producer Eddie Reed. It is a first Silver Angel for "Streams in the Desert," also produced by Charles Ries. "Streams" won a certificate of excellence from RIM in 1982.

It is also the second win for "Horizontes," produced for the RTVC by Aldo Ruiz. It received a Silver Angel in 1982.

The RTVC programs honored are heard on 4,902 radio stations each week.

"Country Crossroads," featuring country music with co-hosts Jerry Clower of the Grand Ole Opry, and Bill Mack, a Fort Worth disc jockey, is on 1,398 stations. "Powerline," a show for young adults is hosted by disc jockey Jon Rivers on 1,438 stations. "MasterControl," a talk show, is on 872 stations.

"Streams in the Desert," is on 386 stations and "On Track," the RTVC's newest radio program is on 538 stations. "Horizontes," a program in Spanish for young adults, is on 270 stations in this country and abroad.

This year's sweep makes 14 Silver Angels RTVC radio programming has received from Religion in Media. The awards were presented for RIM by singer/actor Pat Boone and actor Efriam Zimbalist Jr.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by RTVC

Dallas Churches Renovate
Low-Income Housing

By Thomas J. Brannon

Baptist Press
3/8/84

DALLAS (BP)--Four Southern Baptist churches here provided most of the volunteers for what has been described as the most ambitious church-sponsored project in the history of Dallas' low-income housing program.

"It's almost like a dream come true," said Mrs. Sandra Robinson, a tenant at Rhoads Terrace housing project in South Dallas, as 550 volunteers converged on the low-income housing complex on Saturday to begin a long-overdue total renovation program.

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Robinson said she had heard help was on the way, but wouldn't believe it until they showed up.

The 550 volunteers including 100 professional roofers, came largely from eight Dallas area churches working through STEP, (Strategies To Elevate People.) Four of the eight are Southern Baptist churches--Park Cities, Prestonwood, Carrollton First and Lake Highlands.

The church volunteers worked alongside Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) employees. An estimated 150 residents of the complex also donned hard hats and joined the labor force.

From early morning until late afternoon, the volunteers fought high wind gusts but completed reroofing and stripping of 22 buildings. They also cleared debris from 158 vacant units in preparation for construction and renovation crews.

Other workers spread out across the compound to give an early spring cleaning to the grounds.

The Rhoads Terrace complex includes 426 apartment units, of which 268 are presently occupied. Rhoads Terrace is one of several DHA projects which assists low-income families, including many elderly, and disabled or handicapped persons.

Park Cities was lead church in the roofing-renovation project, providing about 250 of the volunteers. The workday was only one of many on-going efforts to help Rhoads Terrace and other communities and individuals.

"Park Cities chose to use strategies developed by STEP as a way to minister to persons in Dallas who had specific needs," said Paul Royal, Park Cities' minister to singles. "We had a host of single adults who were begging for something worthwhile to do."

The singles began work with the elementary school adjacent to Rhoads Terrace and a completely renovated building resulted. Prior to the volunteers' involvement, school attendance was at an all-time low. One year later it had the highest attendance in the entire system, Royal said.

Every month about 150 Park Cities Baptist volunteers work with the people at Rhoads Terrace. Much of this is accomplished through friendship committees assigned to work with public servants, ranging from teachers to police officers to recreational workers.

Altogether, 19 Dallas area churches of different denominations are involved in the STEP program, each church has its own specific area of concern and ministry.

Dallas Mayor Starke Taylor said as he helped fill trash bags, "I hope this project will serve as an example of how we can work together to help people."

Mike Clark, director of planning for DHA, said the volunteers had moved the renovation ahead by at least a month. "They have saved us between \$100,000 and \$125,000."

Coordination and details for the massive project were handled largely by volunteers and staff persons from the participating churches, the STEP office and DHA. Food was provided by the churches with help from American Airlines and the Dr Pepper Company.

Recipients of the volunteers' help were appreciative. Some tenants expressed thanks to the workers.

James Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church and Wayne Allen, pastor of Carrollton First Baptist, were among the pastors working alongside their lay volunteers.

"These people have worked so hard today," Pleitz said. "It's one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen."

Allen, leading a team of about 55 Carrollton First Baptist volunteers, said the project was a blessing to everybody involved. "It's one of the most practical applications of Christianity I've seen in a long time."

Teresa Thomas, a STEP foundation employee and member at the Park Cities Church, called the effort "a huge success. To see the body of Christ coming together like this and to witness such a diversity of people working together was really beautiful," she said.

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Missionary Plans Return
To Kenya--But Not Alone

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist press
3/8/84

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--Even before his wife, Margie, died of cancer last May, Marshall Duncan knew he must return to Kenya to continue the commitment to foreign missions they began 19 years ago.

Despite his pain and loneliness, Duncan had "a clear sense that God's call remained in Kenya," where he was needed to move from Limuru to work as the only Southern Baptist missionary in Kericho on the edge of Masai land.

"When you get a clear sense of God's call, you must stay where he puts you until he tells you to leave," explained the 50-year-old church developer.

Duncan made plans to return in October, but he unexpectedly discovered that obeying the call to Kericho didn't mean living there alone.

Margie's sister, Mary Nell Joslin of Knoxville, Tenn., introduced him to Julia Moore, a 56-year-old widow. Moore worked with Joslin in the treasurer's office of the University of Tennessee, where the Duncans' older son, Alan, won fame as a football place kicker, their other son, Kenny, is a senior. Moore also is an alumna.

Neither Duncan nor Moore, each married for more than 30 years before their spouses died, thought they were ready for someone else. But things didn't work out that way.

Moore had met Margie and heard Marshall preach at her home church, Central Baptist of Fountain City, Knoxville suburb.

When she agreed to an introduction and then a luncheon date, she realized what might develop. She called a prayer partner before the date and asked her to pray with her that God would take charge of whatever happened.

Duncan believes that's just what occurred. "Margie was kind, unselfish and concerned for others--personifying what Jesus taught. That's the kind of person Julia is."

Once they agreed to marry, Duncan decided not to wait the months it would take the Foreign Mission Board to approve Moore's appointment, even though his marriage to a non-missionary meant he'd have to resign and seek reappointment when the board granted her approval.

Duncan returned to Kenya to do some ground work for the move to Kericho. Two months later on Dec. 9, Moore, who felt called to missions before meeting Duncan, took early retirement from her job of 22 years and followed him.

They were married at Parklands Baptist Church in Nairobi Dec. 10, the 19th anniversary of Marshall's and Margie's appointment as missionaries. After a honeymoon in Kenya and Europe enroute to Knoxville, they will pursue appointment and reappointment. They hope that will happen by mid- to late 1984.

Duncan insisted on a simple wedding and reception as an example for Africans, who tend to spend more than they can afford on elaborate weddings. He refused to let participants throw rice, thereby wasting food, on a continent where many people don't have enough to eat.

Missionary Jack Conley performed the ceremony, but Africans played a key part. Duncan's friend, Samson Kisia of Limuru, was best man. Joyce Kihuga, an African pastor's wife who did women's work with Margie before she died, was matron of honor.

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The pianist was Tanzania missionary Gayle Brian Thomas, who returned to the mission field in mid-1983 with two children, more than a year after her husband, Larry, died of cancer.

The ceremony moved several onlookers to tears, but a sense of Christian joy over the future and complete approval prevailed.

"Margie would certainly approve," said Duncan, recalling a trip they took to Florida together before she died at age 56 after a long bout with cancer. "We knew she would die, and we talked it out on that trip. We discussed our feelings. We planned the funeral.

"She even teased me about marrying again and told me she didn't want me to be alone," he said. "We decided to enjoy the time we had left together. It was a beautiful experience."

"I'm looking forward to our new life," said the new Mrs. Duncan. "I'm not nervous about what will happen because I know the Lord's hand is in it." She also knows that life as a missionary wife in Kericho, Kenya, will call on a new set of resources.

"Are you tough?" a former missionary asked when she heard the news. "Yes, I'm a survivor," Mrs. Duncan replied.

Survivability, a requirement for missions, includes a healthy sense of humor. Mrs. Duncan, who was living with her late husband's mother when she met Duncan, has that.

"You know, I really had to ponder over trading in a worthy mother-in-law for a used missionary," she said with a grin.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

Emmanuel Counts
Dozen Descendants

By Brenda Hall

Baptist Press
3/8/84

COFFEYVILLE, Kan. (BP)--Emmanuel Baptist Church was born in 1935 and became a mother in 1946.

Today, to trace the progeny of this congregation of 734 in Coffeyville requires the construction of a family tree to please the most ardent geneologist.

Emmanuel's first mission child was born at Spring Hill in 1956, with Red Hanson as mission pastor. Four years later it became Central Baptist Church, and today has a membership of 199. Twenty-one years after its birth, it made Emmanuel Baptist a grandparent by establishing the Walnut Street Chapel, which later became First Southern Baptist Church, Cherryvale.

Mission number two was started in 1947 by a group from Emmanuel which included Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hoffman. Witwer Mission became Pleasant Valley Baptist Church of Wann, Okla., in 1951 with 50 charter members. Today there are 164 members.

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in turn begat First Southern Baptist Church, Caney (originally Eastside Baptist Church), and in 1958 organized another grandchild for Emmanuel--Lone Cherry Baptist Church, Havana. Membership in the Caney church is now 240, and there are 53 members of the Havana congregation.

In 1948, Emmanuel began Edgewood Mission, its third mission in as many years. Two years later the mission became Edgewood Baptist Church. The name later was changed to First Southern Baptist Church, Coffeyville, and today that congregation boasts 613 members.

First Southern, Coffeyville, supplied two grandchildren--one of which created a mission of its own--for Emmanuel.

First Southern Baptist Church of Dearing was organized in 1967 and today has 24 members. First Southern Baptist Church, Independence, was formed in 1955 and now has a membership of 351. It was the Independence church which formed Emmanuel's great-grandchild in 1974--First Southern Baptist Church of Neodesha. The Neodesha church now has 50 members.

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In 1955, the South Coffeyville (Okla.) Mission was established. Three years later it became First Baptist Church, South Coffeyville. In 1979 the Oklahoma congregation began a mission at Liberty, Kan., which is now First Southern Baptist Church, Liberty, with a membership of 44.

Directing its efforts toward Chanute, Kan., Emmanuel Baptist Church formed the Westview Baptist Chapel there in 1962. Paul Andrews, Emmanuel's pastor at the time, helped initiate work by conducting home fellowship Bible meetings. The chapel constituted into a church in 1970 and today has a membership of 224.

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World's Fair Ministry
Targets Three Areas

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

Baptist Press
3/8/84

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Baptists have organized a three-faceted ministry for the Louisiana World Exposition in New Orleans when the gates open May 12 for 184 days.

"We have scheduled witness programs on the fairgrounds, in the French Quarter and at approximately 40 camping areas," Jimmie Knox, director of Baptist Exposition Ministries said. This is a departure from the one-location entertainment witness approach at the Knoxville (Tenn.) Fair.

The speciality groups will include a brass band, bluegrass band, magician, mime and barbershop quartet. As crowds gather to listen for four or five minutes, volunteers will mingle in the crowd and distribute tracts and witness.

Knox said fair officials predict 75-80,000 visitors to the fair each day with about 80 percent of them going into the French Quarter.

The speciality groups performing will be college students under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The Board will pay a stipend and the Baptist Exposition Ministries organization will provide room and board.

On the fairgrounds, church choir groups will perform on one of three stages provided for religious programs. Baptists will be included with other church groups in a cooperative arrangement, Knox said.

All religious programming on the fairgrounds is being coordinated by the New Orleans Federation of Churches with David Peach as director. Peach served as director of Baptist Fair Ministries in Knoxville.

Religious programming will include a worship service each Sunday.

A third witness program will be at campgrounds around New Orleans. Knox said approximately 40 of them have signed contracts to accept Baptist groups.

Caroline Veno, a US-2er under appointment by the Home Mission Board, has organized work with the managers. All campsites are completely booked for the duration of the fair by persons planning to attend the fair.

The agreement assures camp directors Baptist groups have been screened and will abide by the rules of their camps. It will also provide admittance for the Baptist group that has been scheduled.

Campsites are from Pascagoula, Miss., to the east, McComb, Miss., to the north, and Baton Rouge, La., to the west.

Knox said they expect to use about 30 volunteers per day for the 184 days of the fair. "This means more than 5,500 persons. We are asking Baptists within 100 miles to serve as volunteers. When you divide this number by the number of churches, it really means only about two persons per church.

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"One church in Alabama, the Southside Baptist Church, Russellville, has scheduled 40 members for one week. They have all participated in the Continuing Witness Training program and have their lodging reservations. Others have made commitments, also, in addition to local people."

Choir groups are expected for about two months, June and July, Knox said. Living arrangements for these groups have been arranged at the Viex Carre Baptist Church in the French Quarter, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary gymnasium and John Curtis Christian School.

"We can provide for about 225 people a night at these three places. A minimum charge will be made," he said.

A building for Baptist Exposition Ministries has been rented at 500 St. Louis Street, at the corner of St. Louis and Decatur, three blocks from Jackson Square and less than 10 blocks from the fairgrounds.

In addition to serving as a central office, this will be an assembly and orientation location for volunteer groups preparing to go into the fairgrounds or the French Quarter.

"We also will have trained counselors on duty to assist fair visitors with problems or if someone calls to inquire about becoming a Christian. The fair will be open for 12 hours a day, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.," Knox said.

To date, 23 countries have signed for space at the fair. "Of this number Baptists have work in all but one of them, China. We feel a great opportunity will be available to witness to people from numerous countries, especially those here to work at their pavilions.

"With total fair attendance estimated from 11-15 million people, opportunity for witness is staggering," he noted.

Volunteers wishing to participate in the Baptist Exposition Ministries program can contact Knox by writing to him at 500 St. Louis Street, New Orleans, La. 70130.



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