



# - - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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July 9, 1985

85-81

Morgan Decries IRS Ruling As  
Discriminatory Against Ministers

By Ray Furr

DALLAS (BP)--The Internal Revenue Service confirmed it is continuing discrimination against ministers and in favor of the military by announcing a ruling which will prohibit some clergy from deducting mortgage interest and property taxes while allowing members in the armed forces to continue taking these deductions said one denominational leader.

Ministers who own and occupied a home or had a contract to purchase a home for which they were receiving a ministers housing allowance before Jan. 3, 1983 will be allowed to continue deducting their mortgage interest and property taxes until Jan. 1, 1987. However, the IRS said ministers who do not fulfil these requirements will not be allowed these deductions. The new ruling (revenue ruling 85-96) modifies the effective date of revenue ruling 83-3.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the ruling is "discriminatory because it allows members of the armed forces with tax free housing allowances to deduct their mortgage interest and property taxes, while disallowing these deductions for ministers."

He noted IRS officials disregarded the legal advice of the IRS chief council to make no distinctions between the minister and members of the armed forces on this issue.

Morgan said the arbitrary effective date of the ruling also discriminates within the clergy. He said he was informed last February that the IRS would suspend the ruling until Jan. 1, 1987 and make its application retroactive for all ministers regardless of when the home was owned or occupied until the discrimination issue could be resolved.

"Obviously someone within the administration decided to continue the unfair discrimination against the clergy as a class in favor of the military. This kind of discriminatory and unfair interpretative action by those charged with the responsibility for the fair interpretation of the tax laws is a disturbing challenge to destroy the respect for our voluntary tax system."

Morgan has requested the U.S. Treasury Department suspend the original ruling (RR 83-3) and to reconsider the new revenue ruling 85-96 until the question of fairness be resolved.

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Jungle Night In A Hollow Log  
Not What MK Preacher Expected

Baptist Press  
7/9/85

CALAMA, Brazil (BP)--John Moon hadn't really expected to spend one night of a recent evangelistic crusade in a hollow log listening to alligators in a nearby creek.

But that's just what he did when he got lost July 5 in the jungle of Brazil, where he grew up as the son of Southern Baptist missionaries Loyd and Mary Hazel Moon of Alabama.

Moon, pastor of the Baptist church in Humaita, Brazil, took a group of young people from his church eight hours up river for an evangelistic campaign at the church's mission in Calama. He left the group there and was walking to visit a settler's home in the jungle when he realized he was lost.

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He found a familiar creek and pond, but arrived too late in the day to continue. To protect himself from wild animals, he climbed into a hollow log above the ground. He heard the gunshots of a search party but without even a flashlight couldn't get their attention.

As he meditated and prayed, he figured out the way he should travel when light came. He used the rising sun, the setting moon and the sound of boats to guide him. An hour and twenty minutes later, he came to a familiar river bend where he knew he could catch a boat.

But he arrived 10 minutes too late, missing the boat and any chance of getting to a radio. He had found himself, but nobody knew it. A general alarm was released and the search for him widened. His parents, in Manchester, Ga., on personal leave, were contacted. When he finally caught the boat and reached a radio, bad weather blanketed the signal with static.

Finally reaching Calama, he was met by his brother Jimmy, also a pastor in Brazil, who had come to help with the search. Sunday morning, two days after he disappeared, he called his parents and second brother, Josh, in Manchester, to give them the news that he was safely out of the jungle.

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Mission Week Features  
Tennessee Partnership

By Charlie Warren

Baptist Press  
7/9/85

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Tennessee Baptists joined other Southern Baptists during Foreign Mission Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center to celebrate the completion of a five-year development project conducted by Tennessee Baptist volunteers in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta).

The five-year development project focused on the Sanwabo area of Burkina Faso, about 100 miles east of the capital city of Ouagadougou. The project involved water development, including building a lake and digging deep-water wells. It also involved agricultural training, vocational training, health care and health education, literacy work, building projects and evangelism.

Regarding the contribution Tennessee Baptists made during the five-year partnership with the Foreign Mission Board and Baptists in Burkina Faso, recently retired missionary Bryant Durham told the crowd, "The lame walk, the thirsty have pure water to drink, the hungry are full...the sick are ministered unto, the illiterate to whom the Word of God was a closed book can now read that Word, the poor and the rich and many others have the gospel preached to them as a result of the 38 new churches and mission stations that were established by the coming of these volunteers.

"They touched and helped to change the lives of hundreds of people, some of them for eternity," Durham said.

The partnership between Tennessee Baptists, the Foreign Mission Board, and Burkina Faso was the major focus of the week's Saturday night service, but for about 150 volunteers who were among about 500 Tennesseans who went to Burkina Faso during the five-year project, the whole week was a reunion and a celebration.

The 150 volunteers and their spouses met on Saturday afternoon for a special program and a banquet featuring testimonies from several volunteers and addresses by Durham; Tom Madden, executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Madden emphasized the impact the project has had on Tennessee Baptist life.

"They (the volunteers) have gone and come back with changed lives," Madden explained. "They've shared that testimony. They have gone into almost every Tennessee Baptist church and many civic clubs and schools and they have left a beautiful testimony of faith in Christ. It has raised the mission awareness and missions consciousness of Tennessee."

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Parks lauded the impact Tennessee Baptists have made on world missions.

"If we made prisoners in this country live in those kind of accommodations and work that hard under those circumstances, we'd be sued," Parks stated. "It would be considered inhumane treatment. But that's the glory of the Gospel. Not only does no one make you do it, you do it gladly, repeatedly, and then you thank people for giving you the opportunity do it."

He said the recently completed five-year project in Burkina Faso not only has impacted mission work in that west African nation, but has led the way in plotting the future course of volunteerism, which in turn is transforming the entire foreign missions enterprise.

"The solid biblical concept of the priesthood of the believer means that every follower of Jesus Christ has the responsibility of interpreting God to man and interceding for man to God," Parks explained. "This means that every Christian ought to be involved in sharing the gospel with everyone all over the world.

"When you translate that into what we are doing in foreign missions, it means volunteerism," he said. "Missions is becoming the kind of reality that it always was in New Testament Christianity. We're getting back to an understanding that the command of our Lord to preach the gospel to everyone in the world is given to every Christian, to every church."

Parks noted volunteerism is changing the kind of mission work Southern Baptists are doing. "We are coming to understand that the kingdom of God, the spread of the gospel, the mission of the church involves all of us," he concluded.

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Spanish-Speaking Volunteers Help  
Produce 991 Honduran Christians

Baptist Press  
7/9/85

EL PROGRESO, Honduras (BP)--Southern Baptist volunteers from metropolitan New York didn't need translators to help them reach 991 Hondurans for Christ. They made up the first totally Spanish-speaking partnership evangelism team recruited by the Foreign Mission Board.

Besides recording 991 professions of faith, the 26 volunteers helped 12 Baptist churches in northern Honduras register 217 Christian rededications and 150 decisions for Christian service.

Two in the group, Jose Luis Castro, a pastor from Patterson, N.J., and Jeffrey Rogers, a layman from Rutherford, N.J., worked at a Chiquita plantation. Their efforts helped Canaan Baptist Church near El Progreso record 20 professions of faith, 11 rededications and nine baptisms.

From early morning until late afternoon they joined Canaan members in house-to-house visitation. They stopped at noon to eat in homes of church members who work on the plantation and in the banana packing shed. Then in the evening they returned to their hotel room to shower and rest before the preaching service.

The 11 other partnership teams worked in San Pedro Sula, Siguatepeque, La Ceiba, Tela and El Progreso. All came together for a joint worship rally with Hondurans in San Pedro Sula, the nation's second largest city, after the week-long June evangelism effort was over.

Those who participated came from some of the more than 30 Spanish-speaking churches and mission points of the Metropolitan Baptist Association of New York City. The Spanish Pastors Fellowship of the association decided last year to take on the project in cooperation with the Baptist Convention of New York and the Foreign Mission Board.

"From the beginning we determined we would send Spanish-speaking people, rather than enlist English-speaking people that needed translators," said George Russ, the state convention urban evangelism consultant who works extensively with the association.

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"The fact we were Hispanics going into a Hispanic country was the one variable in the equation which made this trip so successful and so complete," agreed Manuel Alonzo, language program director for the New York convention. "We were ministering to our own people."

The overall partnership effort reached beyond Hispanics, however. "It really was a partnership of the entire state (of New York)," Russ said. "We recognized even the amount of money needed to send one person was probably too much for most of our people here." So churches throughout New York contributed more than \$11,000 to underwrite a third of the cost of each person's trip. Participants' local churches also underwrote a third.

The volunteers' influence in Honduras raised a great deal of curiosity. In one instance a Southern Baptist team held three music and worship services, complete with a powerful speaker system, at a private school. About 75 young people there gave their lives to Jesus. Children from the community were so fascinated they climbed the walls around the school to see.

But the impact reached far beyond curiosity. Honduran pastors testified the partnership effort was undoubtedly their most meaningful experience and perhaps the most outstanding evangelistic effort in recent years, said missionary Stanley Stamps, who coordinated strategy with churches in Honduras. Not only were pastors' lives touched, but the 12 churches witnessed marked attendance increases, a heightened public image and a true revival spirit, Stamps said.

One Honduran pastor said he learned more about evangelism during the week than he had in seminary. Another, at Ebenezer church, La Ceiba, said the week was "the most grand experience of all my ministry."

At Bethany Baptist Church in El Progreso, a woman in her 80s came forward the last night of the crusade and said her coming proved Christ was not only able to touch young lives, but also someone as old as she.

Alonzo came back to New York having received much more than he gave, he said. "Sometimes we go with the wrong attitude, with a messiah complex. We think, 'Here are people so much in need, and we have so much to give,' and it's all one way. But from the very beginning I suspected we would receive much more than we could possibly give. In my own experience, that was so."

A woman visiting the church he was attending gave her testimony, he said, and spoke directly to his own life. "I just felt that if I did nothing else in Honduras but hear that testimony, that was the reason God wanted me there." The woman told how she had lost three children and her husband in a hurricane. Alonzo's daughter died in an auto accident two years ago, and another daughter lies in a coma at home.

"I had thought twice about whether to go to Honduras. I felt committed to go," he said. "I went for many reasons, but among them, the reason of hoping I would get a spiritual boost." As he gave, he did.

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David Had Nothing  
On Audiovisual Man

Baptist Press  
7/9/85

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--David isn't the only man who can conquer a giant with a slingshot.

Recently Jim Legg and his audiovisual crew from the Foreign Mission Board had a giant of a problem making simultaneous translations of world evangelism reports into Spanish, Korean and Chinese. But once again, a slingshot came to the rescue.

They used the slingshot to shoot a rubber ball through the suspended ceiling in the translation room. Attached to the ball was a pull cord which they used to pull five AM antennas through the ceiling to make a loop around the room. The slingshot also was used to complete pulling 2,000 feet of cable from the translation room, several buildings away, through the suspended ceiling of the auditorium so the foreign visitors could hear morning Bible studies in their own languages.

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Because of the slingshot and the ingenuity to use it, 42 Baptists from 21 countries participating in the global evangelization strategy consultation learned firsthand what others were doing in world missions. And they gained new insight into what they could do as partners in world evangelization.

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Dwain Marrow Buried  
In Albuquerque

Baptist Press  
7/9/85

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)—Dwain Marrow, 50, director of the education division of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico since January 1981, died July 3.

Marrow had been a patient at the University of Arizona's Health Science Center, Tucson, since the middle of March. He had gone to the Arizona hospital to be evaluated as a possible candidate for a heart transplant. He received the transplant May 1. Although Marrow progressed well immediately after the transplant, complications developed which his body wasn't able to handle.

The 1959 graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He was ordained to the ministry in 1953.

A former pastor and minister of music and education of churches in New Mexico, Arizona and Texas, Marrow came to the Baptist Convention of New Mexico from First Baptist Church, Carlsbad, N.M., where he had served as minister of music and education. Before that he was minister of music and education at the Rosen Heights Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

He also was pastor of churches in Los Alamos, N.M.; Phoenix, Arz.; Lewisville, Texas, and Alamogordo, N.M.

Marrow is survived by his wife, Lou Ann, of Albuquerque, and two sons, Timothy Mark, a doctoral student at Southwestern seminary, and Stephen, a coach at Early Texas High School. He also is survived by a grandson, Timothy Jr., Fort Worth, and his mother, Mrs. Veda Marrow, of Belen, N.M.

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NBC Spotlights  
Baptist Work In Haiti

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7/9/85

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Southern Baptists' efforts to help the people of Haiti work miracles will be spotlighted on national television when NBC airs "Living In Hope" at 1 p.m., EST, Sunday, August 4.

Edwin Newman will host the hour-long special produced by NBC in association with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

As Newman describes it, in Haiti, once the richest island in the Caribbean and now the poorest, "to survive is not an accomplishment ... to survive is a miracle."

Keith Parks, president of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board, is interviewed on the program, as are a number of Southern Baptist career and volunteer missionaries.

Parks detailed for Newman the Christian motivation that leads Baptists to help and "in the process of sharing food, or teaching them to read, we share who we are."

"Living In Hope" described as "one of the better documentaries of its kind," features some of the 100 Baptist schools which fight the island's illiteracy rate by offering 14,000 children what education they get and the one balanced meal they have each day.

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The camera crew also visits a medical clinic where volunteer doctors and nurses treat 1,776 patients in a week, and interviews construction crews of volunteer Baptist men building churches and schools on the island.

In addition, Newman talks with career missionaries who drill wells to provide drinking water and with agricultural missionaries teaching people how to raise rabbits and pigs and how to reforest their island to better use their farmland.

Air times may vary in different locations. Check your local television station guide for time in your area.

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Gift, Interest-Free Loan  
Lead To Debt-Free Dorm

Baptist Press  
7/9/85

TAIPEI, Taiwan (BP)---For one Chinese businesswoman in Taiwan, it was simply a gift.

For the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary here, it was a gift that generated monetary miracles for a debt-free seven-story dormitory.

The new facility, dedicated June 24, is named for Carl Hunker, a Southern Baptist missionary to Taiwan since 1946. Hunker is a member of the seminary's faculty and was its president from 1964 to 1979.

The dormitory is the first phase of a campus development project launched in 1982 for the 143-student seminary. Money to begin construction came from Southern Baptists in the United States through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

More than half the money for the dormitory has been given by Taiwanese Baptists.

However, several months before the scheduled completion date, all funds had been expended. An equivalent of \$75,000 (U.S.) still was needed.

A generous gift from a businesswoman not only helped meet the need but sparked an idea. The woman gave \$2,500 (U.S.) from her savings and lent the seminary \$5,000 (U.S.) interest free. Seminary President John Chang and Charles Culpepper Jr., vice-president for development, shared the idea of interest-free loans with Taiwanese churches.

"The response...has overwhelmed everyone at the seminary," reports Linda Phillips, seminary librarian and Southern Baptist missionary. "God opened the gates, and blessing upon blessing has come. Within two weeks gifts and interest-free loans had been given to cover the remaining construction cost." One gift alone from a Chinese businessman was \$75,000 (U.S.).

Other gifts and loans will help the seminary move into subsequent phases of its development project.

A woman from one of the churches lent the seminary \$25,000 (U.S.) and offered to put a mortgage on her home and land if additional funds were needed.

A widow gave a gold bar her husband had left her.

A faculty member lent all his family's personal savings.

A little boy brought in a piggy bank and, after a prayer with Chang, they broke open the plastic bank. It contained \$75 (U.S.). "He walked out of Dr. Chang's office with the broken pieces of his piggy bank in hand with shoulders back and head high," Phillips said. Soon, his sister had given her savings as well.

The non-Christian father of a seminary student sent a large gift. However, Chang "did not have peace in accepting this money," Phillips recounted. He returned the gift with a letter explaining Christians had the responsibility to give, not non-Christians.

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He urged the father to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior, noting "This will express your love to your son more than any gift you can give our school."

The donation came back to the school the next day "with a letter saying the man was willing to consider faith in Christ," Phillips reported. "He still wanted to give the gift, because he believed our 'God would accept this gift from a man who does not know him personally but adores him very much.'"

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Ridgecrest Experience  
Transforms Florida Church

Baptist Press  
7/9/85

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Foreign Missions Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center this year made an impact on West Bradenton Baptist Church, Bradenton, Fla., that it will long remember. The church may be giving up two staff members as a result.

Among the 101 people making salvation or ministry-related decisions during the last week in June were two staff and nine members of the west Florida church. Their minister of youth, Lee Edwards, his wife, Karen, and their minister of music, Ken Litton, went forward during the Sunday evening service saying they felt God leading them into foreign missions and were willing to be missionaries.

While Litton was coming forward to make his decision public, his wife, Carol, back home in Bradenton, stated her willingness to follow God's leadership in foreign missions in their church's evening service.

In talking with his youth group, Lee explained his willingness to be a foreign missionary by saying he felt God calling him to serve youth in another country.

The youth were heartbroken at first because they had grown to love their leaders. But then they began to see the possibilities of service these men have and one of them said, "Watch out world."

While this was going on, the man behind their participation in Foreign Missions Week this year was not present. Robert Allen, pastor of the church and once a missions volunteer himself, had suggested that they come to Ridgecrest instead of going on a missions tour to Pennsylvania as they had done the two previous summers.

In addition to hearing some of the 125 missionaries from 38 countries speak in the evening services, the Florida youth participated in Missions Alive (missions program for youth) in the daytime. The 49 participants from West Bradenton also interviewed three missionaries a day, videotaped many of the missionary testimonies and heard missionaries lead in their vesper service.

This church's representation was among a record 2,500 registration for Foreign Missions Week this year. More than 100 participated in a reunion for former journeymen who've served since the inception in 1965 of the two-year service opportunity. Another 300 Tennesseans who went to Burkina Faso as volunteers during the recently completed Tennessee-Burkina Faso missions partnership were on campus for special activities.

And 42 world mission leaders met daily for Bible study with the Southern Baptist participants before going on to a separate global evangelization strategy consultation in which they made plans to cooperate as equal partners in reaching the world for Christ. John Jonsson, professor of missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., led those Bible studies which focused on "The Crisis of Missions in the Bible." Jonsson is a Swede who grew up as an MK (missionary kid) in South Africa and then spent more than 30 years as a missionary in southern Africa.

In addition, a Foreign Missions Center located on the Ridgecrest campus was dedicated to serve as a point of interest and information for all those who attend Ridgecrest throughout the year.

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The full impact of this week will not be felt for months and perhaps years as those youth and adults fulfill the commitments they made to God, but some say the change will be immediate. One of the young women from the West Bradenton church who made a commitment to be more personally involved in witnessing in her community said when she got home, she was going to "turn Bradenton upside down."

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Many SBC Churches  
Resting On Plateaus

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press  
7/9/85

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—It is estimated that almost half of the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention are in a state of plateau, according to Truman Brown, consultant in the church administration department at the Sunday School Board.

Brown, leading a conference during the Bible Preaching-Administration Conference, told participants churches which reach a plateau usually are more concerned about themselves and maintenance rather than missions.

Some of the signs which point to a plateau in a church are slow or stopped growth, low morale by members, tight resources, low participation in programs and, especially, a loss of vision by the members of the church's purpose in the community.

Brown said a time of self-examination is called for in churches which are in a plateau situation. He said churches need to ask "what happened to us" and "what were we doing when we were growing."

"The pastor and other key leaders in the church who still believe in the New Testament mission of the church need to discover the turning points and identify needs of church members," Brown said.

In a self-examination process, the church needs to look at the changing context of society in which the church is attempting to minister in a community.

For instance, a church might be experiencing a significant drop or plateau because the neighborhood has gotten older, more industrial, racially changed or significantly changed in family makeup, such as a high percentage of singleparent families.

"Sometimes the church is just not prepared to have services," Brown explained. "The yard needs mowing, the halls need sweeping and greeters need to be ready to receive newcomers before the start of Sunday School or church."

And suprisingly, Brown said, fellowship is not enough to keep a church growing. "A lot of churches have a great fellowship, but they are dying," Brown said. "Churches need to dream again what it means to be the body of Christ where we are."

Some of the things which need to change in churches which face plateau situations include a change of attitude, particularly regarding growth.

"There needs be a revitalization of programs, especially the Sunday school," he continued. "Pastoral leadership also is a key to coming off the plateau. The church must be responsive to the needs of the people."

"People in churches in plateau situations are finding a decrease in ownership of life and work of the church in the community," Brown said. "They turn inward and are unable and unwilling to assimilate new people with new ideas."

Self-preservation erodes the sense of mission in a church," he continued. "Churches need to have a reach-out mentality instead of having so much concern with finances, building maintenance and the necessities of operation. There needs to be an attitude of mission giving."

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A plateau is a condition and attitude caused by lack of focus and direction concerning the church's New Testament mission, Brown concluded. "Instead of being self-serving and embracing actions and ideas almost at random, churches need to address the multiple needs of people in the church and the community."



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