

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

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

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

December 31, 1984

84-186

Porter Urges Students
 To Encounter Missions

by Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—More than 4,000 college students were challenged to "experience a missions encounter" during the opening session of MISSION 85 at the Opryland Hotel.

MISSION 85 is a nationwide student missions conference sponsored by national student ministries of the Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and the six seminaries.

Nathan Porter, national consultant for disaster relief and domestic hunger for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, told participants a missions encounter involves more than words.

"The time comes when you have to stop talking and move to deeds and actions. That's what a missions encounter is all about," he said.

Porter urged participants to ask themselves, "What am I going to do?"

"We need a missions encounter which will cause us to respond to the challenge to be creative in a world of complex human needs, to be compassionate when there is so much hurt and suffering and to be challenged by a gospel that demands our all."

Porter stressed the need for an encounter with the gospel. However, he warned students to think carefully about the gospel being preached from many pulpits. "We are hearing a gospel that is self-centered and success-oriented," he charged.

"What we need to hear," Porter emphasized, "is the gospel of the Cross—giving, not getting." Blessings will come after an investment of one's self, he said.

Also needed today, according to Porter, is an encounter with the call of Christ. God intends for all to serve and there are no legitimate excuses for not doing so, he said.

Two excuses which definitely should not be used, he said, are "I'm just a layman" or "I'm a woman."

"There are no laymen in the church. If you're a believer, you're a minister," he said. God intends for all to serve including women, Porter said. "No one is handicapped who comes to Christ. God has forgiven all who believe."

Finally, Porter said there must be an encounter with one's self. He related he will soon be moving from his Arkadelphia, Ark., home to Fort Worth, Texas, to become a "seminary student's husband." A national consultant for the Home Mission Board is not required to live in Atlanta.

He said his wife, Fran, who is already a grandmother, has decided to go to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, not to prepare for a specific career or ministry, but to "answer God's call for her life."

Missionary Says God
Uses Ordinary People

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Home missionary Mildred McWhorter told students attending MISSION 85 that God can use them regardless of how ordinary they consider themselves.

"What is important is how much you love Jesus and how much you give of yourself," McWhorter told the 4,000 students attending the conference at the Opryland Hotel.

MISSION 85 is sponsored by national student ministries of the Sunday School Board in cooperation with the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and the six seminaries.

McWhorter, who has been a missionary for 26 years in the inner-city of Houston, Texas, recounted for the students numerous incidents when God had protected her in threatening situations and other times when He taught her valuable lessons about love and caring.

When she was beginning to make career decisions, McWhorter said she ignored what God wanted and made all the decisions herself.

"I didn't ask God what He wanted me to do with my life," she said. "I carried the Bible and never read it. I knew how to pray but never did. And, I was such a professional church-goer, I could look a preacher right in the face and never hear a word he said.

"I wanted people to know Jesus, but I never told anyone about Him," she added.

Then, she said she finally started talking to God and asked where He wanted her to go. If God had told her from the first He wanted her in the inner city of Houston, McWhorter said she likely would still be running--away from God.

"Don't you forget, God has kept His part of the bargain," she reminded the students. "Jesus know what He's doing, even when it looks like a mess to us. I'm proud God chose me, even though I'm an ordinary person."

In an earlier address, Henry Cabalang, pastor of University Baptist Church, Manila, Philippines, pointed to the potential of Americans to share Christianity in parts of the world where persons have not heard the gospel.

"God has blessed the United States because it was founded on the Bible," said Cabalang. However, he charged, today "we are wrapped up in our own affluence while the rest of the world goes hungry."

"What is it that God wants you to do?" Cabalang asked. "Giving money is the easiest thing a person can do. When God gets you and me, He will have all that He needs."

Cabalang, who said his church's facility was built with Lottie Moon Christmas Offering dollars, urged students to listen to the call for help in spreading the gospel outside the United States. "Accomplishment is God really reigning in your life," he concluded.

Oscar Romo, director of the Home Mission Board's Language missions division, told students the task of Southern Baptists is to share the gospel amid the more than 500 ethnic groups in the United States who speak 636 different languages.

"Ethnics are building a new culture in our country," said Romo. "It is up to you to become a participant in sharing the gospel with ethnic America."

Noting ethnic persons created the United States, Romo said 25 million German Americans constitute the largest minority in the U.S. which is also the fifth largest Spanish-speaking country in the world.

"We must confront the future for the future is here," Romo urged. "Our task is to win to Jesus Christ the mosaic cultures of America."

First Term Missionaries
Face Joys, Frustrations

by Gail Rothwell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—For many foreign missionaries, the excitement of their first term is mixed with the frustration of constant change, language barriers, family adjustments and a myriad of day-to-day problems.

Ken Shirley, a field evangelist appointed to the Ivory Coast, and Caroline Jones, church and home worker in Chile, spoke to students at MISSION 85 about the joys and frustrations of first term missionaries.

Shirley, who returned home in August with his family for their first furlough, said: "My greatest source of joy comes from the feeling of being in God's will. I feel like what we are doing on the Ivory Coast is important and that I am where God intends for me to be."

Shirley noted the support he receives and friendships he has developed with "committed African Christians" has been a great source of joy.

Jones, along with her husband, Archie, returned home in November for a four-month furlough following their first 30-month term in Puerto Montt, Chile.

"My greatest frustration has been an inability to communicate," she explained, noting she spoke no Spanish when arriving in Chile. "For a talker like me, not being able to communicate was a real handicap," she added.

"I'll never forget the first time I was able to do the marketing by myself. I rushed home all excited that I had actually made the correct purchases," she added.

Shirley said language is often a problem, "especially when you confuse words. I have to be careful that I encourage my congregation to be fishers of men instead of sinners of men because the two words are so similar."

The language and cultural adjustments are not the only frustrations missionaries face.

"During our first term we moved five times," Shirley said. "It was a real adjustment to learn to cope with the constant change."

Jones said missionaries face many adjustments with their families in the United States. "When I moved to Chile my relationship with my family in the states immediately took on a new dimension which was something I had not expected."

Jones admonished the more than 4,000 students attending the conference to be sure their call is from God because they would become very dependent upon His strength and guidance. "If you are not in God's will, you will never be able to cope with the day-to-day problems," she said.

Jones said most days are lived in an attitude of prayer. "I pray that God will show me how to meet the needs of the people. God has given us the gift of being able to have an open-door policy at our home which has proven to be a great witnessing opportunity."

Shirley agreed God must be a missionary's constant source of strength and support. "I find myself continually going back to the Bible in search of answers. I have read Paul's 1st letter to Timothy so much that I substitute my name for Timothy's," he said.

Encouraging students who are considering a career in foreign missions to get involved, Shirley said: "Hands-on experience in missions is a valuable asset. Participate in summer missions. Be a journeyman or do volunteer work," he said.

MISSION 85 is a nationwide missions conference for students, sponsored by national student ministries of the Baptist Sunday School, and by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Students Experience Missions
In Global Village Display

by Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—If it had anything to do with missions, it probably could be found in Global Village.

Students visiting the exhibit area of MISSION 85 at the Opryland Hotel did not have to search long for something to see or do. Choices were plentiful.

Opportunities for firsthand contact with missionaries proved to be popular. The Foreign Mission Board's "Meet Your Missionary" booth enabled students to talk with missionaries from Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Some missionaries dressed in native garb while others brought artifacts from the countries where they serve.

Tom Jones and Mixon Cowart, missionaries to Kenya, said students asked basically for information about Kenya and opportunities they might have for service.

Patsy Price, a senior at Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss., said Global Village "was just like being on the mission field." She talked with a missionary couple from Japan and about what the people and cultures are like.

"It was neat to see the genuine love missionaries have for the Japanese people," she said.

Other missionaries around the world were available for conversations via two phone lines and contact through a shortwave radio.

Kimberly Henson, a junior at the University of Texas, Austin, used the shortwave radio contact and was excited about talking with a missionary "actually doing the work in another country."

Although she talked to the missionary in Costa Rica for "only a couple of minutes," she gained new insights into missions. "I've learned a lot not only from my conversation, but through Global Village in general."

Some missionaries were able to renew acquaintances with students. Carol Lee, assistant campus minister at the University of Nebraska, had a chance to talk with Bradley and Carolyn Brown, missionaries she knew in Liberia.

For those who didn't get to talk with missionaries, there were other ways of contact. The Woman's Missionary Union sponsored "Write Around the World." According to booth officials more than 60 letters were written, some of which contained messages from more than one student.

Another popular exhibit was the Home and Foreign Mission Board's Data Bank, which used computers to provide data on current missions opportunities. Students could look for job possibilities in a specific area or country. There were able to find what was open, qualification requirements, a description of the assignment and then receive a printout to keep.

Meghan O'Neill, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a nurse at Vanderbilt Hospital, Nashville, came searching for missions opportunities.

"Data Bank helped me find information about what nursing opportunities are available on mission fields," she said. "Someone coming to MISSION 85 open to the Lord's will can find a specific direction for his or her life."

The Foreign Mission Board's Footstep Village was one booth which attempted to help students "map out" their lives. Students were given a souvenir map which asked questions such as "What are your dreams?" and "What will you do after college?"

Global Village offered something for everyone—even connoisseurs of the popular Trivia Pursuit game. The WMU and Brotherhood Commission developed some 200 questions about SBC personalities, geography, history and current missions for Missions Trivia.

Ethan McCarty, a freshman at Jones Junior College, Ellisville, Miss., who played the game, said he "knew more than I thought I would." While geography questions were his strongest point, he confessed personality questions were particularly difficult.

However, he said the game "helped me learn things about missions I didn't know before."

A stroll through Global Village could cause one to wonder why there were race cars, an 18-wheeler truck, speedboat and camper sitting in the middle of the exhibit area.

They represented the work of the Home Mission Board's Special Mission Ministries department in raceway ministries, water resort ministries, truckstop ministries and more.

Nancy Turnbull, a junior at Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., was interested in the unusual mission areas.

"Global Village has been very worthwhile because it gave information about missions which people usually don't consider," she said.

For those who needed a break from all the activities, entertainment was provided by 11 Mexican students who traveled more than 2,000 miles in a mini-bus to participate in MISSION 85.

The colorful group dressed in native Mexican costumes while performing folkloric songs and dances.

Lloyd Mann, student director of Baptist Student Ministries in Mexico City and coordinator of the group, said the students' main purpose in attending MISSION 85 was "to dialogue with American students about needs in Latin America for missionaries."

Another purpose of the trip was to get the Mexican students in contact with the idea of world missions. "A lot of people talked with us," Mann said, "and the friendship and conversation were very encouraging."

A total of eight SBC agencies participated in Global Village which featured more than 40 exhibits.

Nell Magee, chairman of the Global Village steering committee, was pleased with the outcome. "On the whole there was an excellent offering of exhibits and involvement on the part of the students," she said.

Over 4,000 students attended MISSION 85, a nationwide student missions conference sponsored by national student ministries of the Sunday School Board, the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and the six seminaries.



BAPTIST PRESS

*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37234

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION