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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 11, 1984

84-56

Three Canadian Leaders
 Positive About Report

By Carol Rathbun

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--Three top Canadian Southern Baptist workers are generally positive about the recommendation of the Southern Baptist Convention Canada Study Committee, although all would have preferred the seating of messengers from Canadian churches.

The report, to be presented to the 1984 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo., recommends that the constitution of the SBC not be changed to include Canada in its territory, but suggests a plan under which "all possible assistance" will be rendered to Canadian Southern Baptist churches.

Allen Schmidt, coordinator of missions work in Canada for the Northwest Baptist Convention, summed up the opinion of the three leaders by saying: "My first desire for Canada would be the seating of Canadian messengers. However, if that seems inappropriate in the Southern Baptist constituency, we feel the committee has done a good job of coming up with positive alternatives."

Schmidt was interviewed by the Northwest Baptist Witness, along with two directors of missions for Canadian associations of the NWBC, Henry Blackaby of Delta, B.C., and Jack Conner of Regina, Sask., on their reactions to the committee report.

The three agree Canadian churches will gain much more if the report is accepted than they would if messengers to the 1983 annual meeting had voted summarily to seat the Canadians.

The year of study has been instructive, both to Southern Baptists and to convention agencies. "Attitudes have changed through the study process," Schmidt said. He added if the Canadians had been seated in 1983, no agency would have been given any particular instruction to become involved in Canada, and the Canadian churches would have just become part of the mass rather than the focus of a particular effort.

The three say there are a number of "key phrases" in the report that give them an optimistic view of the potential of a new relationship with the SBC as outlined in the report.

"The use of the phrase 'Canadian Southern Baptists' gives us a new kind of legitimacy to our work," Schmidt said. "'Canadian Southern Baptists' gives us a broader recognition of our work," he continued, "and psychologically, it brings us into the family." In the past, it was questionable if there were any Canadian Southern Baptists...because they were not seated in the SBC, there were simply Baptists in Canada related to the Northwest Baptist Convention.

The second phrase in the report lauded by the Canadian leaders is the directive given a Canada Planning Group to assist Canadian leadership with development of a strategy for evangelizing Canada. "This puts it on a different footing, where it says Southern Baptists are now willing to open the doors to say 'Okay, let's do whatever we can do to help reach Canada,'" Schmidt said.

The planning group is also responsible for "correlating the work of the agencies of the SBC with churches in Canada in responding to requests, initiating program actions and developing plans, in areas such as missions, evangelism, theological education, literature, student work, media and the sending of Canadians as missionaries."

Schmidt explained, in the past, SBC agencies couldn't initiate programs in Canada largely because of inter-Baptist relationships with the North American Baptist Fellowship, Baptist World Alliance and other Baptist groups in Canada.

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"They didn't want to go in...and take over their work...they didn't want to get into difficulty with other relationships."

The study committee instructs agencies to go beyond responding to requests to initiating work in Canada. "This is saying, 'Look, we've been working here sort of at arm's length...We sense God is saying to us now, "Get involved," ' " Schmidt said.

The missionaries feel, of all the areas in which the SBC is to get involved, the four with the most potential are: student work, theological education, literature and the appointing of missionaries from Canada.

They hope for a more orderly structure and expansion of the present Canadian student work and for a branch seminary which would offer the first year of seminary work. The branch seminary would "call out Canadian young people," they said, and reduce the problems now experienced with immigration laws in crossing over the border. A seminary in a major population center could also help spawn new churches in that area.

Blackaby hopes Canadian editions of Southern Baptist literature will be developed--such as Vacation Bible School materials using a Canadian flag rather than the United States' flag and publications which have lead stories related to the Canadian scene.

"I think we can begin to make a tremendous contribution to the evangelical element across our nation just in the literature alone," he said.

On the issue missionary appointment, Schmidt reported there has never been a Canadian appointed by the Foreign Mission Board and that has hindered the preaching of missions and discouraged volunteers. Yet one of the reasons Canadian churches want to plug into the SBC is because of its strong mission program," he said.

The recommendation that there be "increasing involvement between churches, associations and state conventions in the United States and churches in Canada," is good because stateside Baptists no longer have to feel they are "bootlegging" programs as they reach out to Canadian churches, Schmidt said.

The three men also think the process will benefit Southern Baptist work worldwide, not just in Canada. They feel a new relationship has developed between the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board as a result of studying what to do with Canada.

Blackaby thinks the agreement over how to handle Canadian mission work may be "the catalyst we have needed as a convention" to achieve Bold Mission Thrust and demonstrate how Southern Baptists can release all their resources "to do such an enormous task not only in Canada but across the world."

The fact that messengers from Canadian churches still will not be seated as messengers to the annual SBC meetings does not upset the missionaries.

Conner stressed that getting a vote through seating has never been the Canadians' priority. "Our number one concern has been the evangelizing of Canada," he said. Canadians have just wanted to be perceived as "part of the family" so the SBC "would come and help us."

Blackaby suggested the day might come when a separate national Canadian convention (what Schmidt called "a sort of a twin to the SBC") might be useful in placing Canadian missionaries in countries where Americans were unacceptable to the governments in power.

He said pastors in his association have pondered the question of how they would feel if the SBC refused to either seat messengers or develop a relationship with Canada.

"We all agreed it wouldn't change our attitudes. We might be disappointed that bold missions still would not include Canada but I think most of us felt God's timing was such that it would be impossible for that committee to come back and say 'we're not going to be involved in Canada,' " he said.

FMB-N

Three New Missionaries
Admit Running From God

By Marty Croll

BILOXI, Miss. (BP)--Twenty-four persons including three ministers who said they had knowingly resisted God's call to foreign missions, were appointed as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries April 10.

Standing before a crowd of about 8,000 in the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi, they told how they had ignored God and even argued with him over his plan for their lives.

"I kept trying to think of every reason why we couldn't go," said Frank Lay, a Gulfport, Miss., pastor. But through 15 years, "God continued to speak."

Less than a year ago, after a visiting preacher asked him point-blank if God had called him to be a foreign missionary, and after God spoke plainly to him at a World Missions Conference and during a volunteer trip to Jamaica, Lay decided he'd better act.

"I was on a long drive, and the hand of God was so heavy on me that I stopped at a park north of Raleigh, Miss., and I got at a picnic table and got some things straightened out with the Lord," he said. "I told the Lord that if he wanted me to go as a missionary, then we would go. And if he didn't, he would have to be the one to shut the door."

Lay and his wife, Margaret Carraway Lay of Mississippi, will go to Costa Rica, where he will be an English-language pastor.

Another appointee, Gregory Whitlock, first felt God preparing him for foreign missions as a youth. But he pushed God's leadership away, first in college, then in seminary, and finally as he began working in local churches.

"God kept calling, but I kept closing my ears, my mind and my heart," said Whitlock, from Virginia. "Finally last summer I realized I could not keep running, or hiding, from him."

So he and his wife prayed that God would send them. "Since that night we have known the peace of being in his will," Whitlock said. He and wife, Pamela Mullinax Whitlock of South Carolina, will go to Korea, where he will be a religious education consultant.

Clifford Vick of Texas heard God's voice--but immediately rebelled--as he prepared a missions sermon challenging people "to look unto the fields." "As I worked on the message I sensed God probing my own heart and asking, 'Cliff, why can't you go as a missionary? You are qualified; you have years of experience, a seminary degree, good health, and you're capable of going far sooner than any other person in the congregation who I might call out.'"

"I told the Lord I was happy where I was serving, that I had worked and prayed for years to be in the kind of church I was in now. I said I was comfortable and secure. But the Lord reminded me that anything I had he had given me. And that he did not call me to be comfortable, but to follow him. And that's all the security I needed."

Vick and his wife, Beverly Hawkins Vick of North Carolina, will go to Belgium, where he will be a general evangelist.

Baptists and guests from three Gulf Coast States--primarily Mississippi--locked hands and silently joined in a prayer of dedication just after 71 members of the Foreign Mission Board voted to officially appoint the missionaries.

The new missionaries will go to nine countries on five continents. Six of them will fill positions for preaching and starting new churches, by far the most urgent needs on the Southern Baptist foreign mission field. Others appointed include a couple to be dorm parents for Baptist MKs (missionary kids), a seminary teacher, a music consultant, a bookstore manager, an agricultural evangelist and church and home workers.

During an open invitation to commitment at the end of the service, 65 people walked forward. Fifty-eight expressed an interest in foreign missions.

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"I believe God is calling more than have ever understood," said R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, in offering an invitation to the crowd. "And if God has laid his hand on you and wants you to go as his missionary, you will be miserable, nonproductive and unhappy until you do."

Seven of those who indicated an interest in permanent foreign missions positions either had a seminary degree or were enrolled in a seminary.

The service was part of a three-day meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, which has been annually scheduling such events throughout the country since 1969 in an attempt to help involve people who are geographically distant from its offices in Richmond, Va. The Mississippi Baptist Convention sponsored it.

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Texan Makes Gifts
To Southeastern

Baptist Press
4/11/84

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Leslie Surginer has made one gift of \$11,662 and established a \$300,000 trust fund at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The cash gift will establish an endowment fund, the earnings of which are for the unrestricted use by the seminary. The trust fund earnings will go to Surginer during his lifetime, after which the two funds will be merged into a perpetual endowment.

Surginer, a retired CPA and federal government administrator in Washington, is a member of Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington, Va. He is a native of Weslaco, Texas.

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Christianity And Literature
Moves To Baylor University

Baptist Press
4/11/84

WACO, Texas (BP)-- Baylor University recently received approval to publish the Christianity and Literature journal. James E. Barcus, chairman of the Baylor English department will edit the publication.

Christianity and Literature, which is published four times a year, has been headquartered at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., but will move to the Texas Baptist school in June.

The journal is the official publication of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, an international society of professionals dedicated to a growing awareness and understanding of the relationships between Christianity and the creation, study and teaching of literature, according to its president, Robert G. Collmer, professor of English and dean of Baylor graduate studies and research.

Collmer will assist Barcus in coordinating and selecting the material published in the journal. He will remain president of the 2,000-member Conference of Christianity and Literature through 1985.

All of the articles in the journal have one thing in common--a relationship between literature and Christianity, be it Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran or other denominations.

"The journal will serve as a means of communication among members of the Conference; a place for scholarships to be published; a place for publication of creative literary work, especially poetry; and it will serve as a bibliography for selected periodicals and other journals," Barcus explained.

The area of literature and its tie-ins with Christianity is an academic field that is growing quickly. Several schools, including Emory University, the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia, now offer doctoral degrees in Christianity and literature.

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The journal currently is sent throughout the United States, Europe, England, Africa, Canada and other countries, Collmer said. Contributing authors come from such universities as Yale, Harvard, Stanford and many colleges and universities in England and France.

"We hope to touch upon religion, literature and philosophy in the journal," Barcus said. "Our main premise is this: If you are a Christian, your beliefs affect how you write, how you conduct science, how you do everything. If you take your Christianity seriously, the conclusions you reach have a Christian influence."

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HMB-F

Pharmacist Finds Fulfillment
Meeting Needs As Missions Volunteer By Clay Renick

Baptist Press
4/11/84

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP)--For 35 years, pharmacist Clint O'Brien carefully counted out pills and dispensed prescribed drug dosages to friends and neighbors in Marietta, Ga. His wife, Vivian, plowed her energies into social work.

But both longed for the day they could retire and work as a team in full-time Christian service. In January 1982, they signed on with Mission Service Corps, a Southern Baptist organization for volunteer missionaries. They moved to Baltimore, Md., and were assigned to help members of Seventh Baptist Church meet needs in their community.

Before long, there weren't enough hours in the day to get the work done--providing transportation for the elderly, running a Saturday soup kitchen, maintaining a psychiatric half-way house. "I had a greater sense of accomplishment than I ever had before," recalled O'Brien. "There was no one else standing in line to do the work."

But in May, after four months on the job, Vivian was diagnosed as suffering from a rare brain tumor. She died in August.

The 64-year-old O'Brien dropped out of Mission Service Corps and returned to his former home and career. But the strain of recent months had taken its toll. Before, he could staple the prescription sacks closed with one hand; now it took both hands. He decided to work part-time for the drugstore and reenlist with Mission Service Corps.

In January 1983 O'Brien was assigned to assist the local churches of his hometown, Noonday Baptist Association, with their Christian social ministries program.

It wasn't the first time an O'Brien had aided the association. In 1965, Vivian persuaded the churches to sponsor camps for underprivileged and mentally retarded children. For 17 years, she arranged vacations so she could work as a youth counselor at the summer camp at Ft. Valley, Ga. She had already planned to return the summer she fell ill.

For O'Brien, his new role keeps that concern for people alive. When destitute families visit the association offices, he matches their needs with solutions. If they lack food, he loads grocery bags with canned goods, dried beans, infant formula and oatmeal. If they need money for utilities, medication or gasoline, he scours the community for help.

"If Noonday doesn't have it, O'Brien knows where to go and find help," said Harold Graham, association director and long-time friend. "His dedication to his work is an unspoken dedication to his wife. He's carrying on her work."

Though O'Brien asserts it was his wife who was the "natural-born social worker," Graham says Vivian's compassion for others also runs deep in O'Brien. "I know for a fact they took blankets and sheets off their beds to give to people who didn't have any," he said. "When you visited you were afraid to leave an overcoat in their home for fear they would give it away."

O'Brien downplays such generosity with a simple response: "What good is anything you have if you can't share it?"

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(Renick is a student at California Baptist College in Riverside.)

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

Baptist Pastor Receives
Highest Hungarian Recognition

By Knud Wümpelmann

BUDAPEST (BP)--Baptist Pastor Janos Laczkovszki has received the highest civil award of the Hungarian People's Republic.

The Gold Medal was granted for his outstanding service as president of the Baptist Union of Hungary during the past 17 years. The Hungarian Free-Church Council recommended Laczkovszki, who becomes the second clergyman ever to receive the honor.

During his presidential terms, Baptists in Hungary have built or renovated 41 church buildings, 25 of which have included pastor's homes. In addition, two large buildings and two smaller ones presently are under construction.

This extensive building activity followed a long period when no church structures could be built or restored. It is the result of a remarkable financial and voluntary labor effort on the part of Hungarian Baptists, who were supported to some extent by Baptists outside Hungary.

Laczkovszki resigned as president at the Baptist Union Assembly held in Budapest March 21-23. In his closing presidential address, he reported more than 10,000 books had been printed during 1983, compared to an earlier time in the 1960s when some 2,000 books were published over a three-year period.

Some Baptist publications are available in public book stores as well as in church outlets. Of 7,000 copies of a hymn book with notes recently printed, only 600 copies are left. Because it contains a popular selection of some 170 children's songs, the hymnal also is used by Reformed and Lutheran churches.

Laczkovszki further reported the Union's churches had baptized 301 new Christian converts last year. The Hungarian Baptist community, including children of member families and friends who regularly attend services, numbers more than 20,000 persons.

He also reported a new photocopy machine, received from the European Baptist Federation, had been admitted into the country without customs duty, and already has been in frequent use by the Baptist Theological Seminary in Budapest and the Union offices.

Laczkovszki, 67, has been pastor of Baptist congregations in Hungary for 40 years. He has been a member of the European Baptist Federation Council and was vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, 1970-75.

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Wümpelmann is general secretary of the European Baptist Federation.

Uncontrolled Government Growth
Called Economic 'Cancer'

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press
4/11/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The U.S. government's current \$195 billion budget deficit is not the fundamental problem facing the nation today, says the chairman of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (Grace Commission).

J. Peter Grace, survey head and chief executive of W.R. Grace & Co., recently spoke during the William B. Cockroft Forum for Free Enterprise at Belmont College in Nashville, Tenn.

Grace told the audience at the Tennessee Baptist Convention-related institution the deficit is only a symptom of the larger problem--runaway government growth which is "like a cancer in the American economy." The Grace Commission, comprised of 161 top business executives from the private sector, was appointed by President Reagan in 1982 to "identify and suggest remedies for waste and abuse in the federal government."

Part of the government's problem, he said, is its accounting system which he termed "an absolute disaster." If private businesses used accounting systems found in the government, they too would have uncontrolled costs and eventual bankruptcy, Grace said.

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Grace predicted if the government does not follow the commission's recommendations, the \$195 billion deficit in 1983 would leap to nearly two trillion dollars by the year 2000.

The Grace Commission report, completed in January 1984, contained 2,478 recommendations which would save an estimated \$424.4 billion over three years. Grace estimated three-quarters of the savings would result from the elimination of program waste and inefficiency and the correction of systems failures.

Raising taxes is not the answer, according to Grace. The medium income family could not cope with additional increases in taxes which already have risen 246 times since 1948, from \$9 to \$2,218, he said. Taxing the rich as some politicians cry is not a feasible answer, Grace said. "If 100 percent of the taxable income not already taxed above \$75,000 were taken, the government could be run for only 10 days."

"Raising taxes merely covers up the underlying problem because everyone is focusing on the deficit. Meanwhile the government continues to grow."

Grace, who pointed out he is not a Republican and the survey was financed through private, not federal, funds, said the president is not to blame for government waste because he, "cannot change the organization of the government. He can only veto appropriations."

Grace concluded the commission's recommendations provide an opportunity to bring federal spending under control, but only "by overcoming the conventional wisdom of Washington's iron triangle of legislators, bureaucrats and special interests who view fundamental and necessary changes as unthinkable."

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Women In Ministry Observance
Held At Southern Seminary

Baptist Press
4/11/84

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Anne Neil and Catherine Allen visited Southern Baptist Theological Seminary recently to discuss the issue of women's roles in ministry.

Sponsored by the seminary's Women in Ministry organization, Neil, professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., spoke on the theme "My Servants: Both Men and Women" as part of Women in Ministry week. Allen, executive vice president of Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., noted the role of women in missions.

Speaking in chapel, Neil noted, "There are times in history that produce an intuitive feeling something is at work. Some think that is uplifting and transforming. I believe we are living in such a time."

Neil added there is need for action by both sexes in ministry to the world. "The world's agenda for 1984 is disease," she said. "'Ours is a world brimming with promise and weeping with pain,' someone has penned. We can ill afford to limit our ministry by half of our work force. Women and men are needed to practice Christianity everywhere without our culture limiting each other's effectiveness."

As our churches begin to accept the fact God uses both sexes in roles suited to individuals, Neil sees "stronger and healthier ministry."

"Each is called and each is responsible--in mutuality and equality," she stated. "Male and female must come together to experience more fully the fullness of God."

Allen added, "The gospel must be spoken in spite of opposition. Our mission fields need more than leaders, they need friends and people to serve alongside them--male and female."

"There are many needs on our mission fields that can be met only by women. I don't see how we women are going to fulfill the Great Commission if we are silent."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Concerned about the growing need of poor Americans for clothing, food, shelter, medical care and jobs, Christian social ministries experts and pastors shared ideas on how churches can meet such needs at a symposium sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. This is the first article in a five-part series based on their suggestions.

Clothing Starting Point
For Ministry To Poor

By Walker Knight

HMB-F

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist churches should start their ministries to the nation's expanding poor population with clothing.

"Clothing actually is a double-edged sword in ministry," noted Paul Adkins, director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board's Christian social ministries department.

"Because the poor of the United States are relatively well clothed, they tend to be invisible, especially when compared to the poor of other nations. On the other hand, the right clothing at the right time in the right place meets a basic need," he explained, "and this is an effective, inexpensive way all churches can start the process of meeting human needs."

The nation's mayors estimated two million people were living on the streets in 1983. "Being sentenced to the street is like being sentenced to death row, only the sentence is much slower," said A.B. Short of Atlanta's food bank and director of a church hospitality ministry.

In Kansas City, Baptists have created emergency assistance centers in churches providing aid in a number of ways, including clothing.

CSM Director Ken Taylor said their largest requests are for children's clothing, and new refugees have made recent demands. Each center sizes its own clothing, but churches from all over the area donate to these centers.

Brenda Forlines, former director of CSM in Columbia, S.C., reported churches and civic groups moved quickly to meet the growing needs caused by federal cutbacks. The Metro and Lexington Baptist associations set priorities in transportation, job referrals, crisis closets, and other areas, and published a brochure to give churches guidelines for meeting needs, telling them where aid was available from all groups and denominations.

Lowell Lawson, a veteran director of the Detroit Baptist Center, outlined the principles used in Detroit for one of the nation's most effective thrift stores, staffed entirely by volunteers.

Lawson said the first suggestion he has is to charge for the clothing. "It took me only a few times of having to go outside of my center and find stuff laying on the ground to realize the old system of giving it away wasn't effective."

He found the cliches were true: persons need human dignity and a sense of self worth by paying their own way. Given the right circumstances, the Baptist Center does give clothing away, with limitations, when obvious need is present.

Lawson credits the success of his clothing ministry to an attempt to create a shopping experience with display cases, racks, and a clean, bright, attractive facility. "We raided department stores who were remodeling, getting the racks and display cases free."

Lawson uses volunteers from Baptist churches throughout the city, as well as persons from the center community who "are upfront communicators."

Mission workers say the biggest problem is getting clothing during the season needed, for donors give it away at the end of seasons, a problem solved with adequate storage space.

Advice to churches wishing to start or enhance their clothing ministries include the following: determine clothing to be a legitimate need within the community; make a commitment to provide the best service possible; set aside an adequate and accessible location, with enough storage to store clothing from one season to the next;

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Organize and display the clothing as effectively as a department store; set moderate prices, but live with flexibility; restrict anyone from getting a disproportionate share; use the funds received to enhance the ministry in the purchase of display cases or children's clothing (such as diapers) not available otherwise;

If possible expand the ministry to personal hygiene items; join with other churches in or near your community to share in the clothing ministry, even setting up a food pantry in one facility, clothing in one, emergency relief of money and furniture in another, and shelter and medicine in others; contact shoe stores for discards;

Lead church members to give gifts to the poor at Christmas, instead of to themselves; organize church members to sort, sew, and sell the clothing; have street sales which are advertised and serve to deplete an overstocked clothing room.

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Project Highlights Possible
SBC Reentering of Mozambique

FMB-N

Baptist Press
4/11/84

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP)--Thirteen Baptists from Zimbabwe returned from a two-and-a-half-week mission trip to neighboring Mozambique with reports of growing opportunity for missions in the former Portuguese colony.

The trip highlights the potential for reinvolvement of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in the Marxist nation, which gained its independence from Portugal in 1975, following a 10-year war.

The trip also represented a significant step for Zimbabwe Baptists, who financed food relief for Mozambique Baptists and preaching, teaching and witnessing in four towns. "It was the first time for Zimbabwe Baptists to plan and finance such a big mission project," said missionary John Faulkner, chairman of the Baptist mission of Zimbabwe.

The team of 10 pastors, two laymen and a pastor's wife conducted all their work in the homes or churches of believers in Mozambique. No public or open-air witnessing is allowed in Mozambique, and a Christian must be in a home before he gives someone a tract or opens his Bible to share the message of Jesus Christ.

But the team came back reporting that 200 people accepted Christ. They saw a rising awareness and response to the church now that the government is seen as softening its stance toward Christians. In recent months, President Samora Machel has reopened a dialogue with western nations and South Africa in an attempt to reduce tensions and acquire economic aid.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, following a request from the Mozambique Baptist Convention, had begun seeking a missionary couple to reenter the country for church development in theological education. Two Southern Baptist couples withdrew from there in September 1975 because of political turmoil.

The reentry couple, who would need to learn Portuguese, would help in developing and continuing church work among 15 churches, 15 preaching points and about 2,000 Baptists in Mozambique. They would implement or assist in leadership training programs and evangelistic projects and make Bibles, tracts and other printed material available.

"Now is the time to act," said Marion G. Fray, the board's associate to the director for southern Africa, who has surveyed the situation. If a couple gets into the country, he said, plans for a second couple will be completed. The board is also urging neighboring countries, such as Zambia and Tanzania, to send people to work in partnership with Mozambique.

Missionary Roy Davidson and Swazi Baptists are already exploring ways to make regular trips into the country carrying grain. Mozambique is one of the nations hardest hit by the drought affecting much of Africa and is already reporting deaths from malnutrition and starvation.

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

Credentials Committee
For 1984 SBC Named

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The 28-member credentials committee for the 1984 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14 in Kansas City, Mo., has been named by SBC President James T. Draper Jr.

Draper had earlier announced the chairman of the group, R. Earl Allen, pastor of Rosen Heights Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. The 27 other members include five current state convention presidents and four former state convention presidents. Nine have worked on the credentials committee at previous SBC meetings.

The committee primarily deals with any person who comes to the convention with improper credentials or with no credentials and wants to register as a messenger, Lee Porter, registration secretary for the SBC, said. Messengers who come with their registration cards properly filled out do not have to see the credentials committee before being issued their voting packet.

Cards may be secured from the state convention offices and, in some cases, from associational offices and must be signed by either the church clerk or the pastor.

Porter would just as soon the committee have nothing to do, since that would mean each of the estimated 15,000 messengers to the Kansas City meeting would have been properly selected and registered according to procedures approved by messengers to earlier conventions.

Members of the committee are:

Secretary--Charles Walton, pastor, First Baptist Church, Bridge City, Texas; Fred H. Boehmer, pastor, First Baptist Church, Brandon, Fla.; James W. Bryant, pastor, Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark.; George Clerihew, pastor, First Baptist Church, Grapevine, Texas; William H. Cook (president of Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma), pastor, First Baptist Church, Bartlesville, Okla.;

J. Dan Cooper, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky.; William Crews (president of the Southern Baptist Convention of California), pastor, Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church, Riverside, Calif.; Harrell R. Cushing, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gadsden, Ala.; T.C. French Jr., pastor, Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.; Warren Hall, pastor, Foothill Baptist Church, Los Altos, Calif.; William F. Harrell, pastor, Abilene Baptist Church, Martinez, Ga.; Amy Harris, layperson, Foxworthy Baptist Church, San Jose, Calif.;

Max D. Hester, student, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Louise Holtzinger, layperson, Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.; Jerry W. Hopkins, pastor, Broadway Baptist Church, Sand Springs, Okla.; B. Conrad Johnson, pastor, Salem (Virginia) Baptist Church; Thomas M. Knotts, director of missions, Aiken Association, Graniteville, S.C.;

Robert L. Latham (president, State Convention of Baptists in Indiana), pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind.; Jack P. Lowndes, pastor, Bull Street Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga.; David Michel, pastor, Prentiss (Mississippi) Baptist Church; Eugene R. Nail, pastor, Green Valley Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Calvin Partain (president, Baptist Convention of New Mexico), pastor, First Baptist Church, Gallup, N.M.;

Loyal Prior, pastor, Jackson Memorial Baptist Church, Newport News, Va.; Joe Ratliff, pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church, Houston; Wayne Randolph, missions director, Colorado Baptist General Convention, Denver; C. Glenn Sullivan, pastor, First Baptist Church of Concord, Knoxville, Tenn., and Jon M. Stubbelfield (president, Arkansas Baptist State Convention), pastor, Central Baptist Church, Magnolia, Ark.

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CORRECTION--IN (BP) story "Chafin To Teach Preaching At Southern Seminary," mailed 4/9/84, in next to last paragraph please change chairman of the board to a member of the board.
Thanks, Baptist Press