

**(BP)****- - BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 5, 1984

84-175

High Court Hears Arguments  
On Silent Prayer In Schools

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--After hearing oral arguments on one of the nation's most emotionally-laden subjects over the past generation, the U.S. Supreme Court must now decide if state laws providing for silent prayer and meditation in public school classrooms violate the Constitution's ban on an establishment of religion.

Attorneys on both sides of the issue presented their views to all nine high court justices Dec. 4, with one lawyer declaring silent prayer and meditation a "common sense accommodation" of religion, but another insisting, "This is not the business of the state."

Hanging in the balance is an Alabama law enacted in 1981 which reads: "At the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades in all public schools, the teacher in charge of the room in which such class is held may announce that a period of silence not to exceed one minute in duration shall be observed for meditation or voluntary prayer, and during any such period no other activities shall be engaged in."

Except for the specific mention of prayer, the law restated a 1978 statute calling only for meditation. Evidence in a lower court claimed the primary sponsor of the new law, a state senator, sought the new wording "to promote religion and religious practices."

A group of Mobile parents, headed by Ishmael Jaffree, objected to the new law, challenging the provision for silent prayer in a federal district court in Alabama. At the time Jaffree, a father of five, had three children in Mobile public schools.

U.S. District Judge Brevard Hand upheld the law last year, ruling the Supreme Court erred in its landmark 1962 and 1963 decisions outlawing state-prescribed religious devotions in public schools. Hand attracted national attention by holding that states, unlike the federal government, are free under the First Amendment to enact official religions if they wish.

But the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Hand's decision, ruling the 14th Amendment's guarantee of "equal protection of the laws" makes applicable to the states the constraints on the federal government set forth in the First Amendment.

In arguments before the high court, none of the three participating attorneys mentioned Hand's reasoning, drawing the battle line instead over whether silent prayer laws are needed.

John S. Baker, a law professor at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La., insisted the Alabama law "does not endorse religion," shows no preference of "one religion over another," or pronounce the state's blessing on "belief over nonbelief." On the contrary, he argued, the law is "neutral" in that "it respects the consciences of all students."

Baker steered clear of Hand's criticism of the 1962 and 1963 decisions, telling the justices the Alabama statute is "essentially different" from state laws in New York and Pennsylvania and a municipal law in Baltimore struck down in those historic rulings. The Alabama law was needed, Baker said, because many citizens labor under the impression "that students no longer have the right to pray silently."

He also cited the high court's 5-4 ruling earlier this year upholding the right of towns and cities to erect nativity scenes at public expense, a decision Baker said "affirmatively mandates accommodation" to religion. In the Alabama case, he said, such accommodation extends to those "who feel in conscience they must begin their day" with prayer.

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Ten minutes of Baker's allotted half hour were given over to Paul M. Bator, deputy solicitor general in the Justice Department, to make the Reagan administration's argument that the challenged law "enhances the freedom" of public school students. Observing the "modern American school is a very busy and noisy place," Bator called silent prayer a "very simple, very inoffensive" practice.

Jaffree's attorney, Ronnie L. Williams, of Mobile, labeled the law a "blatant attempt to do through the back door what (Alabama) could not do through the front door."

The law was not needed, Williams declared, because the 1978 statute already guaranteed a minute of silence for meditation. He added: "I don't think the government has to take any step at all to encourage prayer."

Public school children are a "captive audience" with "impressionable minds," Williams declared. What was offensive to Jaffree, he concluded, was his children "were being taught one thing at home and another at school."

When it decided last April to take on the Jaffree case, the Supreme Court at the same time affirmed the Eleventh Circuit's decision striking down a separate Alabama law authorizing classroom teachers to lead their pupils in oral prayers.

Besides Alabama, 23 other states have enacted silence statutes. All could be affected by the high court's decision, expected sometime next spring.

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Evangelism Leaders Urge  
Prayer For SBC Unity

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press  
12/5/84

VANCOUVER, B.C. (BP)--Evangelism leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention approved a consensus statement pledging to pray daily for unity within the denomination and for "revival in this generation."

"We pray there will be an immediate end to the apparent lack of trust and Christian love that results in confusion in our convention," said the statement.

"We are not winning America to Christ, we are losing," the evangelism leaders agreed. "Please, let us stop wasting our energies in confusion and let us unite to seek the face of God and revival in this generation," concluded the consensus statement, presented by Robert L. Hamblin, evangelism vice-president for the SBC Home Mission Board.

The statement came following increased polarization with the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination, which for several years has been fraught with controversy over an alleged "political takeover" of the denomination by conservatives, and debate over such issues as infallibility of the Bible and ordination of women.

The consensus statement expressed "grave concern because there has been for three consecutive years a marked decline in the numbers of people who have been won to Christ and baptized in our churches."

The evangelism leaders pledged personally "to pray daily for ourselves, our (elected) convention leaders, and our pastors and churches.... In every way possible, we call on all Southern Baptists to join us in a commitment to pray for revival...and to make evangelism the priority of service in their lives."

Theme of the three-day conference at Hotel Vancouver emphasized prayer for evangelism. Hamblin, in the opening address, said he had heard many leaders within the convention call for prayer, but he had not been to any "earth-shaking prayer meetings." Following Hamblin's presentation, the evangelism leaders prayed individually in small groups for unity in the convention and for revival.

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Hamblin said too many Baptists are satisfied with mediocrity, with just doing a little bit to proclaim the gospel. "We have substituted human success for real evangelism," he said.

Asking whether Southern Baptists are really concerned about evangelism, Hamblin said he felt it was an indication of misplaced interests when more news coverage is given in Baptist publications to one incident involving a seminary president, a student, and another Baptist leader than given to the denomination's plans to hold simultaneous revivals in 1986 in every Southern Baptist church.

(Hamblin was referring to news reports that a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., who drives the seminary president to engagements had filed a protest with the Federal Communications Commission because Judge Paul Pressler, a conservative leader in the SBC, had tape recorded a private telephone conversation without the student's knowledge and had released the tape to the press. He also referred to plans launched at last year's conference to hold revivals in every church in the Southern Baptist Convention in the spring of 1986 under a national, coordinated campaign called "Good News America--God Loves You.")

Several speakers at the national conference of Southern Baptist evangelism leaders said the controversy is keeping the denomination from putting top priority on evangelism and missions.

In a major address, Southern Baptist Convention President Charles Stanley issued a plea for SBC evangelism leaders to depend on the power of prayer, not on their own programs, in planning for the 1986 simultaneous revivals.

"Let's face it," said Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, and nationally-known television preacher. "All the TV promotions and all the planning and all the fine, skilled, experienced evangelists can't do it...unless it (revival) is prayed down."

Stanley said real revival is not possible without loving reconciliation between Baptists who disagree. "It would be a violation of the nature of God to send an awakening to the SBC when we have demonstrated to the world today that we are acting like children," Stanley said. "God is not going to send it (revival) until we demonstrate to an unbelieving world that Southern Baptists know how to love each other."

"There has got to be repentance and love, and those two qualities are born on our knees (in prayer), not on our feet shouting at each other, or suspecting each other, or criticizing each other and declaring wars," Stanley said.

Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lafayette, La., had earlier called for a one-year moratorium in the SBC on "caucuses, political meetings, running candidates (for SBC president) and making statements to the press."

During impromptu remarks prior to one of three Bible studies, Sanders said a one year moratorium "just might cure the mess we are in and get us back where we ought to be" with an emphasis on "praying, winning souls, and preaching the Word of God...."

"The whole world is going to hell and needs Jesus, and God wants us (Baptists) to quit fighting," said Sanders.

Both Sanders and O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., said people in their cities were hurting and suffering from all kinds of personal problems, and they couldn't care less about the controversies in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hawkins told the conference about a church member with cancer, another whose son attempted suicide, and a family whose baby died following a car wreck. "In their family prayer time, they are not as concerned as some of you are about who is being ordained," Hawkins said.

The man whose son attempted suicide "thinks it is asinine that we as believers in Christ are caught up in declaring holy wars against each other," added Hawkins, president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

Hawkins said both believers and nonbelievers are caught up in the storms of life, struggling with intense personal problems. Pointing out his church has more than 60 different ministries to meet the needs of hurting people, Hawkins said people need to look beyond the confusion of the storms, and to Jesus Christ who brings comfort and clarity.

In two other major addresses, evangelism professor Robert Coleman of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill., said evangelical Christians are not winning the world to Jesus Christ, they are losing it to secularism and unbelief.

Coleman, a United Methodist, said more than 3.5 billion of the 4.7 billion people in the world "are lost and will not behold the glory of God." By the end of the century, projections indicate world population will increase to more than seven billion, and "there will be more lost souls 16 years from now than the total world population today."

"If all the worlds' lost people could be lined up single file," Coleman said, "the line would circle the earth 30 times."

In the closing address, another evangelism professor, Jack Stanton of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., stressed there are nine times more people in the world today "who are lost than the total population when Jesus was alive."

Stanton closed the meeting by asking the evangelism leaders to pray in groups of three for an unbelieving world and for Baptists to respond to the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to the whole world in this generation. About 175 state and national evangelism leaders in the SBC attended the conference, sponsored by the SBC Home Mission Board evangelism section.

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Drugs, Gambling Still Spell  
'Cash' For Organized Crime

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press  
12/5/84

WASHINGTON (BP)—Drug trafficking and illegal gambling remain major sources of revenue in organized crime's dramatic expansion and diversification in America, according to testimony given recently before the Presidential Commission on Organized Crime.

"Americans today are victimized not only by traditional crime groups, but also by new criminal networks engaged in narcotics trafficking and numerous other illegal activities, including gambling, extortion and prostitution," Judge Irving R. Kaufman, commission chairman, stated at the opening of the hearings.

Hearings focused attention on the emergency of Oriental crime "families" from Japan and Vietnam who, along with motorcycle gangs, represent the new face of organized crime in America.

The Japanese Yazuka, a network of about 100,000 persons, was labled by Kaufman as "devastating and dangerous." Activities range from money laundering to prostitution. The group has been identified as cooperating with Italian-American crime figures in high-stak s operations in New York.

Vietnamese operations in 13 different states engage in major gambling operations along with narcotics trade, murder, prostitution and other illegal activities.

Drug smuggling between South America and the United States—and cooperative efforts to combat the massive problem—was special concern of the hearings. Officials in Columbia and Peru have been assassinated during recent attempts to crack down on drug trafficking by organized crime figures.

Cocaine abuse, the commission was told, has emerged as a major drug problem. Expert witnesses testified between five and ten million Americans are regular cocaine users.

Narcotics experts also challenged the popular notion the drug is non-addicting.

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"If ever there were a drug that fits the tenor of the times, cocaine is it, just like marijuana was the drug of the 1960s," said one witness. "Hard-driving executives," he said, believe cocaine gives them increased physical, mental and sexual capabilities. But eventually the drug turns on its users, making them "feel chronically depressed, not energized."

A medical examiner from Miami said he now performs about two autopsies per month on persons who die from cocaine use, compared to one or two in a year's time in the 1970s.

Witnesses also dispelled the myth cocaine is basically a leisure-time stimulant for the affluent only. Like other drugs, they noted, cocaine use cuts across all social classes, aided by declining costs and greater availability.

Anti-gambling expert Larry Braidfoot, who has followed closely the series of hearings, believes Americans "have grown too complacent about the problem of organized crime and its relationship to many social evils." The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission staff member warned "it is time the public listened anew to its law enforcement officers about this menace that plagues our society.

"Legislators and citizens must not be naive about organized crime. The only way to deal substantively with drug trafficking, for example, is to attack the problem as one of the ugly tentacles of organized crime."

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Musicians Emphasize  
Missions Involvement

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press  
12/5/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Participants in the annual church music program planning meeting were presented plans for a five-year emphasis on music and missions, calling for a 2.8 percent increase in music ministry enrollment each year from 1985-1990.

State music secretaries and associates were told "Musicians on Mission" efforts would result in achievement of a national goal of 1.99 million persons enrolled in the music ministry by Sept. 30, 1990. Projected 1984 enrollment is 1.67 million. Official unveiling of emphasis plans comes at the Church Music Leadership conferences at Glorieta and Ridgcrest conference centers in 1985.

Wesley Forbis, secretary of the Sunday School Board's church music department, called the enrollment goal "noble, yet attainable for musicians committed to go and tell, to reach people with the gospel.

"Musicians on Mission are believers helping to carry out the mission God has given a church," he said. "Musicians committed to Christ and to sharing his message and mission in the world realize their need to reach people, develop believers and strengthen missions."

John Thomas, an Alabama musician who has recently joined Southern Baptists' Mission Service Corps as a volunteer, told state convention music leadership the urgent call to music missions changed his life's plan.

"My wife, Gail, and I agreed we would do mission work at some point in our lives," he recalled. "We thought after retirement we would get a trailer and just go wherever the Home Mission Board needed us and wherever the Lord led us."

But Thomas's perspective changed when he read an article in The Alabama Baptist quoting state music secretaries Sandra Bench of Iowa, Harry Taylor of Kansas-Nebraska and Charles Sharp, then of Northern Plains. "They said things like 'Music work in many new work convention areas is more primitive than on a lot of foreign mission fields' and 'We need people who are willing to come and be a part of the community with their salary paid by the church back home,'" he recalled.

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"When we read the article and really saw the need, we became convicted because we knew the great resources in personnel and finances which are in the deep South," h said. "We also realized we really couldn't wait until retirement to do our mission work. The urgent need is now—not 25 years down the road."

Today, Thomas is music consultant for the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention half of each week and minister of music for Boyd Avenue Baptist Church in Casper the other half.

Now that he is involved in music missions, Thomas said he sees a need for "people who are willing to become a real part of missions, evaluating what they do and why they do it. W have people call and say, 'We want to do mission work, and, by the way, how far is it to Yellowstone (National Park)? We need persons who are more interested in winning people than in seeing the sights'" he said.

Thomas also urged young persons to plan for bi-vocational careers, with undergraduate training to provide financial support and seminary music training so they can donate their time or be paid on a part-time basis.

"Bi-vocational is going to be the real future in new work areas," Thomas said. "That's the way churches in the South started—through farmer preachers."

Thomas cited a need in his state convention "for trained music persons in every association" and expressed the hope "the Lord will speak to some ministers of music and they will hear God's call to serve in new work areas where the needs are so great."

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\$30 Million Drive  
Launched By DEU

Baptist Pr ss  
12/5/84

DAJAS (BP)—Dallas Baptist University has launched a "Campaign for Greatness" fund raising drive aimed at generating \$30 million during the next three years.

The goal includes cash gifts to be pledged to the school over the three-year campaign period and deferred gifts.

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ACTS Schedules Seventeen  
Christmas Specials

Baptist Press  
12/5/84

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Seventeen upcoming Christmas specials on the American Christian Television System will help remind viewers of the true spirit of the holidays.

Beginning Monday, Dec. 17, ACTS will pre-empt much of its regular family entertainment programming to carry the seasonal specials. Most will be repeated during a two-week period.

Highlighting the list of specials is "Truce in the Forest," an award-winning one-hour true drama about German and American soldiers during World War II who both seek shelter in a scheduled cabin and find a moment of peace when they lay down their weapons long enough to celebrate Christmas.

"Truce in the Forest" will be shown Dec. 18 at 11 p.m., Dec. 19 at 3 a.m. and 9 a.m., Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. and Dec. 21 at 4 a.m. and 10 a.m.

"No Escape from Christmas" is a half-hour drama about a couple's attempt to fight the bitterness that follows the loss of their only child. It will be carried on ACTS Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 19 at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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"The Other Wise Man" is an adaptation of Henry Van Dyke's fictional account of a fourth wise man who misses his audience with the Christ child in order to help a person in need. The half-hour special will be shown Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 21 at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Rounding out ACTS' Christmas schedule are other costume and contemporary dramas, as well as musical and animated specials. In all, 64 special Christmas broadcasts will be carried over the network.

ACTS is a satellite network of family and Christian entertainment programming carried on 120 cable TV systems and three TV stations across the country. Operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, the network reaches more than two million homes.

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Shortage Of Training  
Produces Surplus Of Woes

By Terry Barone

Baptist Press  
12/5/84

DALLAS (BP)--Much of the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention can be related to the lack of training in SBC churches, said Jimmy Draper, immediate past president of the SBC.

Speaking at the Texas state church training convention, Draper, pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, said, "To solve this problem (the controversy) we need to redirect our energies. We have been making good time," he said, "but we've been going in the wrong direction."

Draper used his church as an example saying he baptized 200 adults every year who "don't know Southern Baptist history or what Southern Baptist believe." He said, "Church training can help achieve goals and needs that we as a convention have today."

He also said Southern Baptists will never find unity in such things as theology or geography. "We will find unity in commitment to Jesus Christ in his effort to redeem the world. We must identify with Christ in reaching the world through evangelism, missions and starting new churches."

W. Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, echoed Draper's remarks by saying, "Baptists need church training because we've got multitudes who are quitters. We need to learn to be obedient to God's word. The most prevalent sin is that of disobedience which began in the Garden of Eden and has continued. There is no substitute for obedience."

Moore said Texas Baptists have arrived at a time "when his call takes priority over everything in our lives to save our state, nation and world."

Participants at the convention, the first in more than 15 years, also were challenged to commit themselves to Mission Texas, a five-year strategy which keys on spiritual awakening, reaching people, developing believers, strengthening missions and stewardship growth.

Wayne Allen, pastor of First Church, Carrollton, and chairman of the long range emphasis planning committee which developed the Mission Texas strategy said, "If we follow and are obedient to Jesus Christ, I believe God can use the state of Texas to lead our convention out of the dilemma it is in now and back to our primary goals of evangelism and missions."

Following the theme of the convention, "Discipleship: A March Toward Maturity," Draper said people misunderstand what it means to be a disciple.

This is outlined, he said, in Matthew 16:24: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Draper said Christians must "deny themselves ...and must place themselves at the feet of Jesus and allow themselves to be used by him.

"Christians also must take up their cross which is something they choose to carry," he said. "It is a conscious commitment to take up the cross of Jesus Christ. Ultimately, Christians must follow Jesus." He said Christians cannot be "content to sit. They must be action and goal oriented, always serving him because they love him."

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Children Fight Against  
Death In Ethiopia Famine

By Robert O'Brien

WOLETA, Ethiopia (BP)--Naked children, underweight but lively, scampered after a Southern Baptist relief vehicle bumping and bouncing down a dusty bush road in this parched area of southern Ethiopia.

Their joyful cries and sparkling eyes struck a sharp contrast to the silent, vacant-eyed, emaciated children from northern Ethiopia the world has watched die on the nightly TV news.

Earlier, a farmer approached the vehicle during a rest stop to tell Southern Baptist missionary Lynn Groce what missionary feeding and medical assistance had meant to 40 families where he lives.

Heartened by intermittent rain which briefly moistened the earth, he had planted three different crops. Each failed when the rain failed, leaving no food for the families and little or no forage for his dying animals.

He told in excited Amharic how he drives his precious oxen on a four-hour round trip to find water. "Some people have two oxen," he said. "Some have one. Most have none." The drought continues to take its toll.

Then he spoke of the missionary feeding centers which have made the difference between survival and starvation for his struggling people. "Our only hope is you," he told Groce.

The team headed on, this time with even more appreciation for the children along the road who had found hope in what Christians could do to aid their desperate situation.

At a feeding center much farther down the road, more underweight children crowded the serving lines, awaiting bowls of "fafa," a mixture of vitamin-enriched grains, soy beans and milk. Eyes, once dull but now coming to life, riveted on the hot meal as they licked the last taste of food from their spoons and bowls.

Five months earlier at least 10 of these children died each week from hunger and malnutrition-related causes. Now the toll has dropped to nearly zero. In the north, where 20 to 50 children die each day, conditions often force medical personnel to select only the hardiest to receive food and medical care, rather than give it to those beyond hope.

"If our team hadn't started here when it did, that many children would die each day here," explained Southern Baptist nurse practitioner Sharon Smith with a weary sigh.

Smith, a member of Central Baptist Church, Darlington, S.C., heads a team of five nurses working along with a doctor and other relief personnel at centers conducted in the area by the Sudan Interior Mission (SIM).

She was in contact with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board about possible missionary appointment when SIM called her into the crisis to work as a nurse practitioner because of the reputation and experience she gained in 10 years' medical missions service in Ethiopia with the Baptist General Conference.

The FMB gave \$50,000 in hunger funds through the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia to assist the SIM feeding project. Another \$150,000 will fund startup costs for a program of short-term relief and long-term development Southern Baptists will operate in Menz-Gishe in central Ethiopia, where conditions are worse than in the south five months ago.

That five months of feeding and medical care has moved hungry people from the brink of starvation to the edge of health. It proves the value of erecting a first line of defense against famine, rather than pouring all resources only into completely deteriorated areas.

The SIM team's work isn't done. A number of children, eyes vacant and lusterless, still need help. The team must stay until rains come and crops grow properly or their results will fade away. But they have weathered the worst.

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The Southern Baptist survey team drove away, pointing toward other areas of Ethiopia where the denomination can use its resources in physical and spiritual ministries.

Children scampered after the car, and SIM worker John Stillwell's words came to mind.

He had looked proudly at a skinny little boy waiting to be fed. The boy verged on death when he first came to the center. "Now, he chases my car when I drive by his home," Stillwell said. "I don't like for these kids to chase cars. But this little fellow can chase me anytime."

Other images of Africa also flooded together---scenes of children who represent whatever hope the troubled continent has for the future.

A thought prevailed. The world's response will determine whether they die as emaciated skeletons in their mothers' scrawny arms or grow up full of the life, enthusiasm and love so typical of African children.

Even in times of good harvest, they live in countries where infant mortality is high and average life span short. Death is an ever-present reality. But the children's love of life and each other sends a message to the rest of us.

The Southern Baptist relief survey team had watched this love in action at the feeding center. A six-year-old Ethiopian girl cuddled her tiny brother in her arms, carefully spooning "fafa" into his mouth and wiping away his tears as tenderly as a mother would. She was hungry, but her helpless little brother came first.

The Southern Baptist team remembered the small tuft of hair on her little brother's head and recalled an ancient Ethiopian tradition.

Ethiopian parents often shave all of their children's head, except for that little tuft near the front. Tradition says that's done so that if they die the angels will have something to grab onto to pull them into heaven.

Heaven would have to wait for at least one little boy in this parched land where children die.

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

Wake Forest Doctors Sign Pact  
With Chinese Medical School

Baptist Press  
12/5/84

GUANGZHOU, China (BP)--Visiting doctors from North Carolina's Wake Forest University signed a formal agreement of affiliation in November with Zhongshan Medical College, one of China's top five medical schools.

The signing ceremony highlighted the third medical excursion to China led by Southern Baptist surgeon Tim Pennell, world health activist and professor at Wake Forest's Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. A second signing is set for April, when Chinese administrators and doctors from Zhongshan are scheduled to visit Winston-Salem.

The agreement linking Bowman Gray and Zhongshan is only the third of its kind for a U.S. medical school, according to Pennell. The medical schools of Harvard and Johns Hopkins Universities have established similar relationships with Chinese institutions, he said.

Bowman Gray's opportunity came in the fall of 1983, when Pennell led a group of physicians from the school on a two-week visit to China. The Americans met Chinese colleagues at Zhongshan and its affiliated hospitals in Guangzhou (Canton) and lectured to graduate students.

One of the Bowman Gray doctors, surgeon Gary Poehling, performed knee surgery using a \$50,000 arthroscope that was donated to the Chinese school last spring during a second visit.

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Zhongshan is a "key point" institution, set aside by the government for training outstanding students from all over China. It operates five teaching hospitals and three research institutes and counts hundreds of faculty members and some 3,000 students.

Pennell led another group of five physicians during the November trip. He and Peng Wen Wei, vice-president of Zhongshan, solidified plans for the exchange of medical studies, treatment plans and personnel, particularly in the areas of cancer research and comparative medicine. Peng will lead the Chinese delegation to Bowman Gray in April.

"They are unequivocally...committed to pursuing the collaboration in keeping with the agreement," Pennell said. "I think that friendships deepened....I think their acceptance and trust were clearly portrayed."

Pennell also reported Bowman Gray doctors going to China on future trips will be allowed to teach undergraduate medical students. Earlier lectures were limited to graduate students and faculty members.

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